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Description

The present invention relates to an electrical connector assembly in combination with conductors of a multiconductor cable capable of providing a connector in a daisy chain configuration on a cable and to a method of terminating either conductors of a multiconductor flat cable, or conductors of a multiple conductor round cable, to the connector assembly in a daisy chain configuration.

Connectors for terminating a flat ribbon cable in a daisy chain configuration are known. Typical connectors for terminating a ribbon style cable in a daisy chain configuration are shown in U.S. Patents 4,068,912, 4,410,229 and 4,668,039. These connectors are designed to terminate ribbon cable to a connector having receptacle contacts for reception on a corresponding array of square posts.

A pin and socket connector is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,062,616, 4,241,970 and RE 32,439 capable of terminating a flat ribbon cable in a daisy chain configuration. These patents disclose connectors having contacts that terminate to a single array of conductors which permits a ribbon cable to be terminated to contacts secured in the connector, then pass through the connector to continue in the daisy chain configuration. High density connectors, such as the AMPLIMITE .050 Series connector sold by the assignee, typically have contacts with insulation displacement cable terminating sections in two, oppositely-facing arrays which do not permit terminating a ribbon cable in the manner of the connectors disclosed in the above patents.

There is disclosed in Japanese patent application 61-074100 a cable for a daisy chain connector.

A ribbon cable may be folded over with the conductors of the cable terminated to two arrays of contacts. A first portion of the conductors of a cable is terminated in staggered terminals on a first level and the remaining conductors are terminated to spaced contacts on a second level, as taught by U.S. Patent Number 4,143,935. This approach, however, is not suited to daisy chain applications as it does not permit the cable to be received from a previous connector in the daisy chain configuration at a first side of a terminating connector and pass from a second side of the terminating connector to a subsequent connector in the daisy chain configuration. Furthermore, another problem is introduced: the pin assignments between the cable conductor and contacts is very limited and may not be consistent, depending upon how the conductors of the folded cable are oriented with respect to the two levels of contacts at each connector.

The insulation that interconnects conductors of a ribbon cable is split, parallel to the axis of the conductors, midway between conductors for a limited length along the cable. Alternate conductors or groups of conductors, as split out of the cable, are formed into a first loop, with the remaining alternate conductors or groups of conductors, as split out of the cable, formed into a second loop. A connector housing having two arrays of insulation displacing contacts is positioned between the conductors forming the two loops with the insulation displacing portion of the contacts oriented to terminate to the conductors forming the loops. A cable terminating cover is inserted through each of the first and second loops of conductors. The conductors are positioned in respective fluted recesses in a respective cable terminating cover in accordance with a desired conductor-to-contact relationship. The cable terminating covers are positioned with interengaging legs facing each other. The conductors are terminated to the insulation displacing portion of the contacts in the connector housing by pressing the cable terminating covers together. Strain relief may be provided.

According to one aspect thereof the present invention consists in an electrical connector assembly as defined in claim 1.

US-A-4 026 616 discloses a connector assembly according to the preamble of claim 1.

According to another aspect thereof the present invention consists in a method as defined in claim 6.

FIGURE 1 is a side sectional view of a connector with backshell and backshell cover removed in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, positioned to be terminated on a ribbon cable or round cable;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of a ribbon cable showing how the conductors are split out to form the loops required for daisy chain termination;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the split cable of Figure 2 having two loops formed therein;

FIGURE 4 is a sectional side view of the connector of Figure 1 terminated to the cable in a daisy chain configuration;

FIGURE 5 is a side view of the connector of Figure 4 taken along lines 5-5;

FIGURE 6 is a bottom end view of the connector of Figure 1 taken along lines 6-6;

FIGURE 7 is a top end view of the connector of Figure 1 taken along lines 7-7;

FIGURE 8 shows a series of connectors, such as the connector in Figure 1, terminated in a daisy chain configuration on a ribbon cable; and

FIGURE 9 is an alternate embodiment showing a series of connectors terminated on a round multiple conductor cable in a daisy chain configuration.

