

A PEDALLY PROPELLED VEHICLE MULTI SPEED GEAR SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to epicyclical internal gear mechanisms for pedally propelled vehicles.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Internal gear mechanisms for pedally vehicles are experiencing resurgence in popularity due to their robustness, long service life, and recent technological improvements. When external gears, which are exposed and prone to impacts, deteriorate quickly, and require frequent maintenance, are shifted, the chain bends sideways and its bushings wear and stretch which causes cogs and chain rings to wear prematurely.

[0003] Internal gears are in this sense more optimal, but typical multispeed ones cannot handle the high torque of rider and assist motor. Most internal gears are shifted solely by means of pawls, or as in the case of e.g. DE19720796, with both pawls and axial clutches, although US9279480 offers improvement on many levels. Further optimization are desirable, to simplify, reduce cost, and improve function.

[0004] One such element is the coasting mechanism. In externally geared hubs, some mechanisms are proposed that partially decouple and thus improves effects of freewheeling. US6155394 shows pawls which substantially decouple from ratchet teeth during coasting, while WO2017167453 offers a geometrical solution in a complex machined tooth-ring from which linear pawls may partially decouple, and US9199509 describes spiral ears that allow axial clutch rings to partially decouple during freewheel/coasting. Since the hubs have only two states, one of torque coupling engagement and another of freewheeling, operation of the mechanisms is fairly simple. In internal hub gears, the mechanisms are more complex and various solutions are proposed.

[0005] EP0679570 shows classic rolling ball or rollers, which are automatically slid between wedge shaped races either into freewheel or into a narrowing, causing the races to lock. While allowing silent coasting, a potentially destructive radial expansion force is transferred onto the races during torque transfer.

[0006] A further challenge is how to simplify assembly, e.g. make a gear stack tolerance precise and how to close the gear hub, so as to provide an optimum gear stack width given the mechanism of an internal gear stack. Traditionally, the hub is provided with large diameter locking ball bearings, which is a heavy and costly means, and the hub end cover is either screwed onto the hub shell, or held in place with bolts, where neither of these

solutions are optimal. Often the axle is threaded and a nut with a ball bearing race is tightened manually to what is assumed a proper fit.

[0007] Yet another challenge relates to the wider tires casings of modern fat bikes. This require wider axle mounts and distance between the hub bearings, increasing mechanical stress and the risk of failure of bearings, main shaft, and other parts. Axles of internal gears are typically provided as an axial rod with shift mechanisms surrounding it, without an internal tunnel, resulting in a heavy axle that also disallows use of a through-bolt. Axles with an internal shift axle tunnel, have machined axial penetrations extending a considerable distance along the axle to allow pawls to shift the mechanisms, reducing torsional structural integrity. To maintain rigidity and strength, material is added, increasing weight and cost.

[0008] Some of the challenges above have been addressed in WO2012128639A1, but structural and functional issues remain to be solved.

[0009] From the discussion above a need for improvements in epicyclical multispeed internally geared mechanisms is obvious.

SHORT SUMMARY

[0010] A goal with the present invention is to overcome the problems of prior art.

[0011] The invention solving the above mentioned problems is in an aspect, a pedally propelled vehicle multi speed gear system according to the independent claims.

[0012] The functionality of the multi speed gear system is improved over prior art multi speed gear systems. Further, the number of components have been reduced, and assembly and maintenance have been simplified. This in turn allows the total cost of the gear to be reduced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] Fig. 1a illustrates a schematic view of an embodiment of the multi speed gear system of the invention. The main shaft (5) is arranged to be fixed to frame ends of a pedally propelled vehicle by a through bolt (7), and the gear mechanisms (4) transfers torque from the first shaft (71), in this case directly connected to a chain cog (8) to the hub shell (3). In this embodiment the gear mechanism (4) comprises a first gear section (10) and a second gear section (20) interconnected by a second shaft (72), where the second gear section (20) is a reduction gear. The first gear section (10) comprises first and a second planetary gear sets (11, 12) interconnected by first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103). Radially operated first and second shift mechanisms (30, 40) are

arranged to provide releasable one way couplings between the input shaft (71) and the carriers (101, 102, 103), and between the carriers (101, 102, 103) and the second shaft (72), respectively. This gear system may have a total of 14 different gear ratios. Some elements not belonging to the same cross section in a real embodiment have been added here to illustrate the principle of operation.

[0014] Fig. 1b illustrates an embodiment of the multi speed gear system similar to the system illustrated in Fig. 1a, the difference being that there is no reduction gear and that the second shaft (72b) is directly connected to or integrated with the hub shell (3). This gear system may have a total of 7 different gear ratios.

[0015] Fig. 2 illustrates in a perspective view a multi speed gear system of an embodiment of the invention.

[0016] Fig. 3 illustrates half of a cross section of the multi speed gear system of the invention.

[0017] Fig. 4a, 4b, and 4c illustrate different positions of the clutches of the first shift mechanism (30).

[0018] In Fig. 4a, the first inner clutch element (351) is engaged with the first common clutch element (350), while the first middle and outer clutch elements (352, 353) are free-wheeling. Torque is here transferred from the first shaft (71) to the first inner carrier (101).

[0019] In Fig. 4b, the first middle clutch element (352) is engaged with the first common clutch element (350), while the first outer clutch element (353) is free-wheeling and the first inner clutch element (351) is disengaged. Torque is here transferred from the first shaft (71) to the first middle carrier (102).

[0020] In Fig. 4c, the first outer clutch element (353) is engaged with the first common clutch element (350), while the first inner and middle clutch elements (351, 352) are disengaged. Torque is here transferred from the first shaft (71) to the first outer carrier (103).

[0021] Fig. 5a, 5b, and 5c illustrate different positions of the clutches of the second shift mechanism (40).

[0022] In Fig. 5a, the second outer clutch element (453) is engaged with the second common clutch element (450), while the second inner and middle clutch elements (451, 452) are free-wheeling. Torque is here transferred from the first outer carrier (103) to the second shaft (72a).

