



(19) **United States**
(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Weber et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2008/0179943 A1**
(43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 31, 2008**

(54) **LOCKING HYDRAULIC BRAKE SYSTEM**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 303/89**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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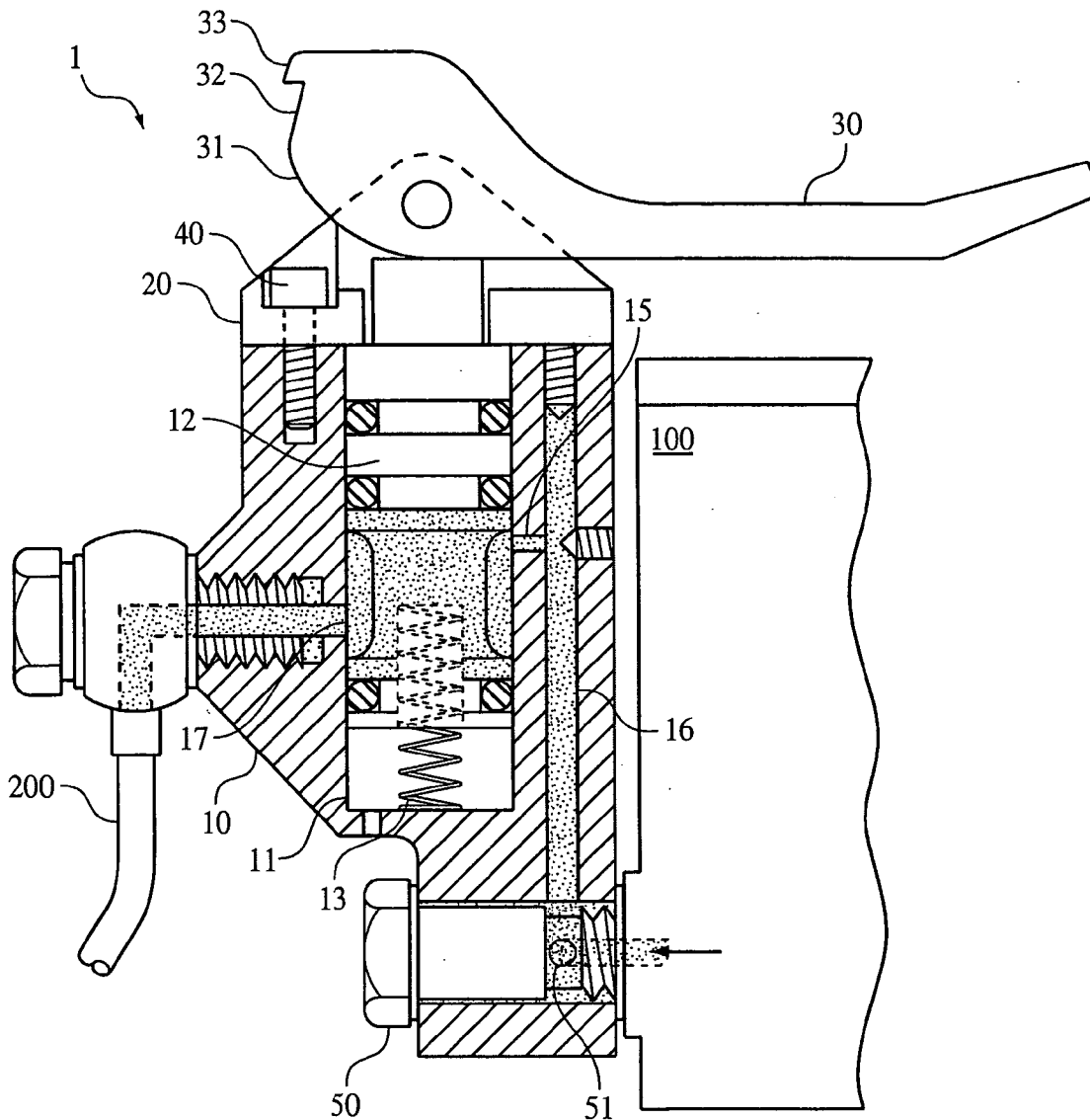
A locking mechanism for installing between a master cylinder and a brake line includes a housing having an internal bore, an inlet port, a passage, and an outlet port. A reciprocating piston is movable within the bore. A locking lever is coupled to the reciprocating piston for actuating the reciprocating piston. A fastener having an internal fluid passage for providing fluid communication between the passage and the master cylinder secures the housing to the master cylinder. The locking lever is moveable between a first position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the master cylinder and the brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the master cylinder for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.

(21) **Appl. No.: 11/657,999**

(22) **Filed: Jan. 25, 2007**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl. B60T 17/16 (2006.01)**



