

MOLDED CASE CIRCUIT BREAKER WITH PRESSURE
RELEASE MECHANISM

A B S T R A C T

5 A circuit interrupter including an operating mechanism and separable main
contacts interconnected with load and line terminals has an interface region between
the top and bottom portions of the completed housing thereof, which may be of
reduced cross section relative to the remainder of the side walls of the circuit
interrupter for being moved or pushed outwardly under the pressure of expanding gas
during a circuit interruption operation. To more easily clear or separate abutment
surfaces by near lateral movement thereof to provide a small opening for pressurized
gas to escape the elasticity of the side wall is utilized for this purpose. Provided that
10 the elasticity limit is not exceeded, the wall will return to its original position sealing the
internal portions of the circuit interrupter from the exterior once the gas pressure has
dropped below a predetermined level.

Figure 4