



(11) **EP 1 911 715 A1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
16.04.2008 Bulletin 2008/16

(51) Int Cl.:
B66B 11/08 (2006.01) B66B 7/10 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **07010560.6**

(22) Date of filing: **19.02.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE ES FR IT PT

(30) Priority: **26.02.1998 US 31108**
29.09.1998 US 162821
22.12.1998 US 218990

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
99936068.8 / 1 097 101

(71) Applicant: **Otis Elevator Company**
Farmington, CT 06032 (US)

(72) Inventor: **Ericson, Richard J.**
Southington
Connecticut 06489 (US)

(74) Representative: **Leckey, David Herbert**
Frank B. Dehn & Co.
St Bride's House
10 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JD (GB)

Remarks:

This application was filed on 29 - 05 - 2007 as a
divisional application to the application mentioned
under INID code 62.

(54) **Elevator system having drive motor located at the bottom portion of the hoistway**

(57) An elevator system includes an elevator hoistway defined in a surrounding structure, such as a building. An elevator car and counterweight are located in the hoistway. A drive motor and associated drive sheave are disposed at a bottom portion of the hoistway. The drive motor is coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway.

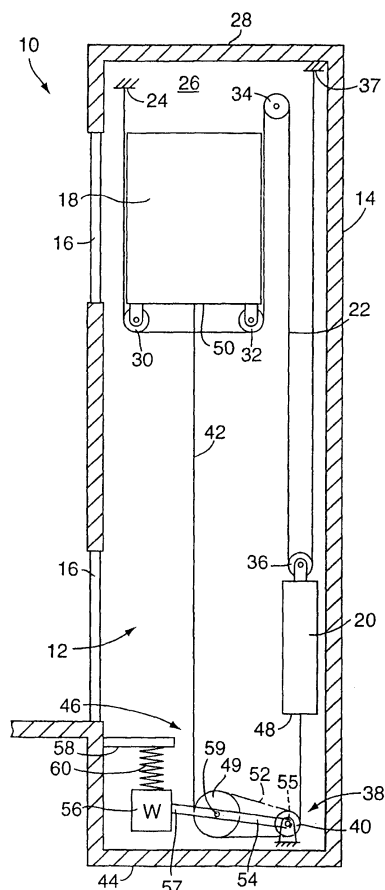


FIG. 1

Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to an elevator system, and more particularly to an elevator system including a drive motor located in the hoistway below the elevator car.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Considerable expense is involved in the construction of a machine room for an elevator. The expense includes the cost of constructing the machine room, the structure required to support the weight of the machine room and elevator equipment, and the cost of shading adjacent properties from sunlight (e.g., sunshine laws in Japan and elsewhere).

[0003] Elevator systems have been developed to avoid the expense of a machine room. These elevator systems are difficult to install and maintain because hoistway access can be difficult or dangerous especially to maintenance people while working in the hoistway on machinery that controls elevator motion if the machinery, such as the drive motor, is located in a space between the elevator car and a sidewall of the hoistway. Furthermore, elevator systems typically require additional hoistway space to accommodate machinery disposed between the car and sidewall of the hoistway.

[0004] It is an object of the present invention to provide an elevator system without a machine room which avoids the above-mentioned drawbacks associated with prior elevator systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] An elevator system includes an elevator hoistway defined in a surrounding structure, such as a building. An elevator car and counterweight are located in the hoistway. A drive motor and associated drive sheave are located at a bottom portion of the hoistway such as the hoistway pit which is easily accessible by maintenance people. The drive motor is coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway.

[0006] An advantage of the present invention is that the elevator system significantly reduces the space and construction costs compared with an elevator system having a machine room.

[0007] A second advantage of the present invention is that the hoistway dimensions can be kept to a minimum because the drive motor does not encroach into the hoistway space between the elevator car and a sidewall of the hoistway.

[0008] A third advantage of the present invention is simplified and safe access to the drive motor and associated equipment from the elevator pit.

[0009] A fourth advantage of the present invention is that flat rope technology reduces the size of the drive motor and sheaves, and thereby reduces the pit space required for accommodating the motor and sheaves.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010]

FIG. 1 is a schematic, side elevational view of an elevator system embodying the present invention having the drive motor accessibly located in the hoistway pit below the elevator car.

FIG. 2 is a schematic, side elevational view of an elevator system having the drive motor accessibly located in the hoistway pit below the elevator car in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a schematic, side elevational view of an elevator system having the drive motor accessibly located in the hoistway pit below the elevator car in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a sectional, side view of a traction sheave and a plurality of flat ropes, each having a plurality of cords.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of one of the flat ropes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0011] Referring to FIG. 1, an elevator system embodying the present invention is generally designated by the reference number 10. The elevator system 10 includes a hoistway 12 defined by a surrounding structure 14, such as a building. The hoistway 12 includes door openings at each level along the hoistway for accepting hoistway doors 16, 16. An elevator car 18 is provided in the hoistway 12 for upward and downward movement along the hoistway via conventional elevator guide rails (not shown). A counterweight 20 movably coupled to conventional counterweight guide rails (not shown) is located at a side of the hoistway 12 in a space extending along the length of the hoistway between the elevator car 18 and the sidewall 14 of the hoistway for balancing the elevator car during its upward and downward movement along the hoistway.

[0012] The elevator system 10 includes at least one flat, suspension rope or belt 22 for supporting the weight of the elevator car 18 and the counterweight 20. The suspension rope 22 may be made of steel, non-metallic fiber or any other suitably strong material to support the elevator car 18 and the counterweight 20 during movement and acceleration of the elevator car and the counterweight along the hoistway 12.