[0023] In Fig. 5b, the second middle clutch element (452) is engaged with the second common clutch element (450), while the second inner clutch element (451) is free-wheeling and the second outer clutch element (453) is disengaged. Torque is here transferred from the first middle carrier (102) to the second shaft (72a).

[0024] In Fig. 5c, the second inner clutch element (451) is engaged with the second common clutch element (450), while the second middle and outer clutch elements (452, 453) are disengaged. Torque is here transferred from the first inner carrier (101) to the second shaft (72a).

[0025] Fig. 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e and 6f illustrate in perspective and partly cut away views, some elements related to the first shift mechanism (30) of an embodiment of the invention.

[0026] Fig. 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, and 7h illustrate in perspective and partly cut away views, some elements related to the second shift mechanism (40) of an embodiment of the invention.

[0027] Fig. 8a and 8b illustrate in perspective views a first inner carrier (101) integrated with the first sun gear (111).

[0028] Fig. 9a and 9b illustrate in perspective views a first middle carrier (102) integrated with the second ring gear (123).

[0029] Fig. 10a and 10b illustrate in perspective views a first outer carrier (103) integrated with the first ring gear (113).

[0030] Fig. 11 illustrates in a perspective view a split hub shell (3) of an embodiment of the invention.

[0031] Fig. 12a, 12b, 12c illustrate in perspective and partly cut-away views the shift axle (2) arranged inside the main shaft (5).

[0032] Fig. 13a and 13b illustrate different positions of the third and fourth clutches (521, 522) of the third shift mechanism (50).

[0033] In Fig. 13a, the third inner clutch element (551) is engaged with the third common clutch element (550), while the fourth first and second clutch elements (552, 553) are free-wheeling. The third shaft (73) is here locked to the second outer carrier (203).

[0034] In Fig. 13b, the third inner clutch element (551) is disengaged from the third common clutch element (550), while the fourth first and second clutch elements (552, 553) are engaged, so that the second outer carrier (203) is locked to the main shaft (5).

EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0035] In the following description, various examples and embodiments of the invention are set forth in order to provide the skilled person with a more thorough understanding of the invention. The specific details described in the context of the various embodiments and with reference to the attached drawings are not intended to be construed as limitations. Rather, the scope of the invention is defined in the appended claims.

[0036] Most of the embodiments described below are indexed. In addition, dependent embodiments defined in relation to the numbered embodiments are described. Unless otherwise specified, any embodiment that can be combined with one or more numbered embodiments may also be combined directly with any of the dependent embodiments of the numbered embodiment(s) referred to.

[0037] In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, the invention is a multispeed internal gear system (1) comprising a main shaft (5), a hub shell (3) rotatably mounted onto said main shaft (1), a gear mechanisms (4), driven by a cog (8) and in turn driving the hub shell (3). The main shaft (5) is arranged to be fixed to a frame of a vehicle, while the hub shell (5) is arranged to be fixed to a rim of the vehicle.

[0038] A hollow, selectively operable rotatable shift axle (2) is radially arranged within the main shaft (5), and centrally within the shift axle (2) is a tunnel (6) for receiving a slidably mounted through-bolt (not shown), for fixing the main shaft (5) to the frame.

[0039] A first shaft (71) is coaxially and rotatably mounted between the main shaft (5) and the hub shell (3) by means of an inbound first inner bearing (81) between the main shaft (5) and the first shaft (71), and a first outer bearing (82) between the first shaft (71) and the hub shell (3). The cog (8) drives the first shaft (71).

[0040] The gear mechanisms (4) may comprise a first gear section (10) with cascade-coupled first and second epicyclical gear sets (11, 12).

[0041] The first epicyclical gear set (11) comprises a first sun gear, first planetary gears, and a first ring gear (111, 112, 113), and the second epicyclical gear set (11) comprises a second sun gear, second planetary gears, and a second ring gear (121, 122, 123). The first planetary gears (112) are rotatably mounted to a first planet holder (114), and the second planetary gears (122) are rotatably mounted to a second planet holder (124). The

first and second planet holders (114, 124) are concentric with respect to the main shaft (5).

[0042] The second sun gear (121) is non-rotatably fixed to the main shaft (5).

[0043] The first gear section (10) further comprises three concentric carrier elements: a first inner carrier (101), interconnecting the first sun gear (111) with the second planet holder (124), a first middle carrier (102), interconnecting the first planet holder (114) with the second ring gear (123), and a first outer carrier (103), connected to the first ring gear (113).

[0044] The first ring gear (113) is provided as part of the first outer carrier (103), the second ring gear (123) and the first planet holder (114) are provided as part of the first middle carrier (102), and the second planet holder (124) and the first sun gear (111) are provided as part of the first inner carrier (101).

[0045] The three concentric carrier elements (101, 102, 103) rotate with thereinbetween fixed drive ratios around the main shaft (1), where the first outer carrier (103) rotates faster than the first middle carrier (102), and the first middle carrier (102) rotates faster than the first inner carrier (101).

[0046] The second gear section (20) is working as a reduction gear, and comprises a third epicyclical gear set (23), comprising a third sun gear, third planetary gears and a third ring gear (231, 232, 233). The third planetary gears (232) are rotatably mounted to a third planet holder (234), non-rotatably connected to the hub shell (3), transferring the output torque to the wheel connected to the hub shell (3). The third planet holder (234) is concentric with respect to the main shaft (5).

[0047] The first and second gear sections (10, 20) are interconnected by a second shaft (72a), concentrically encircling the main shaft (1), and arranged for transferring torque from any of the first inner, middle or outer carriers (101, 102, 103) to the third sun gear (231), which the second shaft (72a) is non-rotatably connected to.

[0048] In Fig. 1, the gear mechanism (4) is operated by a first, second, and third shift mechanism (30, 40, 50), illustrated partly schematically inside dotted lines.

[0049] The shift axle (2) has first, second, and third radial shift cams (311, 411, 511) arranged circumferentially around the shift axle (2), and operating first, second, and third shift balls (312, 412, 512) radially, through first, second, and third openings (313, 413, 513) in the main shaft (5).