Figure 1 depicts a side sectional view of an electrical connector 10 having two arrays of insula-

tion displacement contacts capable of terminating conductors of a multiple conductor cable to a pin or socket type connector in a daisy chain configuration in accordance with the present invention. Connector 10 is an improvement over the connector disclosed in copending Application Serial No. 090,296 filed August 31, 1987, (corresponding to EP-A-0 331 688 publ. 13.09.89). The preferred embodiment shows a shielded plug connector, however, the invention has application to other connectors such as unshielded connectors and receptacle connectors. Drawn shell 12 shields tabs 14 of contact 16 and engages shielding of a complementary connector when mated thereto.

Elongate housing 20 is molded of thermoplastic material having a mating face 22 and opposing rear face 24 and a plurality of contact receiving passages 26 extending therebetween. Mating face 22 may provide a polarization feature by having a trapezoidal or subminiature-D shape. Shell 12 surrounds mating face 22 and conforms to the shape of housing 20. Shell 12 extends forward of mating face 22 and provides shielding for contacts 16. Contact receiving passages 26 are arranged in two rows 27,29 and have contacts 16 secured therein. Contacts 16 are secured in contact receiving passages 26 by barbs 28 which plow through the sidewalls of contact receiving passages 26 upon insertion of contact 16, thereby securing contacts 16 by an interference fit.

Contact 16 includes central body portion 30 securingly received in contact receiving passages 26, with a mating portion, shown in the preferred embodiment as tab 14, extending from a first side thereof. A terminating portion 32 extends from another side of body portion 30 and has on its free end a slotted insulation displacing plate 34 as is known in the art. Due to the relatively small size of connector 10 relative to the centerline spacing of contacts 16, adjacent contacts 16 in each row 27,29 have terminating portions 32 of different lengths to provide space for insulation displacing plates 34 with the result that insulation displacing plates 34 form two rows 35,37 on each side of terminal support block 36.

Terminal support block 36 extends rearward from rear face 24 between the two rows 27,29 of contact receiving passages 26 at least as far as terminating portions 32, defining surfaces 42,44 and having apertures 38 (see Figure 6) at opposite ends thereof. Apertures 38 have axes that are parallel with insulation displacing plates 34. Insulation displacing plates 34 in rows 27 and 29 have conductor receiving slots 40 that are opposed and open facing away from surfaces 42,44. During termination of conductors 48 to contacts 16, insulation displacing plates 34 bear on respective surfaces 42,44 of block 36.

An electrical connector 10 in accordance with the present invention may be terminated to either multiple conductor ribbon cable or multiple conductor round cable. To terminate connector 10 to a multiple conductor jacketed or shielded cable, the jacket 47 or shielding 49 are stripped back or removed through the length of limited segment 50.

To terminate connector 10 to multiple conductor ribbon cable 46 having individual conductors 48 on spaced centerlines, the insulation between adjacent conductors 48 is first split axially along a limited segment 50 of ribbon cable 46, as best seen in Figure 2. Typically, a split 49 is made between all adjacent conductors 48 so that individual conductors 48 may be terminated to specific contacts 16 thereby permitting a specific conductor-to-contact assignment to be maintained and repeated along the daisy chain configuration. This also permits terminating a ribbon cable 46 having conductors 48 on a first spacing to the insulation displacing plate 34 of contacts 16, the slots 40 of which are of a second spacing that may range from greater than to less than the first spacing.

Conductors 48 are formed into two loops as shown in Figure 3 through the limited segment 50 of cable 46. A first loop 52 of conductors is formed of conductors 48a between the centerline 50c and end 50a of segment 50. A second loop 54 of conductors is formed of conductors 48b between the centerline 50c and end 50b of segment 50. Each conductor 48 is typically formed into only one of the two loops 52,54 of conductors; however, a conductor 48 could be formed into each of loops 52 and 54 and terminated on a contact 16 in each row of passages 27,29, thus being terminated on both sides of connector 10 or not terminated on a particular connector thus bypassing it to be terminated on another connector in a daisy chain configuration.

In a preferred embodiment, every other conductor 48 is formed into loop 52 with the alternate conductors 48 formed into loop 54. The preferred embodiment thus provides a very convenient method of terminating ribbon cable with conductors of a first spacing to contacts having insulation displacing slots of a second spacing where the spacing of the contacts 16 is twice as great as the spacing of conductors 48 in ribbon cable 46. Thus, as shown in Figure 4, conductors 48a are formed into loop 52 and conductors 48b are formed into loop 54. As conductors 48 are moved out of the plane of ribbon cable 46, the non-split portions of ribbon cable 46 are pulled, axially along the conductors, to be closer together. The end result and loops 52,54 are best seen in Figure 1 with cable terminating covers 56,58 in a pretermination position, and in Figure 4 with cable terminating covers 56,58 in a terminated position.

