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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/14492 (22) International Filing Date: 10 July 1998 (10.07.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/891,678 11 July 1997 (11.07.97) US (71) Applicant: TRINITY INDUSTRIES, INC. [US/US]; 2525 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207 (US). (72) Inventor: BRONSTAD, Maurice, E.; 225 Gardenview, San Antonio, TX 78213 (US). (74) Agent: FELGER, Thomas, R.; Baker & Botts, L.L.P., 2001 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201-2980 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KB, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.

(54) Title: ENERGY-ABSORBING GUARDRAIL END TERMINAL AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

An energy-absorbing guardrail terminal has a plurality of beams (14A), extending substantially parallel to one another, and having at least one overlapping end (31); a plurality of break-away support posts (18) coupled to and supporting the plurality of beams; a plurality of fasteners (64) for coupling the plurality of beams to one or more of the plurality of break-away posts; and an arrangement for creating a substantially square wave of energy absorption during telescoping of the plurality of beams during a forceful impact of a vehicle on the energy absorbing-guardrail terminal. The substantially square wave may be created by a plurality of openings formed on the plurality of beams that are operable to encounter a plurality of fasteners during a forceful impact by a vehicle on the energy absorbing guardrail terminal.