[0050] The height of the first, second, and third radial shift cams (311, 411, 511) vary along the circumference of the shift axle (2) and the cams are thus multilevel. The distance the shift balls (312, 412, 512) are pushed radially therefore depends on the angular position of the shift axle (2). A shift mechanism (9) is arranged to rotate the shift axle (2) to the right position. In Fig. 1a and 1b the interior of the shift mechanism (15) is not shown, but it typically comprises an actuator arranged to rotate the shift axle (2). The shift axle (2) may have a shift wheel (9a), such as a toothed wheel, as illustrated in Fig. 12a, interfacing clutch arms of the actuator. It could also be operated by other means, such as chains belts etc.

[0051] The actual implementation of the first, second, and third shift mechanisms (30, 40, 50) will be explained later, but for illustration purposes, individual, first, inner, middle, and outer clutches (321, 322, 323) have been shown schematically in Fig. 1 for the first shift mechanism (30).

[0052] The first, inner, middle, and outer clutches (321, 322, 323) are arranged to releasably engage the first shaft (71) with the first, second, or third carrier elements (101, 102, 103), respectively. The radial position of the first ball (312) determines which of the first inner, middle, and outer clutches (321, 322, 323) that is/are operated.

[0053] Individual, second inner, middle, and outer clutches (421, 422, 423) have been illustrated in the same way for the second shift mechanism (40).

[0054] The second, inner, middle, and outer clutches (421, 422, 423) are arranged to releasably engage the second shaft (72a) with the first, second, or third carrier elements (101, 102, 103), respectively. The radial position of the second ball (412) determines which of the second inner, middle, and outer clutches (421, 422, 423) that is/are operated.

[0055] Third first and second clutches (521, 522) are illustrated to the right in Fig. 1 for the third shift mechanism (50). The third first and second clutches (521, 522) are configured, in a direct drive mode, to lock the third sun gear (231) to the third ring gear (233). In reduction mode, the connection between third sun gear (231) and the third ring gear (233) is disengaged, where the third ring gear (233) is held stationary with regard to the main shaft (5) and the second gear section (20) is operating with a reduction in gear ratio between the second shaft (72a) and the hub shell (3).

[0056] The actual implementation of the clutches and their operation will now be described in more detail.

[0057] Figure 4a illustrates components of the first shift mechanism (30).

[0058] Some of the components have already been mentioned above, with reference to Fig. 1, such as the stationary main shaft (5), the first shaft (71), rotatably arranged about the main shaft (5), and the shift axle (2). Further, the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103) can be seen. These carriers are also arranged to rotate about the main shaft (5).

[0059] The first shift mechanism (30) comprises on the inbound side a multilevel first inbound clutch element (350) and on the outbound side, first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353). The multilevel first inbound clutch element (350) is here extending radially and integrated with the first shaft (71). The first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353) interact with the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103), respectively. For the understanding of the operation of the clutches, it is important to note how this interaction works.

[0060] First of all, each of the first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353) is rotationally fixed to the corresponding first inner, middle, and outer carrier (101, 102, 103). This has been illustrated in Fig. 4a with the upper parts of clutch elements overlapping the carriers. This means that one of the clutch elements is rotated, the corresponding carrier will rotate and vice-versa.

[0061] However, in the axial direction, the clutch elements are allowed to move a certain distance relative the carrier elements which are fixed in the axial direction relative the main shaft (5).

[0062] The clutch elements are therefore always rotationally fixed to the carriers, but may be axially moved in and out of engagement with the inbound clutch element (350).

[0063] The first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353) are pre-tensioned into engagement by corresponding first inner, middle, and outer resilient members (381, 382, 383) illustrated in Fig. 4a.

[0064] The collection of the multilevel first common clutch element (350) and the first inner clutch element (351) may be said to constitute the first inner clutch (321) illustrated in Fig. 1. Similarly, the collection of the multilevel first inbound clutch element (350) and the first middle clutch element (352) may be said to constitute the first middle clutch (322), and the collection of the multilevel first inbound clutch element (350) and the first outbound outer clutch element (353) may be said to constitute the first outer clutch (323).

[0065] The first inner, middle, and outer clutches (321, 322, 323) are all one-directional dog clutches and the first common clutch element (350) comprises one way first clutch teeth (360) facing towards the first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352,

353), each comprising one way first inner, middle, and outer clutch teeth (361, 362, 363) at non-identical radiuses. The number of clutch teeth may be identical for the clutch elements. Since the teeth are one-way, the first inner, middle, and outer clutch (321, 322, 323) may therefore grip in one rotational direction and freewheel in the opposite direction when in an engaged axial position.

[0066] Further, the first shift mechanism (30) comprises an axially stationary first assist ring (331) and an axially movable first shift ring (341).

[0067] The first assist and first shift rings (331, 341) both have respective first assist and first shift conical surfaces (332, 342) interfacing the first shift ball (312) on axially opposite sides.

[0068] The multilevel first radial shift cam (311) is circumferentially arranged around the shift axle (2), and the first shift ball (312) is resting onto said first radial shift cam (311) within the first opening (313) of the main shaft (5).

[0069] It can also be seen that the first inner clutch element (351) is configured to move axially with the first shift ring (341) in the outbound direction, and the first outbound middle clutch element (352) is configured to move with the first outbound inner clutch element (351) in the same direction. The first inner clutch element (351) and the first shift ring (341) could in an embodiment be provided as a single element.

[0070] The operation of the first shift mechanism will now be explained with reference to Fig. 4a, 4b and 4c. The same reference signs as in Fig. 4a apply to Fig. 4b and 4c.

[0071] Before explaining how the clutches operate, it is important to understand that, due to the design of the multispeed gear system (1), the first outer carrier (103) will always rotate faster than the first middle carrier (102), which will rotate faster than the first inner carrier (101). It is therefore not possible to have more than one clutch element actively driving a carrier at the time.

