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**Fragoso**

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(54) **KABUKI STAGE SETTING RELEASE DEVICE**

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***A63J 1/02*** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **160/331**; 472/77; 472/79

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 160/331; 472/77–79

See application file for complete search history.

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Bergman & Jeckle, PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A Kabuki device to positionally maintain and release a stage setting responsive to electric current from a power source. A box-like body, defining a medial chamber with a slot communicating therewith, carries a solenoid in the chamber. A movable solenoid arm communicates with a spring biased lever arm that pivots on an offset axle to provide mechanical advantage to one end of the solenoid arm. One metal ring interconnected to the stage setting is inserted through the slot and is positionally maintained by a ring support pin carried by the pivoting lever arm. A finger hole defined in one end of the body allows manual manipulation of the lever arm for resetting. Jumper cables having plural electrical leads allow a plurality of devices to be interconnected in series in multiple predetermined groupings.

**9 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**

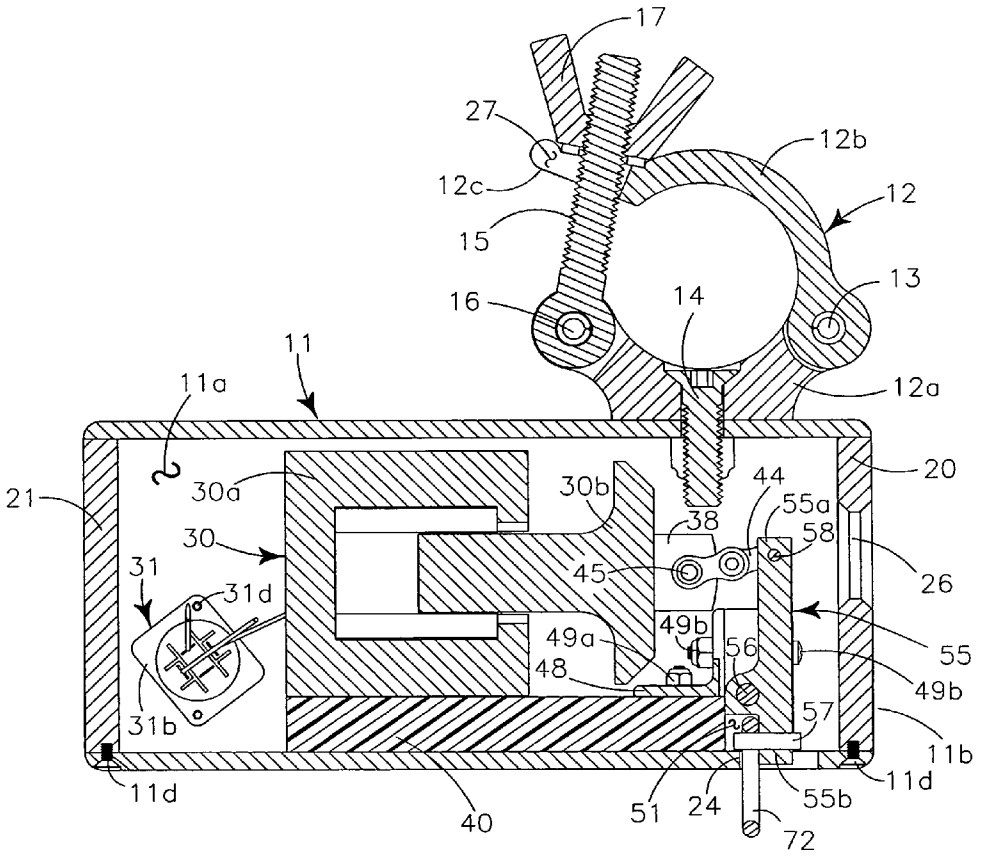

FIG. 1

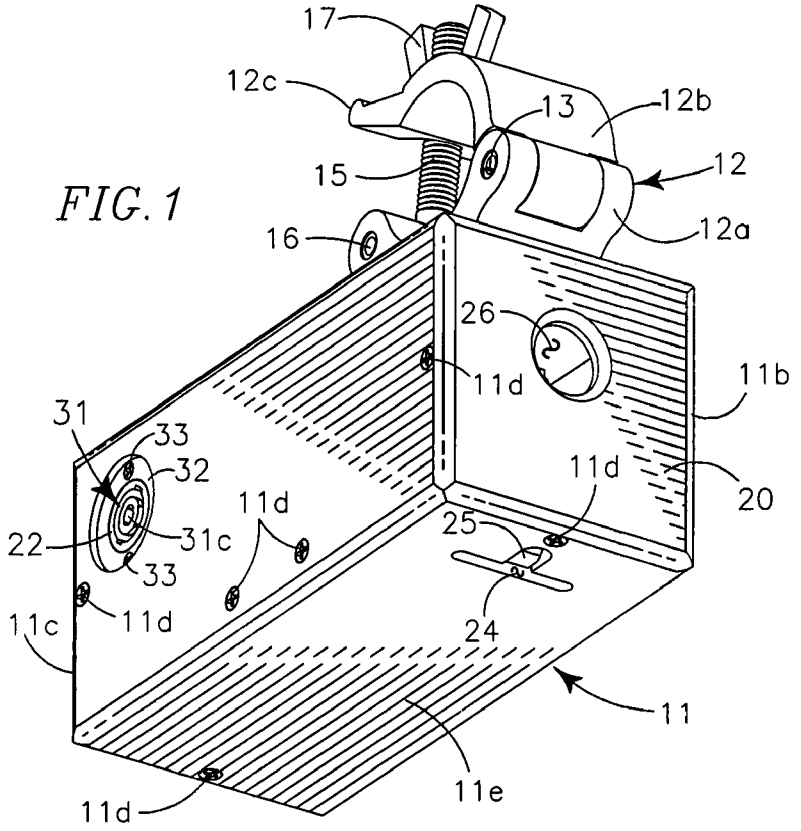
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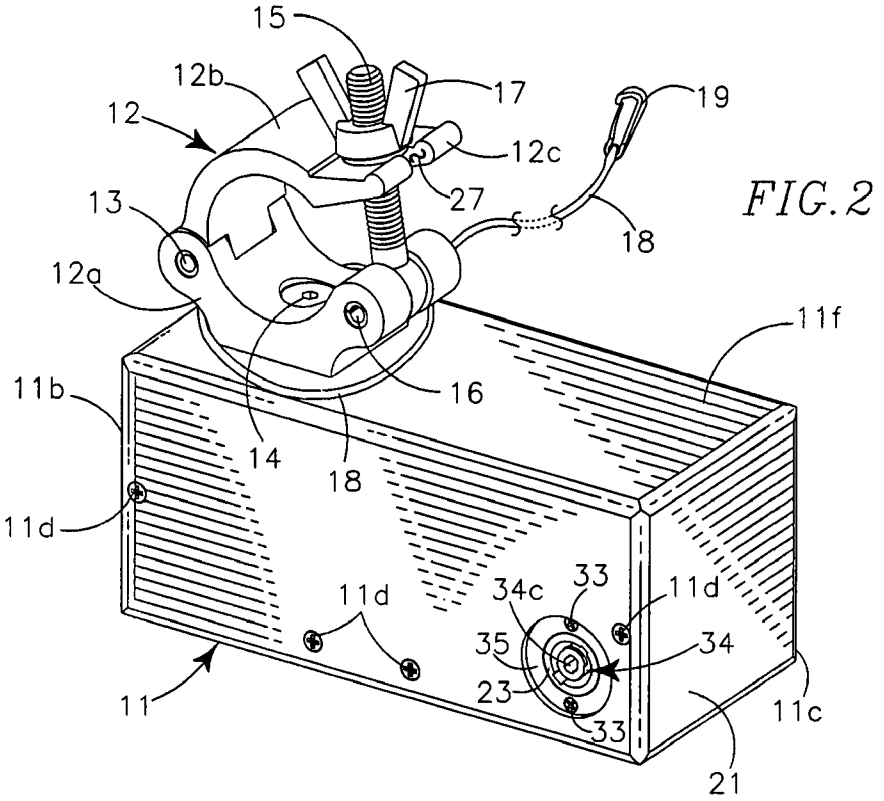
FIG. 2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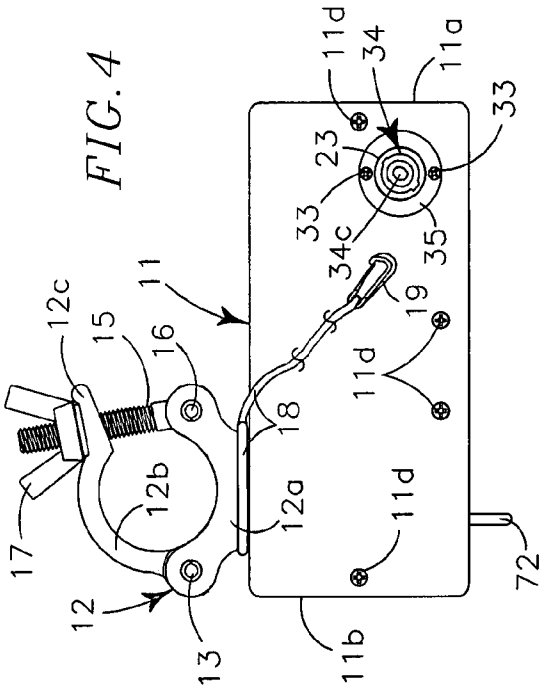


