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Dec 20, 2007 Category:Sega Saturn games Category:Sega video games This invention relates to the art of electrical switching apparatus and, more particularly, to apparatus for electrically interrupting short circuits in switchgear. The invention is particularly applicable to medium voltage switchgear and will be described with reference thereto; however, it will be appreciated that the invention has broader aspects and can be used in interrupting electrical circuits of various voltage classes.

Electrical switchgear typically includes a single or multi-pole circuit breaker which is used to interrupt short circuits in the electrical conductors which are enclosed within the switchgear enclosure. A typical medium voltage circuit breaker has two or more external poles which are connected to terminals of the circuit breaker and thereby to the electrical conductors. A series of internal contacts is included within the breaker and is electrically connected between the external poles. When a short circuit occurs in a conductor at one of the external poles, an electrical arc is formed between a contact of the internal contacts and the conductive surface of the conductor. The arc melts or vaporizes a portion of the conductor which then cools to break the conductor. Unfortunately, the amount of melt or vaporization of the conductor varies from a relatively small amount at the end of the conductor which is in contact with the contact, to a relatively large amount at the end of the conductor which is in contact with the external pole. In conventional circuit breakers, all of the contacts are held in fixed positions with respect to one another and do not move when short circuits occur. Consequently, the portion of the conductor which melts or vaporizes and the portion of the conductor which does not melt or vaporize are brought into contact with the same contact or the same conductor. Thus, there are relatively small amounts of conductor melting at the end of the conductor which is in contact with the contact and, in turn, a relatively large amount of conductor melting at the end of the conductor which is in contact with the external pole. The conductor melting at the end of the conductor which is in contact with the external pole can migrate or fuse to the contact which would normally contact a relatively small amount of the conductor. Consequently, the contact which would normally contact a relatively small amount of the conductor becomes electrically connected to the contact which would normally contact a relatively large amount of the conductor. If the switchgear is operated in this condition, it is possible

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