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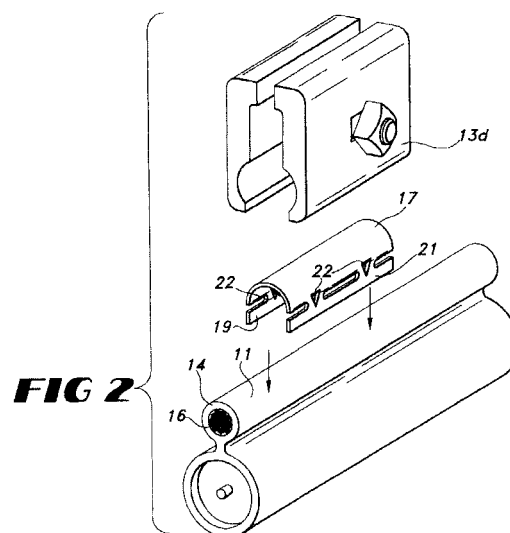
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(54) **Universal ground clip assembly**

(57) A universal ground clip assembly (10) for electrically connecting interchangeable messenger clamps (131, 13b, 13c, 13d) to a cable messenger strand (11) strung between utility poles. A saddle shaped grounding clip (17) having a generally U-shaped cross-section with opposing first and second side members (19,21) is positioned over the insulation jacket (14) of the messenger strand and includes at least one pointed prong (22) for penetrating the messenger strand insulation jacket (14) and engaging the messenger strand conductor (11). Compression of the grounding clip causes the prong (22) to penetrate the insulation jacket (14) thereby establishing an electrical connection with the messenger strand conductor (11). The clip assembly (10) may further include a variety of interchangeable messenger clamps (13a, 13b, 13c, 13d), such as a ground or span clamp, capable of engaging the grounding clip (17). Upon engagement, the interchangeable messenger clamps (131, 13b, 13c, 13d) establish an electrical connection with the grounding clip (17). During assembly and installation, the grounding clip (17) is preferably positioned and compressed on the messenger strand (11) prior to installation of the interchangeable messenger clamps.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| | | | H01R H02G |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 5 February 2002 | Examiner Criqui, J-J |
| 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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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