

(10 May 02



162162

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

ACTION

(43) International Publication Date
14 June 2001 (14.06.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/43147 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H01F 7/04.**
13/00, B23Q 3/15, B66C 1/04

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/01505

(22) International Filing Date: 6 December 2000 (06.12.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PQ 4466 6 December 1999 (06.12.1999) AU

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

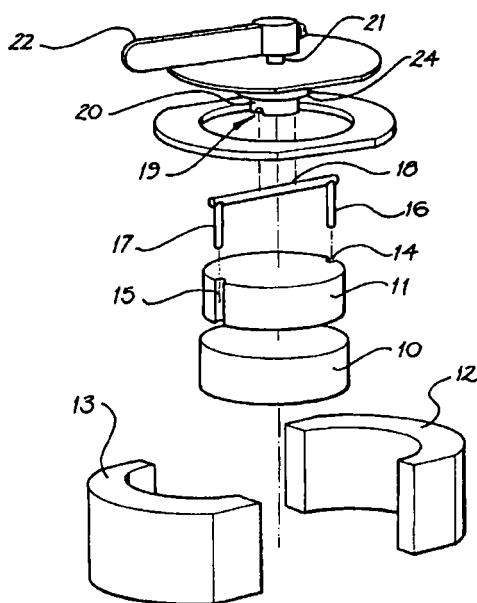
Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

10 MAY 2002

(54) Title: SWITCHABLE PERMANENT MAGNETIC DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A switchable magnetic device includes a first magnet (10) and a second magnet (11), both of which are essentially cylindrical. Magnets (10, 11) are housed in a housing made from pole pieces (12, 13). Pole pieces (12, 13) are ferromagnetic. Lower magnet (10) is fixedly mounted in the housing whilst upper magnet (11) can rotate within the housing. Upper magnet (11) is formed with notches or grooves (14, 15) along its vertical side walls. These notches or grooves (14, 15) receive downwardly depending arms (16, 17) of bar (18). Bar (18) is received inside a groove (19) formed on boss (20). Boss (20) is connected to a short bar (21) that, in turn, is fixedly connected to a handle or lever (22). By this means, rotation of handle or lever (22) causes rotation of second magnet (11). When the upper magnet (11) is positioned such that its north pole substantially overlies the south pole of lower magnet (10) and the south pole of upper magnet (11) substantially overlies the north pole of lower magnet (10), the first and second magnets act as an internal active magnetic shunt and as a result the external magnetic field strength from the device is quite low. Rotating the upper magnet (11) 180° about its axis of rotation brings the magnets into alignment such that the respective north and south poles of the upper magnet (11) substantially overlie respective north and south poles of lower magnet (10). In this alignment, the external magnet field from the device is quite strong and the device can be affixed to surfaces or objects.

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