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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : F23Q 1/02, F23D 11/36	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/32163 (43) International Publication Date: 4 September 1997 (04.09.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/03014 (22) International Filing Date: 27 February 1997 (27.02.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/609,576 1 March 1996 (01.03.96) US (71) Applicant: BIC CORPORATION [US/US]; 500 Bic Drive, Milford, CT 06460 (US). (72) Inventor: DOUCET, Michel; La Croix-Verte, Bains-sur-Oust, F-35600 Redon (FR). (74) Agents: MARSHALL, Jonathan, A. et al.; Pennic & Edmonds L.L.P., 1155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), 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 <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: LIGHTER WITH SPARK-WHEEL SLIP RING (57) Abstract The lighter (10) of the present invention provides a slip ring (60) which is concentrically mounted about the striking wheel assembly (50) of a conventional lighter. To operate the lighter, digital pressure is applied to frictionally couple the slip ring (60) and the striking wheel assembly (50) together to move in concert to create a spark. The slip ring (60) has disposed along its circumference an elongated slot (70). The ends (72, 74) of the slot engage the flint housing (15) to halt the movement of the ring, and, hence, the motion of the striking wheel assembly (50). Lastly, the slip ring (60) includes protrusions (80) which hold the slip ring (60) in a neutral position until force is applied in a backward direction to disengage the slip ring (60).		