[0013] The employment of flat ropes or belts permits smaller drive motors and sheaves to drive and suspend elevator car and counterweight loads relative to drive mo-

tors and sheaves using conventional round ropes. The diameter of drive sheaves used in elevators with conventional round ropes is limited to 40 times the diameter of the ropes, or larger, due to fatigue of the ropes as they repeatedly conform to the diameter of the sheave and straighten out. Flat ropes or belts have an aspect ratio greater than one, where aspect ratio is defined as the ratio of rope or belt width w to thickness t (Aspect Ratio = w/t). Therefore, flat ropes or belts are inherently thin relative to conventional round ropes. Being thin, there is less bending stress in the fibers when the belt is wrapped around a given diameter sheave. This allows the use of smaller diameter traction sheaves. Torque is proportional to the diameter of the traction sheave. Therefore, the use of a smaller diameter traction sheave reduces motor torque. Motor size (rotor volume) is roughly proportional to torque; therefore, although the mechanical output power remains the same regardless of sheave size, flat ropes or belts allow the use of a smaller drive motor operating at a higher speed relative to systems using conventional round ropes. Consequently, smaller conventional and flat drive motors may be accommodated in the hoistway pit which significantly reduces the size and construction cost of the hoistway pit.

[0014] In summary, reducing the machine size (i.e., drive motor and sheaves) has a number of advantages. First, the smaller machine reduces the hoistway pit space requirement when the machine is located below the elevator car. Second, a small machine utilizes less material, and will be less costly to produce relative to a larger machine. Third, the light weight of a small machine reduces the time for handling the machine and the need for equipment to lift the machine into place so as to significantly reduce installation cost. Fourth, low torque and high speed allow the elimination of gears, which are costly. Further, gears can cause vibrations and noise, and require maintenance of lubrication. However, geared machines may be employed if desired.

[0015] Flat ropes or belts also distribute the elevator and counterweight loads over a greater surface area on the sheaves relative to round ropes for reduced specific pressure on the ropes, thus increasing its operating life. Furthermore, the flat ropes or belts may be made from a high traction material such as urethane or rubber jacket with fiber or steel reinforcement.

[0016] The suspension rope 22 is attached at a first end to a first bracket 24 which is fixedly coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway 12, such as to a sidewall 26 or ceiling 28 of the hoistway. The suspension rope 22 extends downwardly from its first end, loops generally 90° about a first elevator sheave 30 coupled underneath and at one side of the elevator car 18, extends generally horizontally to a second elevator sheave 32 coupled underneath and at an opposite side of the elevator car, loops generally 90° about the second elevator sheave 32, extends upwardly and loops generally 180° about a first deflector sheave 34 fixedly coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway, such as to the sidewall 26 or the

ceiling 28 of the hoistway 12, extends downwardly and loops generally 180° about a counterweight sheave 36 coupled to a top portion of the counterweight 20, and extends upwardly and is coupled at a second end within an upper portion of the hoistway, such as to the sidewall or ceiling of the hoistway via a second bracket 37.

[0017] The elevator system 10 includes a drive motor 38 having a drive sheave 40 for moving the elevator car 18 and the counterweight 20 upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway 12 via at least one flat, drive rope or belt 42. The drive rope 42 may be made of steel, non-metallic fiber or any other suitably strong material to support the weight of imbalance between the elevator car 18 and the counterweight 20. The drive motor 38 is coupled to and supported by a sidewall or floor 44 of the hoistway 12 within a hoistway pit 46. As shown in FIG. 1, for example, the drive rope 42 is coupled at a first end to a lower portion 48 of the counterweight 20, extends downwardly and loops generally 90° about the drive sheave 40, extends generally horizontally and loops generally 90° about a second deflector sheave 49, and extends upwardly and is coupled at a second end to an underside 50 of the elevator car 18. Because the drive motor 38 is located below the elevator car 18 in the hoistway pit 46, the elevator system 10 avoids the additional expense and space associated with constructing and maintaining a machine room.

[0018] The drive rope 42 may also be employed in a "double wrap traction" configuration. In such a configuration, the drive rope 42 is coupled at its first end to the lower portion 48 of the counterweight 20, extends downwardly and loops generally 90° about the drive sheave 40, extends generally horizontally and loops generally 180° about the second deflector sheave 49, extends generally horizontally as shown by the dashed line 52 and loops generally 180° about the drive sheave 40, extends generally horizontally and loops generally 90° about the second deflector sheave 49, and extends upwardly and is coupled at its second end to the underside 50 of the elevator car 18. As shown in FIG. 1, the suspension rope 22 and the drive rope 42 are separate and independent from one another.

[0019] As shown in FIG. 1, an elongated rigid connector 54 is pivotally coupled at a first end 55 to a rotational axis of the drive sheave 40 and at a second end 57 to a weight 56 which is suspended from a lower portion of the hoistway 12, such as a sidewall 58 of the hoistway via a tension spring 60. The rigid connector 54 is also coupled at 59 between its first and second ends 55, 57 to a rotational axis of the second deflector sheave 49. The weight 56 imparts a downward force to the second end 57 of the rigid connector 54 which pivots the rigid connector downwardly about its first end 55, and in turn moves the second deflector sheave 49 downwardly in order to provide tension in the drive rope 42 between the second deflector sheave 49 and the elevator car 18. Thus, the rigid connector 54, the weight 56, and the tension spring 60 cooperate as a tension applying mechanism for maintaining

the drive rope 42 in a taut condition.