[0072] In Fig. 4a, the shift axle (2) is positioned so that the first radial shift cam (311) is in its inner position, while the shift axle in Fig. 4b has been rotated to position the first radial shift cam (311) in a middle position. In Fig. 4c the radial shift cam (311) is arranged in an outer position as a result of further rotation of the shift axle (2).

[0073] When the radial shift cam (311) is in the inner position, as illustrated in Fig. 4a, the first shift ball (312) is in the lower position. This allows the inner resilient element to force the first shift ring (341) and the first inner clutch element (351) towards the first inbound clutch element (350). The first inner clutch element (351) is therefore in

engagement with the first common clutch element (350), and can in this case be defined as the driving element, transferring torque from the first shaft (71) to the first inner carrier (101).

[0074] However, the first middle and outer clutch elements (352, 353) are also forced towards the first common clutch element (350), but since they rotate with a higher rotational speed than the first inner clutch element (351), they will freewheel.

[0075] In Fig. 4b, the radial shift cam (311) lifts the first shift ball (312) to a middle position. The first shift ball (312) will abut the assist and shift conical surfaces (332, 342) and force the first assist and shift rings (331, 341) apart. However, since only the first shift ring (341) is movable, the entire axial movement as a result of the radial shift cam (311) lifting the first shift ball (312), has to be taken up by the first shift ring (341).

[0076] Since the first shift ring (341) is axially engaged with the first inner clutch element (351), the first inner clutch element (351) is axially moved out of engagement with the first common clutch element (350) to a disengaged position. The axial force from the shift mechanism has to overcome the force of the first inner resilient element (381). This allows the first middle clutch element (352), that was initially freewheeling, to engage, with the first common clutch element (350) by the help of the first middle resilient element (382), and to become the driving element, transferring torque from the first shaft (71) to the first middle carrier (102). However, the first outer clutch element (353) will still freewheel since it rotates faster than the first middle clutch element (352).

[0077] Moving on to Fig. 4c, the radial shift cam (311) lifts the first shift ball (312) further to an upper position. The first shift ball (312) will force the first assist and shift rings (331, 341) further apart, a movement that has to be taken up by the first shift ring (341) as explained above.

[0078] The first inner clutch element (351) is axially moved further in the outbound direction, and since the first inner clutch element (351) is axially engaged with the first middle clutch element (352), the first middle clutch element (352) is forced out of engagement with the first common clutch element (350) to a disengaged position. The axial force from the shift mechanism has to overcome the force of the first middle resilient element (382). This allows the first outer clutch element (353), that was initially freewheeling, to engage, with the first common clutch element (350) by the help of the first outer resilient element (383), and to become the driving element, transferring torque from the first shaft (71) to the first outer carrier (103).

[0079] As can be seen, the first outbound clutch teeth (361, 362, 363) are arranged to appear to form an axially, relatively planar surface extending relatively perpendicular to the main shaft (5).

[0080] As described above, the first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353) have an axial degree of freedom, so that they can engage and disengage with the axially fixed common clutch element (350) by an axial movement.

[0081] In order to allow this axial movement, the back side of the inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (351, 352, 353), opposite the first outbound clutch teeth (361, 362, 363), comprises first inner, middle, and outer clutch engagement means (371, 372, 373), arranged to rotationally engage with corresponding first inner, middle, and outer carrier engagement means (101a, 102a, 103a) of the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103), respectively. In the illustrated embodiment, the clutch and carrier engagement means are axially directed slots and ears. The reference number have been indicated in Fig. 4b, and in Fig. 4a, 4b and 4c, it can be observed how the clutch and carrier engagement means (371, 372, 373, 101a, 102a, 103a) slide axially relative each other when the clutch is operated and the clutches are freewheeling.

[0082] Figure 5a illustrates components of the second shift mechanism (40).

[0083] Some of the components have already been mentioned above, with reference to Fig. 1, such as the stationary main shaft (5), the first shaft (71), rotatably arranged about the main shaft (5), and the shift axle (2). Further, the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103) can be seen. These carriers are also arranged to rotate about the main shaft (5).

[0084] The second shift mechanism (40) comprises on the inbound side second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453), and on the outbound side a multilevel second common clutch element (450). The multilevel second common clutch element (450) is here extending radially and integrated with the second shaft (72a). The first inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) interact with the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103), respectively. For the understanding of the operation of the clutches, it is important to note how this interaction works.

[0085] First of all, each of the second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) are rotationally fixed to the corresponding carriers. This has been illustrated in Fig. 5a with the upper parts of clutch elements overlapping the carriers. This means that if the clutch element is rotated, the corresponding carrier will rotate and vice-versa.

[0086] However, in the axial direction, the second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) are allowed to move a certain distance relative the respective first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103) which are fixed in the axial direction relative the main shaft (5).

[0087] The second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) of the second shift mechanism (40) are therefore always rotationally fixed to the carriers, but may be axially moved in and out of engagement with the second common clutch element (450).

[0088] The second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) are pre-tensioned into engagement by corresponding second inner, middle, and outer resilient members (481, 482, 483) illustrated in Fig. 5a.

[0089] The collection of the multilevel second common clutch element (450) and the second inner clutch element (451) may be said to constitute the second inner clutch (421) illustrated in Fig. 1. Similarly, the collection of the multilevel second common clutch element (450) and the second middle clutch element (452) may be said to constitute the second middle clutch (422), and the collection of the multilevel second common clutch element (450) and the second outer clutch element (453) may be said to constitute the second outer clutch (423).

[0090] The second inner, middle, and outer clutches (421, 422, 423) are all one-directional dog clutches and the second common clutch element (450) comprises one way second clutch teeth (460) facing towards the second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453), each comprising an identical number of corresponding one way second inner, middle, and outer clutch teeth (461, 462, 463) at non-identical radiuses. Since the teeth are one-way, the second inner, middle, and outer clutches (421, 422, 423) may therefore grip in one rotational direction and freewheel in the opposite direction when in an engaged axial position.

