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(54) **OPTICAL CABLE INSTALLATION WITH MINI-BEND REDUCTION**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **254/134.4; 254/134.4 R**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **254/134.4, 134.3 R, 254/134.3 FT; 15/109.06 R**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A cable straightener removes mini-bends from cable as it is unwound from a reel for installation in an underground duct, providing improved blowing performance for any cable with non-negligible stiffness and that exhibits reel-set or shape memory recovery, for example cables enclosed within small diameter tubular steel jackets, cables enclosed within aluminum laminated polymer sheets, and cables enclosed within hard polymer tubing. Residual stresses induced in such cables are reduced by first and second sets of straightener rollers prior to pushing/blowing installation.

**20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**

