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Avitan

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[54] MOTOR VEHICLE STEERING SYSTEM HAVING REVERSIBLE DIRECTION CONTROL

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[52] U.S. Cl. **364/424.05; 364/424.01; 192/0.08**

[58] Field of Search **364/424.05, 424.01, 364/426.02; 414/24.6, 666; 180/234; 192/0.08**

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[57] ABSTRACT

The present invention features an automatically reversible steering system for a material handling vehicle. The system has a steering mechanism connected to the vehicular drive motor of the vehicle that controls the steer motor turning direction. When the operator of the vehicle engages automatic steer orientation, a signal is sent to a microprocessor controller. The microprocessor controller, in response to the received signal and direction of travel, properly orients the polarity of the steering motor, thus providing vehicle rotational travel relative to the operator's request, whereby the vehicle turns in the direction of expectation consistent with the steering sense. A manual over-ride control switch mounted on the vehicle control panel can allow the operator to select predominance of one sense over another, based on his preferred direction of travel.

15 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