Any combination of dividing the conductors of a multiple conductor cable into a first group of conductors to form a first loop and a second group of conductors to form a second loop such that the conductors can continue in a daisy chain configuration with a predetermined conductor-to-contact assignment or a dressing are contemplated within the scope of the invention. Although the preferred embodiment discloses forming every other conductor into a first loop and the alternate conductors into a second loop, the invention is not limited thereto. For example, in going across a ten conductor cable, the first, third, fourth, ninth and tenth conductors may be formed into a first loop while the remaining conductors are formed into a second loop.

With conductors 48 of a ribbon cable split out or with the outer jacket 47 removed from a round multiple conductor cable, conductor-to-contact assignments are very flexible providing a wide range of possible conductor-to-contact assignments. Although in a ribbon cable application the first conductor 48 in a transverse path across the ribbon cable is terminated to the first contact 16 in a transverse path across the row 29 of contacts across a surface 42 of terminal support block 36, the third conductor 48 in the transverse path across the ribbon cable (second conductor 48 in loop 52) is terminated to the second contact 16 in a transverse path across the row of contacts across a surface 42 of terminal support block 36, the fifth conductor 48 in the transverse path across the ribbon cable (third conductor in loop 52) is terminated to the third contact 16 in a transverse path across the row of contacts across a surface 42 of terminal support block 36, etc. The invention is not limited thereto. Any conductor-to-contact assignment is contemplated within the invention. The use of a round cable with color coded insulation on the individual conductors may have some advantage in more complex conductor-to-contact assignments due to the ease of identifying conductors by the color code. The conductors of a twisted pair cable can be terminated maintaining the two conductors of a twisted pair on adjacent contacts.

With loops 52 and 54 formed, cable terminating covers 56,58 respectively are passed axially into loops 52 and 54 of conductors 48, and positioned to terminate conductors 48, as shown in Figure 1. Conductors 48 may be fanned out into an organized configuration that may be replicated in the daisy chain application. The conductors may be maintained in the configuration at desired spacings by any known method such as an adhesive strip, heat bonding or chemical bonding of the insulation, or by tooling. Alternatively, conductors 48 of loops 52,54 may be individually positioned relative to an insulation displacing plate 34 for termination.

Cable terminating covers 56,58 may be substantially as disclosed in abovementioned copending Application Serial No. 090,296 filed August 31, 1987. Cable terminating covers 56,58 are elongate having sidewalls 60,62 opposed end walls 64,66, outer surface 68 and inner surface 70, a portion of which may be fluted. Leg means 72,74 extend from inner surface 70 proximate endwalls 64,66, and have aperture means 73,75 adjacent thereto. Cable terminating covers 56,58, which may be hermaphroditic, have a recess 76 on one of sidewalls 60,62 that defines a conductor receiving passage 78 which permits conductors 48 to pass between cable terminating covers 56,58, more specifically recess 76, and rear face 24 to continue in the daisy chain configuration. Conductors 46 turn 90 degrees from passing along surface 70 where they are terminated to pass through passage 78 which extends perpendicular to surface 70 and parallel to insulating displacing plates 34. In the preferred embodiment, passage 78 takes the form of notches 80 to aid in positioning and maintaining conductors 48 prior to, during and subsequent to termination. Passage 78 may take other forms such as a single wide recess for all conductors or a recess with individual notches per conductor, as shown in Figure 5.

Conductors 48 are positioned in notch 80, as seen in Figure 6, for an insulation displacement termination. Cable terminating covers 56,58 may also have channels 82 in outer surface 68 to provide a recess for conductors 48. In this manner, outer surface 68 of terminating covers 56,58 provides a bearing surface on which force is applied to terminate conductors 48 to contacts 16. Notches 80 provide an avenue for conductors 48 to egress from between terminating covers 56,58 and terminal support block 36 as well as from between terminating covers 56,58 and rear face 24 so that conductors 48 may continue in the daisy chain configuration. Conductors 48 passing between terminating covers 56,58 and terminal support block 36 provide strain relief to the termination.

