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(54) Thermostat

(57) A thermostat comprises a tube (10) with a switch assembly (12) mounted at a first end of the tube. A rod (14) extends within the tube and is secured to it adjacent its second end (16). The rod (14) has a coefficient of thermal expansion different from that of the tube (10) and is operatively coupled to the switch assembly (12) so as to cause the switch assembly (12) to change state in reaction to a change of temperature of the tube (10). There is carried on the rod (14) a first supporting member (42) formed from a material of a high melting point and a second supporting member (44) formed from a material with a melting point below that temperature which would be dangerous if exceeded in use. A spring (50) is trapped in compression between the first and second supporting members (42,44). An actuating assembly (60,62,64) is operable under the action of the spring (50) on its release in the event of the second supporting member (44) melting, to cause the switch assembly (12) to change state so as to prevent further heating.

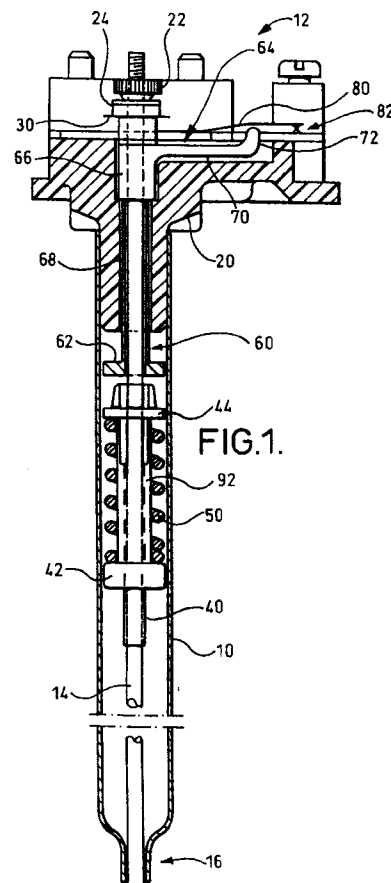


FIG. 1.



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 7168

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)
X	AU 23926 70 A (INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICS) 6 July 1972 * the whole document *	1-3, 5, 6, 9-16, 18, 20, 21	H01H37/48 H01H37/76
Y	---	4	
Y	US 3 320 388 A (ROBERTSHAW CONTROL COMPANY) 16 May 1967 * figures 1-4 * -----	4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H01H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		27 August 1998	Libberecht, L
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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