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PATENT SPECIFICATION

Convention Date (Italy) : Jan. 22, 1926.

264,877

Application Date (in United Kingdom) : Jan. 24, 1927. No. 2033 / 27.

Complete Accepted : July 14, 1927.



COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Motor Vehicles.

I, VINCENZO LANCIA, an Italian subject, sole owner, trading as LANCIA & C., of 99, Via Monginevro, Turin, Italy, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

5 This invention relates to motor vehicles in which the casing containing the transmission gear of the rear axle is displaced relatively to the axis of the vehicle so that seats may be disposed on either side of the vehicle to provide a central gangway, the aim of the invention being to lower the floor of the vehicle as much as possible.

10 It has been proposed to place the differential gear of the rear axle near one of the wheels, the rotary motion of the driving shaft being transmitted to the said gear by a shaft which is inclined relatively to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle. This inclined shaft passes under one of the longitudinal members of the chassis so that the clearance between the latter and the ground is relatively large, with the result that the floor of the body is not as low as it might be.

20 According to the present invention the driving unit is disposed, as usual, in the centre line of the vehicle and the casing in which the transmission gear of the rear axle is enclosed, is located between the side members of the vehicle chassis and close to the inner face of one of said members, the said gear being connected to the driving unit by a shaft which is inclined relatively to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle. Thus the centre of the chassis above the rear axle is clear and the clearance between the ground and the chassis may be as small as desired, with the consequence that the

vehicle may be fitted with a body having a central gangway and a very low slung floor.

On the accompanying drawing there is shown by way of example a plan of a chassis of a motor vehicle according to this invention.

1 is a chassis frame arranged on wheels 2 and 3 and having at its front end the engine which drives the rear axle 4 by means of the usual transmission gear. In accordance with this invention said gear, enclosed in casing 5, is located at one end of the rear axle 4 and adjacent a side member of the chassis, and it is driven from the change speed gear, which is located in the intermediate portion of the vehicle, by means of an inclined transmission shaft 6.

In this manner the transmission gear casing being located on one side of the chassis, the floor of the body may be lowered without producing an obstruction in the intermediate portion where a passage must be provided between the seats arranged at the two sides, and such a result is obtained while using for the change speed gear the customary construction and arranging it in the central portion of the vehicle.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. An arrangement of parts for motor vehicles such that the latter may be fitted with a body having a central gangway and a floor located very near the ground, in which the driving unit is centrally mounted in the vehicle characterised in that the casing containing the transmission gear of the rear axle is mounted between the side members of the vehicle chassis and close to one of the said mem-

bers the said gear being connected to the driving unit by a shaft inclined relatively to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

- 5 2. The arrangement of parts for motor vehicles substantially as described or substantially as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 24th day of January, 1927.

VINCENZO LANCIA, trading as 10
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[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