[0020] The elevator system 10 tolerates large imbalances in the tension of the drive rope 42 between the elevator side and the counterweight side of the elevator system. For example, if the drive rope 42 is a non-metallic fiber belt, such as urethane, having a relatively high coefficient of friction $\mu = 0.5$ relative to steel rope, the traction available to drive the elevator car 18 with double wrap traction is $e^{\mu\theta} = e^{-5(2\pi)} = 2.71828^{11} = 23.14$. This traction relation value of "23.14" means that t_1/t_2 must be greater than 23.14 before the drive rope 42 begins to slip on the drive sheave 40 and the second deflector sheave 49, where t_1 is the tension in the portion of the drive rope 42 between the second deflector sheave 49 and the elevator car 18, and t_2 is the tension in the drive rope between the drive sheave 40 and the counterweight 20. A considerable imbalance in tension in the drive rope 42 can thus be tolerated relative to an elevator system employing conventional steel rope and cast iron sheaves having a traction relation of only about 5.

[0021] In operation, the drive motor 38 is signaled by a controller (not shown) to rotate the drive sheave 40 counterclockwise in order to move the elevator car 18 downwardly along the hoistway 12. The rotating drive sheave 40 causes the second deflector sheave 49 also to rotate counterclockwise which pulls downwardly a portion of the drive rope 42 between the elevator car 18 and the second deflector sheave 49. The downwardly moving drive rope 42, in turn, pulls downwardly the elevator car 18 attached to the drive rope at its underside 50. The downwardly moving elevator car 18 causes the elevator sheaves 30, 32 to roll along the suspension rope 22 along its length and away from the first end of the suspension rope at the first bracket 24. The downwardly moving elevator 18 pulls downwardly on a portion of the suspension rope 22 between the second elevator sheave 32 and the first deflector sheave 34. This downward pull causes the first deflector sheave 34 to rotate counterclockwise which pulls upwardly on a portion of the suspension rope 22 between the first deflector sheave 34 and the counterweight 20 to thereby move the counterweight upwardly.

[0022] The drive motor 38 is also signaled by a controller (not shown) to rotate the drive sheave 40 clockwise in order to move the elevator car 18 upwardly along the hoistway 12. The rotating drive sheave 40 pulls downwardly on a portion of the drive rope 42 between the drive sheave 40 and the counterweight 20. The downwardly moving drive rope 42, in turn, downwardly pulls the counterweight 20 attached to the drive rope at its lower portion 48. The downwardly moving counterweight 20 causes the counterweight sheave 36 to rotate counterclockwise and to pull downwardly on a portion of the suspension rope 22 between the counterweight 20 and the first deflector sheave 34. The downwardly moving portion of the suspension rope 22 causes the first deflector sheave 34 to rotate clockwise, which in turn, causes the elevator sheaves 30, 32 to roll along the suspension rope along

its length toward the first end of the suspension rope at the first bracket 24. The rolling elevator sheaves 30, 32 cause the elevator car 18 to move upwardly along the hoistway 12.

[0023] A problem may arise if the elevator car 18 is not operating near full capacity. For example, if the elevator car 18 is only half full, the tension in a portion of the drive rope 42 between the second deflector sheave 49 and the elevator car 18 may be zero, thereby making the elevator car unresponsive if the drive motor 38 should be signaled to move the elevator car downwardly. To remedy this potential problem, the weight 56 pulls downwardly on the second deflector sheave 49 in order to always maintain in a taut condition a portion of the drive rope 42 between the second deflector sheave 49 and the elevator car 18 even when the elevator car is empty. Thus the weight 56 prevents the elevator system 10 from possibly becoming unresponsive.

[0024] FIG. 2 illustrates an elevator system 100 which is similar to the elevator system 10 of FIG. 1 except for the implementation of the tension applying mechanism for maintaining the drive rope 42 in a taut condition. Like elements with the embodiment of FIG. 1 are labeled with like reference numbers. As shown in FIG. 2, a tension spring 102 is coupled at a first or lower end 104 within a lower portion of the hoistway 12, such as to the floor 44 or along a sidewall of the hoistway at a lower elevation than that of the second end 57 of the rigid connector 54. The spring 102 is coupled at a second or higher end 106 to the second end 57 of the rigid connector 54 to pull downwardly on, and thereby pivot the rigid connector downwardly about its first end 55. The downwardly pivoting rigid connector 54 in turn moves the second deflector sheave 49 downwardly in order to maintain in a taut condition a portion of the drive rope 42 between the second deflector sheave 49 and the elevator car 18. Thus, the rigid connector 54 and the tension spring 102 cooperate as a tension applying mechanism for maintaining the drive rope 42 in a taut condition.

[0025] Turning now to FIG. 3, a further embodiment of the present invention is illustrated by the elevator system 200. The elevator system 200 includes a hoistway 202 defined by the surrounding structure 204 of a building. An elevator car 206 is provided in the hoistway 202 for upward and downward movement along the hoistway via conventional elevator guide rails (not shown). A counterweight 208 movably coupled to conventional counterweight guide rails (not shown) is located at a side of the hoistway 202 in a space extending along the length of the hoistway between the elevator car 206 and the sidewall 204 of the hoistway for balancing the elevator car during its upward and downward movement along the hoistway. A drive motor 210 and associated drive sheave 212 are disposed in a lower portion of the hoistway 202, such as in the hoistway pit.