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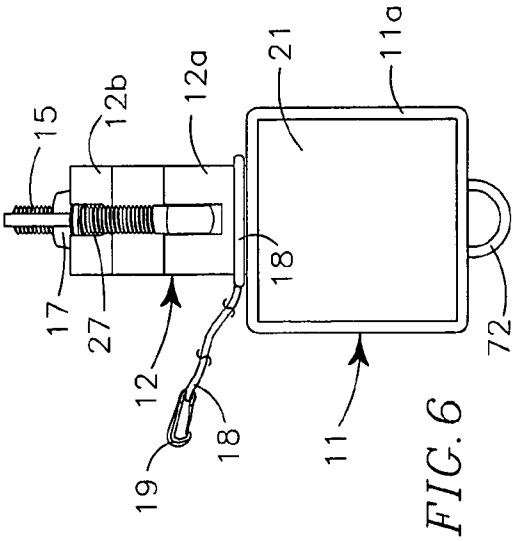
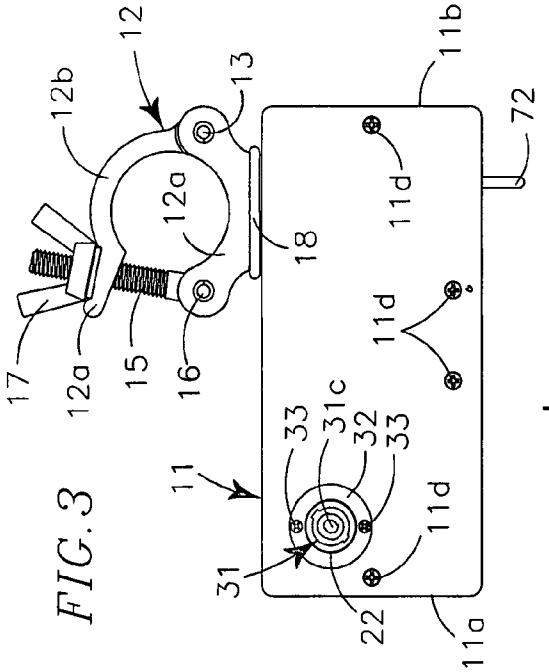



FIG. 6

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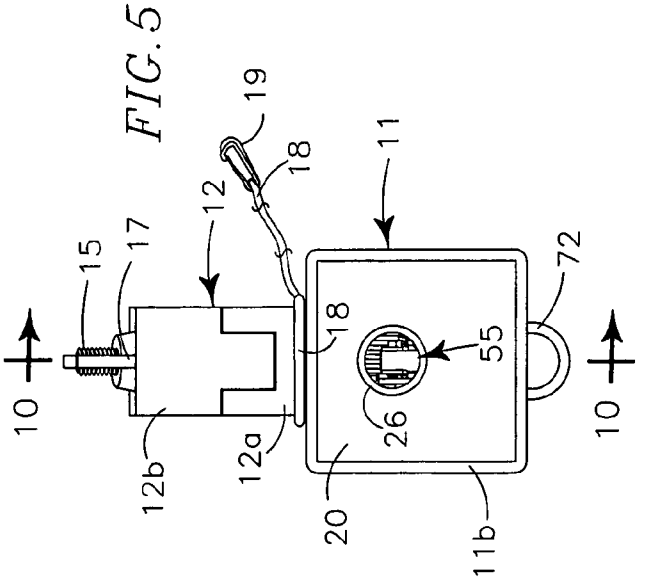


