~~**Rail clamp for attaching a rail and system provided with a rail clamp of this type**~~

Clamp for attaching a rail and system provided with such a clamp

The invention relates to a rail clamp for attaching a rail, said clamp comprising a central portion, at least one torsional portion branching off laterally from the central portion, at least one transitional portion adjoining the torsional portion and at least one retaining arm which is connected to the transitional portion and on the free end of which an end portion is configured by which the rail clamp is supported on the foot of the rail to be attached in each case during use. Rail clamps of this type are usually curved in one piece out of spring steel.

The invention also relates to a system for attaching a rail which has a rail foot, a stem positioned thereon and a rail head, the system comprising a guide plate, a rail clamp held on the guide plate and a tensioning means for bracing the rail clamp against a base which supports the rail.

Rail systems and rail clamps of the type mentioned above are described, for example in US 3,690,551 A or in US 3,439,874 A. Seen in a plan view, the retaining arms of the ω-shaped rail clamps known from these patents have a curved path with end portions, the end faces of which are directed towards one another. In this respect, the end portions themselves can be curved or straight, parallel to the respectively associated torsional portion of the rail clamp.

In the final assembly position, the free ends of the retaining arms rest on the foot of the rail to be attached.