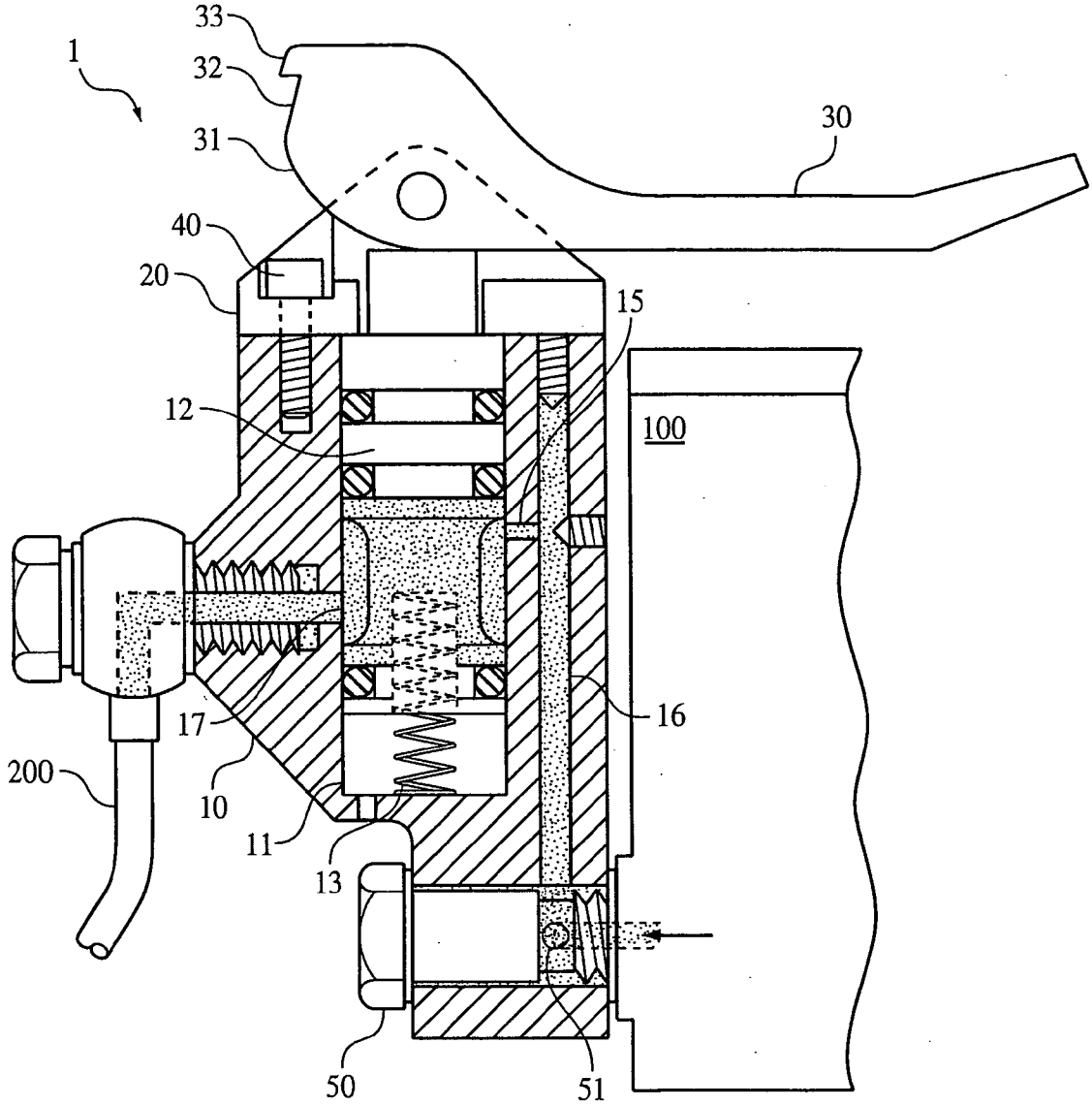


FIG. 1

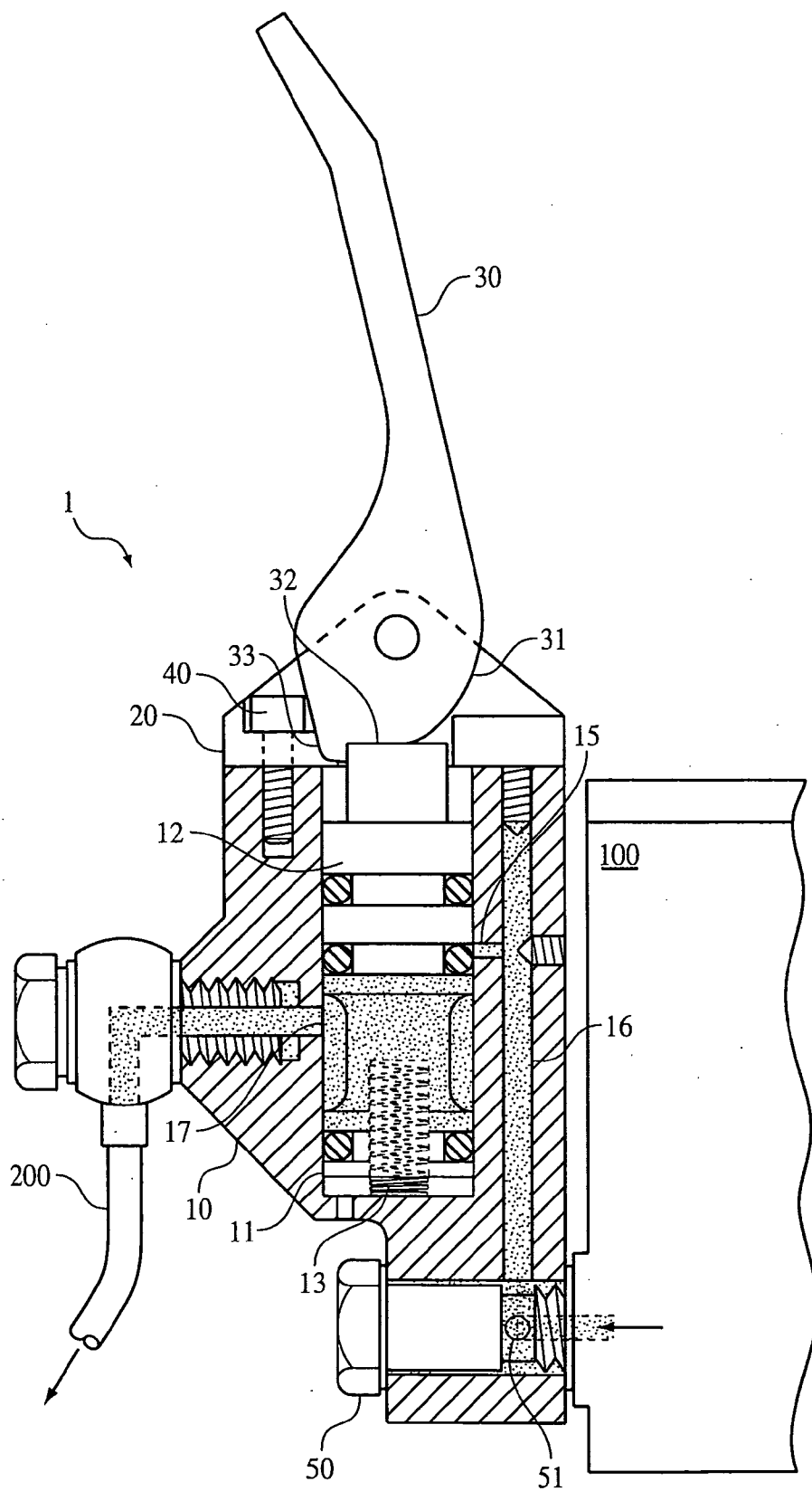


FIG. 2

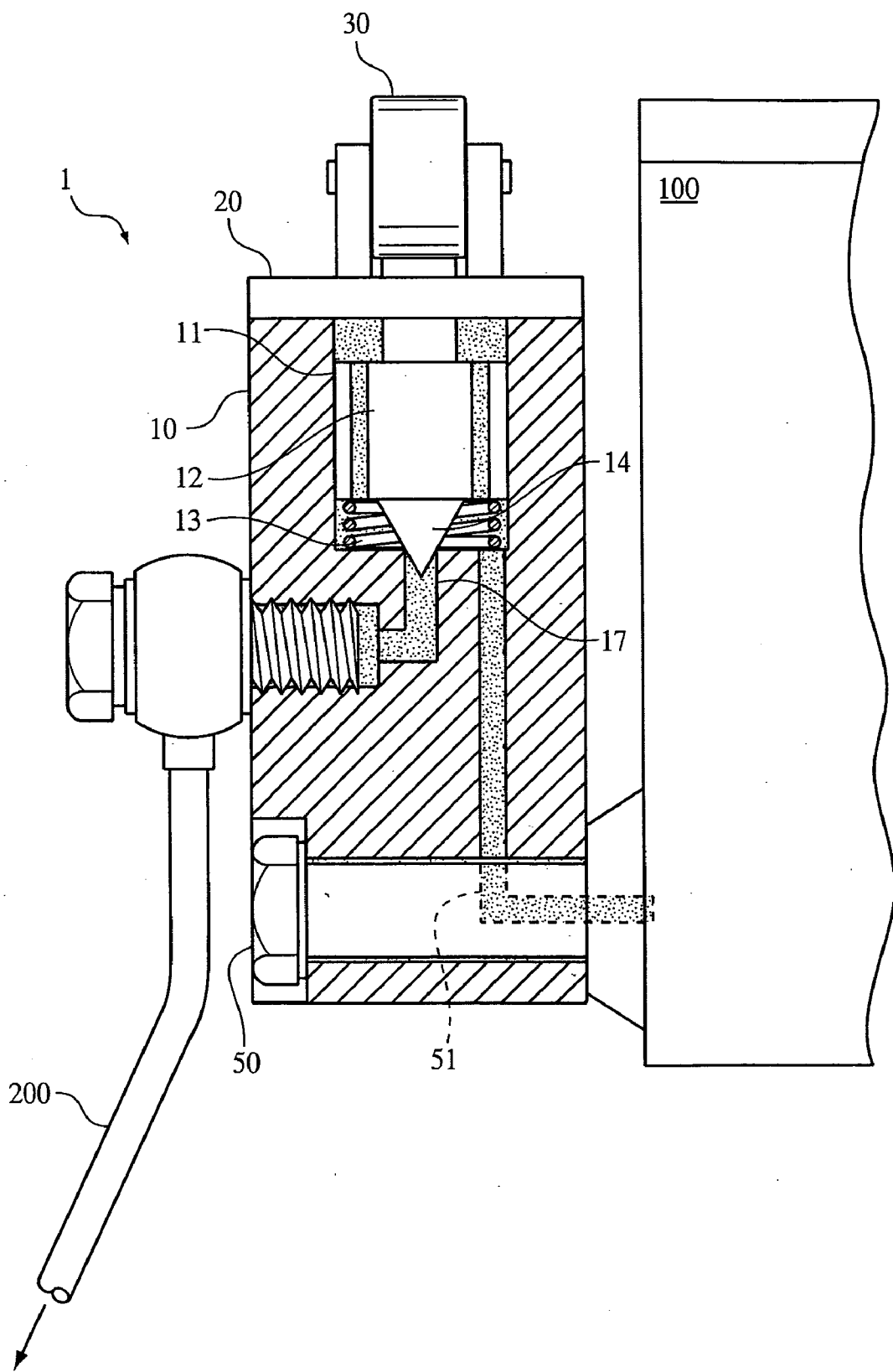


FIG. 3

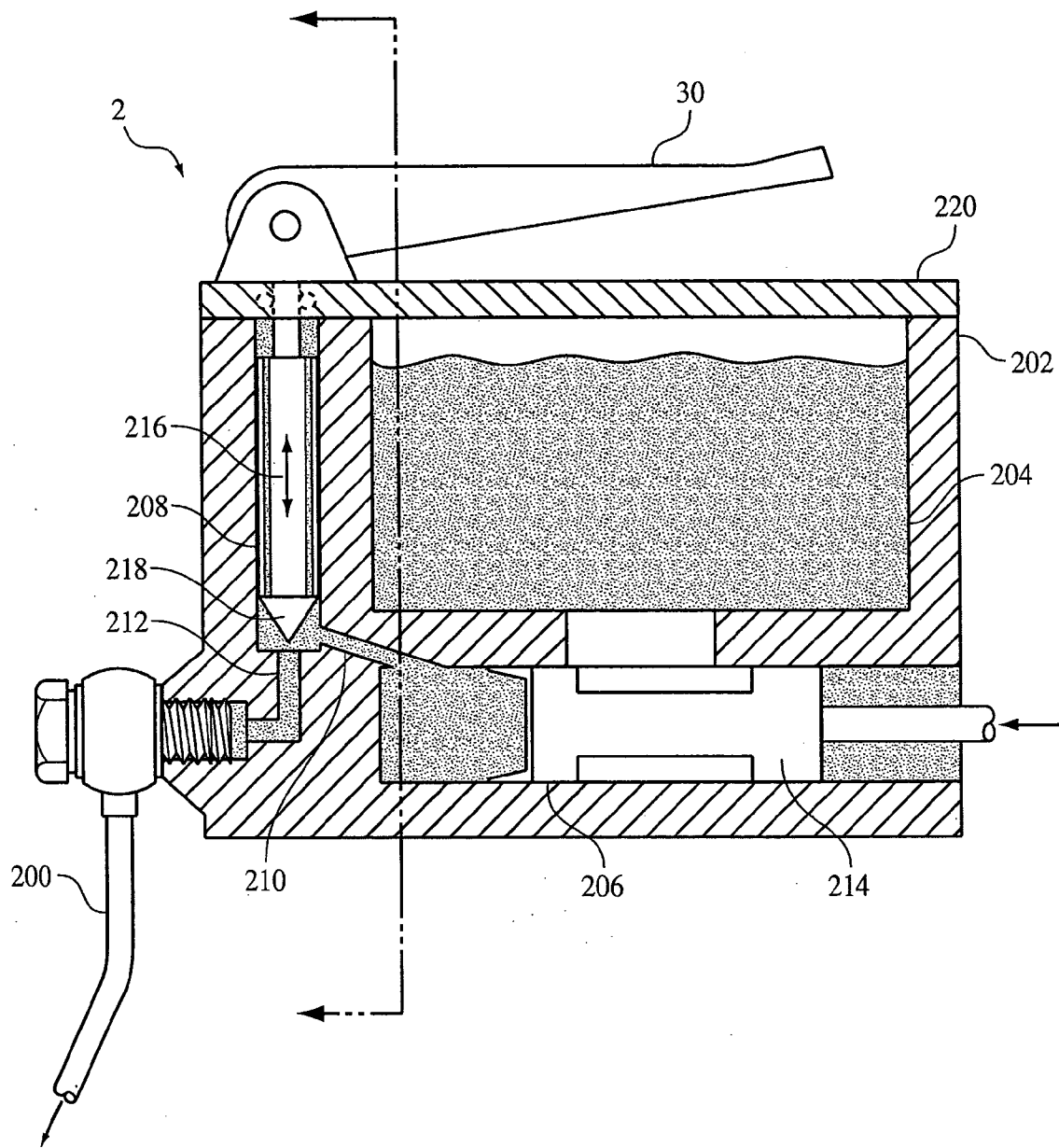


FIG. 4

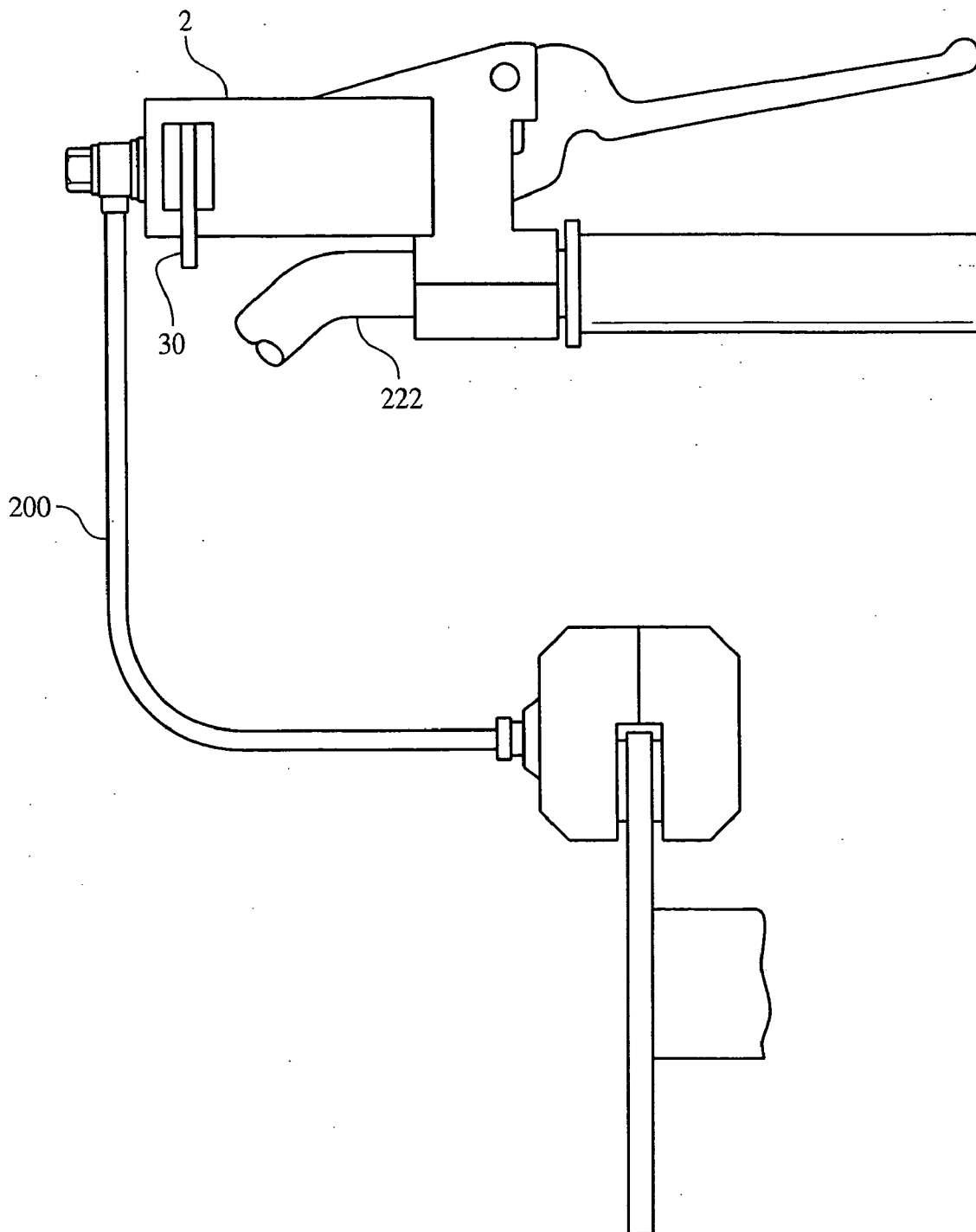


FIG. 5

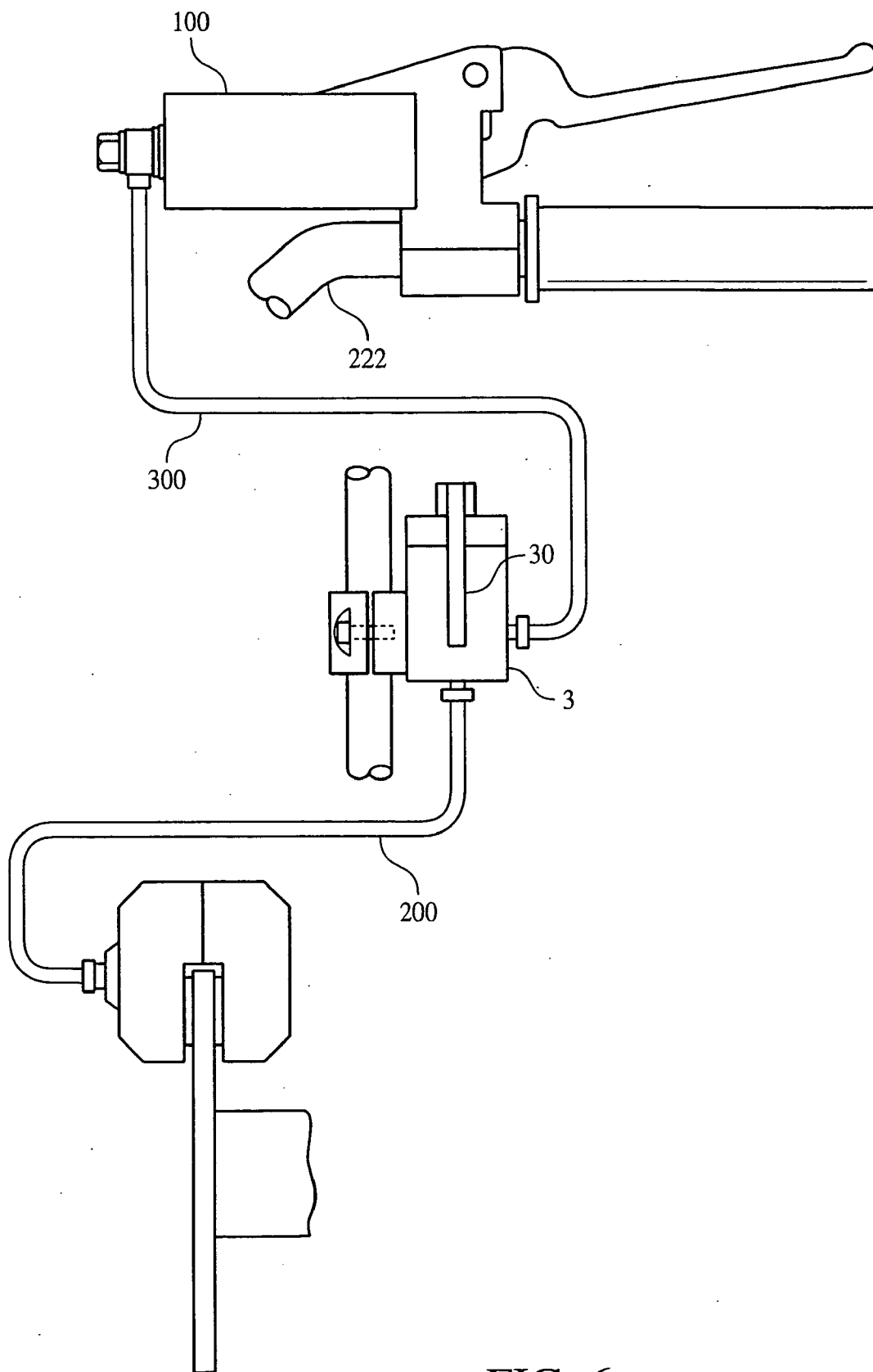


FIG. 6

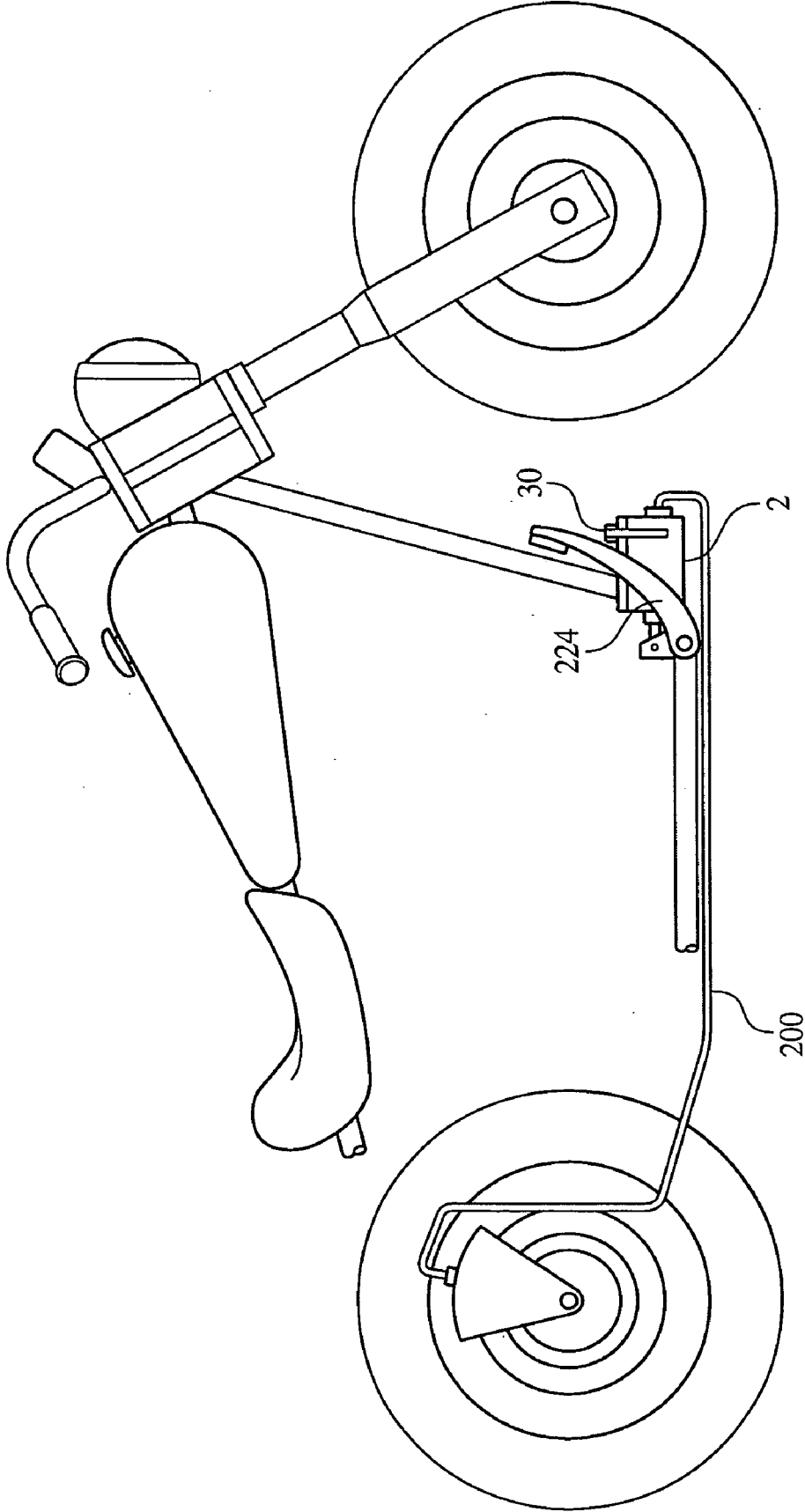


FIG. 7

LOCKING HYDRAULIC BRAKE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention relates to a locking hydraulic brake system. More particularly, the invention relates to locking mechanisms for installing between a master cylinder and a brake line. The invention further relates to a locking master cylinder assembly.

[0003] 2. The Prior Art

[0004] Locking hydraulic brake systems or parking brakes according to embodiments of the invention may be used in various types of vehicles having hydraulically actuated brakes, for example automobiles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. A locking mechanism and a locking master cylinder assembly according to embodiments of the invention are particularly suited for use with a front or rear brake assembly of a motorcycle.

