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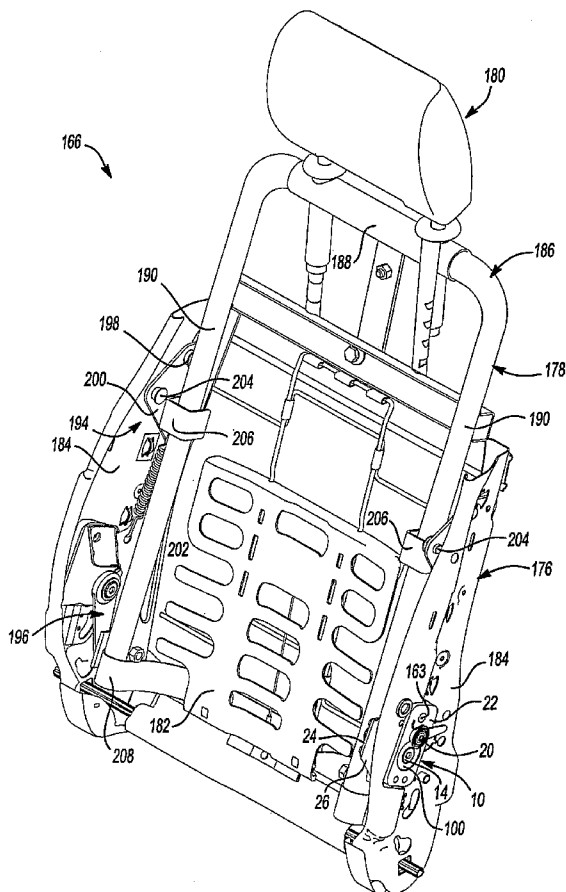
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SPINAL PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR AUTOMOTIVE SEAT



(57) Abstract: An energy absorption assembly for a seat assembly having a seatback including a first frame and a second frame includes a housing, a torsion bar rotatably supported by the housing in a first rotational direction and in a second rotational direction, and a clutch assembly engaged with the torsion bar. Engagement between the clutch assembly and the torsion bar permits rotation of the torsion bar relative to the housing in one of the first direction and the second direction to permit movement of the second frame relative to the first frame and restricts rotation of the torsion bar relative to the housing in the other of the first direction and the second direction to restrict movement of the second frame relative to the first frame. Restricting rotation of the torsion bar relative to the housing absorbs energy associated with movement of the second frame relative to the first frame.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PatBase

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	WO 2004/024560 A1 (DE WILDE et al) 25 March 2004 (25.03.2004) entire document	1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-20, 24-35 --- 7, 11, 17, 21-23
Y	US 6,446,897 B1 (ARIMA et al) 10 September 2002 (10.09.2002) entire document	11, 21
Y	US 2004/0075312 A1 (NEALE) 22 April 2004 (22.04.2004) entire document	22, 23
Y	US 6,382,548 B1 (NISHIZAWA et al) 07 May 2002 (07.05.2002) entire document	7, 17

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