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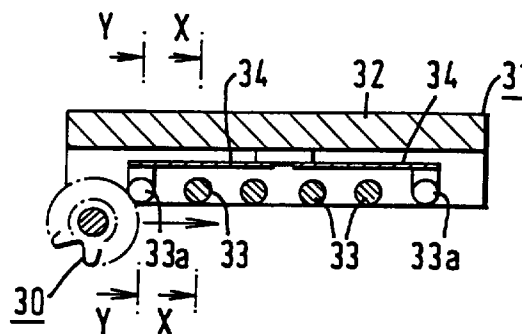
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**(54) Dual-purpose escalator for wheelchair**

(57) A dual-purpose escalator for a wheelchair (4) including a plurality of steps (9) linked in an endless form and a main-frame (1) having a running path for the steps. The steps include a plurality of specialized steps (10, 11, 12) for loading a wheelchair (4). The escalator further includes an activating apparatus (31) provided on the running path for causing the specialized steps to alter a configuration thereof to a first state for a wheelchair loading operation mode or to restore the configuration to a second state for normal operation mode. Each of the specialized steps includes a toothed rotor (14, 30). The activating apparatus includes an engagement member (13a, 31) for engaging with the toothed rotor. Each of the toothed rotors is rotated by engaging with the engagement member for causing one of the specialized steps to alter the configuration to the first state when the steps are running in the running path in the wheelchair loading operation mode, respectively. The engagement member includes a base (32) and a plurality of pins (33) set in parallel on the base (32) at a specified pitch for engaging with the toothed rotor (30). The pin (33a) engaging firstly with the toothed rotor is set on the base (32) so as to be capable of relative displacement from the toothed rotor (30).

**FIG. 1**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 96 11 5208

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	US-A-4 681 207 (GOTO SHIGERU ET AL) 21 July 1987 * column 5, line 27 - line 46 * * figure 2 * -----	1	B66B31/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) B66B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 November 1996	Examiner Salvador, D
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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