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Beers et al.

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(54) **CUTOUT BOX FUSE BYPASS JUMPER**

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H01H 85/02	(2006.01)
H01R 11/22	(2006.01)
H01H 31/12	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***H01H 61/01*** (2013.01); ***H01H 85/0208*** (2013.01); ***H01R 11/22*** (2013.01); *H01H 31/127* (2013.01); *H01H 2085/0216* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC . H01H 31/127; H01H 61/01; H01H 85/0208; H01H 2085/0216; H01H 2207/016; H01R 11/22; H01R 11/24
USPC 337/156, 174, 178; 439/370, 507, 511, 439/513
See application file for complete search history.

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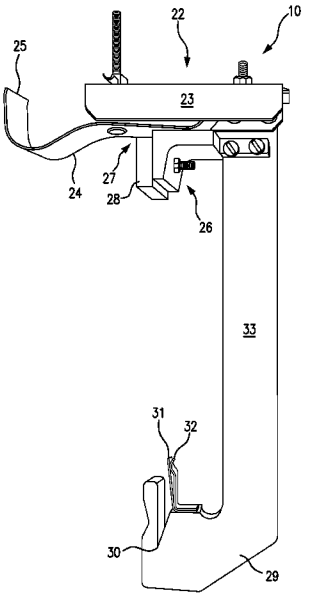
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The fuse bypass jumper of the present invention bridges the upper and lower fuse terminals of a high-voltage transmission line cut-out box so as to bypass the fuse element. The jumper comprises lateral upper and lower arms connected by a longitudinal jumper bar. The jumper arms and bar are made of a heavy gauge conductor rated for at least 100 Amps. With the jumper in place, the fuse element can be opened, removed and/or replaced without interrupting the transmission line circuit through the cut-off box, since the jumper now provides a bypass around the fuse. Since the bypass conductive path constitutes a heavy gauge, high-amperage bar conductor, this jumper can carry a much larger current load than flexible wire-based jumpers.

