

CPC COOPERATIVE PATENT CLASSIFICATION

E FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS

EARTH DRILLING; MINING

E21 EARTH DRILLING; MINING

E21C MINING OR QUARRYING

NOTES

1. This subclass covers methods or apparatus specific to mining or quarrying
2. This subclass does not cover, even though they may be disclosed only for mining or quarrying, drill bits, bore reamers, core taking devices, drilling pipes or rods, handling, racking or connecting arrangements for drilling pipes or rods, counterboring or enlarging drilled holes, flame drilling, or other drilling apparatus, which are covered by subclass [E21B](#)

WARNING

In this subclass non-limiting references (in the sense of paragraph 39 of the Guide to the IPC) may still be displayed in the scheme.

Cutting, Slitting, Dislodging

25/00 Cutting machines, i.e. for making slits approximately parallel or perpendicular to the seam (dislodging machines with slitting means [E21C 27/02](#), [E21C 27/10](#), [E21C 27/18](#))

- 25/02 . Machines slitting solely by one or more percussive tools moved through the seam
- 25/04 . . Cutting crowns or other tools ([percussion drill bits \[E21B 10/36\]\(#\)](#))
- 25/06 . Machines slitting solely by one or more cutting rods or cutting drums which rotate, move through the seam, and may or may not reciprocate
- 25/08 . . Mountings for the rods or drums
- 25/10 . . Rods; Drums
- 25/14 . . with equipment for cleaning the slit ([associated with cutter chain machines \[E21C 25/50\]\(#\)](#))
- 25/145 . . . {[Cowls](#)}
- 25/16 . Machines slitting solely by one or more rotating saws, cutting discs, or wheels
- 25/18 . . Saws; Discs; Wheels
- 25/20 . Machines slitting solely by one or more reciprocating sawing implements or reciprocating cutter chains; Shaker conveyors with cutting means
- 25/22 . Machines slitting solely by one or more cutter chains moving unidirectionally along jibs
- 25/24 . . with flat jibs only
- 25/26 . . with curved jibs only
- 25/28 . . Chains or chain guides
- 25/30 . . . Chain guides
- 25/32 specially adapted for curved jibs
- 25/34 . . . Chains
- 25/36 Couplings for links
- 25/365 {[allowing the bending into at least two planes \(chains for conveyors which are allowed to bend into at least two planes \[B65G 17/385\]\(#\)\)](#)}
- 25/40 having links with integrally formed picks
- 25/50 . . with equipment for cleaning the slit ([associated with rotary-rod or rotary-drum machines \[E21C 25/14\]\(#\)](#))

- 25/52 . Machines incorporating two or more of the slitting means according to groups [E21C 25/02](#), [E21C 25/06](#), [E21C 25/16](#), [E21C 25/20](#) and [E21C 25/22](#)
- 25/54 . Slitting by unguided cutter cables or cutter chains, or by unguided tools drawn along the working face by cables or the like ([dislodging by planing means \[E21C 27/32\]\(#\)](#); propulsion by haulage cables [E21C 29/14](#))
- 25/56 . Slitting by cutter cables or cutter chains or by tools drawn along the working face by cables or the like, in each case guided parallel to the face, e.g. by a conveyor, by a guide parallel to a conveyor ([pressing the conveyor equipped with tools towards the working face \[E21C 35/14\]\(#\)](#))
- 25/58 . Machines slitting by drilling hole on hole
- 25/60 . Slitting by jets of water or other liquid ([picks with arrangements of fluid-spraying nozzles \[E21C 35/187\]\(#\)](#); distribution of spraying fluids in rotating cutter-heads [E21C 35/23](#))
- 25/62 . Machines for making slits approximately perpendicular to the seams either level with, or above or below the level of, the machine
- 25/64 . Slitting machines guided solely by hand and either carried by hand or mounted on supports ([hand-held power-operated tools \[E21C 37/22\]\(#\)](#))
- 25/66 . Machines for making slits with additional arrangements for drilling
- 25/68 . Machines for making slits combined with equipment for removing, e.g. by loading, material won by other means ([slitting machines combined with planing means \[E21C 27/18\]\(#\)](#); removing chippings [E21C 35/20](#))
- 27/00 Machines which completely free the mineral from the seam**
- 27/01 . specially adapted for removing overhanging coal
- 27/02 . solely by slitting ([rods, drums, for same \[E21C 25/10\]\(#\)](#); [saws, discs, wheels \[E21C 25/18\]\(#\)](#); [chains, chain guides, for same \[E21C 25/28\]\(#\)](#))
- 27/04 . . by a single chain guided on a frame with or without auxiliary slitting means

