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(71) Applicant: Brocco, Emilio  
10010 Lessolo (IT)

(72) Inventor: Brocco, Emilio  
10010 Lessolo (IT)

(74) Representative: Apra', Mario  
Apra' Brevetti  
Via Bertola 2  
10121 Torino (IT)

### (54) Process for cutting stone blocks in stone quarries, and machine using the method

(57) According to the invention:

- a diamond wire cutting machine (M) is provided, with a structure essentially in the form of a gantry, astride a block (B) to be cut;
- the said cutting machine (M) is freely movable under its own power and advances in a step-by-step sequence along the said block (B);
- at each step, and with the machine (M) stationary, a diamond cutting wire wound in a closed loop around a plurality of pulleys supported by the gantry structure of the machine (M) is made to run in a essentially vertical plane, engaging the block (B) from above with its lower run, and makes a through cut in the block (B), forming a corresponding "slice" (S) from it;
- subsequently, in order to cut each "slice" (S), the cutting machine (M) is positioned astride the "slice" and is made to operate according to the same cutting sequence as that described above, to cut the "slice" (S) into a plurality of essentially parallelepipedal pieces.

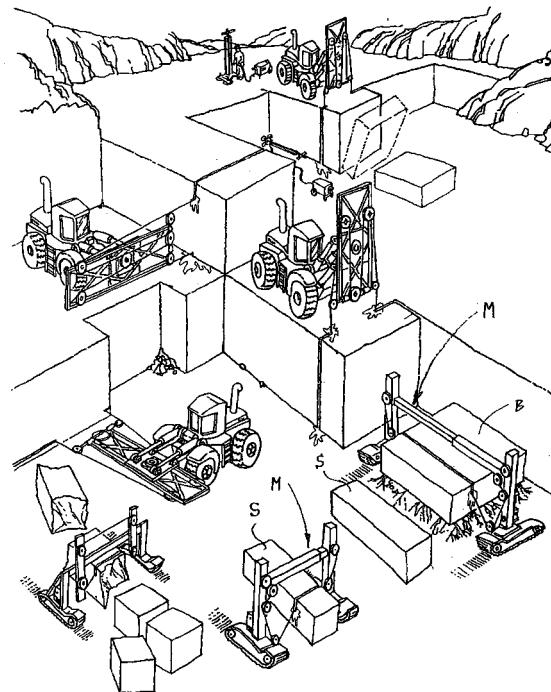


FIG. 2



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 01 10 7416

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)						
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUNICH</td> <td>18 December 2003</td> <td>Frisch, U</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	MUNICH	18 December 2003	Frisch, U
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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							
<small>EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C01)</small>									

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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