[0005] A motorcycle front brake system typically includes a hand-operated lever disposed on the right handlebar grip, along with the throttle. This lever operates a piston within a master cylinder assembly which is also secured to the right handlebar. Squeezing the brake lever forces hydraulic fluid from the master cylinder through a "banjo bolt" fitting and brake line to the front brake caliper to operate the brake. When the brake lever is released, the hydraulic fluid is allowed to flow back to the master cylinder, and the brake is released.

[0006] Existing motorcycle front brake systems generally do not include any type of locking mechanism, and accordingly when an operator is stopped on an incline, the operator must maintain pressure on the brake lever with his or her right hand to prevent the vehicle from rolling backward, while simultaneously twisting the throttle with the right hand to warm the engine. This is a difficult procedure and the motorcycle may roll backwards ("rollback") if not performed properly. Additionally, using the rear brake to hold the motorcycle has the disadvantage of requiring the operator to balance the bike with just one leg as the other foot must be used to depress the rear brake foot pedal used to actuate the rear brake.

[0007] A number of devices and systems for locking a brake on a vehicle such as a motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile are known. The following references, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference, relate to mechanisms for locking a vehicle brake in an engaged state.

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 5,327,724 Tribuzio et al. shows a lockable master cylinder having a reversible electric motor for locking the piston in a rest or working position to keep the vehicle brake applied.

[0009] U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0076197 to Ishida, U.S. Pat. No. 6,450,301 to Iizuka et al. and corresponding Japanese Patent No. JP 2002/079981 A to Iizuka et al., each show a locking motorcycle rear brake system which requires an additional caliper to serve as a parking brake for the motorcycle rear wheel.

[0010] U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,498,361 to Carlson and 5,857,385 to Takeuchi describes devices for locking a lever which operate a cable-type mechanical brake.

[0011] U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0071542 to Lichtensteiger et al. shows a handlebar master cylinder assembly with a park pawl which engages a bracket connected to the master cylinder body to maintain the brake lever locked in an applied position. The park pawl flexes to compensate for hydraulic fluid temperature changes and maintain proper brake pressure.

[0012] Japanese Patent No. JP 411-189189 to Sekiya shows a parking brake device for a hydraulic motorcycle brake. The device has a sliding piston mounted in a cylinder adjacent the brake lever and an end of the piston contacts an end surface of the brake lever to set the parking brake.

[0013] Japanese Patent No. JP2003/112684 A to Igarashi shows a motorcycle parking brake with a brake lock lever mounted on the left handlebar for braking a drum brake of a motorcycle's rear wheel.

[0014] U.S. Pat. No. 4,041,798 to Shinozaki et al. shows a pawl and cam mechanism for locking a foot pedal which actuates a motorcycle rear brake.

[0015] The devices and systems for locking a vehicle brake as disclosed in the references cited above exhibit several deficiencies. In particular, the known systems are complicated and costly and are not easily adaptable to a vehicle's original equipment manufactured (OEM) braking system. Some of the known locking systems require additional brake calipers or electronics and solenoids. In addition, the known devices generally require substantial modification to a conventional vehicle brake system to implement.