- 27/06 . . . with a slewing frame
- 27/08 . . with additional means for cutting the mineral into blocks
- 27/10 . by both slitting and breaking-down
- 27/12 . . breaking-down effected by acting on the vertical face of the mineral, e.g. by percussive tools
- 27/122 . . . {with breaking-down members having a striking action}
- 27/124 . . . {with rotatable cutters provided with breaking-down members}
- 27/126 . . . {with slitting and breaking-down members situated in parallel on an intermediary level}
- 27/128 . . . {with breaking-down members functioning on the slitting level}
- 27/14 . . breaking-down effected by force or pressure applied to side of slit, e.g. by wedges (breaking-down by means inserted in boreholes [E21C 37/00](#))
- 27/16 . . . with means for both slitting and breaking-down
- 27/18 . by both slitting and planing
- 27/20 . Mineral freed by means not involving slitting
- 27/22 . . by rotary drills with breaking-down means, e.g. wedge-shaped drills {, i.e. the rotary axis of the tool carrier being substantially perpendicular to the working face, e.g. MARIETTA-type (similar machines for tunneling [E21D 9/102](#))}
- 27/24 . . by milling means acting on the full working face {, i.e. the rotary axis of the tool carrier being substantially parallel to the working face (similar machines for tunneling [E21D 9/1026](#))}
- 27/26 . . by closely adjacent cutter chains acting on the full working face
- 27/28 . . by percussive drills with breaking-down means, e.g. wedge-shaped tools
- 27/30 . . by jaws, buckets or scoops that scoop-out the mineral
- 27/32 . . by adjustable or non-adjustable planing means with or without loading arrangements (by percussed planing means [E21C 27/46](#))
- 27/34 . . . Machine propelled along the working face by cable or chain
- 27/35 Ram-ploughs
- 27/36 . . . Machine self-propelled along the working face
- 27/38 . . . Machine stationary while planing in an arc
- 27/40 . . . Machine and its planing tool making alternative step-wise movements along the working face
- 27/42 . . . combined with scraper or collector box
- 27/44 . . . Planing knives (mining picks [E21C 35/18](#))
- 27/46 . . by percussed planing means
- 29/00 Propulsion of machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral from the seam**
- 29/02 . by means on the machine exerting a thrust against fixed supports
- 29/04 . by cable or chains
- 29/06 . . anchored at one or both ends to the mine working face {(propulsion using fixed racks along which the machine is running [E21C 29/02](#))}
- 29/08 . . . Anchoring arrangements (for anchoring of conveyors only [E21F 13/00](#))
- 29/10 . . . Cable or chain co-operating with a winch or the like on the machine
- 29/12 . . . Machines propelled by thrust or pull against a part alternately anchored to and released from a cable or chain
- 29/14 . . by haulage cable or chain pulling the machine along the working face
- 29/145 . . . {Means for tensioning the haulage chains or cables}
- 29/16 . . . Winches or other means for pulling cable or chain (winches in general [B66D](#))
- 29/18 . . . Coupling and uncoupling machine to cable or chain
- 29/185 {with coupling or uncoupling of the machine at will}
- 29/20 . . with safety devices operating in the event of breakage of the cable or chain
- 29/22 . by wheels, endless tracks or the like {(propulsion using fixed racks along which the machine is running [E21C 29/02](#))}
- 29/24 . . Trucks carrying the machine while working
- 29/26 . . . with means for adjustably positioning the machine on the truck
- 29/28 adjusting the height of the whole machine
- 31/00 Driving means incorporated in machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral from the seam**
- 31/02 . for cutting or breaking-down devices
- 31/025 . . {by another slitting or extracting member}
- 31/04 . . imparting both a rotary and reciprocating motion
- 31/06 . . actuated by an endless cable or chain
- 31/08 . for adjusting parts of the machines
- 31/10 . for slewing parts of the machines
- 31/12 . Component parts
- 33/00 Trucks or other devices for transporting machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral from the seam**
- 33/02 . with equipment for loading or unloading the machine on to or from the truck
- 33/025 . . {the unloaded machine remaining connected to the transport vehicle}
- 35/00 Miscellaneous items relating to machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral from the seam**
- 35/02 . Locking equipment for slewable parts
- 35/04 . Safety devices (operating in the event of breakage of a haulage cable or chain [E21C 29/20](#))
- 35/043 . . {Protection against overload during transfer of machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral from the seam}
- 35/046 . . {Protection of cables or pipes for supplying power}
- 35/06 . Equipment for positioning the whole machine in relation to its substructure
- 35/08 . Guiding the machine
- 35/10 . . by feelers contacting the working face
- 35/12 . . along a conveyor for the cut mineral
- 35/125 . . . {Means for inclining the conveyor}
- 35/14 . . . Equipment for pressing the conveyor towards the working face
- 35/16 . . by making use of the timbering, filling, or other supports