4 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



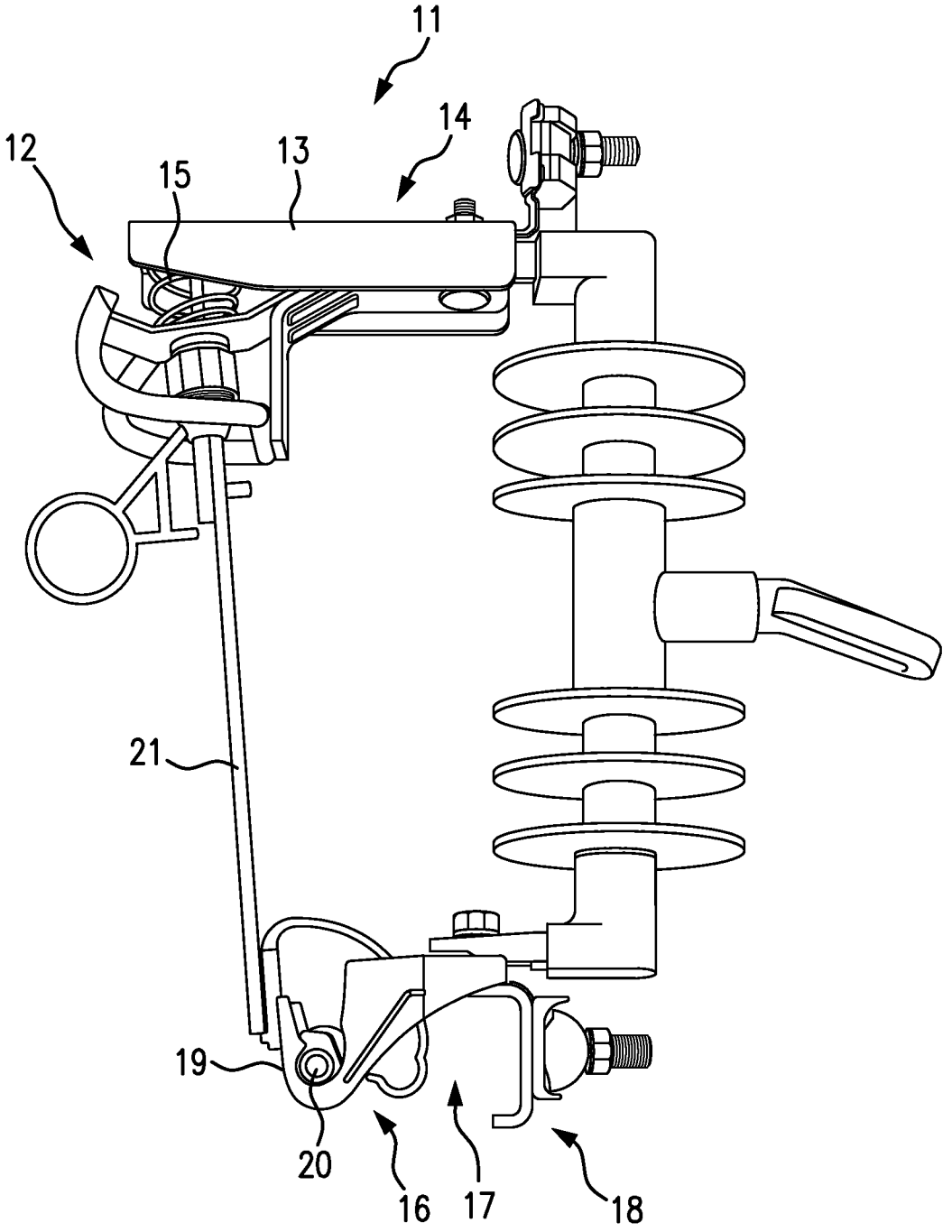


FIG. 1

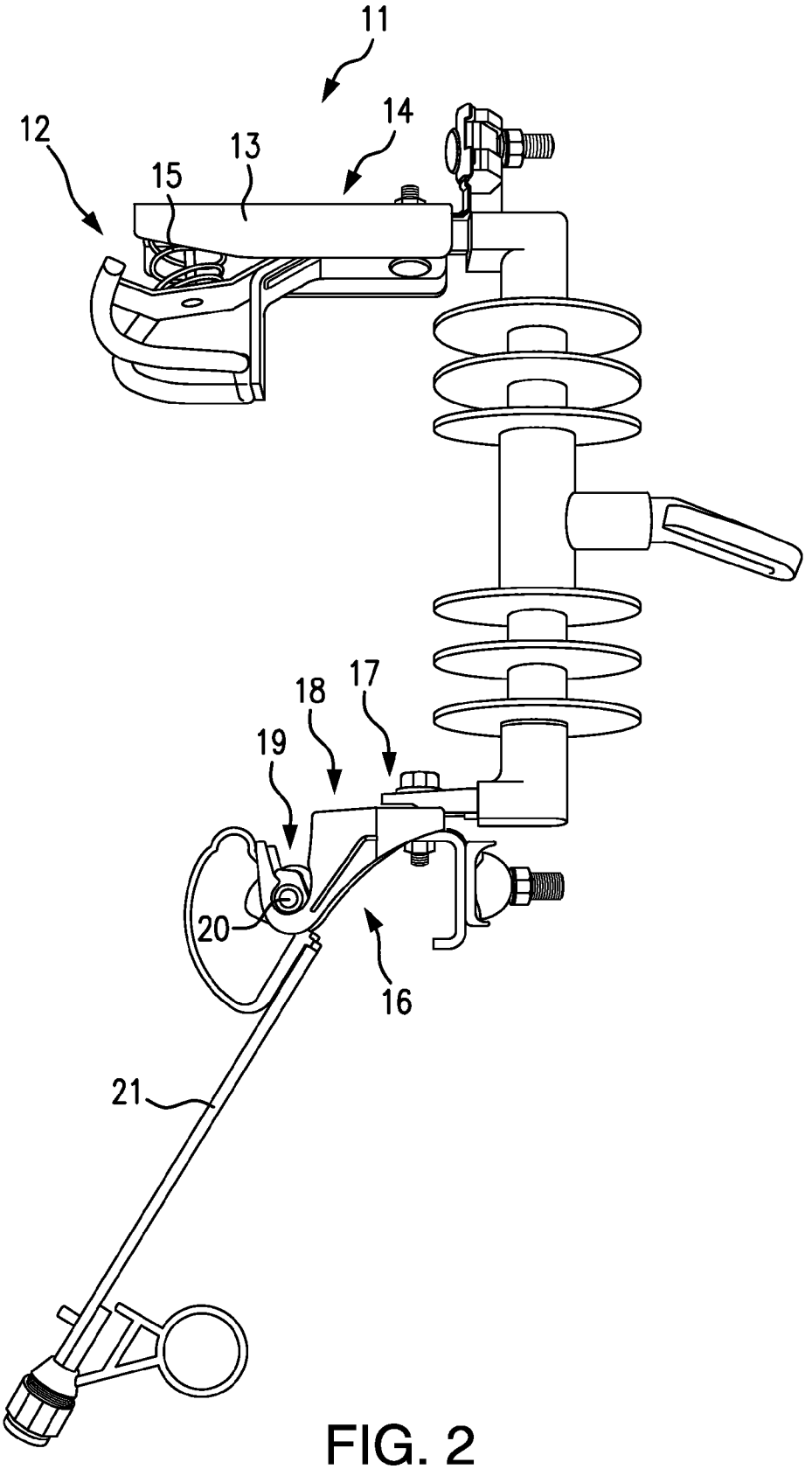


FIG. 2

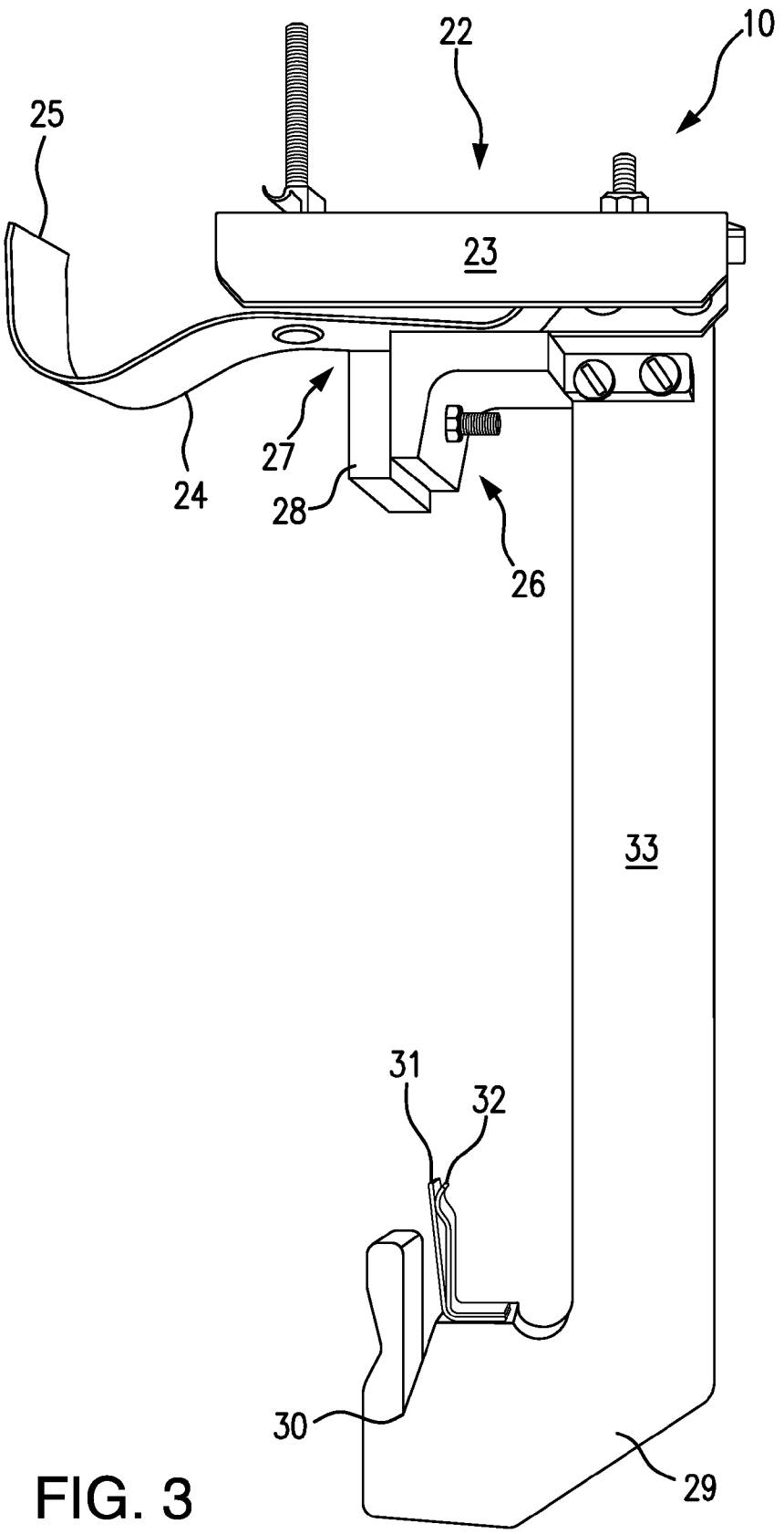


FIG. 3

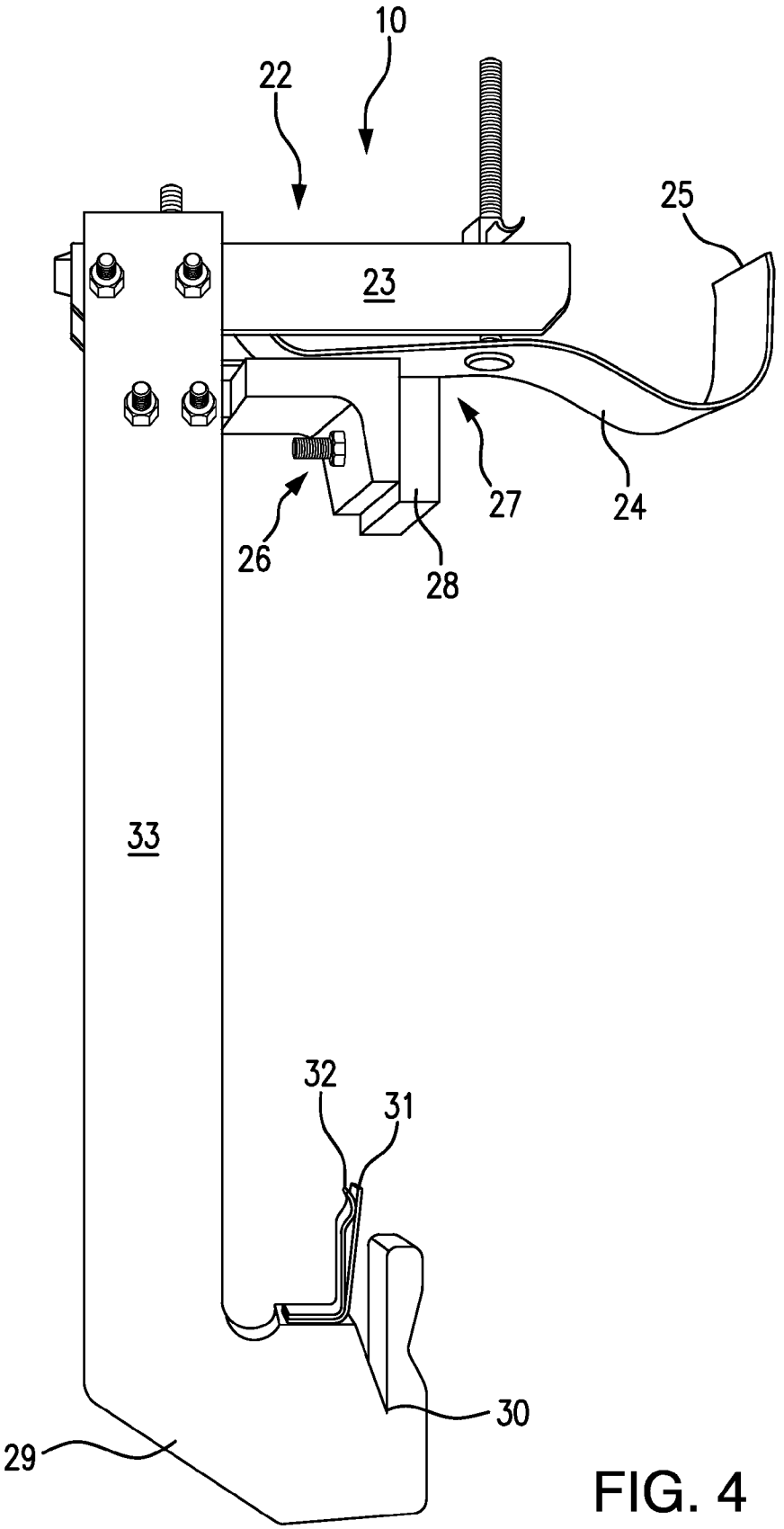


FIG. 4

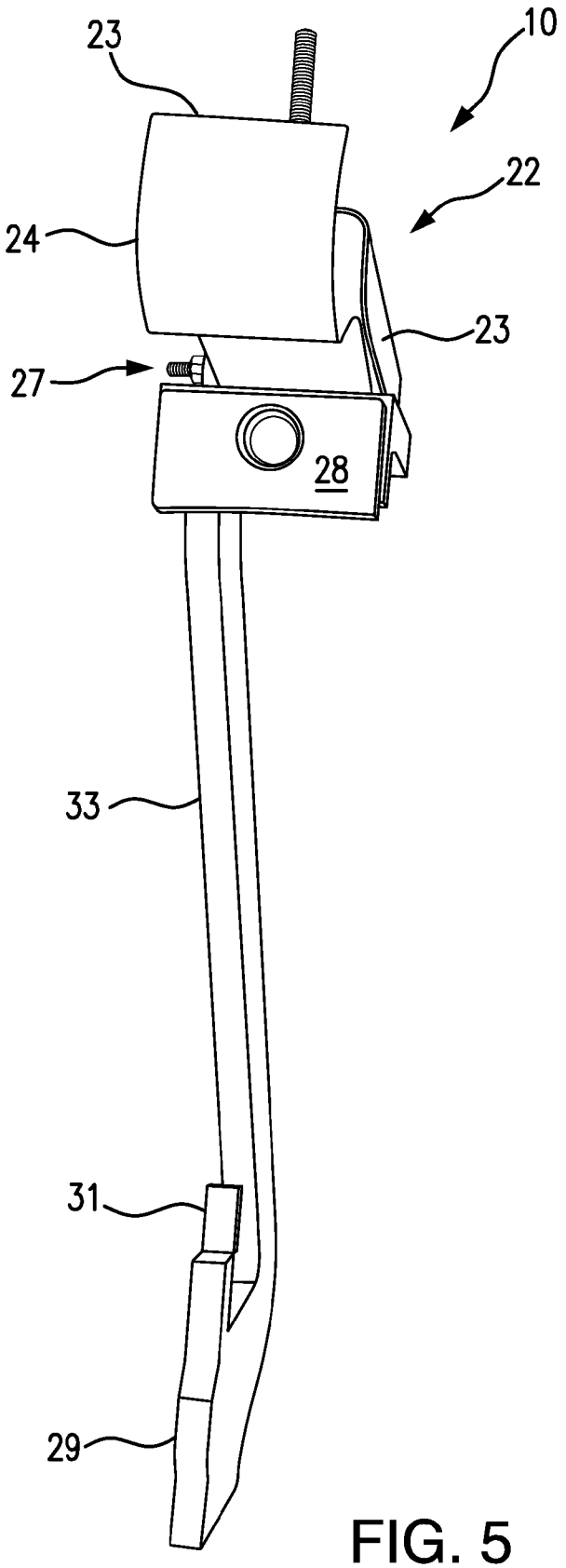


FIG. 5

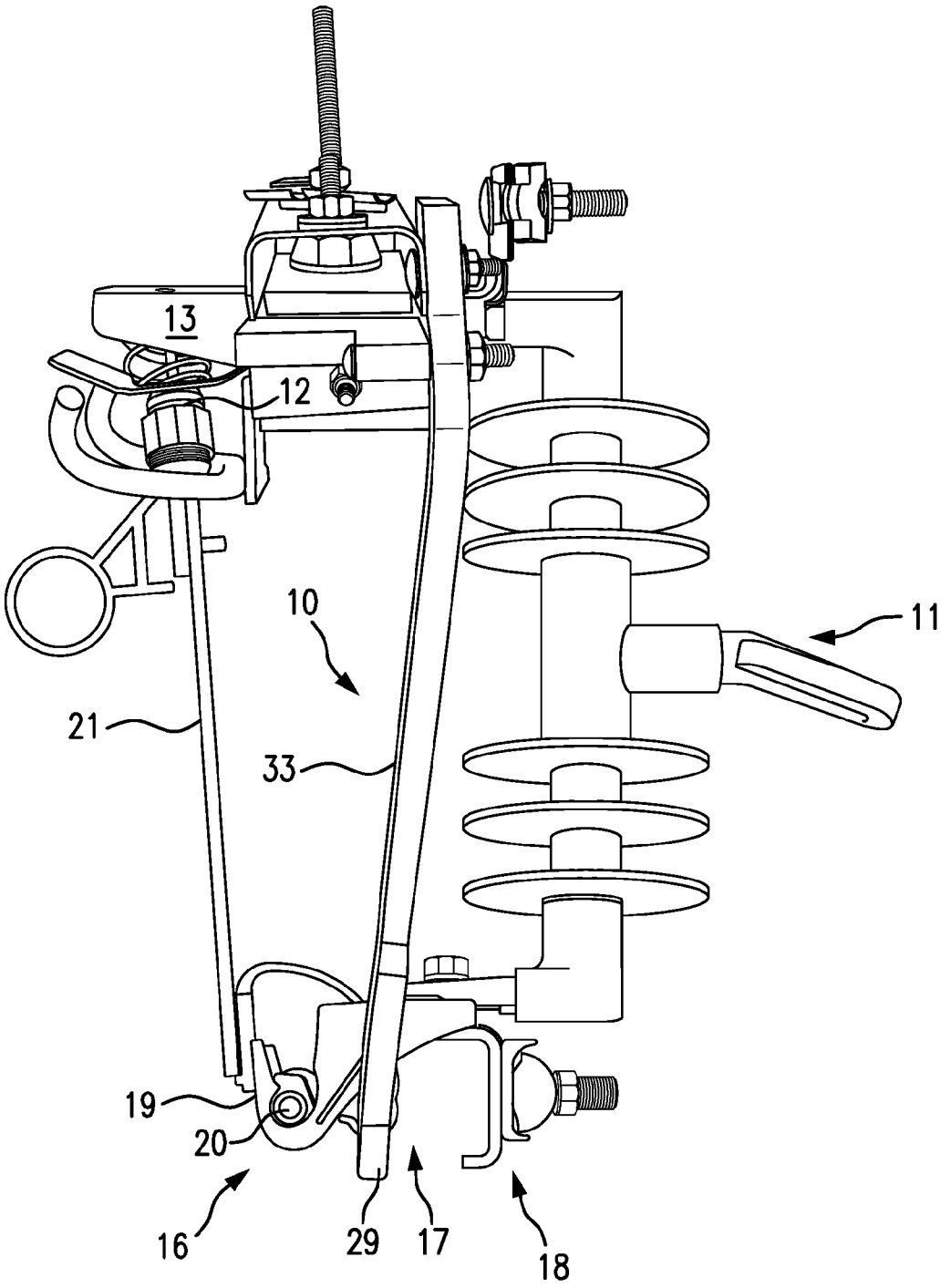


FIG. 6

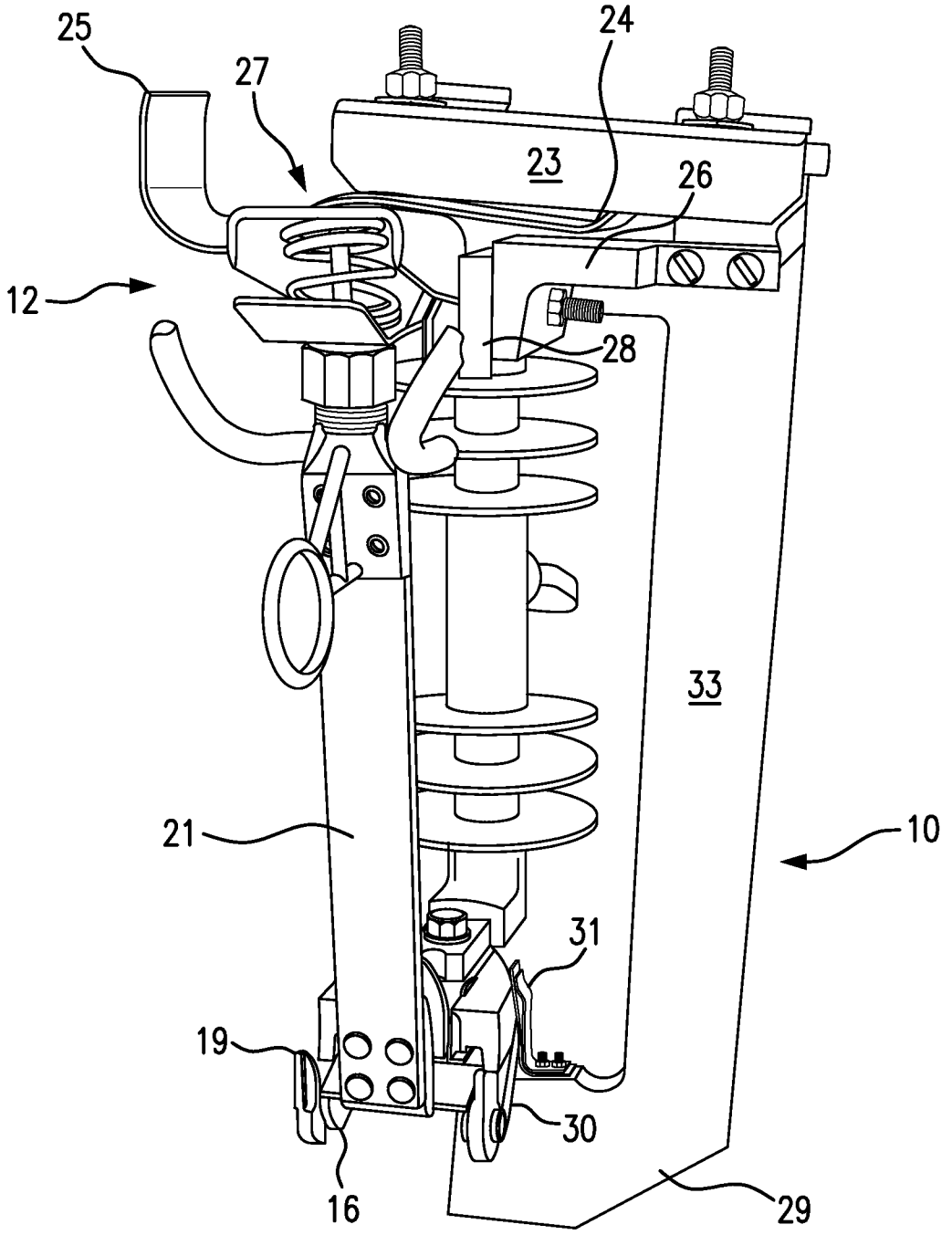


FIG. 7

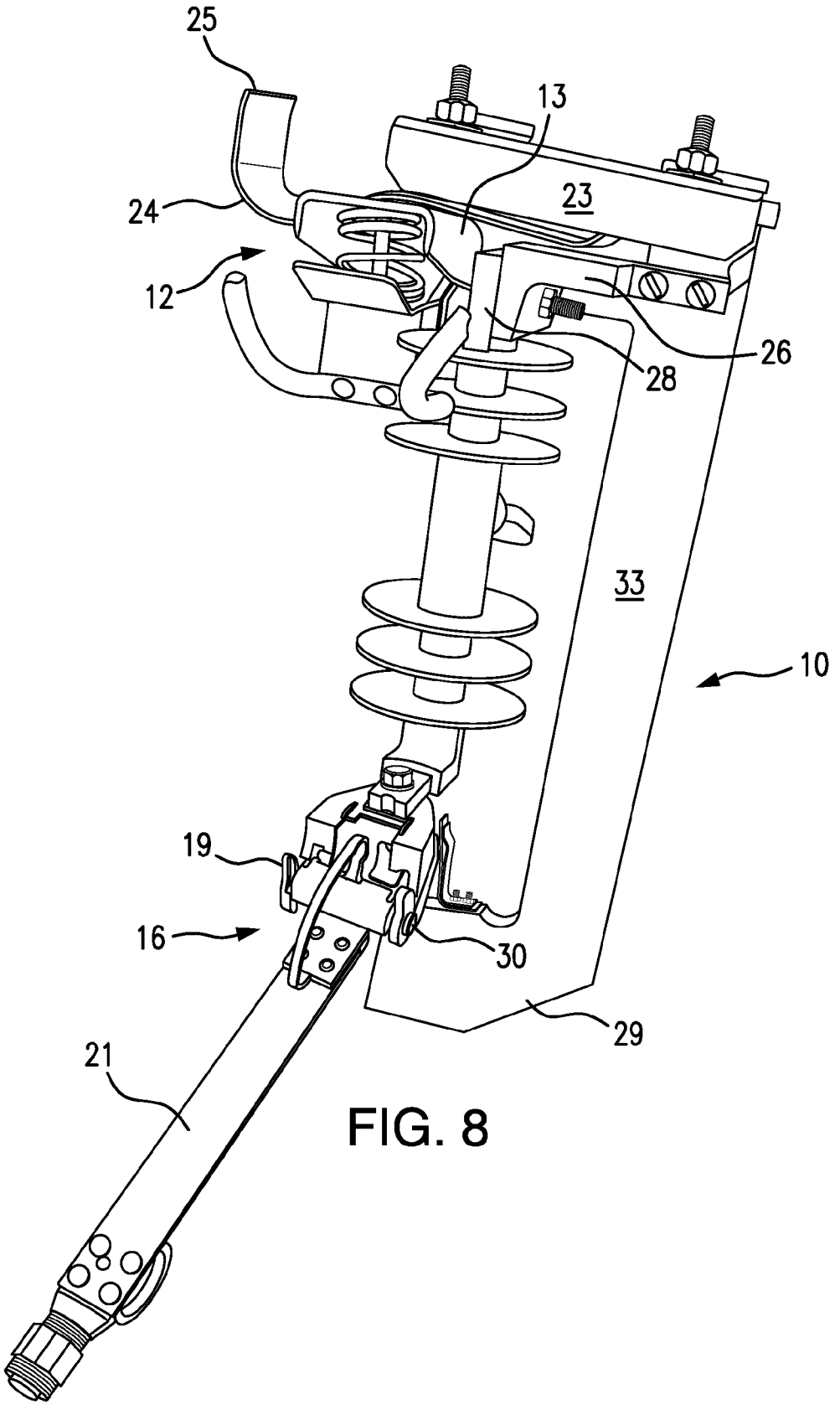


FIG. 8

CUTOUT BOX FUSE BYPASS JUMPER

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of devices used in connection with the repair and maintenance of high voltage, high amperage power line facilities. More particularly, the present invention relates to devices used to bypass active power line fuses in connection with the inspection and/or replacement of such fuses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In high-voltage, high-amperage electrical transmission lines, fuses are used for protection against current overloads. Such fuses are typically incorporated in devices known as "cut-out boxes." A cut-out box is a substantially rectangular structure, one side of which comprises a replaceable fuse element. As depicted in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the lower end of the fuse element is typically rotatably attached to the cut-out box, while the upper end engages