[0016] Accordingly there exists a need for a simple and inexpensive locking brake mechanism which can be easily installed on an existing vehicle hydraulic brake system, such as a motorcycle front or rear brake system. Additionally, the need exists for a locking or parking system comprising a simple mechanical device which can be added to an existing motorcycle front or rear brake system as an aftermarket item or supplied as original equipment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0017] A locking mechanism for installing between a master cylinder containing hydraulic fluid and a brake line for operating a vehicle brake according to a first embodiment of the invention includes a housing which is secured to the master cylinder. The housing has an internal bore, an inlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore, a passage in fluid communication with the inlet port, and an outlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore and with the brake line.

[0018] A lid may be disposed on the housing and a reciprocating piston is disposed within the internal bore in a movable manner. A locking lever is coupled to the reciprocating piston for actuating the reciprocating piston. A portion of the locking lever may be in abutting contact with the reciprocating piston.

[0019] The housing is secured to the master cylinder with a fastener having an internal fluid passage for providing fluid communication between the passage in the housing and the master cylinder.

[0020] The locking lever is moveable between a first, or unlocked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the master cylinder and the brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the master cylinder for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.

[0021] A locking master cylinder assembly for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid through a brake line to operate a vehicle brake according to another embodiment of the invention includes a housing having a reservoir for containing the hydraulic fluid. The housing has a first internal bore in fluid communication with the reservoir, a second internal bore, a passage for providing fluid communication between the first

and second internal bore and an outlet port in fluid communication with the second internal bore and with the brake line.

[0022] A first reciprocating piston is movable within the first internal bore for pressurizing the hydraulic fluid to engage the vehicle brake in response to input from a vehicle operator.

[0023] A lid is disposed on the housing and a second reciprocating piston is disposed within the second internal bore in a movable manner. A locking lever for actuating the second reciprocating piston is pivotally coupled to the lid. A portion of the locking lever is in abutting contact with the second reciprocating piston.

[0024] The locking lever is moveable between a first, or unlocked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the first internal bore and the brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the first internal bore for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.

[0025] A locking mechanism for remotely mounting between a first brake line coupled to a master cylinder containing hydraulic fluid and a second brake line coupled to a vehicle brake according to another embodiment of the invention includes a housing coupled to the first and second brake lines. The housing has an internal bore, an inlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore and the first brake line, and an outlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore and the second brake line;

[0026] A lid may be disposed on the housing and a reciprocating piston is movable within the internal bore. A locking lever is coupled to the reciprocating piston for actuating the reciprocating piston. A portion of the locking lever may be in abutting contact with the reciprocating piston.

[0027] The locking lever is moveable between a first, or unlocked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the first brake line and the second brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from flowing between the first brake line and the second brake line for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.

[0028] An advantage of a locking mechanism or locking master cylinder assembly according to an embodiment of the invention is that it is simple to install and operate. A locking mechanism or locking master cylinder assembly according to an embodiment of the invention employs a simple mechanical valve design and does not require a solenoid, electronics, or extensive modification of the brake system, as do known brake lock devices.

[0029] Moreover, a locking mechanism or locking master cylinder assembly according to an embodiment of the invention has many advantageous uses, including preventing roll-back when stopped on an incline, providing stability when the motorcycle is being transported by flatbed, van, truck or trailer, and eliminating the need to shut off the engine and put the motorcycle in gear to prevent rolling when dismounting the motorcycle, for example to open a garage door in order to store the motorcycle.

[0030] Another advantageous use of a locking mechanism or locking master cylinder assembly according to an embodiment of the invention is in performing a motorcycle stunt or

trick known as a "burnout" by locking the front brake, revving the engine and quickly releasing the clutch.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031] Other benefits and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that the drawings are designed as an illustration only and not as a definition of the limits of the invention.

[0032] In the drawings, wherein similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views:

[0033] FIG. 1 shows a locking mechanism according to an embodiment of the invention with a locking lever in a first, or unlocked position;

[0034] FIG. 2 shows the locking mechanism of FIG. 1 with the locking lever in a second, or locked position;

[0035] FIG. 3 shows a locking mechanism having a tapered conical seal according to another embodiment of the invention;

[0036] FIG. 4 shows a locking master cylinder assembly according to another embodiment of the invention;

[0037] FIG. 5 shows the locking master cylinder assembly of FIG. 4 mounted on a vehicle handlebar;

[0038] FIG. 6 shows a remote mounted locking mechanism for a hydraulic brake system according to another embodiment of the invention; and

[0039] FIG. 7 shows the locking master cylinder assembly of FIG. 4 coupled to a foot pedal for operating a motorcycle rear brake.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0040] Referring now in detail to the drawings and, in particular, FIG. 1 shows a locking mechanism according to an embodiment of the invention with a locking lever in a first, or unlocked position. FIG. 2 shows the same locking mechanism with the locking lever in a second, or locked position. As shown, locking mechanism **1** may be installed between a master cylinder **100** containing hydraulic fluid and a brake line **200** for operating a vehicle brake.

[0041] Locking mechanism **1** includes a housing **10**. Housing **10** may be constructed from metal, for example billet or cast aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, magnesium or brass, from plastic or from any other suitable material. Housing **10** includes an internal bore **11**. Internal bore **11** defines a movement space for a reciprocating piston **12**. As shown, reciprocating piston **12** may comprise an upwardly biased member. A spring member **13** may serve as a biasing element for reciprocating piston **12**. One or more sealing members, for example a ring-type seal may be provided on reciprocating piston **12** for sealing piston **12** within bore **11**.

[0042] As shown in FIG. 3, reciprocating piston **12** may include a tapered conical seal **14**, which along with reciprocating piston **12**, bore **11** and housing **10** form a needle-type valve. Tapered conical seal **14** may comprise a rubber tip or other suitable material for forming a tight seal. Additionally, as shown in FIG. 3, the hydraulic fluid may be permitted to flow through passages or channels in reciprocating piston **12** to prevent unnecessary or excessive compression in the brake line when the locking mechanism is engaged.

[0043] Housing **10** further includes an inlet port **15** which is in fluid communication with internal bore **11**, thereby allow-

ing hydraulic fluid to flow between a passage 16 and the bore 11. An outlet port 17 is in fluid communication with the bore 11 and with the brake line 200, thereby allowing hydraulic fluid to flow between the brake line 200 and bore 11. Housing 10 may also include one or more breather ports for providing air pressure to the piston bore.

[0044] A lid 20 may be disposed on housing 10. Alternately, the mechanism may comprise a housing without a lid. Lid 20 may be fastened to housing 10 such that a seal is formed therebetween. For example an O-ring type seal or other appropriate sealing member may be used to provide a seal between lid 20 and housing 10.

[0045] A locking lever 30 for actuating reciprocating piston 12 is coupled to reciprocating piston 12. Preferably, locking lever 30 is pivotally coupled to lid 20. As shown, a portion of locking lever 30 may be in abutting contact with reciprocating piston 12 such that as locking lever 30 is pivoted, reciprocating piston 12 moves within internal bore 11. Preferably, locking lever 30 has a rounded camming surface portion 31, a flattened surface portion 32 and a projecting tab 33 for retaining locking lever 30 in a locked position as shown, for example, in FIG. 2.