- 35/18 . Mining picks; Holders therefor ([planing knives E21C 27/44](#) ; pick-like bits for milling stone like materials [B28D 1/186](#))
- 35/183 . . with inserts or layers of wear-resistant material {([drill bits with wear-resistant parts E21B 10/46](#))}
- 35/1831 . . . {Fixing methods or devices}
- 35/1833 . . . {Multiple inserts}
- 35/1835 . . . {Chemical composition or specific material}
- 35/1837 . . . {characterised by the shape}
- 35/184 . . {Reversible picks, i.e. having two working ends, one operating, the other in reserve}
- 35/186 . . {using a locking piston actuated hydraulically, e.g. by spraying-fluid pressure}
- 35/187 . . with arrangement of fluid-spraying nozzles ([supply of fluid to the nozzles E21C 35/22](#))
- 35/188 . . {characterised by adaptations to use an extraction tool}
- 35/19 . . Means for fixing picks or holders
- 35/191 . . . {for fixing holders}
- 35/193 . . . using bolts as main fixing elements
- 35/1933 {the picks having a cylindrical shank}
- 35/1936 {the picks having a square- or rectangular-section shank}
- 35/197 . . . using sleeves, rings or the like, as main fixing elements
- 35/20 . General features of equipment for removal of chippings, e.g. for loading on conveyor
- 35/22 . Equipment for preventing the formation of, or for removal of, dust ([picks with arrangement of fluid-spraying nozzles E21C 35/187](#); [removing dust while drilling E21B 21/011](#))
- 35/223 . . {Equipment associated with mining machines for sucking dust-laden air from the cutting area, with or without cleaning of the air}
- 35/226 . . {Control valves for the spraying liquid used in dust suppression systems}
- 35/23 . . Distribution of spraying-fluids in rotating cutter-heads
- 35/24 . Remote control specially adapted for machines for slitting or completely freeing the mineral ([control in general G05](#))
- 37/00 Other methods or devices for dislodging with or without loading ([breaking-down by means inserted in slits E21C 27/14](#))**
 - 37/005 . {by projectiles}
 - 37/02 . by wedges
 - 37/04 . by devices with parts pressed mechanically against the wall of a borehole {[or a slit](#)}
 - 37/06 . by making use of hydraulic or pneumatic pressure in a borehole
 - 37/08 . . Devices with pistons, plungers, or the like, pressed locally against the wall of the borehole {([E21C 37/10 takes precedence](#))}
 - 37/10 . . Devices with expanding elastic casings
 - 37/12 . . by injecting into the borehole a liquid, either initially at high pressure or subsequently subjected to high pressure, e.g. by pulses, by explosive cartridges acting on the liquid ([slitting by jets of water E21C 25/60](#); [blasting by explosives F42D](#))
 - 37/14 . . by compressed air; by gas blast; by gasifying liquids

- 37/16 . by fire-setting or by similar methods based on a heat effect ([drilling by use of heat E21B 7/14](#))
- 37/18 . by electricity
- 37/20 . by ultrasonics
- 37/22 . Hand tools or hand-held power-operated tools specially adapted for dislodging minerals ([slitting machines guided solely by hand E21C 25/64](#))
- 37/24 . . Pick hammers ([pneumatic hammers in general B25D](#); [percussion drilling E21B 1/00](#))
- 37/26 . Chisels or other cutting tools not mentioned before
- 39/00 Devices for testing in situ the hardness or other properties of minerals, e.g. for giving information as to the selection of suitable mining tools**

