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(54) **Device operating on ropes for use in lowering loads**

(57) A device (1) for use in paying out a rope using the force from a load supported by the rope. The device (1) comprises: a rope trapping arrangement (5); and a rope guiding arrangement defining a first guided position in which the rope is out of the rope trapping arrangement, and a second guided position in which the rope is engaged into the rope trapping arrangement (5). The device is operable in two modes: a first mode in which the rope is held by an operator of the device in the first guided position and the rope can be paid out; and a second mode in which the rope is released by an operator of the device, and the rope is guided to the second guided position, thereby to trap the rope and prevent further paying out of the rope. The rope guiding arrangement may be adapted, in use, to guide the rope to the second guiding position under the action of gravity or under the action of a resiliently biased element.

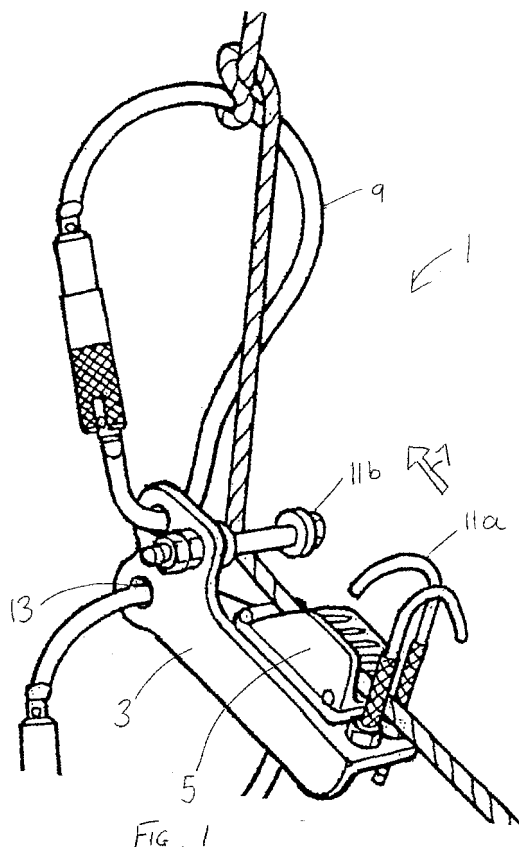


FIG. 1



European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 12 2589

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B66D A62B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 15 April 2008	Examiner Masset, Markus
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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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.  
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