[0026] The elevator system 200 further includes at least one flat rope or belt 214 for providing both suspension and traction for the elevator car 206 and the coun-

terweight 208. The flat rope 214 may be made of steel, non-metallic fiber or any other suitably strong material to support the elevator car 206 and the counterweight 208 during movement and acceleration of the car and counterweight along the hoistway 202. The flat rope 214 is attached at first and second ends 216, 218 within an upper portion of the hoistway 202, such as to a sidewall, guide rails or ceiling of the hoistway. The flat rope 214 extends downwardly from its first end 216, loops generally 90° about a first elevator sheave 220 coupled underneath and at one side of the elevator car 206, extends generally horizontally to a second elevator sheave 222 coupled underneath and at an opposite side of the elevator car, loops generally 90° about the second elevator sheave 222, extends upwardly and loops generally 180° about a first deflector sheave 224 fixed within an upper portion of the hoistway such as to a sidewall or ceiling of the hoistway, extends downwardly and loops generally 180° about the drive sheave 212, extends upwardly and loops generally 180° about a second deflector sheave 226 fixed within an upper portion of the hoistway, extends downwardly and loops generally 180° about a counterweight sheave 228 coupled to a top portion of the counterweight 208, and extends upwardly and is coupled at its second end 218 within an upper portion of the hoistway, such as to the sidewall or ceiling of the hoistway. The underslung elevator car 206 avoids the need to provide a drive motor above the hoistway 202 either between the elevator car 206 and a ceiling 230 of the hoistway, or in a costly and space-consuming machine room. Further, flat rope technology reduces the size of the drive motor and sheaves necessary to support and move a given load compared to conventional round ropes, and thereby reduces the size of and cost for constructing the space within the hoistway pit for accommodating the drive motor and sheaves.

[0027] A principal feature of the present invention is the flatness of the ropes used in the above described elevator system. The increase in aspect ratio results in a rope that has an engagement surface, defined by the width dimension "w", that is optimized to distribute the rope pressure. Therefore, the maximum rope pressure is minimized within the rope. In addition, by increasing the aspect ratio relative to a round rope, which has an aspect ratio equal to one, the thickness "t1" of the flat rope (see FIG. 5) may be reduced while maintaining a constant cross-sectional area of the portions of the rope supporting the tension load in the rope.

[0028] As shown in FIG. 4 and 5, the flat ropes 722 include a plurality of individual load carrying cords 726 encased within a common layer of coating 728. The coating layer 728 separates the individual cords 726 and defines an engagement surface 730 for engaging the traction sheave 724. The load carrying cords 726 may be formed from a high-strength, lightweight non-metallic material, such as aramid fibers, or may be formed from a metallic material, such as thin, high-carbon steel fibers. It is desirable to maintain the thickness "d" of the cords

726 as small as possible in order to maximize the flexibility and minimize the stress in the cords 726. In addition, for cords formed from steel fibers, the fiber diameters should be less than .25 millimeters in diameter and preferably in the range of about .10 millimeters to .20 millimeters in diameter. Steel fibers having such diameter improve the flexibility of the cords and the rope. By incorporating cords having the weight, strength, durability and, in particular, the flexibility characteristics of such materials into the flat ropes, the traction sheave diameter "D" may be reduced while maintaining the maximum rope pressure within acceptable limits.

[0029] The engagement surface 730 is in contact with a corresponding surface 750 of the traction sheave 724. The coating layer 728 is formed from a polyurethane material, preferably a thermoplastic urethane, that is extruded onto and through the plurality of cords 726 in such a manner that each of the individual cords 726 is restrained against longitudinal movement relative to the other cords 726. Other materials may also be used for the coating layer if they are sufficient to meet the required functions of the coating layer: traction, wear, transmission of traction loads to the cords and resistance to environmental factors. It should be understood that although other materials may be used for the coating layer, if they do not meet or exceed the mechanical properties of a thermoplastic urethane, then the benefits resulting from the use of flat ropes may be reduced. With the thermoplastic urethane mechanical properties the traction sheave 724 diameter is reducible to 100 millimeters or less.

[0030] As a result of the configuration of the flat rope 722, the rope pressure may be distributed more uniformly throughout the rope 722. Because of the incorporation of a plurality of small cords 726 into the flat rope elastomer coating layer 728, the pressure on each cord 726 is significantly diminished over prior art ropes. Cord pressure is decreased at least as $n^{-1/2}$, with n being the number of parallel cords in the flat rope, for a given load and wire cross section. Therefore, the maximum rope pressure in the flat rope is significantly reduced as compared to a conventionally roped elevator having a similar load carrying capacity. Furthermore, the effective rope diameter 'd' (measured in the bending direction) is reduced for the equivalent load bearing capacity and smaller values for the sheave diameter 'D' may be attained without a reduction in the D/d ratio. In addition, minimizing the diameter D of the sheave permits the use of less costly, more compact, high speed motors as the drive machine.

[0031] A traction sheave 724 having a traction surface 750 configured to receive the flat rope 722 is also shown in FIG 5. The engagement surface 750 is complementarily shaped to provide traction and to guide the engagement between the flat ropes 722 and the sheave 724. The traction sheave 724 includes a pair of rims 744 disposed on opposite sides of the sheave 724 and one or more dividers 745 disposed between adjacent flat ropes. The traction sheave 724 also includes liners 742 received within the spaces between the rims 744 and dividers 745.

The liners 742 define the engagement surface 750 such that there are lateral gaps 754 between the sides of the flat ropes 722 and the liners 742. The pair of rims 744 and dividers, in conjunction with the liners, perform the function of guiding the flat ropes 722 to prevent gross alignment problems in the event of slack rope conditions, etc. Although shown as including liners, it should be noted that a traction sheave without liners may be used.

[0032] Although this invention has been shown and described with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions, and additions in the form and detail thereof may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the present invention has been described in several embodiments by way of illustration rather than limitation.

