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### Complex clutch apparatus

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#### Abstract

Proposed is a complex clutch apparatus which includes a rotating block provided with a central shaft extending upward and an upward inclined protrusion part which surrounds a lower portion of the central shaft and is spaced apart by a predetermined distance from the central shaft, a C-shaped plate spring which surrounds an outer circumferential surface of the upward inclined protrusion part and is in elastically close contact with the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part, a clutch gear provided with a downward inclined protrusion part press-fitted between the central shaft and the upward inclined protrusion part, and a holding protrusion inserted between opposite ends of the C-shaped plate spring in a longitudinal direction thereof; and an elastic body which is fixedly coupled to the central shaft and applies a downward elastic force to an upper surface of the clutch gear.

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**Background/Summary**

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to a clutch apparatus for transmitting power and, more specifically, a complex clutch apparatus in which components for transmitting and blocking power are configured in multiple stages so as to significantly increase clutch force generated within a limited specification and are able to be manufactured from various types of materials so as to increase the degree of design freedom of the product.

BACKGROUND ART

(2) The fuel filling port or charging port of a vehicle typically uses a cover plate driving device to automatically open and close a corresponding cover plate. The cover plate driving device includes a drive motor, a clutch having an output terminal connected to the rotational shaft of the cover

plate, and a reducer located between the drive motor and the clutch to be connected thereto.

(3) The conventional cover plate driving device has a disadvantage in that the amount of the energy consumption of the drive motor increases to effectively drive the cover plate since the transmission efficiency of the reducer is relatively low. In addition, the conventional cover plate driving device has a complex internal structure and the large component sizes, making it difficult to miniaturize the cover plate driving device.

(4) Meanwhile, when the cover plate is configured to be rotated by the drive motor, it is common for the rotational shaft of the cover plate to be connected to the drive shaft of the drive motor with a gear-coupled structure. In this case, there are disadvantages that it is impossible to manually open and close the cover plate from outside the vehicle, and when a rotational force output from the drive motor is excessively large, the cover plate may be damaged.

(5) To solve this problem, a clutch apparatus has been proposed blocks that excessive power transmission to automatically open and close the cover plate and to manually open and close the cover plate.

(6) Hereinafter, a conventional clutch apparatus will be described in detail.

(7) FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of the conventional clutch apparatus.

(8) As illustrated in FIG. 1, the conventional clutch apparatus includes a rotating block **10** provided with a central shaft **12** extending upward, a clutch gear **20** into which the central shaft **12** is inserted, a clutch plate **30** seated on the clutch gear **20** and rotating integrally with the central shaft **12**, a stopper **40** coupled to an end of the central shaft **12**, a spring **50** that is compressed between the clutch plate **30** and the stopper **40** and elastically presses the clutch plate **30** toward the clutch gear **20**. When a rotational force is applied to the clutch gear **20**, the clutch plate **30** rotates with the clutch gear **20** due to a frictional force between the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30**, and the rotating block **10** coupled to the clutch plate **30** also rotates.

(9) In this case, when force that fixes the rotating block **10** is small, the clutch plate **30** rotates with the clutch gear **20** due to frictional force with the clutch gear **20** when the clutch gear **20** rotates. However, when force that fixes the rotating block **10** is greater than the frictional force between the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30**, the clutch plate **30** slips on the clutch gear **20** even if the clutch gear **20** rotates, and the clutch plate **30** and the rotating block **10** coupled thereto do not rotate.

(10) In order for the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30** to rotate integrally, the frictional force between the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30** is required to be large, so the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30** are required to be manufactured of materials with a relatively high coefficient of friction. However, since materials with a high coefficient of friction are generally expensive, there is a problem that the manufacturing cost of a clutch apparatus increases. Of course, when the clutch gear **20** and the clutch plate **30** are manufactured to be large in size, a high clutch force can be obtained, but in this case, the problem arises that the overall size of the clutch apparatus increases.

## DISCLOSURE

### Technical Problem

(11) The present disclosure has been made to solve the above problems, and is intended to propose a complex clutch apparatus, in which clutch force is generated at multiple portions, so that it is possible to obtain high clutch force even when the product is miniaturized, and components that generate clutch force are able to be manufactured from various types of materials, thereby reducing manufacturing costs and increasing the degree of design freedom.

