

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 April 2006 (06.04.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/036218 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A63G 7/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/016992

(22) International Filing Date: 17 May 2005 (17.05.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/953,173 28 September 2004 (28.09.2004) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS LLLP** [US/US]; 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CASEY, Joseph, F.** [US/US]; 10024 Fulton Court, Orlando, FL 32836 (US). **EMERICK, Cindy, L.** [US/US]; 12583 St. Route 122, Camden, OH 45311 (US). **LOVELACE, Reginald, B.** [US/US]; 5749 Tamarack Drive, Orlando, FL 32814 (US). **WEIGAND, Frank, K.** [US/US]; 5312 Palm Drive, La Canada, CA 91011 (US). **WHITCOMB, William** [US/US]; 25520 Newcaltle, Saugus, CA 91350 (US).

SEAY, Jim, L. [US/US]; 2327 Boston Street # 201, Baltimore, MD 21224 (US). **HARTUNG, Glen, A.** [US/US]; 26121 Camino Largo, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 (US).

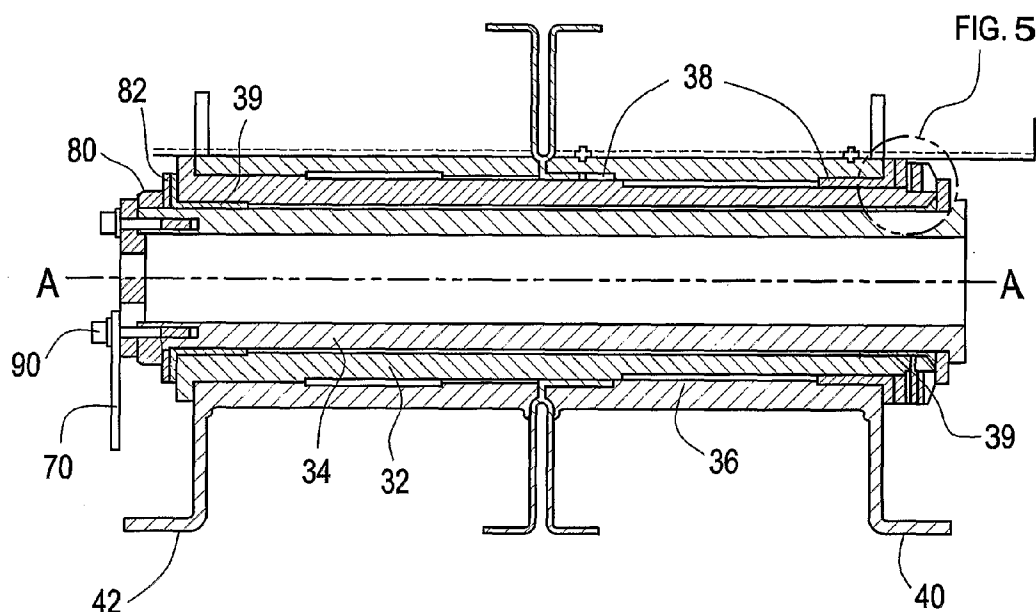
(74) Agents: **CONKLIN, Mark, A.** et al.; Patent Counsel, General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike (W3C), Fairfield, CT 06828 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AMUSEMENT RIDE VEHICLE INCLUDING AN ARTICULATION JOINT



(57) Abstract: An amusement ride vehicle includes a first vehicle section (12), a second vehicle section (14), and an articulation joint (30) connecting, and providing rotational movement between, the first and second vehicle sections. The articulation joint comprises a first shaft (32) for bearing loads during normal operation of the joint, and a second shaft (34) within the first shaft for bearing loads when the first shaft is inoperable. A test element (70), such as a lever, is attached to the second shaft. The second shaft is rotatable via the test element during normal operation of the joint. When the first shaft is inoperable, the second shaft handles loads acting on the articulation joint, and is not rotatable via the test element, thus indicating a failure of the first shaft.

WO 2006/036218 A1

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

- *with international search report*