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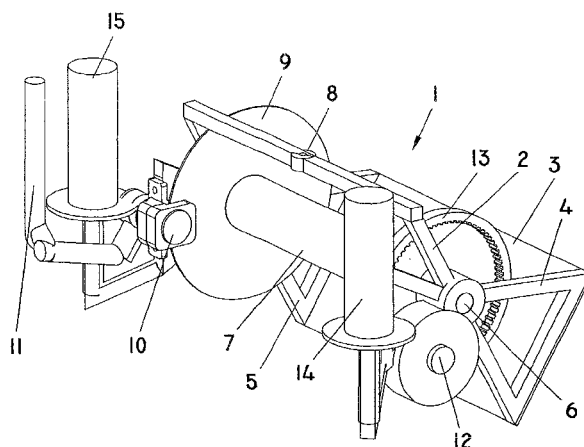
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(54) Title: DESCENT APPARATUS



(57) **Abstract:** A portable descent apparatus (1) for use in effecting the controlled descent of a body from an elevated location, for example a multi-storey building, comprises in combination a support frame (2) having a substantially planar base (3) and upright supporting end brackets (4,5), a fixed shaft (6) extending between said end brackets, a rotatable drum (7) coaxially mounted on said shaft and having means for attachment of one end of a flexible cable (17) thereto, the drum (7) having fixed to one end thereof a manually or remotely controllable calliper-operated disc brake assembly and to the other end thereof a gear driven descent speed controller comprising a toothed annular member (13) meshing with a pinion (19) driving a centrifugal brake assembly (12), the flexible cable (17) having one end attached to said drum and the other end (16) thereof having anchoring means for attaching the cable to a fixed position (18), and a first handle means (15) attached to the support frame (2) adjacent to said disc brake assembly and provided with means (11) for manually or remotely controlling the braking effect of the disc brake assembly, and a second handle means (14) attached to the support frame (2) adjacent to said descent speed controller, the arrangement being such that in use the apparatus may be held using the two handle means (14,15) with the planar base (3) positioned against the descending body.



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