### Technical Solution

(12) In order to accomplish the above objectives, a complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure includes: a rotating block provided with a central shaft extending upward and an upward inclined protrusion part which surrounds a lower portion of the central shaft and is spaced apart by a predetermined distance from the central shaft; a C-shaped plate spring which surrounds an outer circumferential surface of the upward inclined protrusion part and is in elastically close contact

with the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part; a clutch gear provided with a downward inclined protrusion part press-fitted between the central shaft and the upward inclined protrusion part when the upward inclined protrusion part is inserted into a lower side of the clutch gear, and a holding protrusion inserted between opposite ends of the C-shaped plate spring in a longitudinal direction thereof; and an elastic body which is fixedly coupled to the central shaft and applies a downward elastic force to an upper surface of the clutch gear.

(13) Each of the upward inclined protrusion part and the downward inclined protrusion part may be formed in a cylindrical shape.

(14) The upward inclined protrusion part may have an inner side surface formed to be inclined in a direction in which an inner diameter of the upward inclined protrusion part decreases gradually toward a lower end of the upward inclined protrusion part, and the downward inclined protrusion part may have an outer side surface formed to be inclined to be in surface contact with the inclined inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part.

(15) A side wall of the downward inclined protrusion part may include multiple cutting slits formed thereon, with the cutting slits extending upward from a lower end of the downward inclined protrusion part.

(16) The multiple cutting slits may be arranged in a circular shape about a central axis of the upward inclined protrusion part, and may be spaced apart from each other at equal intervals.

(17) The Downward Inclined Protrusion Part

(18) The rotating block may be provided with a seating flange on which the C-shaped plate spring is seated.

(19) The C-shaped plate spring may be provided with a plurality of C-shaped plate springs.

(20) The elastic body may include an insertion hole formed in a central portion thereof, with the central shaft being inserted into the insertion hole, and may be formed to have a disc shape having height decreasing gradually toward an outer end thereof.

(21) An inner diameter side of the elastic body may be provided with an engaging protrusion that protrudes horizontally, the central shaft may include a large diameter part having a cylindrical shape, and a small diameter part extending upward from an upper end of the large diameter part and having smaller outer diameter than the large diameter part, and the complex clutch apparatus may further include an engaging slit including a vertical slit formed to have a size to allow the engaging protrusion to be inserted therein and extending downward from the upper end of the large diameter part, and a horizontal slit extending horizontally from a lower end of the vertical slit.

(22) A holding jaw protruding downward may be provided on an upper end of a portion of the horizontal slit that is connected to the vertical slit.

#### Advantageous Effects

(23) According to the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, clutch force is generated at multiple portions, so that it is possible to obtain high clutch force even when the product is miniaturized, and components that generate clutch force are able to be manufactured from various types of materials, thereby reducing manufacturing costs and improving the degree of design freedom.

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## Description

### DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a conventional clutch apparatus.

(2) FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(4) FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present

disclosure.

(5) FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of a clutch gear and a C-shaped plate spring included in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(6) FIG. 6 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(7) FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the coupling structure of an elastic body and a rotating block.

(8) FIG. 8 is a bottom exploded perspective view of a second embodiment of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 9 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of a clutch gear included in the second embodiment of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

#### MODE FOR INVENTION

(10) Hereinafter, an embodiment of a complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

(11) FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of a clutch gear and a C-shaped plate spring included in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, and FIG. 6 is a horizontal cross-sectional view of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(12) The complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure is a type of power transmission device for blocking power transmission and releasing the blocking of power transmission to a cover plate applied to a fuel filling port or charging port of a vehicle, and includes a rotating block **100** provided with a central shaft **110** extending upward and an upward inclined protrusion part **120** which surrounds a lower portion of the central shaft **110** to be spaced apart by a predetermined distance from the central shaft **110**, a clutch gear **300** provided with a downward inclined protrusion part **310** which is press-fitted between the central shaft **110** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120** when the upward inclined protrusion part **120** is inserted into a lower side of the clutch gear, and an elastic body **400** which is fixedly coupled to the central shaft **110** and applies a downward elastic force to an upper surface of the clutch gear **300**.

(13) Since the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is pressed downward by the elastic body **400** and is in close contact with the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, a large frictional force is generated between the downward inclined protrusion part **310** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**. Accordingly, when a rotational force is applied to the clutch gear **300** from the outside, the rotating block **100** rotates with the clutch gear **300** due to the downward inclined the frictional force between protrusion part **310** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**.

