WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device comprising:

a first member or a part thereof and a second member or a part thereof, the first and second members being approximately adjacent to each other and in a constrained kinematic relationship relative to each other;

a magnetically attracted relationship between the first and second members forming a magnetically induced force between the first and second members or a part thereof; and

a third member independent of the first and second members,

wherein:

the magnetically induced force provides a force threshold preventing relative movement between the first and second members prior to application of an energizing force that overcomes the force threshold;

when an energizing force of sufficient magnitude overcomes the force threshold, relative movement occurs between the first and second members according to the kinematic relationship; and

when the extent of relative movement between the first and second members is sufficient, the first member interacts with the third member to induce an eddy current brake effect between the first and third members and thereby brake relative movement between the third member and second member via the first member.

2. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second members are coupled together via a spring.

3. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the energizing force is applied to the second member and when the energizing force exceeds the force threshold, inertia forces cause the first member to overcome the magnetically induced force.

4. The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the magnetically induced force is located between a ferromagnetic region on and/or within the first member and, a magnetic region on and/or within the second member.

5. The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the magnetically induced force is between a ferromagnetic region on and/or within the second member and, a magnetic element and/or region on and/or within the first member.

6. The device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, once the force threshold is overcome by the energizing force, the first member moves in direct proportion to the energizing force.

7. The device as claimed in any one claims 1 to 5, wherein, once the force threshold is overcome by the energizing force, the first member moves indirectly due to the energizing force causing an additional mechanical part or force dynamic to move or interact with the first member and thereby subsequently causing motion of the first member.

8. The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein indirect force transfer occurs via a coupling, a gear, or a centrifugal force being imposed on the first member by direct force on another part.

9. The device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the kinematic relationship is rotational.

10. The device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first member is a pawl, the second member is a rotor that rotates on application of the energizing force and the third member is a housing located about the second member.

11. The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein part of the pawl moves outside the region bound by the rotor when the force threshold is overcome.

12. The device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the third member comprises a latch and the first member or a part thereof engages the latch on the third member.

13. The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein engagement of the first member and third member results in a halt in motion of the second member.

14. The device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the kinematic relationship is constrained by use of an aperture in the first member and a stop attached to the second member, the aperture defining a range of movement of the first member relative to the second member once the force threshold is overcome.

15. A brake device comprising:

at least one first member being a pawl or arm mechanically linked to a second member, the second member being a rotating rotor and at least one third member, the at least one third member interacting with the at least one first member based on relative movement between the at least one first and at least one third members inducing an eddy current brake effect between the at least one first and third members; and

at least one magnetically attracted relationship between the at least one first and second members that introduces a force threshold that confers a degree of hysteresis preventing movement between the first and second members up to a force threshold;

wherein:

when this force threshold is exceeded by application of an energizing force of sufficient magnitude to the second member, the magnetically attracted relationship between the first and second members is overcome and the at least one first member then moves relative to the second member; and

as the at least one first member moves relative to the second member, the at least one first member interacts with the third member to induce an eddy current brake effect between the at least one first and third members in turn braking relative movement between the third member and second member via the at least one first member.

16. The brake device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the magnetically attracted relationship is between at least one ferromagnetic element and/or region on and/or within the at least one first member and at least one magnetic element and/or region on and/or within the second member.

17. The brake device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the magnetically attracted relationship is between at least one ferromagnetic element and/or region on and/or within the second member and at least one magnetic element and/or region on and/or within the at least one first member.

18. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the magnetically induced force is between at least one magnetic element and/or region on and/or within the at least one first member of a first polarity and at least one magnetic element and/or region on and/or within the second member of a second polarity opposite to that of the first polarity.

19. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the at least one first member moves directly due to the energizing force.

20. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the at least one first member moves indirectly at least in part due to the energizing force imposed on the second member causing at least one additional mechanical part or force dynamic to move or interact with the at least one first member and thereby subsequently causing motion of the at least one first member.

21. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20, wherein relative movement between the at least one first member and at least one third member is frictionless.

22. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 21, wherein the at least one first member is linked to the rotor at a position adjacent to the rotor and, when the magnetically attracted relationship is overcome, at least part of the at least one first member moves outside the region bound by the rotor.

23. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 22, wherein once the magnetically attracted relationship is overcome, the at least one first member moves relative to the second member until the at least one first member engages with at least one latching member on or separate to the at least one third member and, when engagement occurs relative motion is prevented between the second member and at least one latching member via the at least one first member.

24. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23, wherein the at least one first member or a part thereof is electrically conductive and the at least one third member comprises at least one magnet generating a magnetic field.

25. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23, wherein the at least one first member or a part thereof is at least one magnet generating a magnetic field and the at least one third member is itself in part or in whole electrically conductive.

26. The brake device as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 25, wherein the brake device is free of liquid.

27. The device as claimed in claim 10 or claim 22, wherein the at least one first member is pivotally attached to the rotor about a pivot axis offset from the rotor axis.

28. A line dispensing device incorporating at least one device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 27.

29. A passenger seat restraint incorporating at least one device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 27.

30. A transmission drive incorporating at least one device to engage a rotational drive as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 27.

31. A linear guided lifeline incorporating at least one device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 27.

32. A brake device comprising:

at least one first member being a pawl or arm mechanically linked to a second member, the second member being a linear translating carriage and at least one third member, the at least one third member interacting with the at least one first member based on relative movement between the at least one first and at least one third members inducing an eddy current brake effect between the at least one first and at least one third members; and

at least one magnetically attracted relationship between the at least one first and second members that introduces a force threshold that confers a degree of hysteresis preventing movement between the at least one first and second members up to a force threshold;

wherein:

when this force threshold is exceeded by application of an energizing force of sufficient magnitude to the second member, the magnetically attracted relationship between the first and second members is overcome and the at least one first member then moves relative to the second member; and

as the at least one first member moves relative to the second member, the at least one first member interacts with the third member to induce an eddy current brake effect between the first and third members in turn braking relative movement between the third member and second member via the at least one first member.

33. The brake device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the carriage linearly translates on application of the energizing force and, when the magnetically attracted relationship is overcome, at least part of the at least one first member moves outside the region bound by the carriage.

34. The brake device as claimed in claim 33, wherein the at least one first member is pivotally attached to the carriage.

35. A method of tuning the timing and extent of relative movement between first, second and third members in a device by the steps of:

selecting a device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; and

applying an energizing force to the device to second member;

wherein:

when the energizing force is below the force threshold, no relative movement occurs between the first and second members;

when the energizing force overcomes the force threshold, the first member and the second member move relative to each other; and

when the energizing force is sufficiently large, the first and third members engage preventing relative movement between the second and third members.