[0091] Further, the second shift mechanism (40) comprises an axially stationary second assist ring (431) and an axially movable second shift ring (441).

[0092] The second assist and shift rings (431, 441) both have respective second assist and shift conical surfaces (432, 442) interfacing the second shift ball (412) on axially opposite sides.

[0093] The multilevel second radial shift cam (411) is circumferentially arranged around the shift axle (2), and the second shift ball (412) is resting onto said second radial shift cam (411) within the second opening (413) of the main shaft (5).

[0094] The second outer clutch element (453) is configured to move axially with the second shift ring (441) away from the second common clutch element (450) when operated. Further, the second middle clutch element (452) is configured to move with the second outer clutch element (453) in the same direction. The second outer clutch element (453) and the second shift ring (441) could in an embodiment be provided as a single element.

[0095] The operation of the second shift mechanism will now be explained with reference to Fig. 5a, 5b and 5c. The same reference signs as in Fig. 5a apply to Fig. 5b and 5c, and vice-versa.

[0096] Where the first shift mechanism (30) is on the inward side of the first gear section (10), the inward clutches, i.e. the first inner, middle or outer clutches (321, 322, 323) are driving the corresponding carrier. However on the outward side of the first gear section (10), it is opposite, and it is the carriers that drive the corresponding second inner, middle or outer clutches (421, 422, 423) of the second shift mechanism (40). As stated above for the first shift mechanism, the first outer carrier (103) will always rotate faster than the first middle carrier (102) which will rotate faster than the first inner carrier (101). It is therefore not possible to have more than one carrier actively driving a clutch element at the time.

[0097] However, in order to obtain transmission of torque through the second shift mechanism (40), the clutches operate differently from the first gear mechanism (30). In the first shift mechanism (30), the first middle and outer clutch elements (352, 353) were freewheeling when the first inner clutch element (351) was the driving element. In the second shift mechanism (40), it is opposite. Here, the second inner and middle clutch elements (451, 452) are freewheeling when the second outer clutch element (453) is the driving element.

[0098] In order to obtain this, the second shift mechanism (40) comprises an axially movable second shift element (410), axially engaged with the second outer clutch element (453), but free to move axially relative the second inner and middle clutch elements (451, 452), indicated by the dashed line in Fig. 5a, 5b and 5c.

[0099] In Fig. 5a, the shift axle (2) is positioned so that the second radial shift cam (411) is in its inner position, while the shift axle (2) in Fig. 5b has been rotated to position the second radial shift cam (411) in a middle position. In Fig. 5c the second radial shift cam (411) is arranged in an outer position as a result of further rotation of the shift axle (2).

[0100] When the second radial shift cam (411) is in the inner position, as illustrated in Fig. 5a, the second shift ball (412) is in the lower position. This allows the second outer resilient element (483) to force the second outer clutch element (453) towards the second common clutch element (450). The second outer clutch element (453) is therefore in engagement with the second common clutch element (450), and can in this case be defined as the driving element, transferring torque from the outer carrier (103) to the second shaft (72a).

[0101] However, the second middle and inner clutch elements (452, 451) are also forced towards the second common clutch element (450) by their respective second middle and inner resilient elements (482, 481), but they will freewheel.

[0102] In Fig. 5b, the second radial shift cam (411) is rotated and lifts the second shift ball (412) to a middle position. The second shift ball (412) will abut the second assist and shift conical surfaces (432, 442) and force the second assist and second shift rings (431, 441) apart. However, since only the second shift ring (441) is movable, the entire axial movement, as a result of the second radial shift cam (411) lifting the second shift ball (412), has to be taken up by the second shift ring (441).

[0103] The second shift element (410) is axially movable and engaged with the second shift ring (441). When the second shift ring (441) is moved axially, it will force the second outer clutch element (453) out of engagement from the second common clutch element (450) to a disengaged position. The axial force from the shift mechanism has to overcome the force of the second outer resilient element (483). This allows the second middle clutch element (452), that was initially freewheeling, to engage with the second common clutch element (450), by the help of the second middle resilient element (482), and to become the driving element, transferring torque from the first middle carrier (102) to the second shaft (72a). However, the second inner clutch element (451) will still freewheel.

[0104] Moving on to Fig. 5c, the second radial shift cam (411) lifts the second shift ball (412) further to an upper position. The second shift ball (412) will force the second assist and shift rings (431, 441) further apart, a movement that has to be taken up by the second shift ring (441) as explained above.

[0105] The second shift element (410) will force the second outer clutch element (453) further away from engagement, and since the second outer clutch element (453) is axially engaged with the second middle clutch element (452), the second middle clutch element (452) is forced out of engagement from the second common clutch element (450), to a disengaged position.

[0106] The axial force from the shift mechanism has to overcome the force of the second middle resilient element (482). This allows the second inner clutch element (451), that was initially freewheeling, to engage with the second common clutch element (450) by the help of the second outer resilient element (483), and to become the driving element, transferring torque from the first inner carrier (101) to the second shaft (72a).

[0107] As described above, the second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453) have an axial degree of freedom, so that they can engage and disengage with the axially fixed second common clutch element (450) by an axial movement.

[0108] In order to allow this axial movement, the back side of the second inner, middle, and outer clutch elements (451, 452, 453), opposite the second outbound clutch teeth (461, 462, 463), comprises second inner, middle, and outer clutch engagement means (471, 472, 373), arranged to rotationally engage with corresponding second inner, middle, and outer carrier engagement means (101b, 102b, 103b) of the first inner, middle, and outer carriers (101, 102, 103), respectively.

[0109] In the illustrated embodiment, the clutch and carrier engagement means are axially directed slots and ears. The reference numbers have been indicated in Fig. 5b, and in Fig. 5a, 5b and 5c, it can be observed how the clutch and carrier engagement means (471, 472, 473, 101b, 102b, 103b) slide axially relative each other when the clutch is operated and the clutches are freewheeling.