(14) In this case, the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure is further provided with a C-shaped plate spring **200** which surrounds the outer circumferential surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and is in elastically close contact with the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** so that the rotating block **100** is rotated with the clutch gear **300** even if a frictional force between the downward inclined protrusion part **310** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120** decreases, and has a structural feature in that a holding protrusion **320** inserted between the opposite ends of the C-shaped plate spring **200** in the longitudinal direction thereof is provided on the inner side surface of the clutch gear **300**.

(15) Since the holding protrusion **320** of the clutch gear **300** is inserted between the opposite ends of the C-shaped plate spring **200** in the longitudinal direction thereof, the C-shaped plate spring **200** always rotates integrally with the clutch gear **300**, and since the C-shaped plate spring **200** is in close contact with the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** by an elastic force thereof, a large frictional force is generated between the C-shaped plate spring **200** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**. Accordingly, when the C-shaped plate spring **200** rotates with

the clutch gear **300**, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the rotating block **100** provided with the upward inclined protrusion part **120** also rotate with the clutch gear **300**.

(16) Of course, in a case in which force that stops the rotation of the rotating block **100** is greater than the frictional force between the C-shaped plate spring **200** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, when the clutch gear **300** rotates, slippage occurs between the C-shaped plate spring **200** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, so that the rotating block **100** does not rotate with the clutch gear **300**.

(17) Accordingly, in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, the rotational force of the clutch gear **300** is transmitted to the rotating block **100** not only by a frictional force between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310**, but also by a frictional force between the C-shaped plate spring **200** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, and thus even if the clutch gear **300** and the rotating block **100** are manufactured of materials with a relatively low frictional force, such as synthetic resin, there is an advantage in that a sufficiently high clutch force can be obtained, that is, the degree of freedom in a material of each part is increased.

(18) In addition, as mentioned above, when clutch force occurs at multiple portions, a sufficiently high clutch force can be obtained even if the clutch gear **300** and the rotating block **100** are manufactured small, so there is also an advantage in that the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure can be miniaturized.

(19) Meanwhile, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310**, which are in close contact with each other by the elastic body **400**, are required to be in surface contact with each other to increase frictional force therebetween. When a contact surface therebetween is formed to be horizontal, a problem arises in that the diameters of the rotating block **100** and the clutch gear **300** are required to be greatly increased in order to increase a contact area.

(20) The complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure has another structural feature in that the contact surface between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is formed to be obliquely inclined so as to solve the above-mentioned problem. For example, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** may be formed in a cylindrical shape, but an inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** may be formed to be inclined in a direction in which an inner diameter of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** decreases gradually toward a lower end of the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** may have an outer side surface formed to be inclined to be in surface contact with the inclined inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120**.

(21) In this way, when each of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is formed to have a vertical cross-section in the shape of a wedge, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** are brought into close contact with each other to be in surface contact with each other by the elastic body **400**, and a contact area therebetween can be significantly increased within a limited space, so there is an advantage in that a high clutch force can be obtained while miniaturizing the product. In this case, the angle of the contact surface between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** may be changed in various ways depending on various conditions such as the specification and material of each part.

(22) In addition, if each of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is formed in a wedge shape, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** may be deformed to open outward when the clutch gear **300** rotates while the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is pressed downward. However, in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, the C-shaped plate spring **200** is pressed against the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, so there is also an advantage in that deformation of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** is prevented.

(23) Meanwhile, to prevent the C-shaped plate spring **200** from coming out of the clutch gear **300**

while the rotating block **100** and the clutch gear **300** are rotating, the rotating block **100** may be provided with a seating flange **140** on which the C-shaped plate spring **200** is seated. In this case, it is preferable that the seating flange **140** is formed in a ring shape that surrounds the entirety of the outer circumferential surface of the rotating block **100** so that the entirety of the lower end of the C-shaped plate spring **200** can be seated.

(24) In addition, a contact force between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the C-shaped plate spring **200** is determined by the elastic force of the C-shaped plate spring **200**. When the C-shaped plate spring **200** is manufactured as one piece, there is a problem in that the contact force between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the C-shaped plate spring **200** is not adjustable. In the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, the C-shaped plate spring **200** may include a plurality of C-shaped plate springs so that the contact force between the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the C-shaped plate spring **200** is adjustable.