a spring-loaded contact. As shown in FIG. **2**, the fuse element can be opened by rotating it outward, using a ring or "eye" attached to the fuse, and then removed by lifting its rotatable lower end from its cradle.

When a cut-out box fuse is removed for inspection and/or replacement, the open side of the cut-out box must be jumpered so that the transmission of electrical current is not interrupted. This is a difficult and hazardous operation that requires at least two workers to connect both ends of the jumper across the cut-out box. Standard jumpers usually incorporate a tension coil spring to provide a secure contact with the cut-out box on either end, and this requires stretching the jumper between its contact points, often using a "hot stick" to stretch the jumper.

Examples of stretchable coil spring jumpers are disclosed in the U.S. patents of Steinmayer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 2,347,851), deMontmollin (U.S. Pat. No. 2,728,056), Curtis (U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,689,944 and 2,728,055), and Larson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,359,229). These designs have within the coil spring a flexible wire conductor that provides the bypass path around the fuse for the electrical current. But these stretchable jumpers have two major drawbacks. First, the operation of stretching the spring-tensioned jumper across the cut-out box is awkward and difficult to perform, especially in high-voltage lines where gloved jumper handling is not permitted and a "hot-stick" must be used. Second, since the bypass wire connector must be flexible enough to stretch out with the surrounding coil spring, the gauge of the bypass wire is severely limited, and such flexible wire connectors are not rated above 100 Amps.

The present invention overcomes these difficulties by providing a cutout box fuse bypass jumper than can safely be installed and removed by a single worker and that bridges the fuse terminal contacts with a heavy-gauge, high-amperage coupling conductor, suitable for currents above 100 Amps.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The fuse bypass jumper of the present invention bridges the upper and lower fuse terminals of a high-voltage transmission line cut-out box so as to bypass the fuse element. The jumper comprises lateral upper and lower arms connected by a longitudinal jumper bar. The jumper arms and bar are made of a heavy gauge conductor rated for at least 100 Amps.

The upper arm of the jumper comprises a lateral channel, which is internally tensioned by a blade spring so as to be securely transversely attachable to the upper fuse terminal or an extension thereof. The lower arm of the jumper comprises a longitudinal notch, which is internally tensioned by two blade springs so as to be securely transversely attachable to the lower fuse terminal or an extension thereof.

