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(72) Inventors:
• **Wang, Leao**
Taiping City, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan 411 (TW)
• **Wu, Peter**
Taiping City, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan 411 (TW)

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(74) Representative: **Reichel, Wolfgang, Dipl.-Ing. et al**
Reichel und Reichel
Parkstrasse 13
60322 Frankfurt (DE)

(71) Applicants:
• **Wang, Leao**
Taiping City, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan 411 (TW)
• **Wu, Peter**
Taiping City, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan 411 (TW)

(54) **Speed control rocker arm for an electric treadmill**

(57) The present invention relates to a speed control rocker arm (20) for an electric treadmill (10). The electric treadmill (10) stated by the present invention includes an upright frame (12), a base frame (14), a front supporting leg (11) and a rear supporting leg (13). A console (18) is mounted on the upright frame (12), and a handrail (16) is fitted to either side thereof. A motor-driven assembly is fitted to the base frame (14) so that a contin-

uous belt circles therearound for an in-place rotation. In addition, two rocker arms (20) can be held by both hands of a user for a forward and backward swinging movement. The console (18) fitted to a handgrip (21) of the rocker arms (20) contains a plurality of control keys (22) like speed control or slope adjusting keys so that the operator can adjust the speed and slope of the treadmill while walking.

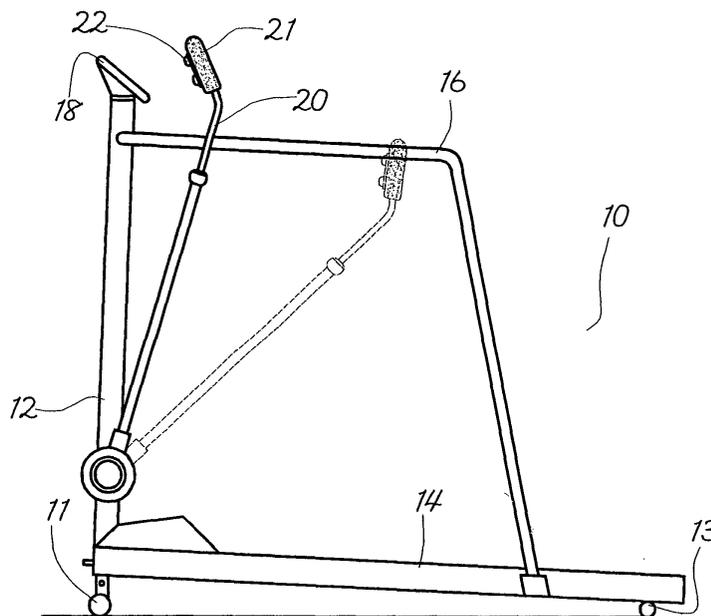


FIG. 1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to an electric treadmill, and more particularly, to a rocker bar for an electrical tread mill.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Many commercially available electric treadmills 10 are provided with two rocker arms 20 swingable backward and forward along with both arms of the operator and fitted to an upright frame 12 (see FIG. 1), a base frame 14 (see FIG. 2) or an handrail 16 (see FIG. 3). Even, a resistant element (not shown) is added to the rocker arms 20 so that the operator can train the arm muscle while walking. These disclosures can be seen in US 5460586, 5527245, 5688209, 5431612, 5207622, 5860894, 5709632, etc.

[0003] The rocker arms 20 have no design drawbacks concerning the basic function of swinging both hands of the operator. However, in order to adjust the walking speed or the supporting slope of the base frame 14 while walking, he has to stop using the rocker arms 20 or walking and goes toward the console 18 to press the corresponding control keys (not shown). After the adjustment, he returns to the exercise position for holding the rocker arms 20 to continue the exercise session, thereby causing much inconvenience in using.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a rocker arm which is used for controlling the walking speed and the supporting slope of the base frame.

[0005] According to the invention, the rocker bar is provided with a plurality of control keys in connection with a console for adjusting the walking speed and the slope of the base frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The accomplishment of this and other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and its accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing of the present invention which is fitted to both sides of the upright frame of an electric treadmill;

FIG. 2 is a schematic drawing of the present invention which is fitted to both sides of the base frame of the electric treadmill; and

FIG. 3 is a schematic drawing of the present invention which is fitted to both sides of the handrail of

the electric treadmill.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0007] First of all, referring to FIG. 1, 2 and 3, the electric treadmill stated by the present invention includes an upright frame 12, a base frame 14, a front supporting leg 11 and a rear supporting leg 13. A console 18 is mounted on the upright frame 12, and a handrail 16 is fitted to either side thereof. A motor-driven assembly (not shown) is fitted to the base frame 14 so that a continuous belt (not shown) circles therearound for an in-place rotation. In addition, two rocker arms 20 can be held by both hands of a user for a forward and backward swinging movement.