Claims

1. An elevator system comprising:

an elevator hoistway defined by surrounding structure;
 an elevator car and counterweight located in the hoistway; and
 a drive motor including a drive sheave located at a bottom portion of the hoistway, the drive motor being coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway, wherein the at least one flat rope includes a suspension rope coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight, and a drive rope engaging the drive sheave for moving the elevator car along the suspension rope.

2. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the suspension rope is coupled at its first and second ends within an upper portion of the hoistway.

3. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, further including at least one elevator sheave coupled to an underside of the elevator car, a deflector sheave coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway, and a counterweight sheave coupled to a top portion of the counterweight, the suspension rope having its first and second ends coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway, the suspension rope extending downwardly from its first end, underslinging the elevator car via the elevator sheave, extending upwardly and looping about the deflector sheave, extending downwardly and looping about the counterweight sheave and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end.

4. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, further in-

cluding a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive rope has first and second ends, the drive rope having its first end coupled to a bottom portion of the counterweight and its second end coupled to a bottom portion of the elevator car, the drive rope extending downwardly from its first end, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end at the bottom portion of the elevator car.

5. An elevator system as defined in claim 4, further including a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

6. An elevator system as defined in claim 5, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

7. An elevator system as defined in claim 5, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a rigid connector having first and second ends, the rigid connector being pivotally coupled at its first end to the drive sheave and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, and a tension spring coupled at a lower end within a lower portion of the hoistway and at an upper end to the second end of the rigid connector, whereby the spring imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

8. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, further including a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive rope has first and second ends, the drive rope having a first end coupled to a bottom portion of the counterweight and a second end coupled to a bottom portion of the elevator car, the drive rope extending downwardly from its first end, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave and extending toward and looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave, and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end at the bottom portion of the elevator car.

9. An elevator system as defined in claim 8, further including a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

10. An elevator system as defined in claim 9, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition. 5
11. An elevator system as defined in claim 9, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a rigid connector having first and second ends, the rigid connector being pivotally coupled at its first end to the drive sheave and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, and a tension spring being coupled at a lower end within a lower portion of the hoistway and at an upper end to the second end of the rigid connector, whereby the spring imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition. 10 15 20
12. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the suspension rope and the drive rope are made of non-metallic fiber material. 25
13. An elevator system as defined in claim 1, wherein the suspension rope and the drive rope are made of urethane. 30

