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(54) **Point heating system**

(57) A points heating system for use on a railway is disclosed. Strip heaters are selectively switched on and off. In a preferred arrangement, when the heating sys-

tem is switched on, a first set of heaters is maintained constantly on and further sets of heaters are cyclically switched on and off.

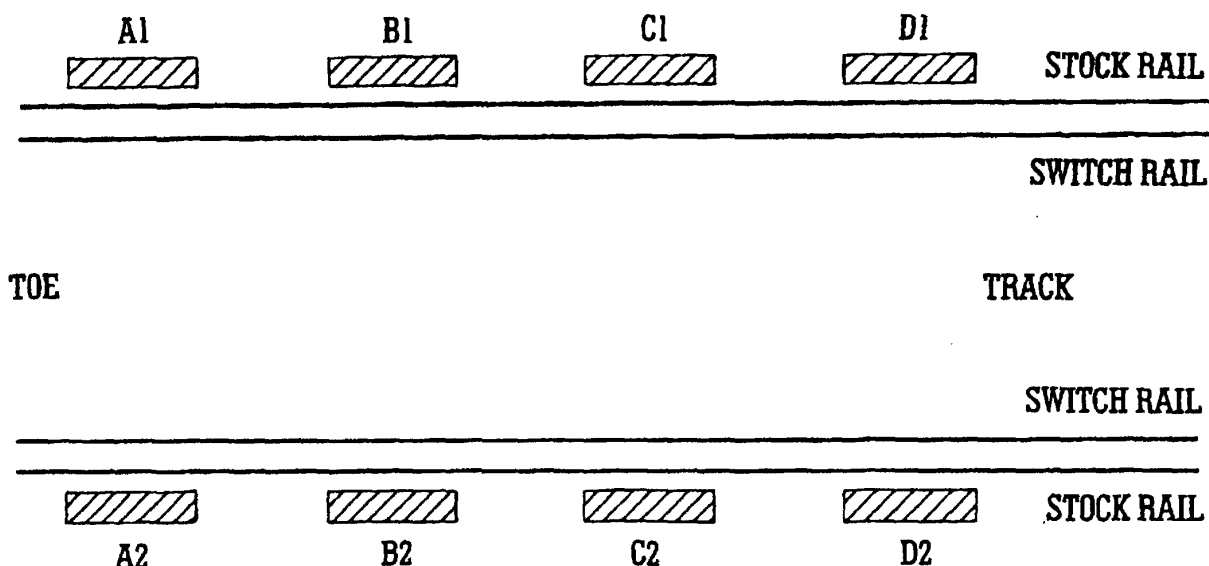


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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.7)
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 12, 29 October 1999 (1999-10-29) -& JP 11 181702 A (YOSHIDA OSAMU), 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06) * abstract *	1	E01B7/24
Y	FR 2 441 518 A (BIGLIARDI YVES) 13 June 1980 (1980-06-13) * page 2, line 37 - page 3, line 9; figure 2 *	1	
A	FR 2 690 808 A (AAA TELECOM) 5 November 1993 (1993-11-05) * abstract; figure 1 *	2-4	
A	DE 19 06 221 A (VAPOR CORP) 3 September 1970 (1970-09-03) Ref. 44,46,64 * figures 1,2 *	1,5	
A	DE 298 13 001 U (ESA ELEKTROSCHALTANLAGEN GRIMM) 5 November 1998 (1998-11-05) * claim 1; figure 1 *	1,5	<div>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</div> <div>E01B</div>
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 March 2003	Examiner De Neef, K
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> 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 </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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24-03-2003

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