[0008] The console 18 fitted to a handgrip 21 of the rocker arms 20 contains a plurality of control keys 22 like speed control or slope adjusting keys so that the operator can adjust the speed of the treadmill and slope while walking.

[0009] The slope adjustment means the basic functions performed by the electrically elevating mechanism for the walking platform. This mechanism has been widely applied to each of electrical treadmills. Thus, no further descriptions are given hereinafter.

[0010] The control keys 22 are fitted to the handgrip 21 of the rocker arms 20, respectively. The control keys 22 on one of the rocker arms 20 can be used for the increasing adjustment of the speed and the slope while the control keys 22 on the other rocker arm 20 can be used for the decreasing adjustment of the speed and the slope.

[0011] Besides, a physiological detector (not shown) in connection with the console 18 can be fitted to the handgrip 21 of the rocker arms 20 in order to measure a few physiological parameters (like pulse, etc.) to transmit back to the console 18 so that the console 18 can automatically optimize an exercise program in accordance with the individual physical state.

[0012] Many changes and modifications in the above-described embodiments of the invention can, of course, be carried out without departing from the scope thereof. Accordingly, to promote the progress in science and the useful arts, the invention is disclosed and is intended to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. Rocker arm (20) for an electric treadmill (10) comprising an upright frame (12), a base frame (14), a front supporting leg (11) and a rear supporting leg (13), a console (18) being mounted on said upright frame (12), a handrail (16) being fitted to either side thereof, a motor-driven assembly being fitted to said base frame (14) so that a continuous belt circles therearound for an in-place rotation, two rocker

arms (20) being provided and held by both hands of a user for a forward and backward swinging movement,

characterized by:

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said console (18) fitted to a handgrip (21) of said rocker arms (20) having control keys (22) for adjustment of the walking speed and slope.

2. Rocker arm (20) for an electric treadmill (10) as recited in claim 1, wherein said control keys (22) are fitted to a handgrip (21) of said rocker arms (20), respectively, and wherein said control keys (22) on one of said rocker arms (20) is used for the increasing adjustment of the speed and the slope while said control keys (22) on the other rocker arm (20) is used for the decreasing adjustment of the speed and the slope.

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3. Rocker arm (20) for an electric treadmill (10) comprising an upright frame (12), a base frame (14), a front supporting leg (11) and a rear supporting leg (13), a console (18) being mounted on said upright frame (12), a handrail (16) being fitted to either side thereof, a motor-driven assembly being fitted to said base frame (14) so that a continuous belt circles therearound for an in-place rotation, two rocker arms being provided and held by both hands of a user for a forward and backward swinging movement,

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characterized by:

a physiological detector in connection with the console (18) being fitted to said handgrip (21) of said rocker arms (20).