FIG. 5

FIG. 7

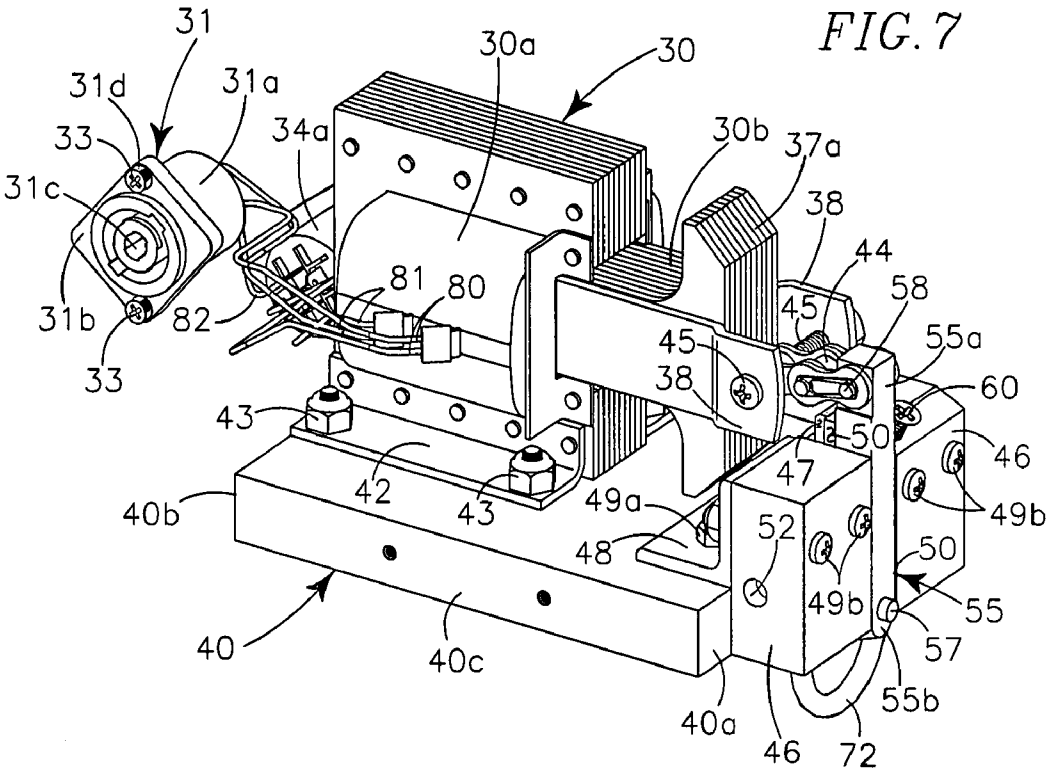
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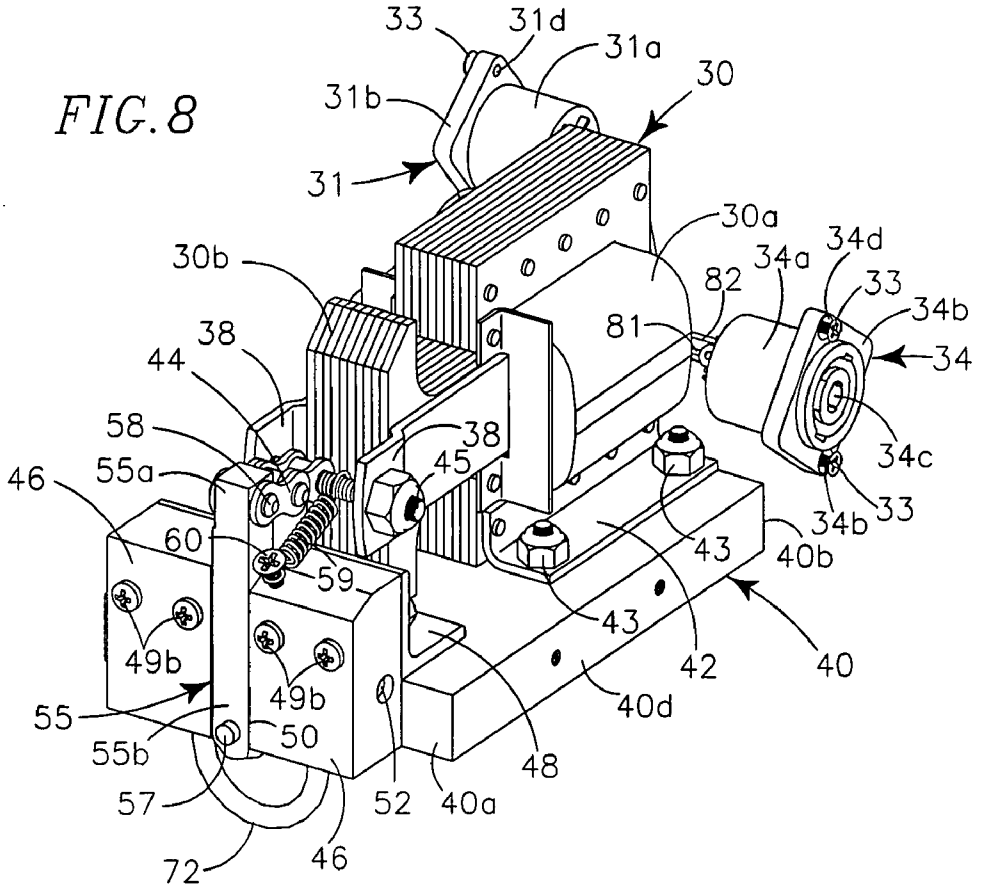
FIG. 8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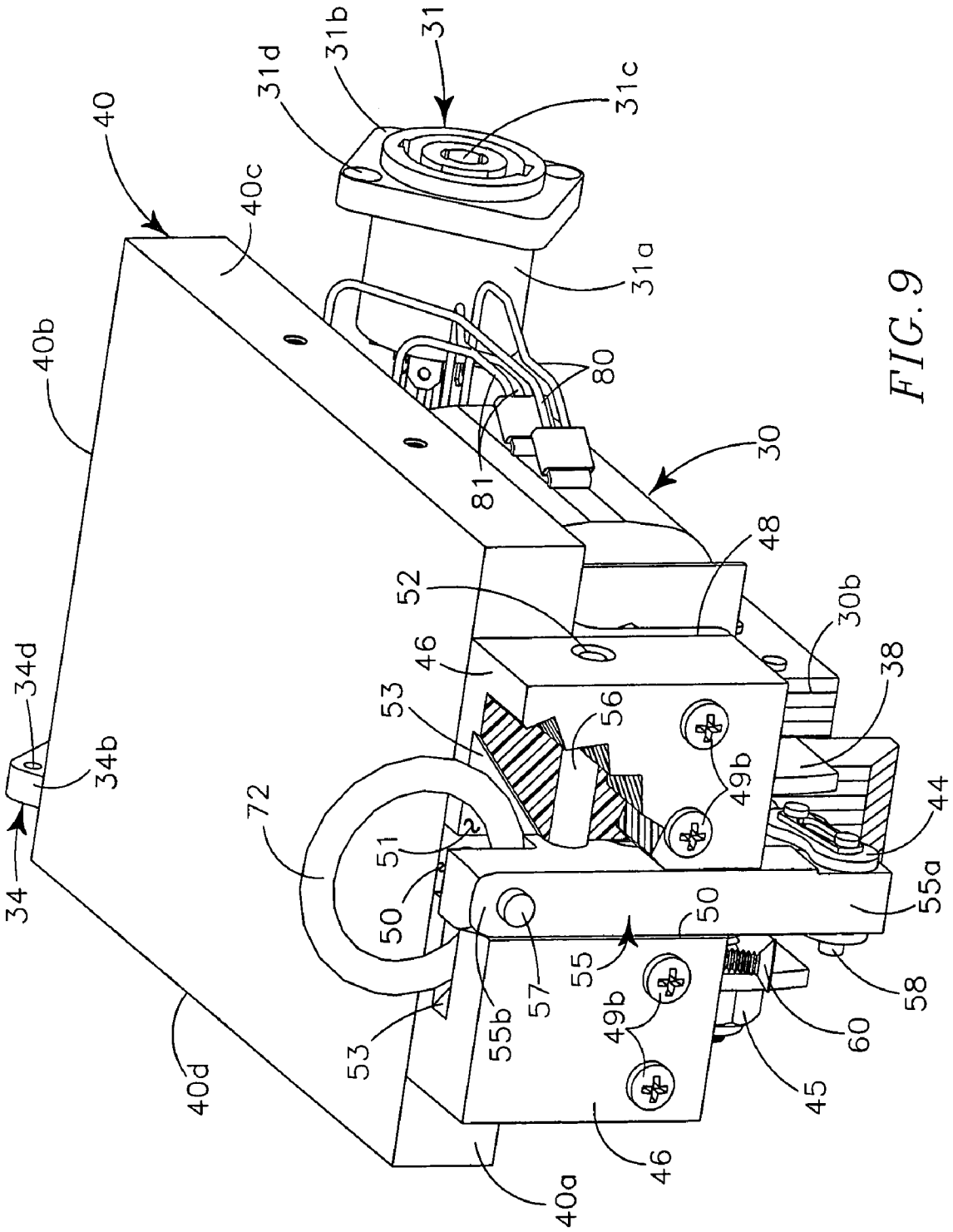