The jumper can be attached to cut-off box by a single worker. The upper and lower jumper arms are perpendicularly aligned with the upper and lower fuse terminals/terminal extensions of the cut-off box. Next the notch of the lower jumper arm is transversely engaged with the lower fuse terminal/extension. The jumper arm is then rotated forward so as that the lateral channel transversely engages the upper fuse terminal/extension. The tension of the upper and lower blade springs of the jumper maintain the engagement between the fuse terminals/extensions and the jumper arms.

With the jumper in place, the fuse element can be opened, removed and/or replaced without interrupting the transmission line circuit through the cut-off box, since the jumper now provides a bypass around the fuse. Since the bypass conductive path constitutes a heavy gauge, high-amperage bar conductor, this jumper can carry a much larger current load than flexible wire-based jumpers.

The foregoing summarizes the general design features of the present invention. In the following sections, specific embodiments of the present invention will be described in some detail. These specific embodiments are intended to demonstrate the feasibility of implementing the present invention in accordance with the general design features discussed above. Therefore, the detailed descriptions of these embodiments are offered for illustrative and exemplary purposes only, and they are not intended to limit the scope either of the foregoing summary description or of the claims which follow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a side profile view of an exemplary closed cut-out box, in conjunction with which the preferred embodiment of the present invention is used;

FIG. **2** is a side profile view of an exemplary open cut-out box, in conjunction with which the preferred embodiment of the present invention is used;

FIG. **3** is a side profile view of the fuse bypass jumper in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is a side profile view of the fuse bypass jumper in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **5** is a front elevation view of fuse bypass jumper in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **6** is a side profile view of the closed cut-out box of FIG. **1** with the fuse bypass jumper, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, transversely attached thereto;

FIG. **7** is a front elevation view of the closed cut-out box of FIG. **1** with the fuse bypass jumper, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, transversely attached thereto;

FIG. **8** is a front elevation view of the open cut-out box of FIG. **2** with the fuse bypass jumper, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, transversely attached thereto.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the fuse bypass jumper of the present invention **10** functions in conjunction with a cut-out

box **11** in a high-voltage electrical transmission circuit. The cut-out box **11** has an upper fuse terminal **12** electrically connected to an upper terminal extension **13**, which forms the upper lateral arm **14** of the cut-out box. The upper fuse terminal **12** is typically tensioned with a coil spring **15**. The cut-out box **11** also has a lower fuse terminal **16** electrically connected to a lower terminal extension **17**, which forms the lower lateral arm **18** of the cut-out box **11**. The lower fuse terminal **16** typically includes a fuse cradle **19** which accepts an axial pin or rod **20** on the lower end of the fuse element **21**, so that the fuse element **21** can be rotated upward to engage the upper fuse terminal **12** and complete the circuit through the cut-off box **11**, as depicted in FIG. **1**. The fuse element **21** can also be rotated downward to disengage from the upper fuse terminal **12** and interrupt the circuit, as depicted in FIG. **2**.