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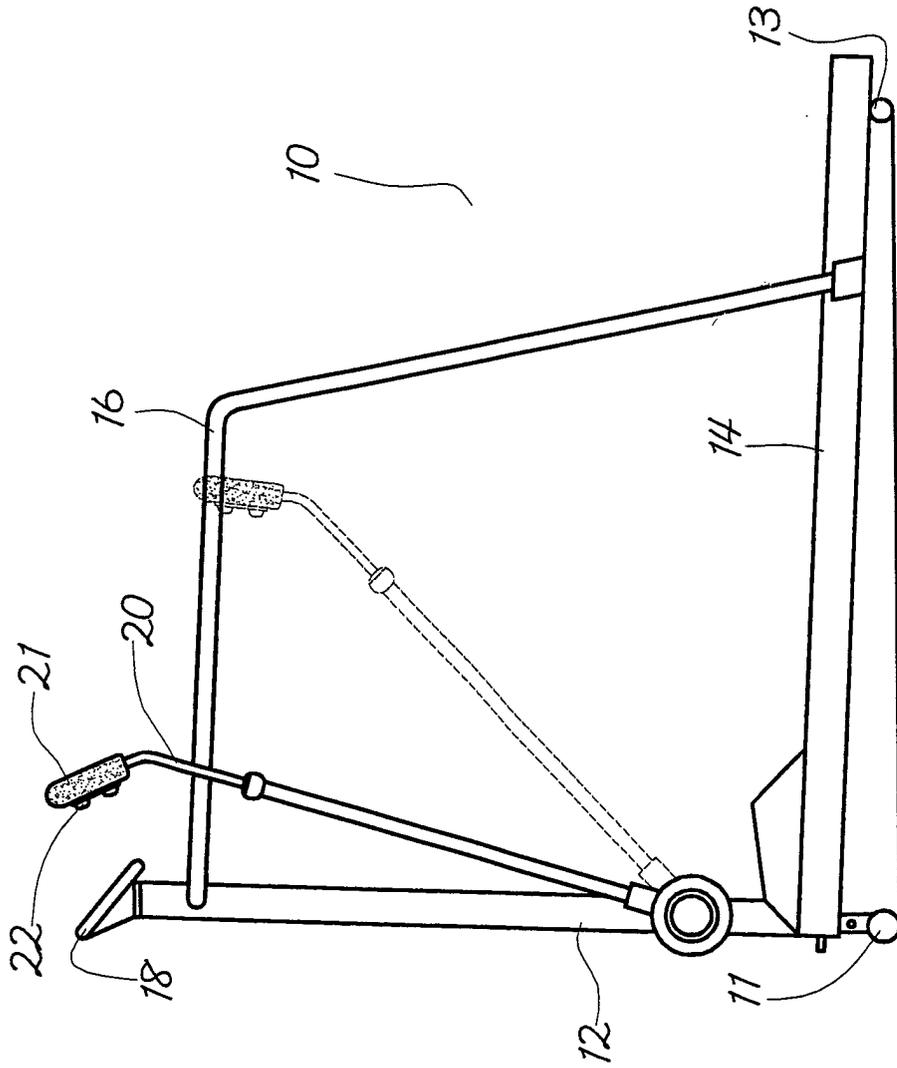