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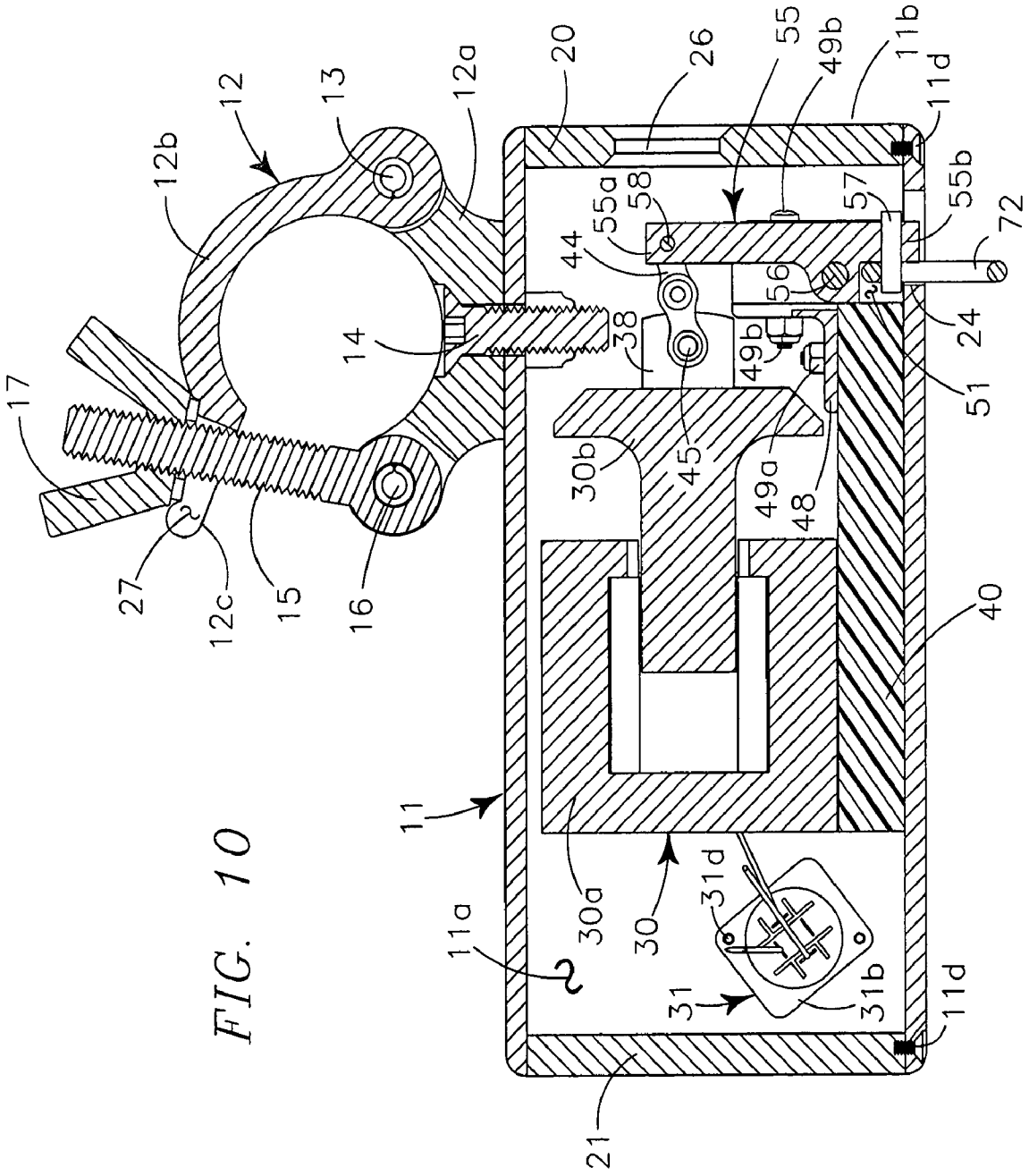
FIG. 9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30b
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FIG. 10