[0046] Lid 20 may be secured to housing 10 using a plurality of fasteners 40, for example bolts or other suitable fasteners. Fasteners 40 may be inserted into opening provided in housing 10. Housing 10 may include a plurality of openings for receiving fasteners 40 such that lid 20 and locking lever 30 pivotally coupled thereto may be secured to housing 10 in a plurality of orientations. For example, lid 20 may be fastened to housing 10 using two lid bolts and housing 10 may include six openings for the lid bolts wherein the openings are positioned to allow lid 20 to be mounted in a number of orientations. In this manner, lid 20 with locking lever 30 can be rotated with respect to housing 10 to suit a particular application and/or operator.

[0047] Housing 10 is secured to the master cylinder 100 with a fastener 50. Fastener 50 includes an internal fluid passage 51 for providing fluid communication between passage 16 and an output port of the master cylinder. Fastener 50 may be, for example a banjo bolt which is similar to the fastener used to secure a brake line to a master cylinder. Preferably, fastener 50 is secured in an opening in master cylinder 100 previously used for securing brake line 200 using a banjo type bolt. In this way, locking mechanism 1 is adapted to be installed on a conventional master cylinder assembly without any significant modifications. Locking mechanism 1 can be designed to be compatible with many types and makes of vehicles, for example motorcycle master cylinders supplied as original equipment by various manufacturers.

[0048] As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, locking lever 30 is moveable between a first, or unlocked, position (FIG. 1), wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the master cylinder 100 and the brake line 200 for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position (FIG. 2), wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the master cylinder 100. This second position maintains the vehicle brake in an engaged state keeping hydraulic pressure on the brake, while allowing the operator to release the brake lever or pedal used to engage and release the brake.

[0049] Locking lever 30 may be a hand-operated lever as shown in FIGS. 1-3, or alternatively a foot-operated lever. In addition a locking mechanism as described above may be

secured to a master cylinder mounted to a vehicle handlebar, for example a motorcycle handlebar, or may be secured to a master cylinder mounted in any other location on a vehicle.

[0050] When locking lever 30 is in an unlocked position, for example the horizontal position shown in FIG. 1, hydraulic fluid can flow freely through the unit and the brake, for example a motorcycle front brake, can be operated in the usual manner, for example by squeezing a front brake lever. When locking lever 30 is in a locked position, for example the vertical position shown in FIG. 2, reciprocating piston 12 may be depressed and hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the master cylinder 100. This maintains pressure in the front brake line 200 and keeps the brake engaged.

[0051] In order to operate a locking mechanism or locking master cylinder according to an embodiment of the invention, a vehicle operator first applies pressure to the brake in the usual manner (for example by squeezing a motorcycle front brake lever or depressing a motorcycle rear brake foot pedal). Next, the operator engages the locking mechanism by moving a locking lever 30 to a locked position. To release the locking mechanism, the operator merely moves the locking lever 30 to its unlocked position, allowing the hydraulic fluid to flow back and releasing the pressure on the brake.

[0052] FIG. 4 shows a locking master cylinder assembly 2 for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid through a brake line 200 to operate a vehicle brake. The components on the right side of the dividing line in FIG. 4 may comprise a standard master cylinder setup, for example a handlebar mounted hand-operated motorcycle front brake master cylinder or a foot pedal operated motorcycle rear brake master cylinder. The components on the left side of the dividing line in FIG. 4 are added to the standard master cylinder setup to provide a means for holding pressure on the brake once and locking the wheel against rotation once the brake has been applied in the conventional manner by hand or foot pressure.

[0053] Locking master cylinder assembly 2 includes housing 202. A reservoir 204 for containing the hydraulic fluid is formed within housing 202. A first internal bore 206 in fluid communication with reservoir 204 and a second internal bore 208 are also disposed within housing 202.

[0054] A passage 210 is provided in housing 202 for providing fluid communication between first internal bore 206 and second internal bore 208. As shown, passage 210 may comprise a narrow channel extending between the two bore or chambers. An outlet port 212 in fluid communication with second internal bore 208 and brake line 200 is also disposed within housing 202.

[0055] A first reciprocating piston 214 for pressurizing the hydraulic fluid to engage the vehicle brake in response to input from a vehicle operator (indicated in FIG. 4 by an arrow pointing from right to left) is movable within first internal bore 206. This arrangement of first piston and bore may comprise an arrangement found in standard, non-locking master cylinder devices.

[0056] A second reciprocating piston 216 is disposed in housing 202 and movable within second internal bore 208. As shown, second reciprocating piston 216 may include a tapered conical seal 218, which along with second reciprocating piston 216, second internal bore 208 and housing 202 form a needle-type valve. Tapered conical seal 218 may comprise a rubber tip or other suitable material for forming a tight seal. Additionally, as shown in FIG. 4, the hydraulic fluid may be permitted to flow through passages or channels in second

reciprocating piston **216** to prevent unnecessary or excessive compression in the brake line when the locking mechanism is engaged.

[0057] A lid **220** is disposed on housing **202**. Lid **216** may be fastened to housing **202** such that a seal is formed therebetween. For example an O-ring type seal or other appropriate sealing member may be used to provide a seal between lid **220** and housing **202**. A locking lever **30** for actuating second reciprocating piston **216** is pivotally coupled to lid. A portion of locking lever **30** may be in abutting contact with second reciprocating piston **216** such that as locking lever **30** is pivoted, second reciprocating piston **216** moves within second internal bore **208**. Preferably, locking lever **30** has a rounded camming surface portion, a flattened surface portion and a projecting tab for retaining locking lever **30** in a locked position as shown, for example, in the lever illustrated in FIG. 2.

[0058] As in the previous embodiment, lid **220** may be secured to housing **202** using a plurality of fasteners, for example bolts or other suitable fasteners. Fasteners may be inserted into openings provided in housing **202**. Housing **202** may include a plurality of openings for receiving fasteners such that lid **220** and locking lever **30** pivotally coupled thereto may be secured to housing **202** in a plurality of orientations. For example, lid **220** may be fastened to housing **202** using two lid bolts and housing **202** may include six openings for the lid bolts wherein the openings are positioned to allow lid **220** to be mounted in a number of orientations. In this manner, lid **220** with locking lever **30** can be rotated with respect to housing **202** to suit a particular application and/or operator.

[0059] Locking lever **30** is moveable between a first, or unlocked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between first internal bore **206** and the brake line **200** through outlet port **212** for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the first internal bore for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state. This second position maintains the vehicle brake in an engaged state keeping hydraulic pressure on the brake, while allowing the operator to release the brake lever or pedal used to engage and release the brake.

[0060] As shown, when locking lever **30** is in a first or unlocked position, hydraulic fluid is permitted to flow from reservoir **204** to first internal bore **206**, from first internal bore **206** through passage **210**, from passage **210** to second internal bore **208**, and from second internal bore **208** out to brake line **200** via outlet port **212**. In this state, the brake, for example a motorcycle front brake, can be operated in the usual manner, for example by squeezing a front brake lever. When locking lever **30** is in a locked position, second reciprocating piston **216** may be depressed and hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the first internal bore **206**. This maintains pressure in the brake line **200** and keeps the brake engaged.

