

ABSTRACT

Capstan for fragile cables

5 The capstan (10) for handling cables (100),
comprises a central hub (200) provided with means of
rotation about an axis D.

10 According to the invention, the said capstan
comprises, at the periphery of the said central hub, a
plurality of centring modules (300) each comprising a
conveyor belt (310) disposed between two parallel cylin-
ders. The assembly of conveyor belts form a drum for the
said capstan and the said drum has a winding zone (Z)
intended to receive the turns (110) of cables. One of
the cylinders of each centring module (300) is coupled to
a drive motor (330) provided for displacing the said
15 conveyor belt in each direction parallel to the axis D of
rotation of the central hub, and a device (410, 420) for
checking the position of the cables during the winding
controls, in a synchronous manner, the said drive motors
in order to displace the conveyor belts in order to main-
20 tain, by the centring effect, the said turns in the
winding zone of the said capstan drum.

Application to the general field of cable handl-
ing, and more particularly the handling of fragile cables
used in marine seismology.

25 Figure 1.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