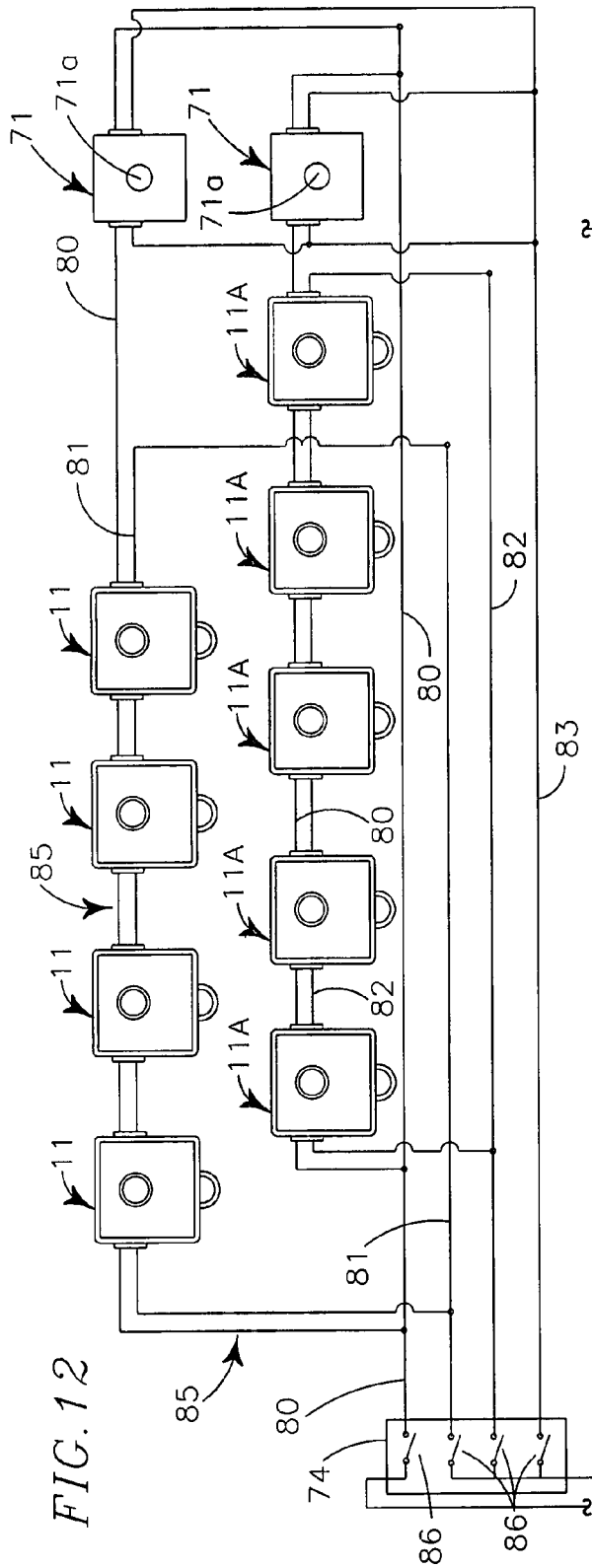


FIG. 12

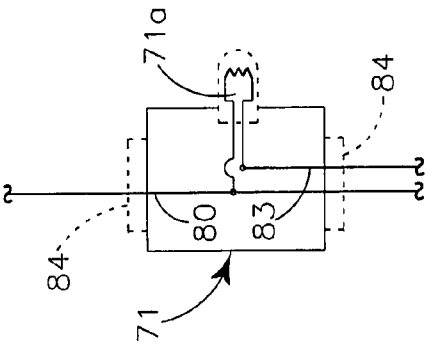


FIG. 13

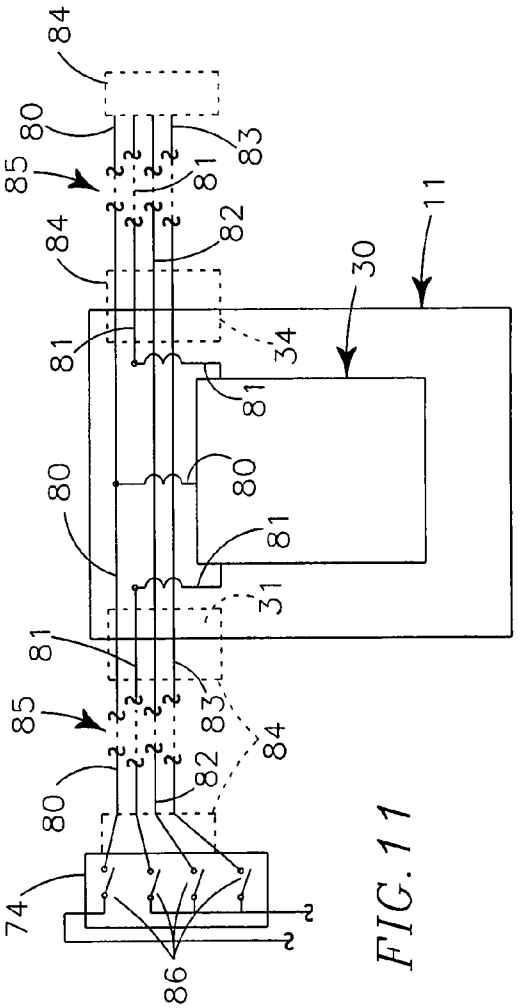


FIG. 11

# KABUKI STAGE SETTING RELEASE DEVICE

## II. BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

IIA. Related Applications

There are no applications related hereto heretofore filed in this or in any foreign country.

IIB. Field of Invention

This invention relates to partition control devices, and more particularly to a device for positionally maintaining a stage setting and releasing the stage setting in response to a remotely generated electric signal.

IIC. Background and Description of Prior Art

Stage setting release devices, commonly known as Kabuki devices, are used in the entertainment and media industries to positionally maintain depending stage settings, such as curtains, back drops, banners and scenery changes and to release the stage settings on cue and to open performances, change backgrounds and reveal new products. Although vertical drops are most common, stage settings may also be tensioned between biasing means at one edge portion and Kabuki devices at the opposing edge portion, so that upon release by the Kabuki devices the stage setting moves toward the biasing means horizontally across a stage.

Known Kabuki devices provide a push/pull solenoid and an associated elongately movable pin that are carried within the chamber of a peripherally defined body. The body defines a slot in the surface facing the direction of release of the stage setting in which a sector of a metal ring interconnected to an edge portion of the stage setting is carried. The elongately movable pin is interconnected to the solenoid at a first end portion. The second end and medial portions of the elongately movable pin extend transversely across the slot and through the medial void portion of the metal ring carried therein, so that the metal ring is supported directly upon the elongately movable pin. Actuation of the solenoid moves the solenoid arm which responsively moves the elongately movable pin toward the first end to a position whereat the pin no longer extends through the metal ring to release the metal ring from the slot to responsively release the stage setting.

Known Kabuki devices have various drawbacks and are prone to intermittent failures. Carrying the metal ring directly upon the elongately movable pin is a frequent cause of such failures because the weight of the stage setting, and the forces applied thereby, are transverse to movement of the elongately movable pin. These transverse forces increase friction that tend to cause the pin to bind, occasionally preventing pin movement and release of the metal ring and the stage setting. The binding may be exacerbated by use, as well as by misalignment of the solenoid arm and the pin. Increased friction also requires more electrical power for the solenoid to move the pin. Precision manufacturing is therefore essential, and rough handling of known Kabuki devices, during transport or otherwise, may decrease efficiency and reliability by altering the axial alignment of the solenoid arm and elongately movable pin.

Known Kabuki devices are also difficult to load because the elongately movable pin is not easily accessible. Generally a screwdriver or other thin elongate item must be used to move the pin rearwardly so that the metal ring may be placed in the slot and about the pin. Additionally there is no ready means to test whether the electrical circuit, created when plural Kabuki devices are interconnected in series, is complete, other than activating the device which releases the metal ring and the stage setting. Such testing is impractical once the devices and stage settings have been installed and raised for operation.



The present invention seeks to overcome these drawbacks to known Kabuki devices by providing an improved Kabuki device that is more reliable and durable, is easy to load and has an electrical circuit that may be tested without releasing the stage settings.

My improved Kabuki device releasably carries one metal ring of a stage setting, in a triangular ring chamber that communicates with a slot defined in the body on a ring support pin carried at one end portion of a spring biased pivoting lever arm. The pivoting lever arm provides mechanical advantage to the solenoid arm to ensure reliably consistent pin motion, eliminates friction caused by the transverse forces of the stage setting on the pin and reduces the electrical current necessary for the solenoid to release the stage setting.

A finger hole defined in an end cap of the body, adjacent the lever arm, allows manipulation of the lever arm to simplify loading my Kabuki release device. Interconnecting interlocking wiring connectors allow plural Kabuki devices to be interconnected with one another in series. A power indicator test light is releasably attachable to each series connected group of Kabuki devices to test the connectivity of each series circuit without activating the solenoids.

My invention does not reside in any one of these identified features individually, but rather in the synergistic combination of all of its structures, which give rise to the functions necessarily flowing therefrom as hereinafter specified and claimed.

## III. SUMMARY

My Kabuki stage setting release device generally provides a body defining a medial chamber with a slot communicating through the body of the chamber, and carries a connector to releasably fasten the body to a support structure. An electrical series current provides a solenoid carried within the medial chamber of the body operatively communicates through a switch to an external power source that supplies electric power to cause the solenoid to move a solenoid arm. A spring biased lever arm carried in the medial chamber, having a first end portion connected to the solenoid arm and a second end portion carrying a ring support pin, pivots on an axle responsive to motion of the solenoid arm to release a metal ring supported in the body slot upon the ring support pin. A finger hole defined in the body allows manual manipulation of the lever arm to load the metal ring onto the ring support pin. Cable jumpers, having a releasable electrical plug connector at each opposing end portion, operatively interconnect at least one group of Kabuki devices in a series circuit. A power indicator test light may be releasably engaged with each group of Kabuki release devices in a series circuit to test the circuit without activating the solenoids.

In providing such a device it is:

A principal object to provide a Kabuki device that uses a solenoid to power a pivoting lever arm to create mechanical advantage to release a metal ring supporting a positionally maintained stage setting.

A further object is to provide such a device that lessens friction between the metal ring interconnected to the stage setting and a ring support pin supporting the metal ring to reduce friction and the likelihood of device failure.