(25) Accordingly, when the C-shaped plate spring **200** is provided with a plurality of C-shaped plate springs, there is an advantage that a manufacturer is able to implement the intensity of clutch force desired by a user by appropriately increasing or decreasing the number of C-shaped plate springs **200**. In this embodiment, only the case in which two C-shaped plate springs **200** are provided is illustrated, but the number of the C-shaped plate springs **200** may be applied to three or more.

(26) In addition, the elastic body **400**, which presses the clutch gear **300** downward, is preferably formed to evenly press the entire upper surface of the clutch gear **300**. That is, the elastic body **400** may include an insertion hole **410** formed in a central portion thereof, with the central shaft **110** being inserted into the insertion hole, and may be formed to have a disc shape having height decreasing gradually toward an outer end thereof. In this case, the clutch gear **300** may have a seating groove **330** formed on an upper surface thereof to fit into the outer end of the elastic body **400** so that the outer end of the elastic body **400** may be stably seated.

(27) In this way, when the elastic body **400** is formed in a disk shape, the outer end of the elastic body **400** evenly presses the entire upper surface of the clutch gear **300** downward. Accordingly, the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** are in close contact with each other evenly in all parts in each direction, thereby maximizing clutch force.

(28) FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the coupling structure of the elastic body **400** and the rotating block **100**.

(29) The complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure may be configured such that power transmission between the clutch gear **300** and the rotating block **100** is implemented not only by a frictional force between the downward inclined protrusion part **310** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, a frictional force between the C-shaped plate spring **200** and the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, but also by a frictional force between the elastic body **400** and the clutch gear **300**.

(30) That is, the elastic body **400**, which presses the clutch gear **300** downward, is fixedly coupled to the central shaft **110** of the rotating block **100** and may be installed in to be simply in close contact with the clutch gear **300**. In this way, when the outer end of the elastic body **400** is configured to be in close contact with the upper surface of the clutch gear **300**, the rotational force of the clutch gear **300** may be transmitted to the central shaft **110** through the elastic body **400**, so that the clutch force of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure is further improved.

(31) In addition, when the elastic force of the elastic body **400** is changed, the frictional force between the elastic body **400** and the clutch gear **300** is changed, thereby increasing or decreasing clutch force. Therefore, a user can easily control the clutch force of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure by replacing the elastic body **400** with a product having a different elastic force.

(32) Accordingly, in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, it is preferable that the elastic body **400** is coupled detachably to the central shaft **110**, and that the elastic body **400**

coupled to the central shaft **110** is configured to always rotate integrally with the central shaft **110**. (33) For example, the inner diameter side of the elastic body **400** may be provided with an engaging protrusion **420** that protrudes horizontally, and the central shaft **110** may be divided into a large diameter part **110a** and a small diameter part **110b** extending upward from the upper end of the large diameter part **110a**, wherein an engaging slit **130** into which the engaging protrusion **420** can be inserted may be formed in the large diameter part **110a**. In this case, the engaging slit **130** may be composed of a vertical slit **132** extending downward from the upper end of the large diameter part **110a**, and a horizontal slit **134** extending horizontally from the lower end of the vertical slit **132**.

(34) In this way, when the engaging slit **130** is formed in the large diameter part **110a** of the central shaft **110**, a user may fixedly couple the elastic body **400** to the central shaft **110** by inserting the engaging protrusion **420** of the elastic body **400** into the engaging slit **130**. Meanwhile, to prevent slippage between the elastic body **400** and the central shaft **110** when the elastic body **400** rotates with the clutch gear **300**, a holding jaw **136** protruding downward is formed on the upper end of a portion of the horizontal slit **134** that is connected to the vertical slit **132**. When the holding jaw **136** is formed in this way, the engaging protrusion **420** interferes with the holding jaw **136** when the elastic body **400** rotates, so that the elastic body **400** and the central shaft **110** always rotate integrally.

(35) FIG. **8** is a bottom exploded perspective view of a second embodiment of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, and FIG. **9** is a horizontal cross-sectional view of the clutch gear included in the second embodiment of the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure.

