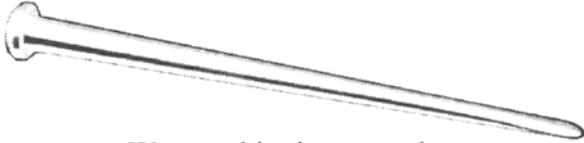


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trolleys **104A**, **104B** are connected to the load **106** through wire ropes **110**. In the illustrated embodiment, a plurality of wire ropes **110** connect the first trolley **104A** to the load **106** at a first or forward hitch point and wire ropes **110** connect the second trolley **104B** to the load or platform **106** at a second or aft hitch point of the platform **106** spaced from the first hitch point. The wire ropes **110** connected to the first trolley **104A** and the second trolley **104B** are wound around sheaves **112A**, **112B** to guide the wire ropes **110** as the wire ropes **110** are pulled or extended to raise the load or platform **106**. In the illustrated embodiment, the first and second hitch points correspond to forward and aft ends of an elevator platform.

Movement of the trolleys **104A**, **104B** along the lift stroke raises the load or platform **106**. As previously disclosed, the trolleys **104A**, **104B** are moved along the lift stroke via mechanized drive assemblies. In the embodiment shown, the drive assemblies include a drive motor **116** and a gear assembly or reducer **118**. Illustratively the drive motor **116**

is an electric, pneumatic and/or hydraulic motor. Output from the drive motor **116** and/or gear assembly **118** is used to rotate a drive mechanism or sprocket **120** which engages a drive chain **122** coupled to the split trolleys **104A**, **104B**. Drive chains **122** are coupled to the trolleys **104A**, **104B** and are wound about the drive sprockets **120** so that rotation of the drive sprockets **120** moves the drive chains **122** and trolleys **104A**, **104B** to raise the load or platform **106**. It is noted that the pitch diameter of the sprocket **120** should be as small as possible to reduce the amount of torque needed for operation, and hence, the torque capability of the gear reducer **118**.

As shown in the illustrated embodiment, a chain or wire rope **124** connects an end of the drive chain **122** to the trolleys **104A**, **104B**. The chain **124** is wound about sheave **125** to form a continuous drive loop in cooperation with the drive chain **122**. In the illustrated embodiment, chain **124** is a lighter weight chain than drive chain **122**. In another embodiment a cable or other flexible member connects to the end of the drive chain **122** and to trolleys **104A**, **104B** to form the continuous drive loop.

In the embodiment shown, the drive assembly includes a brake **126** to hold the load in a raised position. Brake **126** operates to inhibit operation of the drive motor **116** or gear assembly **118** to brake or prohibit movement of the trolleys **104A**, **104B**. Illustratively, the brake **126** can include a caliper, drum or disc brake arrangement and application is not limited to a particular brake embodiment or a brake operable through the drive assembly as can be appreciated by those skilled in the art. In an illustrated embodiment,

*continued on next page*

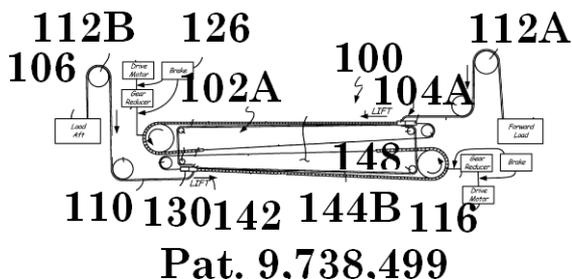


Figure 15: Embodiment of a lift system including a pair of trolleys to lift a load or platform.