Methods of mining or quarrying; Open-pit mining; Layouts therefor (methods or apparatus for obtaining oil, gas, water, soluble or meltable materials or a slurry of minerals from wells [E21B 43/00](#))

- 41/00 Methods of underground or surface mining ([E21C 45/00 takes precedence](#)); Layouts therefor (for peat [E21C 49/00](#))**

WARNING

Group [E21C 41/00](#) is incomplete pending reclassification of documents from groups [E21C 41/04](#), [E21C 41/10](#) and [E21C 41/14](#).
All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/04 . {for hard coal}
(Frozen)

WARNING

Group [E21C 41/04](#) is no longer used for the classification of documents as of May 1, 2020.
The content of this group is being reclassified into groups [E21C 41/00](#), [E21C 41/16](#) - [E21C 41/32](#).
All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/10 . {for oil-bearing deposits}
(Frozen)

WARNING

Group [E21C 41/10](#) is no longer used for the classification of documents as of May 1, 2020.
The content of this group is being reclassified into groups [E21C 41/00](#), [E21C 41/16](#) - [E21C 41/32](#).
All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/14 . {for other specified minerals, e.g. gold, mercury, other heavy metals, sulfur, slate; for clay}
(Frozen)

WARNING

Group [E21C 41/14](#) is no longer used for the classification of documents as of May 1, 2020.
The content of this group is being reclassified into groups [E21C 41/00](#), [E21C 41/16](#) - [E21C 41/32](#).
All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/16 . Methods of underground mining ([winning machines therefor E21C 25/00 - E21C 39/00](#)); Layouts therefor

WARNING

Groups [E21C 41/16 - E21C 41/24](#) are incomplete pending reclassification of documents from groups [E21C 41/04](#), [E21C 41/10](#) and [E21C 41/14](#).

All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/18 . . for brown or hard coal
 41/20 . . for rock salt or potash salt
 41/22 . . for ores, e.g. mining placers
 41/24 . . for oil-bearing deposits
 41/26 . Methods of surface mining ([machines for obtaining, or the removal of, materials in open-pit mines E21C 47/00](#)); Layouts therefor

WARNING

Groups [E21C 41/26 - E21C 41/31](#) are incomplete pending reclassification of documents from groups [E21C 41/04](#), [E21C 41/10](#) and [E21C 41/14](#).

All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

- 41/28 . . for brown or hard coal
 41/30 . . for ores, e.g. mining placers
 41/31 . . {for oil-bearing deposits}
 41/32 . Reclamation of surface-mined areas ([machines or methods for treating or working soil for agricultural purposes A01B 77/00, A01B 79/00](#); [machines for back-filling E02F 5/22](#))

WARNING

Group [E21C 41/32](#) is incomplete pending reclassification of documents from group groups [E21C 41/04](#), [E21C 41/10](#) and [E21C 41/14](#).

All the groups listed in this warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

45/00 Methods of hydraulic mining; Hydraulic monitors
 ([E21C 25/60 takes precedence](#))

- 45/02 . Means for generating pulsating fluid jets
 45/04 . . by use of highly pressurised liquid
 45/06 . . by use of compressed gases
 45/08 . Automatic or remote control of hydraulic monitors

47/00 Machines for obtaining or the removal of materials in open-pit mines
 ([obtaining peat E21C 49/00](#))

- 47/02 . for coal, brown coal, or the like ([dredgers or soil-shifting machines in general E02F](#))
 47/04 . . Conveyor bridges used in co-operation with the winning apparatus
 47/06 . . Cableway conveyors used in co-operation with the winning apparatus ([underground hauling E21F 13/00](#))
 47/08 . . Devices for cutting-out partings, e.g. layers of sand between seams of coal
 47/10 . for quarrying stone, sand, gravel, or clay

49/00 Obtaining peat; Machines therefor
 ([treating peat C10F](#))

- 49/02 . by excavating
 49/04 . by digging in the form of peat sods

50/00 Obtaining minerals from underwater, not otherwise provided for
 ([suction dredgers or component parts thereof E02F 3/88](#); [equipment for conveying or separating excavated material E02F 7/00](#); [dippers G01N 1/12](#))

- 50/02 . dependent on the ship movements ([vessels or floating structures adapted for special purposes B63B 35/00](#))

51/00 Apparatus for, or methods of, winning materials from extraterrestrial sources
 ([cosmonautics B64G](#))