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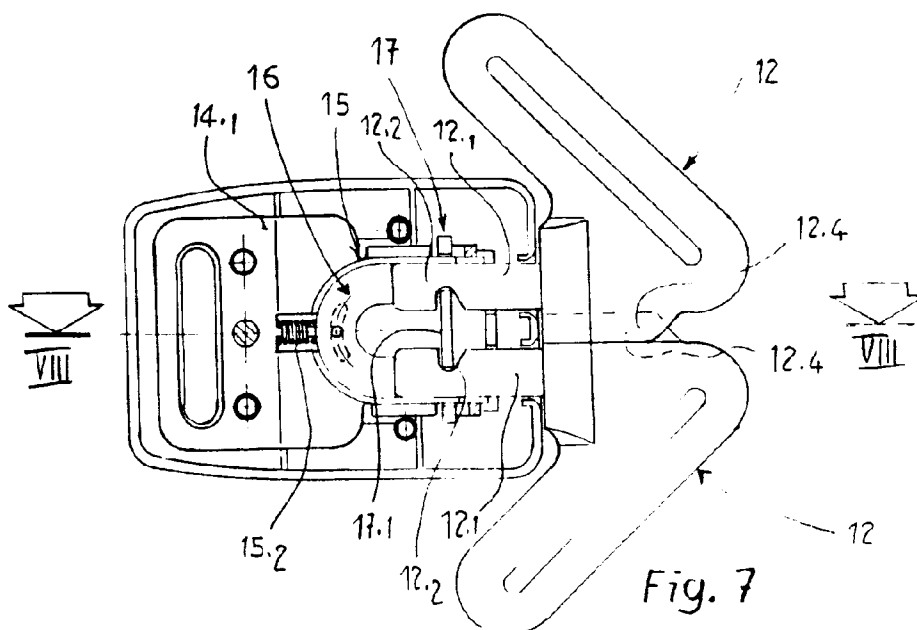
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**(54) Seat belt buckle with three branches**

(57) The buckle according to the invention comprises, in a shell (11), a carriage (15) slidable in a box-shaped casing (14) between a rest position and an operating position; opposing means (16) movable with respect to the said carriage (15) and opposing the simultaneous insertion into the casing (14) of two tongues (12) connected to corresponding portions of the seat belt, but not opposing the insertion of one tongue (12) only; a spring bolt (17), kept in the rest position by the

said carriage (15), a catch lever (17.4) connected to the said bolt (17) to keep a release button (18) depressed in a corresponding aperture of the shell (11), when the bolt (17) is in the rest position, so that the released condition of the buckle is indicated visually to the user.

The two tongues (12) inserted simultaneously into the casing (14) engage the opposing means (16) and cause the carriage (15) to move, thus releasing the bolt (17) which locks the tongues. This does not happen when only one tongue (12) is inserted.

**Fig. 7****EP 0 659 361 A3**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 94 12 0078

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP-A-0 519 296 (INDIANA MILLS) * column 2, line 6 - line 41 * * column 10, line 52 - column 11, line 15; figures 1,10 * ---	1-3	A44B11/25
A	US-A-3 591 902 (LOHR ET AL.) * column 3, line 37 - line 62; figure 1 * ---	1,3	
A	US-A-4 391 023 (TANAKA ET AL.) * column 3, line 32 - column 4, line 1; figures 1,3 * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0 362 657 (KATSUYAMA KINZOKU) * column 5, line 36 - column 6, line 58 * ---	1	
A	EP-A-0 131 255 (AUTOFLUG) * page 5, line 3 - line 32; figure 1 * ---	1	
A	US-A-3 396 437 (BURLEIGH) * column 3, line 21 - line 38; figures 1,2 * * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A44B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16 August 1996	Examiner Monné, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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