35

40

45

50

55

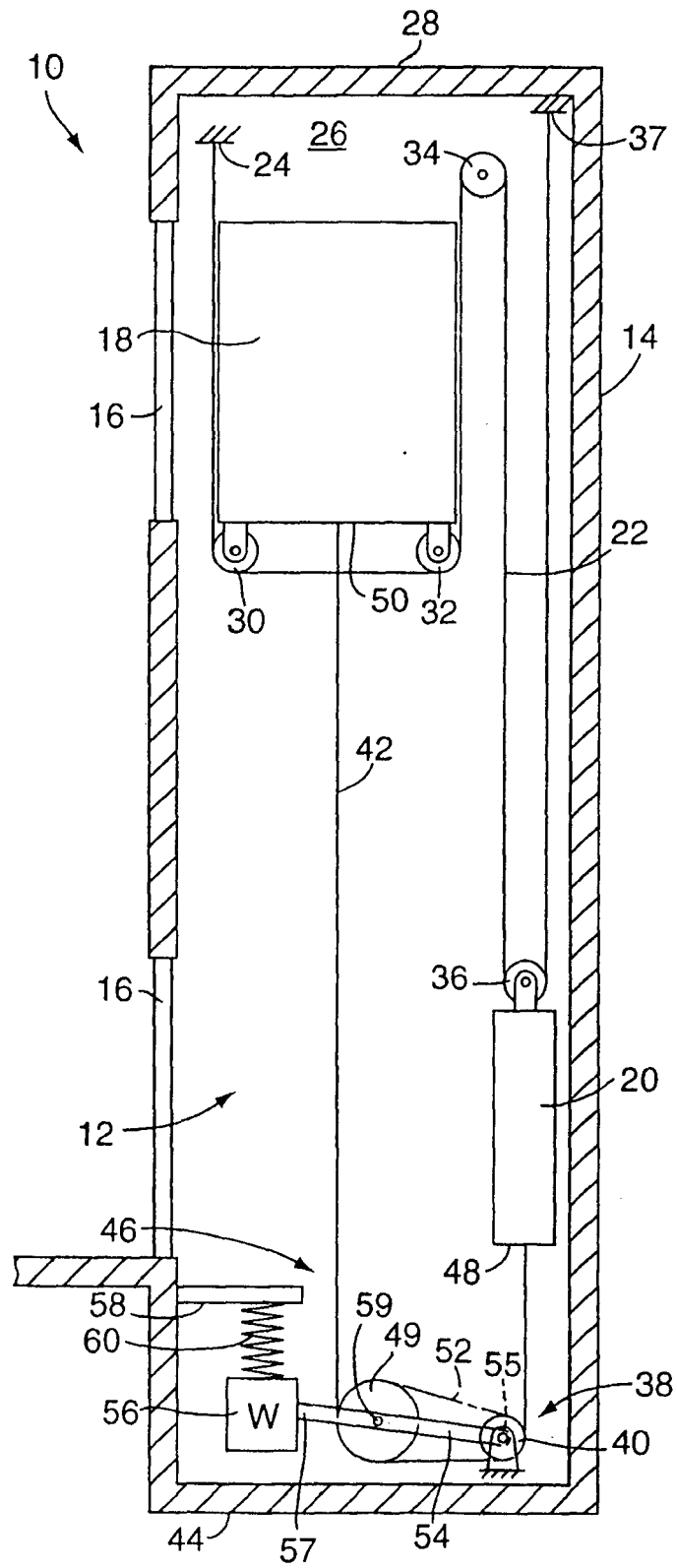


FIG. 1

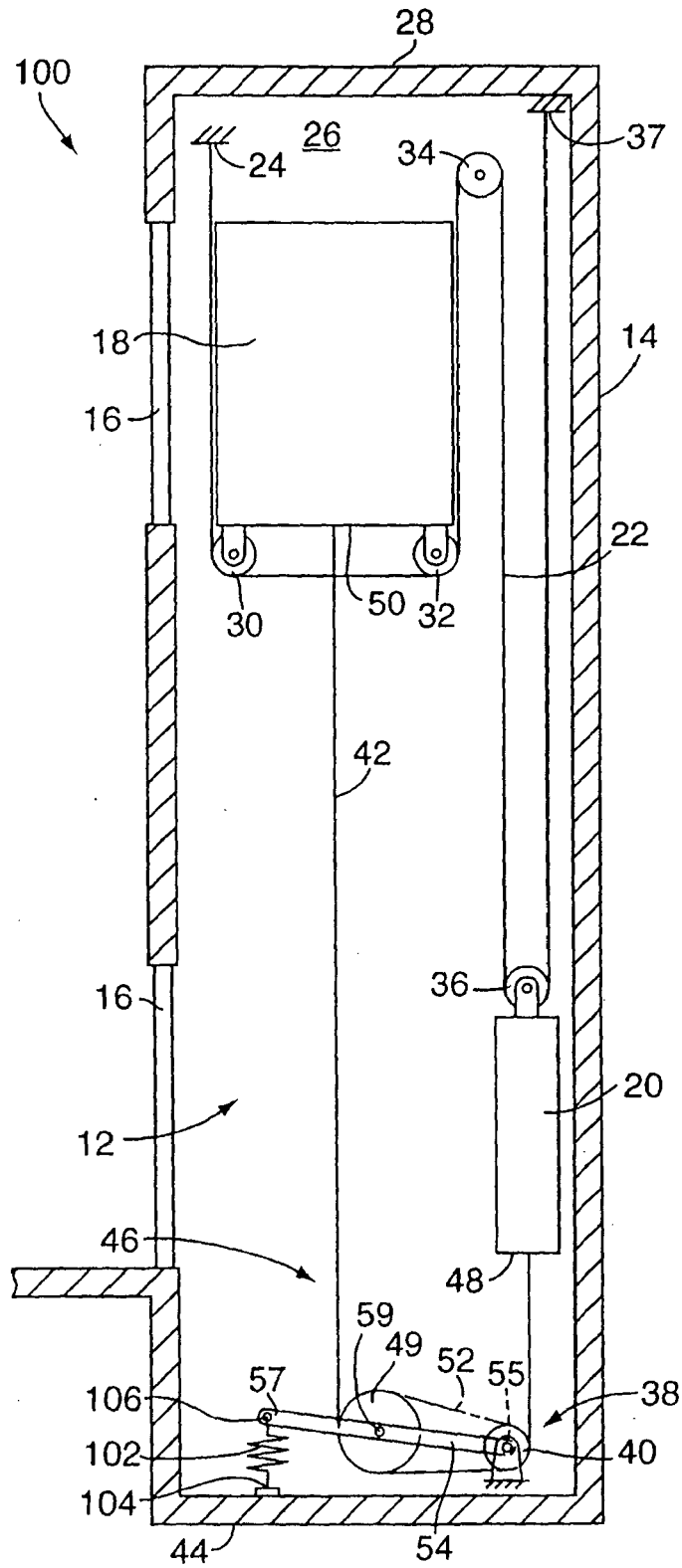


FIG. 2

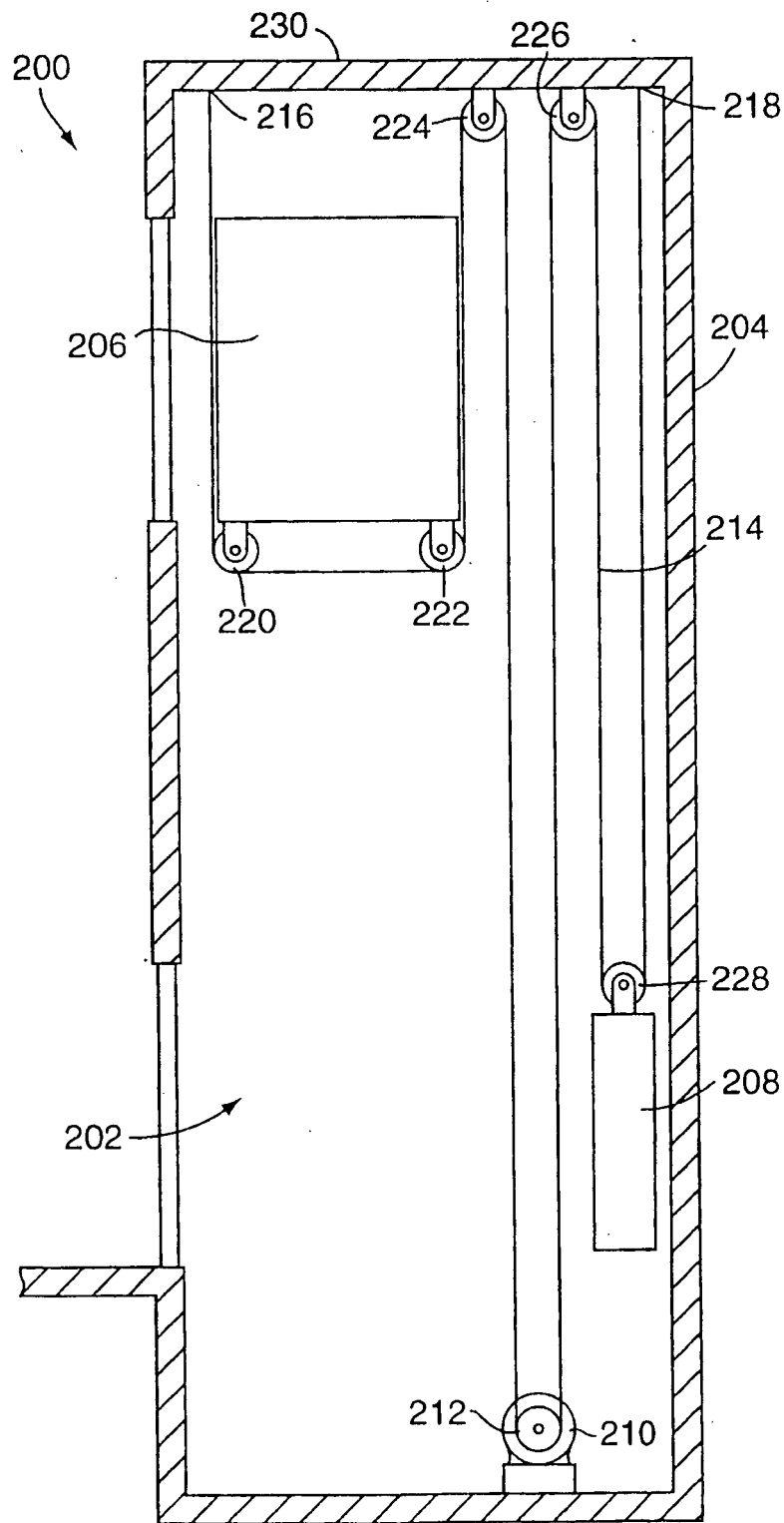


FIG. 3

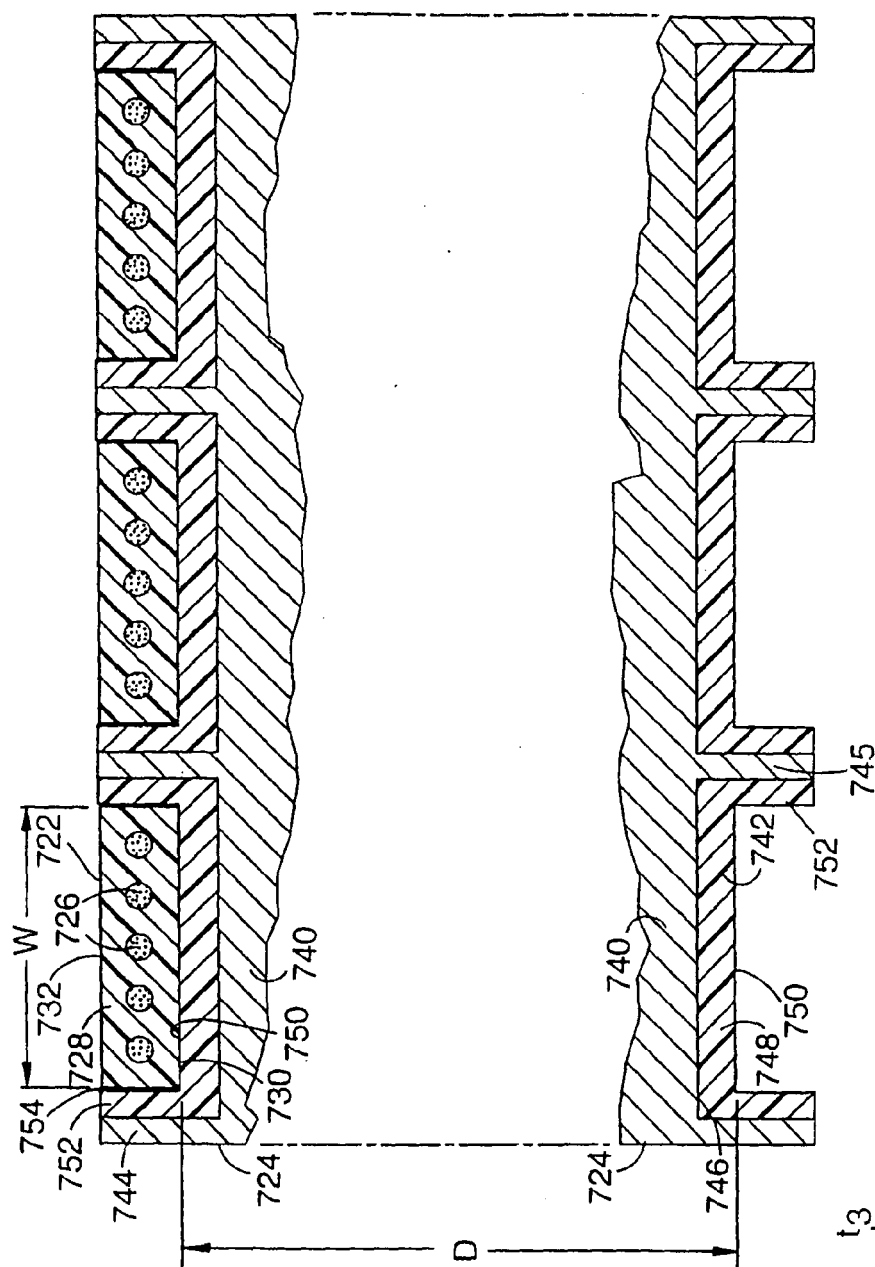


FIG. 4

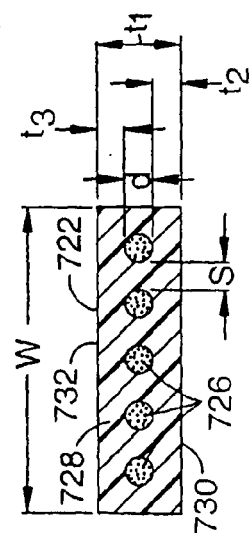


FIG. 5



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 0560

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 5 398 781 A (BIEWALD JOACHIM ET AL) 21 March 1995 (1995-03-21)	1,2,4,5, 8,9	INV. B66B11/08
Y	* the whole document *	3,12,13	B66B7/10
A		6,10	
X	US 1 997 060 A (HIRSHFELD) 9 April 1935 (1935-04-09)	1,2	
Y	* page 2, left-hand column, line 49 - line 52 *	3,12,13	
A		6,10	
Y	DE 23 33 120 A (VOGEL RUDOLF DR ING) 23 January 1975 (1975-01-23)	3	
	* the whole document *		
Y	FR 2 640 604 A (OTIS ELEVATOR CO) 22 June 1990 (1990-06-22)	3	
A	* figure 1 *	1,2	
Y	US 5 566 786 A (DE ANGELIS CLAUDIO ET AL) 22 October 1996 (1996-10-22)	12,13	
A	* abstract *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
	* column 3, line 44 - line 59 *		B66B
	* figures *		
A	DE 196 32 850 A (KOESTER REGINA) 19 February 1998 (1998-02-19)	1,2	
	* column 5, line 16 - line 28 *		
	* column 6, line 6 - line 17; figures 1,4,6 *		
Y	EP 0 749 930 A (KONE OY) 27 December 1996 (1996-12-27)	3	
A	* column 2, line 43 - line 56 *	1,2	
	* figure 1 *		
	----- -/--		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 26 February 2008	Examiner Trimarchi, 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			