FIG. 7

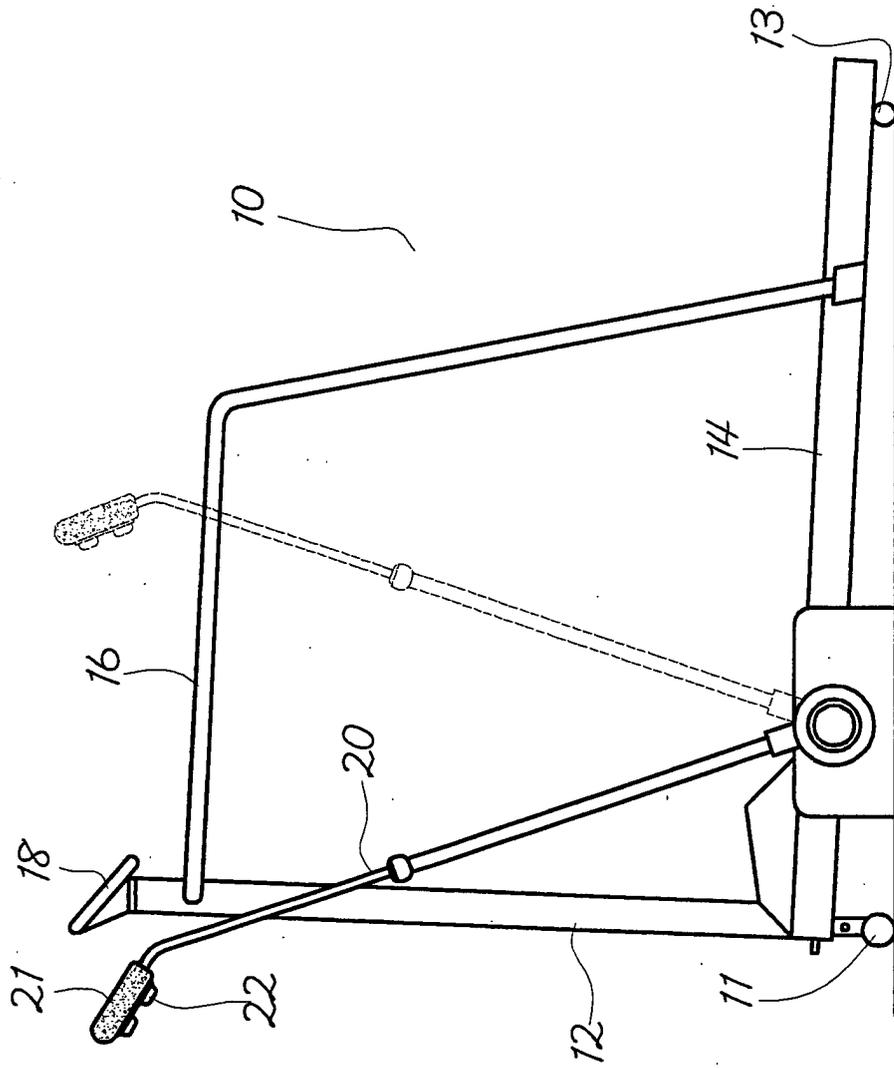


FIG. 2

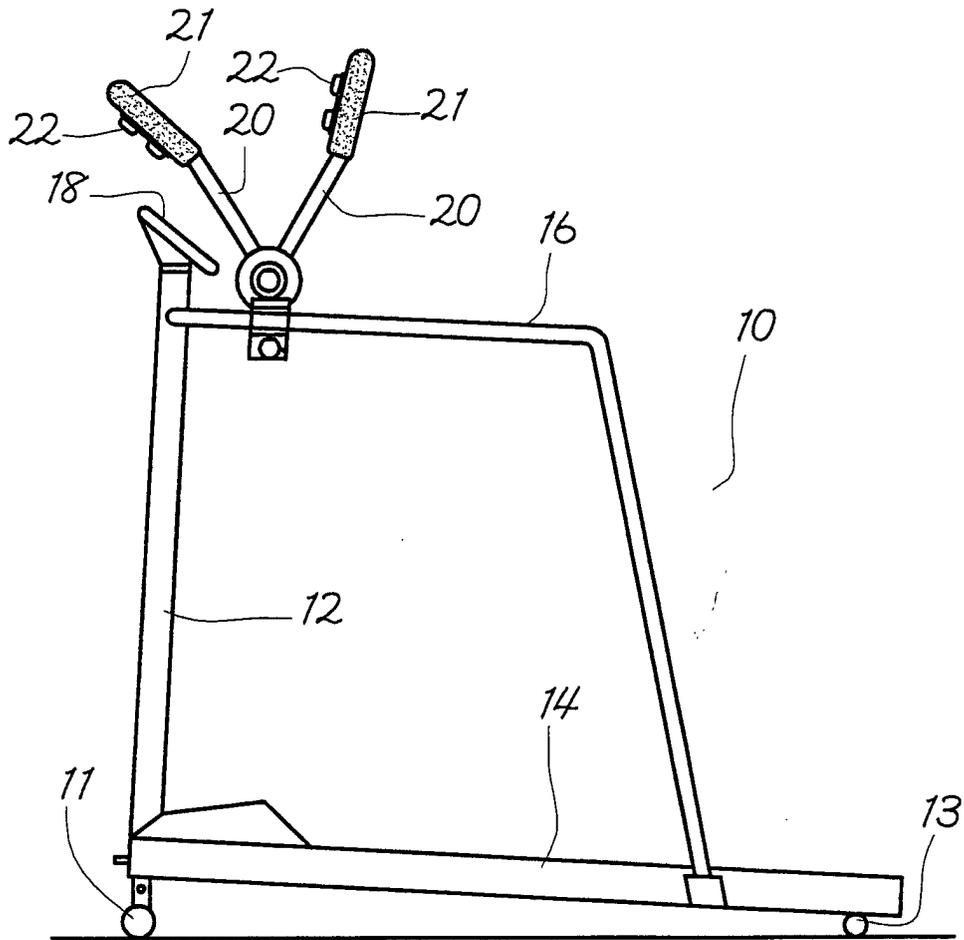


FIG. 3



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 5265

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,D	US 5 688 209 A (MOON DANIEL R ET AL) 18 November 1997 (1997-11-18) * column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 18 * * column 5, line 35 - line 57; figures 1-4,9 *	1-3	A63B23/12 A63B22/02
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A63B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		19 March 2003	Levert, C
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

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

EP 02 02 5265

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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