[0110] The third shift mechanism (50), shifting the second gear section (20), comprises a third clutch (521) and a fourth clutch (522) as seen in Fig. 1a. The third clutch (521) is operable between an engaged and disengaged state, and the fourth clutch (522) is an always engaged clutch freewheeling in non-torque-transferring direction.

[0111] In the same way as for the first and second shift mechanisms (30, 40), the third shift mechanism (50) has a third radial shift cam (511), operating a third shift ball (512).

[0112] In Fig. 13a and 13b, more details about the third shift mechanism are illustrated: the stationary main shaft (5), the third shaft (73) rotatably arranged about the main shaft (5), the shift axle (2), the third radial shift cam (511) and the third shift ball (512), described previously. The third radial shift cam (511) operates the third shift ball (512) through the third opening (513) in the main shaft (5).

[0113] The collection of the third assist clutch element (550) and third shift clutch element (551) may be said to constitute the third clutch (521), and the collection of the fourth shift clutch element (553) and fourth assist clutch element (552) may be said to constitute the fourth clutch (522) illustrated in Fig. 1.

[0114] The third and fourth clutches (521, 522) are both one-directional dog clutches and the third assist clutch element (550) comprises one way assist clutch teeth (560) as illustrated e.g. in Fig. 7h, facing towards the third shift clutch element (551), comprising in an embodiment an identical number of corresponding one way third shift clutch teeth (561). Likewise, the fourth shift clutch element (553) comprises one way fourth shift clutch teeth (563) facing towards the fourth shift clutch element (552), comprising in an embodiment an identical number of corresponding one way fourth shift clutch teeth (562). Since the teeth are one-way, the third and fourth clutches (521, 522) may therefore grip in one rotational direction and freewheel in the opposite direction when in an engaged position.

[0115] In this case the third assist clutch element (550) is integrated with the third shaft (73) and the third sun gear (231), and axially fixed relative the main shaft (5). The second outer carrier (203) is rotationally fixed to the third ring gear (233), as illustrated in Fig. 1. The fourth shift clutch element (552) is axially fixed relative the main shaft (5).

[0116] The third shift clutch element (551) and the fourth shift clutch element (553) are rotationally fixed to the second outer carrier (203). This is illustrated in Fig. 13a and 13b as the upper parts of said clutch elements are overlapping the second outer carrier (203) in the illustration. This means that if the third shift clutch element (551) or the fourth shift clutch element (553) are rotated, the third ring gear (233) will rotate along with them and vice versa. The third shift clutch element (551) is configured to move axially in and out of engagement with its corresponding counterpart, the third assist clutch element (550), while the fourth shift clutch element (553) is arranged to either be engaged with – or freewheel with respect to the fourth assist clutch element (552).

[0117] Both the third second clutch element (551) and the fourth first clutch element (552) are pretensioned into engagement by a third resilient element (581).

[0118] Further, the third shift mechanism (50) comprises an axially stationary third assist ring (531) and an axially movable third shift ring (541).

The third assist and shift rings (531, 541) have respective third assist and shift conical surfaces (532, 542) interfacing the third shift ball (512) on axially opposite sides.

[0119] The multilevel third radial shift cam (511) is circumferentially arranged around the shift axle (2), and the third shift ball (512) is resting onto said third radial shift cam (511) within the third opening (513) of the main shaft (5).

[0120] The operation of the third shift mechanism will now be explained with reference to Fig. 13a and 13b. The same reference signs as in Fig. 13a apply to Fig. 13b.

[0121] In Fig. 13a, the shift axle (2) is positioned so that the third radial shift cam (511) is in its inner position, while the shift axle (2) in Fig. 13b has been rotated to position the third radial shift cam (511) in an outer position.

[0122] When the third radial shift cam (511) is in the inner position, as illustrated in Fig. 13a, the third shift ball (512) is in the lower position. This allows the third resilient element (581) to force the third second shift ring (541) and the third second clutch element (551) towards the third first clutch element (550). The third second clutch element (551) is therefore in engagement with the third first clutch element (550), and can in this case be defined as the driving element, transferring torque from the third shaft (73) to the third ring gear (233). However, in the fourth clutch (522) the fourth first clutch element (552) is also forced towards the third second clutch elements (553), but it will freewheel. In this position, the third shift mechanism (50) is in direct drive mode.

[0123] In Fig. 13b, the third radial shift cam (511) lifts the third shift ball (512) to an upper position. The third shift ball (512) will abut the third first and second conical surfaces (532, 542) and force the third first and third second shift rings (531, 541) apart. However, since only the third second shift ring (541) is movable, the entire axial movement as a result of the third radial shift cam (511) lifting the third shift ball (512), has to be taken up by the third second shift ring (541). Since the third second shift ring (541) is axially engaged with the third second clutch element (551), the third second clutch element (551) is axially moved out of engagement from the third first clutch element (550) to a disengaged position. The axial force from the shift mechanism has to overcome the force of the third resilient element (581).

[0124] In this situation, the third sun gear (231) is no longer driving the third outer carrier (203) and the fourth clutch (522) will stop freewheeling and go into engagement. In this position, the third shift mechanism (50) is in reduction drive mode.

[0125] In the following, a number of embodiments with prefix EG of the multi speed gear system are disclosed.

[0126] In a first independent embodiment; EG-1, the multi speed gear system (1) comprises a gear mechanism (4) comprising;

- a main shaft (5);
- a hollow first shaft (71) and a hollow second shaft (72a, 72b), both axially stationary and rotatably arranged about the main shaft (5);
- an epicyclical first gear section (10) arranged about the main shaft (5) between the first and second shafts (71, 72), and comprising two radially stacked carrier elements (101, 102), and

- a first shift mechanism (30) arranged between the first shaft (71) and the first gear section (10), and configured to rotationally engage the first shaft (71) with either of the two radially stacked carriers (101, 102), wherein the first shift mechanism (30) comprises two first clutches (321, 322) radially stacked about the main shaft (5).

[0127] EG-2. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-1, wherein the first gear section (10) comprises first and second epicyclical gear sets (11, 12).

