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(54) **A bar connector assembly**

(57) A connector assembly for concrete reinforcing bars comprises a seat section 21 and retainer 22 for use with the seat section 21 to connect bars having a semi-circle loop at the ends. The seat section 21 is generally U-shaped and the retainer 22 is generally T-shaped. The seat section is symmetrical, the retainer is not, the bars are of uniform cross-section. A wedging action arises from the asymmetry of the retainer. The seat section has opposed lands in the form of posts 28 and 29, these posts have channels 30 and 31 which take the bar loop sections

(not shown). The retainer has a central wedge 37 which, is operative to eliminate play between the bars and the parts of the connector to effectively form a rigid unit. This is accomplished by reason of the complex wedge action arising from a first wedge region adjacent the front at 38 on opposite sides of the wedge 37 and a second wedge region 39 which comprises a curved continuation of the wedge region 38 and a third wedge region at 40. Thus the first region tends to spread the bars while the second and third wedge regions tend to lift the bars.

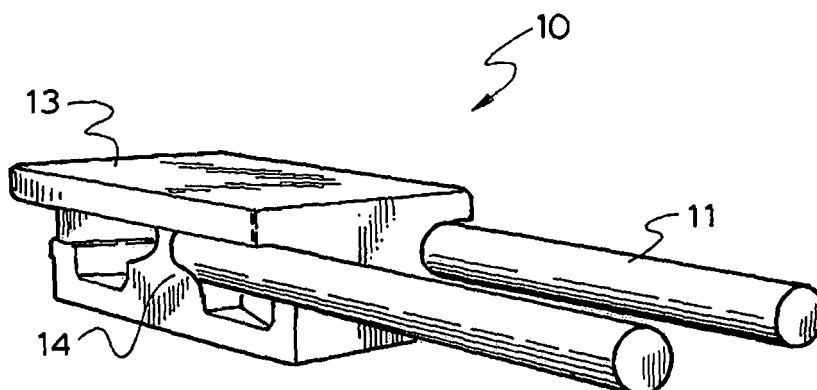


Fig. 1.



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 06 01 1677

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
D,X A	WO 2004/111362 A (D. C. UNDERWOOD) 23 December 2004 (2004-12-23) * page 3, line 11 - page 5, line 28; figures * -----	1-17, 19-31 18,32	INV. E04C5/16
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E04C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 21 September 2007	Examiner Righetti, Roberto
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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