5
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 0560

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	EP 0 688 735 A (KONE OY) 27 December 1995 (1995-12-27) * figure 5 *	1,2	
Y	EP 0 565 516 A (HAGEL WERNER) 13 October 1993 (1993-10-13) * column 3, line 49 - column 4, line 19 * * figure 3 *	1-3	
P,Y	WO 98/29327 A (MAEKIMATTILA SIMO ;KONE CORP (FI); AULANKO ESKO (FI)) 9 July 1998 (1998-07-09)	1-3	
A,P	* the whole document *	6,7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 26 February 2008	Examiner Trimarchi, 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			

5
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 07 01 0560

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-02-2008

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5398781	A	21-03-1995	AT 129984 T	15-11-1995
			DE 9201374 U1	02-04-1992
			DK 554712 T3	11-12-1995
			EP 0554712 A2	11-08-1993
			ES 2082528 T3	16-03-1996
			JP 2041104 C	09-04-1996
			JP 6080347 A	22-03-1994
			JP 7076074 B	16-08-1995
US 1997060	A	09-04-1935	NONE	
DE 2333120	A	23-01-1975	NONE	
FR 2640604	A	22-06-1990	NONE	
US 5566786	A	22-10-1996	AU 682743 B2	16-10-1997
			CN 1121040 A	24-04-1996
			ES 2141851 T3	01-04-2000
			NZ 270477 A	28-10-1996
DE 19632850	A	19-02-1998	AT 192996 T	15-06-2000
			WO 9806655 A1	19-02-1998
			EP 0917518 A1	26-05-1999
			ES 2147994 T3	01-10-2000
			GR 3034084 T3	30-11-2000
			HK 1021891 A1	25-05-2001