[0128] EG-3. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-2, wherein the first and second epicyclical gear sets (11, 12) comprise respective first and second sun gears (111, 121), planetary gears (112, 122) and ring gears (113, 123).

[0129] EG-4. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-3, wherein the inner carrier (101) interconnects the first sun gear (111) and a second planet holder (124) holding the second planetary gears (122).

[0130] EG-5. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-3 or EG-4, wherein the middle carrier (102) interconnects a first planet holder (114) holding the first planetary gears (112) and the second ring gear (123).

[0131] EG-6. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 or EG-5, wherein an outer carrier (103) interconnects the second clutch members of the first and second outer clutches (323, 423) and the first ring gear (113).

[0132] EG-7. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 or EG-6, comprising a second gear section (20) connected to the second shaft (72a, 72b).

[0133] EG-8. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 or EG-7, wherein the two first clutches (321, 322) have first and second interfacing clutch members, respectively, wherein the first clutch member of the two first clutches (321, 322) are fixed to the first shaft (71) and arranged to remain axially stationary relative the main shaft (5), and the second clutch members of the two first clutches (321, 322), are rotatably connected to the two radially stacked carriers (101, 102), respectively.

[0134] EG-9. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-8, wherein the first clutch members of the two first clutches (321, 322) is an integrated, first common clutch element (350).

[0135] EG-10. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-9, wherein the first common clutch element (350) is integrated with the first shaft (71).

[0136] EG-11. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 to EG-10, wherein the multi speed gear system (1) comprises;

- a second shift mechanism (40) arranged between the first gear section (10) and the second shaft (72a, 72b) configured to rotationally engage the second shaft (72a, 72b) with either of the two radially stacked carriers (101, 102), wherein
- the second shift mechanism (40) comprises two second clutches (421, 422) radially stacked about the main shaft (5).

[0137] EG-12. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-11, wherein the two second clutches (421, 422) have first and second interfacing clutch members, respectively, wherein the first clutch members of the two second clutches (421, 422) are fixed to the second shaft (72a, 72b) and arranged to remain axially stationary relative the main shaft (5), and the second clutch members of the two second clutches (421, 422), are rotatably connected to the two radially stacked carriers (101, 102), respectively.

[0138] EG-13. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-11 or EG-12, wherein the first clutch members of the two first clutches (421, 422) is an integrated, second common clutch element (450).

[0139] EG-14. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-11 or EG-13, wherein the second common clutch element (450) is integrated with the second shaft (72a, 72b).

[0140] EG-15. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-11 or EG-14, wherein the second clutch members are axially separated, with the radially inner clutch member extending more in the direction of the first clutch member than the radially inner clutch member.

[0141] EG-16. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-11 to EG-15, wherein the second shift mechanism (40) comprises an axially movable second shift element (410), configured to shift the outer of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position without axially moving the inner clutch member.

[0142] EG-17. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-16, wherein the second common clutch element (450) comprises a radially extending shift opening (409) through the first clutch members, arranged to host the second shift element (410), wherein the second shift element (410) is arranged in the shift opening (409) between the second common clutch element (450) and the first clutch members.

[0143] EG-18. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 to EG-17, wherein the main shaft (5) is hollow in the axial direction.

[0144] EG-19. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-18, wherein a sun gear (121) of the epicyclical first gear section (10) is integrated with the main shaft (5).

[0145] EG-20. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-18 or 19, wherein the outer diameter of the sun gear (121) of the epicyclical first gear section (10) is equal to or smaller than the outer diameter of the main shaft (5) in the cross section of the first shift mechanism (30).

[0146] EG-21. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-18 to EG-20, wherein the main shaft (5) is configured to interface frame ends of a frame of a pedally propelled vehicle and carry loads from the frame.

[0147] EG-22. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-18 to EG-21, wherein the multi speed gear system (1) comprises a shift axle (2) arranged inside the main shaft (5), and configured to operate the first and/or second shift mechanism (30, 40) when shift axle (2) is rotated relative the main shaft (5).

[0148] EG-23. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-22, wherein the shift axle (2) is tubular and configured to receive a through bolt (7).

[0149] EG-24. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-22 to EG-23, wherein the main shaft (5) comprises shaft ends (5a, 5b) with smaller inner diameter than the inner diameter of the shift axle (2), wherein the shift axle (2) is configured to rotate inside the main shaft (5) when the main shaft (5) is fixed to a vehicle frame with a through bolt (7).

[0150] EG-25. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-22 to EG-24, wherein the shift axle (2) comprises first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) configured to be press-fit together.

[0151] EG-26. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-22 to EG-25, wherein the first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) comprises respective interlocking lock members (2d, 2e), arranged to enter into rotational lock with each other when the first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) are press fit-together in a specific relative rotational position.

[0152] EG-27. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-25 to EG-26, wherein any of the first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) comprises a guide region (2c) configured to guide the first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) concentrically, and allowing relative rotation while they are concentrically guided by the guide region, before they are press-fit together.

[0153] EG-28. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-25 to EG-27, wherein the first and second shift axle members (2a, 2b) are configured to be entered into opposite ends of the main shaft (5) before press-fit together inside the main shaft (5).

[0154] EG-29. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-22 to EG-28, wherein the shift axle (2) comprises a radial first shift cam (311) with multiple radial levels, wherein each level has a specific radius.

[0155] EG-30. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-29, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) is arranged to translate a radial motion of the first radial shift cam (311) into axial movement of the of the first clutch member of the first inner clutch (321).

[0156] EG-31. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-29 to EG-30, wherein the first shift cam (311) has three cam levels.

[0157] EG-32. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-29 to EG-31, wherein the lowest cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through the first inner clutch (321), the middle cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through the first middle clutch (322) and the outer cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through a first outer clutch (323).

[0158] EG-33. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-22 to EG-32, wherein the shift axle (2) comprises a radial second shift cam (411) with multiple levels, wherein each level has a specific radius.

[0159] EG-34. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-33, wherein the second shift mechanism (40) is arranged to translate a radial motion of the second radial shift cam (411) into axial movement of the of the first clutch member of the first middle clutch (422).