(36) It is preferable that the upward inclined protrusion part **120** and the downward inclined protrusion part **310** included in the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure are both formed in cylindrical shapes so as to maximize a contact area therebetween. In this case, when the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is formed in a cylindrical shape, there is no elasticity in a radial direction thereof. Therefore, when the outer side surface of the central shaft **110** and the inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** do not form a perfect circle, the outer side surface of the downward inclined protrusion part **310** and the inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** may not be in perfectly close contact with each other.

(37) In the complex clutch apparatus of the present disclosure, in order to solve this problem, that is, so that the inclined can downward protrusion part **310** have elasticity in a diametric direction (horizontal direction in this embodiment), the side wall of the downward inclined protrusion part **310** may include multiple cutting slits **312** formed thereon, with the cutting slits **312** extending upward from the lower end of the downward inclined protrusion part **310**.

(38) Accordingly, when the multiple cutting slits **312** are formed in the downward inclined protrusion part **310**, a portion between two neighboring cutting slits **312** of the downward inclined protrusion part **310** has elasticity in the diametric direction of the downward inclined protrusion part **310** (see the arrow direction of FIG. **9**), and the outer side surface of the downward inclined protrusion part **310** and the inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part **120** are in perfectly close contact with each other, and thus the effect of improving clutch force can be obtained.

(39) In this case, in order to form elasticity evenly over all parts of the downward inclined protrusion part **310**, it is preferable that the cutting slits **312** are arranged in a circular shape about the central axis of the upward inclined protrusion part **120**, and are spaced apart from each other at equal intervals. Meanwhile, in this embodiment, only the case in which eight cutting slits **312** are formed in the downward inclined protrusion part **310** is illustrated, but the number and specification of the cutting slits **312** may be variously changed depending on various conditions.

(40) While the present disclosure has been described in detail by using preferred embodiments, the scope of the present disclosure is not limited to specific embodiments, and should be interpreted in accordance with the scope of the appended claims. In addition, those skilled in the art will



understand that many modifications and variations are possible without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

## Claims

1. A complex clutch apparatus comprising: a rotating block provided with a central shaft extending upward and an upward inclined protrusion part which surrounds a lower portion of the central shaft and is spaced apart by a predetermined distance from the central shaft; a C-shaped plate spring which surrounds an outer circumferential surface of the upward inclined protrusion part and is in elastically close contact with the outer side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part; a clutch gear provided with a downward inclined protrusion part press-fitted between the central shaft and the upward inclined protrusion part when the upward inclined protrusion part is inserted into a lower side of the clutch gear, and a holding protrusion inserted between opposite ends of the C-shaped plate spring in a longitudinal direction thereof; and an elastic body which is fixedly coupled to the central shaft and applies a downward elastic force to an upper surface of the clutch gear, wherein the upward inclined protrusion part is formed in a cylindrical shape and has an inner side surface formed to be inclined in a direction in which an inner diameter of the upward inclined protrusion part decreases gradually toward a lower end of the upward inclined protrusion part, and the downward inclined protrusion part is formed in a cylindrical shape and has an outer side surface formed to be inclined to be in surface contact with the inclined inner side surface of the upward inclined protrusion part, wherein a side wall of the downward inclined protrusion part includes multiple cutting slits formed thereon, with the cutting slits extending upward from a lower end of the downward inclined protrusion part, wherein the multiple cutting slits are arranged in a circular shape about a central axis of the upward inclined protrusion part and are spaced apart from each other at equal intervals, wherein the elastic body includes an insertion hole formed in a central portion thereof, with the central shaft being inserted into the insertion hole, and is formed to have a disc shape having height decreasing gradually toward an outer end thereof, wherein an inner diameter side of the elastic body is provided with an engaging protrusion that protrudes horizontally, wherein the central shaft includes a large diameter part having a cylindrical shape, and a small diameter part extending upward from an upper end of the large diameter part and having smaller outer diameter than the large diameter part, wherein the complex clutch apparatus further includes an engaging slit including a vertical slit formed to have a size to allow the engaging protrusion to be inserted thereinto and extending downward from the upper end of the large diameter part, and a horizontal slit extending horizontally from a lower end of the vertical slit, wherein a holding jaw protruding downward is formed on an upper end of a portion of the horizontal slit that is connected to the vertical slit.

2. The complex clutch apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotating block is provided with a seating flange on which the C-shaped plate spring is seated.

3. The complex clutch apparatus of claim 1, wherein the C-shaped plate spring is provided with a plurality of C-shaped plate springs.

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