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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB97/01805 (22) International Filing Date: 4 July 1997 (04.07.97) (30) Priority Data: 9614169.2 5 July 1996 (05.07.96) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FKI PLC [GB/GB]; West House, King Cross Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 1EB (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): LANE, Stephen, Ernest [GB/GB]; 8 Masfield Crescent, Droylseen, Manchester M43 6RW (GB). (74) Agent: DEALTRY, Brian; Eric Potter Clarkson, St. Mary's Court, St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham NG1 1LE (GB).			(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, HU, 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, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.

(54) Title: ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT BREAKERS

(57) Abstract

An electrical circuit breaker includes a moveable contact piece connected to an actuating means and provided with a contact face arranged to make contact with a contact face of a second contact piece by movement generally in a first direction. The circuit breaker further includes an electrical connector for conveying current to the moveable contact piece, the electrical connector including at least two adjacent limbs adapted to convey the current in substantially opposing directions so as to generate an electromagnetic force repelling said adjacent limbs from one another. This repelling force is used to assist in maintaining the contact faces in abutment. In addition, when the actuator is operating to open the contacts, the repelling force is operative to accelerate the actuator for a first part of its stroke.

