



US 20110138907A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Rudd et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0138907 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 16, 2011**

(54) **MULTI-LEVEL LIQUID LEVEL MAGNETIC SENSOR**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/057,073, filed on May 29, 2008.

(75) Inventors: **Jeffrey P. Rudd**, Foxboro, MA (US); **James M. Pellegrini**, Millbury, MA (US); **Brian J. Bonenfant**, Attleboro, MA (US)

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G01F 23/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **73/313**

(73) Assignee: **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC.**, Glenview, IL (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid level sensor employs a set of axially displaced magnetic sensing switches and a magnet on a float that may rise and fall on liquid level to activate and deactivate the switches. The switches and magnet are configured so that movement of the magnetic float activates a new switch before deactivation of an adjacent previously activated switch. An electronic circuit provides a signal based on the uppermost activated switch to provide a signal that is monotonic with liquid level. The design may be readily implemented using reed switches and a resistive ladder.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/994,857**

(22) PCT Filed: **May 27, 2009**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/US09/45220**

§ 371 (c)(1),
(2), (4) Date: **Nov. 28, 2010**