			US 6193017 B1	27-02-2001
EP 0749930	A	27-12-1996	CN 1143044 A	19-02-1997
			DE 69630081 D1	30-10-2003
			DE 69630081 T2	01-04-2004
			DE 69633347 D1	14-10-2004
			DE 69633347 T2	10-02-2005
			ES 2225324 T3	16-03-2005
			ES 2207659 T3	01-06-2004
			FI 953153 A	23-12-1996
			IN 188060 A1	10-08-2002
			JP 3168161 B2	21-05-2001
			JP 9165172 A	24-06-1997
			US 5906251 A	25-05-1999
EP 0688735	A	27-12-1995	AT 188945 T	15-02-2000
			AU 693542 B2	02-07-1998
			AU 2173595 A	11-01-1996
			BR 9502924 A	30-01-1996
			CA 2152292 A1	24-12-1995

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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

EP 07 01 0560

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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-02-2008

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0688735	A		CN 1117938 A	06-03-1996
			DE 69514574 D1	24-02-2000
			DE 69514574 T2	07-09-2000
			DE 688735 T1	09-04-1998
			DK 688735 T3	19-06-2000
			ES 2141865 T3	01-04-2000
			FI 95689 B	30-11-1995
			GR 3033252 T3	29-09-2000
			JP 2777340 B2	16-07-1998
			JP 8040676 A	13-02-1996
			PT 688735 T	31-05-2000
			RU 2139829 C1	20-10-1999

EP 0565516	A	13-10-1993	JP 6009178 A	18-01-1994

WO 9829327	A	09-07-1998	AU 7890098 A	31-07-1998
			DE 69720044 D1	24-04-2003
			DE 69720044 T2	11-09-2003
			EP 0948453 A1	13-10-1999
			ES 2189986 T3	16-07-2003
			JP 2001524060 T	27-11-2001
			US 6364063 B1	02-04-2002