[0061] In order to operate a locking master cylinder assembly according to an embodiment of the invention, a vehicle operator first applies pressure to the brake in the usual manner (for example by squeezing a motorcycle front brake lever or depressing a motorcycle rear brake foot pedal). Next, the operator engages the locking mechanism by moving a locking lever **30** to a locked position. To release the locking mechanism, the operator merely moves the locking lever **30** to its unlocked position, allowing the hydraulic fluid to flow back and releasing the pressure on the brake.

[0062] Locking lever **30** for locking master cylinder assembly **2** may be a hand-operated lever as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, or alternatively a foot-operated lever as shown in FIG. 7. As shown in FIG. 5, a locking master cylinder assembly **2** as described above may be mounted to a vehicle handlebar **222**, for example a motorcycle handlebar, wherein the locking master cylinder assembly **2** is operable to lock a front brake of the motorcycle. As shown in FIG. 7, a locking master cylinder assembly **2** as described above may be mounted such that first reciprocating piston **214** is coupled to a foot pedal **224** and is for operating a rear brake of the vehicle.

[0063] FIG. 6 shows a remote mounted locking mechanism **3** for a hydraulic brake system according to another embodiment of the invention. Remote mounted locking mechanism **3** is similar to the locking mechanism shown FIGS. 1-3 and described above, however rather than being secured to the master cylinder **100**, the locking mechanism **3** is mounted remote from the master cylinder **100** and between a first brake line **300** coupled to master cylinder **100** and a second brake line **200** coupled to a vehicle brake. Remote mounted locking mechanism **3** may be mounted to a vehicle's frame or handlebar. For example, remote mounted locking mechanism **3** may be clamped to a motorcycle frame or bolted thereto using a bracket, tab or the like.

[0064] Locking mechanism **3** includes a housing having an internal bore, an inlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore and the first brake line **300**, and an outlet port in fluid communication with the internal bore and a second brake line **200** for actuating the vehicle brake. A lid may be disposed on the housing and a reciprocating piston is movable within the internal bore. A locking lever **30** is coupled to the reciprocating piston for actuating the reciprocating piston. Preferably the locking lever is pivotally coupled to the housing lid. A portion of the locking lever may be in abutting contact with the reciprocating piston.

[0065] Locking lever **30** is moveable between a first, or unlocked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the first brake line **300** and the second brake line **200** for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second, or locked position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from flowing between the first brake line **300** and the second brake line **200** for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state. Operation of remote mounted locking mechanism **3** is as described for the embodiments discussed above.

[0066] Accordingly, while several embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it is obvious that many changes and modifications may be made thereunto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A locking mechanism for installing between a master cylinder containing hydraulic fluid and a brake line for operating a vehicle brake, the locking mechanism comprising:

- a) a housing having an internal bore, an inlet port in fluid communication with said internal bore, a passage in fluid communication with said inlet port, and an outlet port in fluid communication with said internal bore and with the brake line;
- b) a reciprocating piston movable within said internal bore;
- c) a locking lever coupled to said reciprocating piston for actuating said reciprocating piston; and

- d) a fastener for securing said housing to the master cylinder, said fastener having an internal fluid passage for providing fluid communication between said passage and the master cylinder;
 - wherein said locking lever is moveable between a first position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the master cylinder and the brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the master cylinder for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.
- 2. The locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said reciprocating piston further comprises a tapered conical seal for sealing said outlet port when said locking lever is in said second position.
- 3. The locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said fastener comprises a banjo bolt.
- 4. The locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said locking lever further comprises a rounded camming surface portion, a flattened surface portion and a projecting tab for retaining said locking lever in said second position.
- 5. The locking mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a lid disposed on said housing, wherein said locking lever is pivotally coupled to said lid.
- 6. The locking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said lid is secured to said housing with a plurality of fasteners and wherein said housing has a plurality of openings for receiving said fasteners such that said lid and said locking lever pivotally coupled thereto may be secured to said housing in a plurality of orientations.
- 7. The locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said master cylinder is mounted on a vehicle handlebar.
- 8. A locking master cylinder assembly for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid through a brake line to operate a vehicle brake, the locking master cylinder assembly comprising:
 - a) a housing having a reservoir for containing the hydraulic fluid, a first internal bore in fluid communication with said reservoir, a second internal bore, a passage for providing fluid communication between said first internal bore and said second internal bore and an outlet port in fluid communication with said second internal bore and with the brake line;
 - b) a first reciprocating piston movable within said first internal bore, wherein said first reciprocating piston is for pressurizing the hydraulic fluid to engage the vehicle brake in response to input from a vehicle operator;
 - c) a lid disposed on said housing;
 - d) a second reciprocating piston movable within said second internal bore; and
 - e) a locking lever pivotally coupled to said lid for actuating said second reciprocating piston;
 - wherein said locking lever is moveable between a first position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the first internal bore and the brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from returning to the first internal bore for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.
- 9. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8, wherein said second reciprocating piston further comprises a tapered conical seal for sealing said outlet port when said locking lever is in said second position.

- 10. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8, wherein said locking lever further comprises a rounded camming surface portion, a flattened surface portion and a projecting tab for retaining said locking lever in said second position.
- 11. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8 wherein said lid is secured to said housing with a plurality of fasteners and wherein said housing has a plurality of openings for receiving said fasteners such that said lid and said locking lever pivotally coupled thereto may be secured to said housing in a plurality of orientations.
- 12. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8, wherein said locking master cylinder assembly is mounted on a vehicle handlebar.
- 13. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8, wherein said first reciprocating piston is coupled to a hand lever and is for operating a front brake of the vehicle.
- 14. The locking master cylinder assembly according to claim 8, wherein said first reciprocating piston is coupled to a foot pedal and is for operating a rear brake of the vehicle.
- 15. A locking mechanism for remotely mounting between a first brake line coupled to a master cylinder containing hydraulic fluid and a second brake line coupled to a vehicle brake, the locking mechanism comprising:
 - a) a housing having an internal bore, an inlet port in fluid communication with said internal bore and the first brake line, and an outlet port in fluid communication with said internal bore and the second brake line;
 - b) a reciprocating piston movable within said internal bore; and
 - c) a locking lever coupled to said reciprocating piston for actuating said reciprocating piston;
 - wherein said locking lever is moveable between a first position, wherein the hydraulic fluid can flow freely between the first brake line and the second brake line for engaging and disengaging the vehicle brake and a second position, wherein the hydraulic fluid is prevented from flowing between the first brake line and the second brake line for maintaining the vehicle brake in an engaged state.
- 16. The locking mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said reciprocating piston further comprises a tapered conical seal for sealing said outlet port when said locking lever is in said second position.
- 17. The locking mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said locking lever further comprises a rounded camming surface portion, a flattened surface portion and a projecting tab for retaining said locking lever in said second position.
- 18. The locking mechanism according to claim 15, further comprising a lid disposed on said housing, wherein said locking lever is pivotally coupled to said lid.
- 19. The locking mechanism according to claim 18 wherein said lid is secured to said housing with a plurality of fasteners and wherein said housing has a plurality of openings for receiving said fasteners such that said lid and said locking lever pivotally coupled thereto may be secured to said housing in a plurality of orientations.
- 20. The locking mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said locking mechanism is mounted on a vehicle handlebar.
- 21. The locking mechanism according to claim 15, wherein said locking mechanism is mounted on a vehicle frame.