A further object is to provide such a device that requires less electrical power for operation to allow more devices to be interconnected in a single series circuit.

A further object is to provide such a device that uses multiple contact plug-type electrical connectors so that plural groups of a set of devices may be operated independently with a single wiring harness.

A further object is to provide such a device that may be loaded without the use of ancillary tools.

A further object is to provide such a device that allows a circuit formed by plural series interconnected devices to be tested with a second power indicator test light circuit without actuating the solenoids.

A still further object is to provide such a device that has recessed electrical connectors on the body to protect the connectors from damage during transport installation and use.

A still further object is to provide such a device that is of new and novel design, of rugged and durable nature, of simple and economic manufacture and otherwise is well suited to the uses and purposes for which it is intended.

Other and further objects of my Invention will appear from the following specification and accompanying drawings which form a part hereof. In carrying out the objects of my invention, however, it is to be understood that its structures and features are susceptible of change in design and arrangement with only one preferred and practical embodiment of the best known mode being illustrated in the accompanying drawings and specified as is required.

## IV. BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and wherein like numbers of reference refers to similar parts throughout:

FIG. **1** is an isometric bottom, front and right side view of my Kabuki device.

FIG. **2** is an isometric top, rear and left side view of the device of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** is an orthographic right side view of the device of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is an orthographic left side view of the device of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **5** is an orthographic front view of the device of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **6** is an orthographic rear view of the device of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **7** is an isometric top, front and right side view of the solenoid, base and lever arm of my Kabuki device with the box beam body removed.

FIG. **8** is an isometric top, front and left side view of the mechanism of FIG. **7**.

FIG. **9** is an enlarged isometric bottom, front and right side view of the mechanism of FIG. **7** partially cutaway to show the lever arm axle detail.

FIG. **10** is an enlarged cross-section view of the device of FIG. **3** taken along line **10-10** thereon in the direction indicated by the arrows thereon.

FIG. **11** is a diagram showing the circuitry of my Kabuki device with a cable jumper interconnecting the device to a controller.

FIG. **12** is a diagram showing circuitry of plural series interconnected Kabuki devices test lights both interconnected in parallel with a controller and a power source.

FIG. **13** is a diagram of the power indicator test light circuit.

## V. DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As used herein, the term "forward", its derivatives, and grammatical equivalents refer to that portion of the Kabuki device closest to first end **11***b*. The term "rearward", its derivatives, and grammatical equivalents refer to that portion of the device closest to second end **11***c*. The term "top", its derivatives and grammatical equivalents refer to that portion of the device carrying hinged scaffold clamp **12**. The term "bottom", its derivatives and grammatical equivalents refer to that portion of the device defining slot **24**.

The term "stage setting" includes curtains, partitions, screens, backdrops, banners and other similar sheet-like flexible structures used in stage performances and product introduction displays. Stage settings commonly are moved from a pre-established position by reason of the force of gravity, or in other directions by biasing means.

As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, my Kabuki device has a peripherally defined rigid box body **11** defining medial chamber **11***a* (FIG. **10**) and having first rearward end **11***b* and second forward end **11***c*. A transverse slot **24** communicating through the box body **11** to chamber **11***a* is defined in the bottom **11***e* of the body **11**, spacedly adjacent first rear end **11***b*, through which a sector of metal ring **72** (FIG. **10** not shown) that is attached to a stage setting (not shown) is inserted. Releasable fasteners **11***d* secure first end cover **20** and second end cover **21** to body **11** and also positionally secure base **40** carrying solenoid **30** (FIGS. **7-8**) in medial chamber **11***a*. Finger hole **26** is defined in the first rearward end cover **20** to communicate with chamber **11***a* to allow an operator to insert a finger therethrough to manually manipulate pivoting lever arm **55** (FIG. **5**) to load the Kabuki device with metal ring **72**.

A hinged scaffold clamp **12** is releasably fastened to the top portion of the body **11**, spacedly adjacent the first end **11***b*, by nut-bolt type fastener **14**. The hinged scaffold clamp **12** has base portion **12***a* with a lower planar surface to fit upon top **11***f* of body **11** and an upper arcuate surface to fit upon a cylindrical support. The base portion **12***a* carries arcuate pivoting portion **12***b* by means of hinge axel pin **13** extending between interconnecting hinge portions of the scaffold clamp portions **12***a* and **12***b* formed in their forward end portions. The pivoting portion **12***b* extends rearwardly and downwardly only to an arcuate distance spacedly adjacent to base portion **12***a* to define a gap therebetween and terminates with a radically outwardly extending fastening ear **12***c*. The fastening ear **12***c* defines the medial notch **27** in its outer end portion to fastenably receive threaded clamp bolt **15** pivotally carried by the forward end portion of base portion **12***a* of scaffold clamp **12**. Wing nut **17** carried by the clamp bolt **15** releasably closes and fastens the scaffold clamp **12** on a support structure (not shown) by securing together the opposing portions **12***a*, **12***b* of the scaffold clamp **12**. Safety wire **18**, carried by base portion **12***a* and formable into a loop thereabout, carries releasable connector **19** at the non-secured end portion to fasten about a support structure to provide safety redundancy in securing the body **11** to the support structure (not shown).

Holes **22**, **23** are defined in each side portion of the body **11** spacedly adjacent second rearward end **11***c* to releasably carry first wiring plug connector **31** and second wiring plug connector **34**, respectively, therein. Annular recesses **32**, **35** are formed in the body **11** about each hole **22**, **23** so that the first and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** are recessed into the body **11** for protection from damage.

Base **40** (FIGS. **7**, **8**) is carried in the medial chamber **11***a* of body **11** and secured therein with plural releasable fasteners **11***d* (FIGS. **1**, **2**) extending through holes (not shown) defined in the body **11**. Base **40** is formed of nonconductive, nonmagnetic material such as wood or plastic, to a generally rectilinear configuration having first forward end **40***a*, second rearward end **40***b*, first elongate lateral edge **40***c* and second elongate lateral edge **40***d*. An "L" shaped lever block bracket **48** that defines medial slot **47** is fastened to base **40**, adjacent the first forward end **40***a*, with plural releasable fasteners **49***a*. Similar opposed lever blocks **46** are fastened to the lever

block bracket **48** at each opposing side of the notch **47** with releasable fasteners **49***b* so that lever slot **50** is defined between the two spacedly adjacent lever blocks **46**. Each lever block **46** defines an aligned lever arm axle hole **52** extending transversely therethrough and a triangular recess **53** (FIG. **9**) in a bottom corner portion adjacent the lever slot **50** and first forward end portion **40***a* of the base **40**. The triangular recesses **53** (FIG. **9**) defined in each lever block **46** and the lever slot **50** therebetween define generally trapezoidal ring chamber **51** with a shorter top (not shown) oriented toward the top of the body **11** and longer base that communicates with the slot **24** defined in the bottom of the body **11**. The trapezoidal configuration of the ring chamber **51** positionally centers a sector of metal ring **72** that is inserted therein during loading of the Kabuki device.