[0160] EG-35. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-33 to EG-34, wherein the second shift cam (411) has three levels.

[0161] EG-36. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-35, wherein the lowest cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through a second outer clutch (423), the middle cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through the second middle clutch (422) and the outer cam level corresponds to transmission of torque through the second inner clutch (421).

[0162] In the next sections, embodiments related to the shifting mechanism will be disclosed.

[0163] EG-37. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-29 to EG-32, wherein the main shaft (5) comprises a first opening (313) and the multilevel first radial shift cam (311) is arranged to operate the first shift mechanism (30) through the first opening (313).

[0164] EG-38. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-37, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) comprises a first shift ball (312) arranged in the first opening (313), wherein the multilevel first radial shift cam (311) is arranged to operate the first shift ball (312) radially.

[0165] EG-39. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-37 to EG-38, the first shift mechanism (30) comprises a first assist ring (331) and a first shift ring (341) arranged on opposite sides of the first shift ball (312), wherein the first shift ring (341) have a first shift conical surface (342) towards the first shift ball (312), and the first shift ball (312) is configured to move the first shift ring (341) axially when the first shift ball (312) is pressed radially against the conical surface.

[0166] EG-40. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-37 to EG-39, wherein the first shift ring (341) is interfacing the inner of the second clutch members and is arranged to operate the inner of the second clutch members axially when the first radial shift cam (311) moves from a lower to a higher level.

[0167] EG-41. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-37 to EG-40, wherein the inner of the second clutch members is interfacing the outer of the second clutch members, and is arranged to operate the outer of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position. when the first radial shift cam (311) moves from a middle to an outer level.

[0168] EG-42. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-37 to EG-41, wherein the inner of the second clutch members is interfacing the outer of the second clutch members, and is arranged to operate the outer of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position when the first radial shift cam (311) moves from an lower to a higher level.

[0169] EG-43. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-33 to EG-36, wherein the main shaft (5) comprises a second opening (413) and the multilevel second radial shift cam (411) is arranged to operate the second shift mechanism (40) through the second opening (413).

[0170] EG-44. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-43, wherein the second shift mechanism (40) comprises a second shift ball (412) arranged in the second opening (413),

wherein the multilevel second radial shift cam (411) is arranged to operate the second shift ball (411) radially.

[0171] EG-45. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-44, wherein the second shift mechanism (40) comprises a second assist ring (431) and a second shift ring (441) arranged on opposite sides of the second shift ball (412), wherein the second shift ring (441) have a second shift conical surface (442) towards the second shift ball (411), and the second shift ball (412) is configured to move the second shift ring (441) axially when the second shift ball (412) is pressed radially against the second shift conical surface (442).

[0172] EG-46. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-45, wherein the second shift ring (441) is interfacing the second shift element (410), configured to operate the outer of the second clutch members axially when the second radial shift cam (411) moves from an inner to a middle level.

[0173] EG-47. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-43 to EG-46, wherein the outer of the second clutch members is interfacing the inner of the second clutch members, and is arranged to operate the inner of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position when the second radial shift cam (411) moves from a middle to an outer level.

[0174] EG-48. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-43 to EG-47, wherein the multilevel second radial shift cam (411) is arranged to operate the second shift mechanism (40) through the second opening (413), wherein the second shift element (410) is interfacing the outer of the second clutch members, and is arranged to operate the outer of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position when the second radial shift cam (411) moves from a lower to a higher level.

[0175] EG-49. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 to EG-48, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) comprises a first outer clutch (323) with first and second clutch members, wherein the first outer clutch is radially arranged outside the first inner and middle clutches (321, 322).

[0176] EG-50. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-11 to EG-17, wherein the second shift mechanism (40) comprises a second outer clutch (423) with first and second clutch members, wherein the second outer clutch (423) is radially arranged outside the second inner and middle clutches (421, 422).

[0177] EG-51. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 to EG-50, wherein the two radially stacked carrier elements are inner and middle carrier elements (101, 102) and the

multi speed gear system (1) further comprises an outer carrier element (103) arranged radially outside the middle carrier element (102).

[0178] EG-52. The multi speed gear system (1) of EG-51, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) is configured to releasably rotationally engage the first shaft (71) from the outer carrier element (103).

[0179] EG-53. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-51 to EG-52, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) is configured to releasably rotationally engage the second shaft (72a, 72b) with the outer carrier element (103).

[0180] EG-54. The multi speed gear system (1) of any of EG-1 to EG-54, wherein the first shift mechanism (30) comprises an axially movable first shift element, configured to shift the first and/or middle of the second clutch members axially from an engaged position to a disengaged position. The first shift element may be ring shaped and similar in function to the second shift element (410).

[0181] The following terms may be replaced by alternative terms in the application:

- the first clutch member of the first inner clutch (321) may be the inner radial level of the first common clutch element (350).
- the first clutch member of the first middle clutch (322) may be the middle radial level of the first common clutch element (350).
- the first clutch member of the first outer clutch (323) may be the outer radial level of the first common clutch element (350).
- the first clutch member of the second inner clutch (421) may be the inner radial level of the second common clutch element (450).
- the first clutch member of the second middle clutch (422) may be the middle radial level of the second common clutch element (450).
- the first clutch member of the second outer clutch (423) may be the outer radial level of the second common clutch element (450).
- the second clutch member of the first inner clutch (321) may be the first inner clutch element (351).
- the second clutch member of the first middle clutch (322) may be the first middle clutch element (352).

- the second clutch member of the first outer clutch (323) may be the first outer clutch element (353).
- the second clutch member of the second inner clutch (421) may be the second inner clutch element (451).
- the second clutch member of the second middle clutch (422) may be the second middle clutch element (452).

[0182] - the second clutch member of the second outer clutch (423) may be the second outer clutch element (453).

[0183] In the exemplary embodiments, various features and details are shown in combination. The fact that several features are described with respect to a particular example should not be construed as implying that those features by necessity have to be included together in all embodiments of the invention.