In the open position shown in FIG. **2**, the fuse element **21** can be removed from the cradle **19** and inspected or replaced. But before this is done, the fuse bypass jumper **10** must be attached to the cut-out box **11** to avoid a circuit interruption in the power line.

As depicted in FIGS. **3-5**, the bypass jumper **10** comprises a heavy gauge bar of highly conductive metal, such as copper, or metal alloy, in a configuration resembling the letter "G". The jumper **10** has an upper arm **22**, which comprises a U-shaped arcuate channel arch **23**, with its open side downward, within which is a horizontally-oriented upper blade spring **24**, the distal end of which extends beyond the channel arch **23** and terminates in an upturned convex leading edge **25**. Below the channel arch **23** and the upper blade spring **24** is a channel flange **26**, which, together with the channel arch **23** and the upper blade spring **24**, defines a spring-tensioned, horizontal upper channel **27** in the upper arm **22** of the jumper **10**. The vertically-oriented distal end of the flange **26** forms a channel block **28**, which defines the terminus of the upper channel **27**.

The jumper **10** also has a lower arm **29**, which extends horizontally and then bends upward to define a vertical V-shaped lower notch **30**, with two cooperating vertical lower blade springs **31** on its interior side. The distal end of the innermost lower blade spring **31** has an outwardly-turned convex leading edge **32**. Connecting the lower **29** and upper **22** arms of the jumper **10** is a vertical jumper bar **33**. The heavy gauge, highly-conductive material of the jumper **10** provides a low-resistance conductive path with an amperage rating of over 100 Amps.

As shown in FIGS. **6-8**, the bypass jumper **10** is deployed by orienting its arms **22 29** perpendicularly to the arms **14 18** of the cut-out box **11**, then hooking the notch **30** of the lower arm **29** transversely onto the lower terminal extension **17**, with the incidental deflection of the lower blade springs **31** providing the tension to keep this connection secure. The upper arm **22** of the jumper **10** is then angled forward so that the leading edge **25** of the upper blade spring **24** transversely engages the upper terminal extension **13** of the cut-out box **11**, which then slides into the horizontal upper channel **27** of the jumper **10** until it engages the flange block **28**. The upper blade spring **24** provides the tension to keep this connection secure.

With the jumper **10** thus placed, it completes the circuit of the transmission line through the cut-out box **11** independently of the fuse element **21**, so that the fuse **21** can be removed or replaced without interrupting the high-voltage transmission circuit.

The advantages of the bypass jumper of the present invention **10** are that it can be deployed by a single workman and it can handle very large current loads above 100 Amps.

Although the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that many additions, modifications and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention as defined by the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A fuse bypass jumper for a cut-out box in a high-voltage electrical transmission line circuit, wherein the cut-out box comprises a first fuse terminal, which communicates electrically with a first terminal extension, a second fuse terminal, which communicates electrically with a second terminal extension, and a fuse element, which is removably insertable between the first fuse terminal and the second fuse terminal so as to complete the transmission line circuit through the cut-out box, and wherein the bypass jumper comprises:

a channel member, defining a laterally-oriented channel, which is tensioned with one or more laterally-oriented channel blade springs, and into which the first fuse terminal or the first terminal extension is removably, transversely insertable;

a notch member, defining a longitudinally-oriented notch, which is tensioned with one or more longitudinally-oriented notch blade springs, and into which the second fuse terminal or the second terminal extension is removably, transversely insertable;

a longitudinally-oriented jumper bar, which structurally and electrically connects the channel member and the notch member;

wherein the channel member, the notch member and the jumper bar are all fabricated of a heavy-gauge, highly conductive metal or metal alloy having an amperage rating of more than 100 Amps; and

wherein, when the first fuse terminal or the first terminal extension is transversely inserted into the channel and the second fuse terminal or the second terminal extension is transversely inserted into the notch, the fuse bypass jumper completes the transmission line circuit through the cut-off box independently of the fuse element, which can then be removed or replaced without interrupting the transmission line circuit.

2. The fuse bypass jumper of claim **1**, wherein one or more of the channel blade springs have a convex leading edge that facilitates transverse insertion into the channel of the first fuse terminal or the first terminal extension.

3. The fuse bypass jumper of claim **2**, wherein one or more of the notch blade springs have a convex leading edge that facilitates transverse insertion into the notch of the second fuse terminal or the second terminal extension.

4. The fuse bypass jumper of claim **3**, wherein the channel member further comprises a longitudinally-oriented channel block, which limits the extent to which the first fuse terminal or the first terminal extension can be transversely inserted into the channel.

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