As seen in FIG. **9** pivoting lever arm **55**, having upper end portion **55***a* and a lower end portion **55***b*, is pivotally carried in the lever slot **50** on a lever arm axle **56** (FIGS. **9**, **10**). The lever arm axle **56** extends transversely through the lever arm **55** spacedly adjacent the lower end portion **55***b* so that mechanical advantage is provided to lower end portion **55***b* relative to movement of upper end portion **55***a*. Laterally extending portions of lever arm axle. **56** are carried in similar opposed arm axle holes **52** defined in the lever blocks **46**. In the preferred embodiment, the position of lever arm axle **56**, through lever arm **55**, provides a three-to-one mechanical advantage between opposing end portions **55***a*, **55***b* of lever arm **55**. Ring support pin **57** is carried at lower end portion **55***b* of lever arm **55** to extend perpendicular to lever arm axle **56** rearwardly into and across ring chamber **51** at first forward end **40***a* of base **40**.

Pulling solenoid **30** having body **30***a* and movable arm **30***b* is releasably fastened to the top surface of base **40** between the first and second edge portions **40***c*, **40***d* and adjacent the second end portion **40***b* by mounting brackets **42** and plural releasable fasteners **43**, extending therebetween. Movable arm **30***b* extends forwardly from body **30***a* and is drawn rearwardly toward body **30***a* when electric current is supplied to a coil (not shown) within body **30***a*. Connection plates **38** carried on opposing lateral portions of arm **30***b* journal solenoid chain connecting bolt-nut combination **45** extending therebetween at forward end portions distal from body **30***a*. Chain links **44** interconnects solenoid chain connecting bolt-nut combination **45** and chain connecting pin **58** at upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55** so that movement of the solenoid arm **30***b* is communicated to upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55**.

As shown in FIG. **8**, spring **59** communicates between one lever block **46** and solenoid chain connecting bolt-nut combination **45**. Fastening screw **60** positionally secures the forward end portion of the spring **59** to the one lever block **46** to bias arm **30***b* to a forwardly extended position. When in the forwardly extended position, solenoid arm **30***b* pivots the lever arm **55** into a position whereat ring support pin **57**, carried at lower end portion **55***b* of lever arm **55**, extends rearwardly into and across ring chamber **51** so that metal ring **72** may be positionally maintained in the ring chamber by support pin **57**.

First and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34**, preferably are Neutrik Model NL4MP distributed by Neutrik USA, Inc., of 195 Lehigh Ave., Lakewood, N.J. 08701-4527, each having generally cylindrical plug bodies **31***a*, **34***a*, defining medial plug receptacles **31***b*, **34***b* carries plural spaced electrical contacts and having fastening flanges **31***b*, **34***b* thereabout defining plural fastener holes **31***d*, **34***d*. First and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** are releasably carried, in a recessed position, in holes **22**, **23** defined in side portions of the body **11** and are positionally secured by releasable fasteners **33** engaged in holes **31***d*, **34***d* defined in flanges **31***b*, **34***b* and extending through body **11**.

As seen in FIG. **11** first and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** are wired in series electrical communication with each other and with the solenoid **30** of the associated Kabuki. Common lead **80** interconnects with first wiring plug connector **31** with the solenoid **30** and with the second wiring plug connector **34** providing a common ground for the solenoid **30**. Power lead **81** communicates in series with first wiring plug connector **31**, solenoid **30** and second wiring plug connector **34**. Upon actuation electric current is transmitted from switchable controller **74**, through power cable **81** to first wiring plug connector **31**, solenoid **30** and second wiring plug connector **34**. The electric signal causes solenoid **30** to actuate, pulling solenoid arm **30***b* and upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55** toward solenoid body **30***a* which responsively pivots lower end portion **55***b* of lever arm **55** forwardly to release metal ring **72** from ring support pin **57** and allow the metal ring **72** to move from the ring chamber **51**.

As shown in FIG. **12**, plural pass through power leads **82** may be used in a wiring harness for multiple Kabuki devices to create groups of Kabuki devices that act uniformally within the group but independently of other groups. FIG. **12** shows two such groups of Kabuki devices **11** and **11***a*. Pass through power lead **82** interconnects first wiring plug connector **31** and second wiring connector **34**, but bypasses solenoid **30**. Plural pass through power leads **82** may be used in a wiring harness to allow the creation of plural sub-groups also known as channels, of series interconnected Kabuki devices which can be independently actuated by passing current from controller **74** through the appropriate pass through lead **82**.

Each Kabuki device is provided with a visible identifier (not shown), such as a unique number, color or letter identifying power lead **81** that communicates with the solenoid **30** for that particular Kabuki device **11**, **11***a*. The visible indicator allows an operator to group Kabuki devices into channels that may be actuated at the same time in response to the same electrical signal.

Each jumper cable **83** has a plug connector **84**, preferably the aforesaid Neutrik NL4FC, at each opposing end portion. Each plug connector **84** is generally cylindrical, carries plural electrical contacts (not shown) and is configured to operatively engage with receptacles **31***c*, **34***c* of first and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** carried by the body **11**. Each plug connector **84** has a known locking protrusion (not shown) that engages with a cooperating groove (not shown) defined in the first and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** to prevent inadvertent disconnections and ensure that plug connectors **84** and first and second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** are properly aligned for operative engagement and interconnection. The alignment ensures the electrical connections are predictable using visual indicators (not shown) on the body **11**.

As shown in FIG. **11**, jumper cable **85** is used to operatively interconnect a first Kabuki device to the controller **74** by engaging one plug connector **84** of the cable jumper **83** to a mating receptacle (not shown) on the controller **74**, and engaging the second plug connector **84** of the jumper cable **85** with one of the wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** of the Kabuki device. Similar jumper cables **85** may be used to interconnect plural Kabuki devices in a series circuit with jumper cables **85** operatively engaging and extending between adjacent Kabuki devices (FIG. **12**).

Power indicator test light **71** (FIGS. **12** and **13**) is used to test the continuity of a series circuit having plural interconnected Kabuki devices. The power indicator test light **71** may

operatively engage with any wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** but preferably interconnects with the last Kabuki device in a series circuit that is most distal from controller **74**. Power indicator test light **71** has light bulb **71***a* that illuminates when electric current is supplied to it. Light bulb **71***a* is in electrical communication with the common ground lead **80** and power test lead **83** so that when electrical power is supplied through the power test lead, light bulb **71***a* will light if the common ground lead circuit **80** through a series connected Kabuki devices is completed. The illumination of light bulb **71***a* provides visual evidence of the circuit integrity without operating the solenoids **30** of the Kabuki device to release stage settings they may be supporting.

Having described the structure of my Kabuki stage setting release device, its operation may be understood.

At least one Kabuki device is releasably fastened to a supporting structure (not shown), such as a scaffolding rod that has not yet been raised into position. Hinged scaffold clamp **12** is opened by loosening wing nut **17** and pivoting clamp securing bolt **15** out of notch **27** defined in pivoting portion **12***b* of clamp **12**. A portion of the scaffolding rod is positioned between pivoting portion **12***b* and base portion **12***a* of scaffold clamp **12**, clamp securing bolt **15** is pivoted back into notch **27** and wing nut **17** is tightened to secure scaffold clamp **12** and the Kabuki device to the scaffolding. If more than one Kabuki device is to be used for the same stage setting drop, each Kabuki device being used should have the same visual indicator (not shown) and must have the same jumper cable **85** interconnection thereon so that every Kabuki device in the circuit will be identifiable and actuate in response to receipt of the same electric signal.

The stage setting, having one or more spaced metal rings **72** along an edge portion for support, is positioned adjacent to Kabuki devices. The operator inserts a finger through finger hole **26** defined in first end cover **20** and pushes upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55** rearwardly to overcome the biasing of spring **59**. As upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55** moves rearwardly, lower end portion **55***b* of lever arm **55** pivots forwardly so that the ring support pin **57** is withdrawn rearwardly from the ring chamber **51**. The adjacent metal ring **72** attached to the stage setting (not shown) is partially inserted into slot **24** defined in the bottom portion of body **11** and into ring chamber **51**. The trapezoidal configuration of ring chamber **51** positionally centers metal ring **72** in ring chamber **51**. The operator releases pressure on upper end portion **55***a* of lever arm **55** causing spring **59** to move the lower end portion **55***b* of lever arm **55** rearwardly so that ring support pin **57** extends into and across ring chamber **51** and through a medial portion of metal ring **72**. The described process is repeated for each Kabuki device to be used in the stage setting drop group.

Jumper cables **85** having plug connector **84** at each opposing end are positioned between adjacent Kabuki devices. A protrusion (not shown) on each plug connector **84** is aligned with a groove (not shown) defined in each first and second wiring plug connector **31**, **34** and plug connectors **84** are engaged with the wiring plug connectors **31**, **34**. Upon engagement, plug connectors **84** are rotated axially into a locking position that positionally maintains the interconnection of connectors **84** and **31**, and connectors **84** and **34**. The locking position establishes operative electrical communication between the electrical contacts carried by plug connectors **84** and first and second wiring connectors **31**, **34** and establishes an operative series electrical circuit therebetween. The above described process is repeated for each Kabuki device in the series circuit. A similar jumper cable **85** is used to interconnect the first Kabuki device in the series circuit with controller **74** (FIG. **11**).

Power indicator test light **71** may be interconnected with the first or second wiring plug connectors **31**, **34** of the Kabuki device most distant from controller **74**. Light bulb **71***a* of power indicator test light **71** will illuminate when an electrical signal is transmitted through the power test lead **83** which verifies the integrity of the electrical connections without actuating solenoids **30**.

After the interconnection of jumper cables **85** to the Kabuki devices the scaffolding may be raised into operative position. Upon cue, switches **86** on the controller **74** are activated to transmit electric power through jumper cables **85** and to the interconnected Kabuki devices causing solenoids **30** to actuate and release the desired stage setting.

The foregoing description of my invention is necessarily of a detailed nature so that a specific embodiment of the best mode may be set forth as is required, but it is to be understood that various modifications of details, and rearrangement, substitution and multiplication of parts may be resorted to without departing from its spirit, essence or scope.

Having thusly described my invention, what I desire to protect by Letters Patent, and

What I claim is:

**1**. a Kabuki device for releasably positionally maintaining a stage setting having at least one metal ring at an edge portion for support, comprising in combination:

An elongate box-like body having first and second opposed longer surfaces and defining a medial chamber with a slot in the first surface communicating with the medial chamber and means on the second surface to releasably fasten the body to a support structure;

a solenoid carried by the body within the medial chamber and operatively communicating through a switch with an external electric power source to move an arm of the solenoid responsively to an electric signal;

a lever arm pivotally carried by the body within the medial chamber and having a first end portion pivotally connected to the solenoid arm and a second end portion carrying a ring support pin for motion across the slot defined in the body;

biasing means maintaining the lever arm at a position whereat the ring support pin extends across the slot to positionally maintain the metal ring of the stage setting in the medial chamber,

two wiring plug connectors carried on the body in electrical series communication with each other, with the solenoid and through a switch with the power source; and

a finger hole defined in a third end surface of the body to allow access to the lever arm to overcome the biasing means to place the at least one metal ring of a stage setting in fastenable position in the body slot.

**2**. The Kabuki device of claim **1**, wherein:

the lever arm pivots on an axle that provides mechanical advantage to the end of the lever arm carrying the ring support pin.

**3**. The Kabuki device of claim **1**, wherein:

the wiring plug connectors each have a common ground lead communicating with the solenoid, a power supply lead communicating with the solenoid and at least one power test lead that does not communicate with the solenoid.

**4**. The Kabuki device of claim **1**, wherein:

the body defines a ring chamber communicating with the slot defined in the body and configured to center a metal ring inserted therein through the slot defined in the body.

5. The Kabuki device of claim 1, wherein:

at least one wiring plug connector carried by the body is a Neutrik Model NL4MP.

6. The Kabuki device of claim 1, further comprising:

a jumper cable having opposed ends each carrying a plug connector for releasable electrical engagement with wiring plug connectors carried by two bodies.

7. A Kabuki device for releasably positionally maintaining a stage setting having at least one metal ring at an edge portion for support and releasing the stage setting in response to an electric current from a power source, the Kabuki device comprising in combination:

An elongate box-like body having an upper and lower surface and defining a medial chamber with a slot defined in the lower surface communicating with the medial chamber and means on the upper surface to releasably fasten the body to a support structure;

a solenoid carried by the body within the medial chamber operatively communicating through a switch with an external electric power source to move an arm of the solenoid responsively to the electric signal;

a lever arm pivotally carried by the body within the medial chamber and having a first end portion pivotally connected to the solenoid arm with a link and a second end portion carrying a ring support pin for motion across the slot defined in the body, the lever arm pivotally carried on an axle that provides mechanical advantage to the second end portion of the lever arm;

a ring chamber, defined in the body adjacent the second end portion of the lever arm and about the ring support pin, communicating with the slot defined in the body and configured to center therein the at least one metal ring inserted through the slot for positional maintenance on the ring support pin;

a spring biasing the lever arm to a position whereat the at least one metal ring attached to the stage setting is positionally maintained in the ring chamber by the ring support pin;

two similar wiring plug connectors carried by the body in electrical series interconnection with each other, the wiring plug connectors each having a common ground lead communicating with the solenoid, a powered lead communicating with the solenoid, a powered test lead and at least one powered through lead that does not communicate with the solenoid;

a finger hole defined in one end of the body spacedly adjacent the lever arm to allow access to the lever arm to manually overcome the spring biasing of the lever arm to allow placement of the at least one metal ring of the stage setting in fastenable position in the body slot.

8. A Kabuki system for releasably positioning and positionally maintaining a stage setting having a plurality of metal rings at an edge portion for support comprising in combination:

a plurality of Kabuki devices of claim 1 interconnected in at least one group having common ground leads connected in series with each other and a power source and power leads connected in series with each other and through a switch with a power source;

a power indicator test light interconnected in series between a common ground lead of a Kabuki device and through a switch to a pass through power lead so that the power indicator test light illuminates to show continuity of the common ground leads though the Kabuki devices when power is applied to the pass through lead without activating the solenoids of any of the series interconnected Kabuki devices.

9. The Kabuki system of claim 8 wherein plural groups of Kabuki devices having serially interconnected ground leads and serially interconnected power leads for all groups connected through switches in parallel with a power source and each serially interconnected group of Kabuki devices having a power indicator test light interconnected in series between the common ground lead of the Kabuki devices most distal from the power source in each series connected group and a pass through power lead indicating through a switch to the power source so that the power indicator light lead series interconnected group of Kabuki devices will illuminate power supplied through the pass through power lead to indicate continuity of the interconnection of jumper cables with each group of series interconnected Kabuki devices without activating the solenoids of any Kabuki devices.

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