Leg means 72,74 provide means for securing terminating covers 56,58 to terminal support block 36 and thus to connector 10. Complementary shaped leg means 72,74 on inner surface 70 of terminating covers 56,58 respectively are axially aligned with apertures 38 as best seen in Figure 1. Thence, terminating covers 56,58 are moved toward terminal support block 36 in the direction of arrows 84 with legs means 72,74 passing into apertures 38 in an interference fit, thence into aperture means 73,75 in the other terminating cover. As the terminating covers 56,58 are pressed toward each other until seated against respective surfaces 42,44 of terminal support block 36, conductors 48

are terminated by respective insulation displacing plates 34 in both rows of contacts 16. Leg means 72,74 engage sidewalls of apertures 38 as well as a protrusion 86 on the walls of aperture means 73,75 in the other terminating cover to secure terminating covers 56,58 in the terminated position.

In this manner, the interference fit between protrusion 86 and leg means 72,74 in the terminated position engages protrusion 86 against a surface of leg means 72,74 respectively that was not previously deformed.

Figure 7 shows a series of connectors 10 terminated in a daisy chain configuration on a ribbon cable 46. The connectors are shown without backshells and backshell covers, but could have these features.

Figure 8 shows a series of connectors 10 terminated in a daisy chain configuration on a round cable 46. Housing 20 may be secured and partially enclosed in backshell members 88,90. Backshell members 88,90 may be electrically conductive with drawn shell 12 and shielding 49 as well as shielding on cable 46, if present, to provide a common ground therebetween. Backshells 88,90 may be as disclosed in abovementioned Application Serial No. 090,296 having a single cable exit 92 for the cable 46. Alternatively, there may be a dual cable exit 92' for conductors, as shown in backshell member 88′,90′ in Figure 8. Strain relief is provided to the conductors proximate the cable exit, such as by strain relief means 94.

Claims

1. An electrical connector assembly (10) [for terminating] in combination with conductors (48) of a multiconductor cable (46) to be terminated by said assembly (10) in a daisy chain configuration, said assembly (10) having a dielectric housing (20) having a mating face (22) and an opposed rear face (24) with a plurality of contact receiving passages (26) disposed in two rows extending therebetween with first and second rows (27,29) of contacts (16) secured therein, said contacts (16) having an axis, a mating portion (14) proximate said mating face (22) and a terminating portion (32) extending beyond said rear face (24), said terminating portion (32) being formed to be an insulation displacing plate (34) having a slot (40) therein, and a pair of conductor terminating covers (56,58), each of said conductor terminating covers (56,58) being adapted to be received adjacent said rear face (24) and to terminate conductors (48) to the terminating portion (32) of respective contacts (26) of a row of contacts (16), each of said conductor terminating covers (56,58) having means for securing said cover to said housing (20); characterized in that each terminating cover (56,58) has a conductor receiving passage (78) adjacent said rear face (24) adapted to pass conductors (48) between the rear face (24) and a respective terminating cover (56,58), and in that the slot (40) in each insulation displacing plate (34) extends normal to the axis of said contacts (16) with the insulation displacing plate (34) in the first row (27 or 29) of contacts (16) extending in a first direction and the insulation displacing plate (34) of the second row (29 or 27) of contacts (16) extending in a second direction, said second direction being opposite to said first direction; whereby when the conductors (48) of a multiconductor cable (46) are terminated to the contacts (16) of the electrical connector assembly (10) in a daisy chain configuration, the conductors (48) are received from a first side of the connector assembly, extending transversely of the mating face (22) and the rear face (24), pass over respective insulation displacing plates (34) for termination thereto, and thence through said conductor receiving passage (78) to extend from a second side of the connector assembly opposite to said first side to another connector in the daisy chain configuration.

2. An electrical connector assembly as recited in claim 1 further characterized in that the conductor receiving passage (78) is profiled to align conductors (48) of the cable (46) with the terminating portion (32) of respective contacts (16).

3. An electrical connector assembly (10) as recited in claim 2 further characterized in that the surface of a conductor terminating cover (56,58) is fluted to assist in positioning conductors (48) of the cable (46) at the same spacing as the respective contacts (16).

4. An electrical connector assembly (10) as recited in claim 3 further characterized by a terminal support block (36) extending from the rear face (24) of said housing (20) between the rows of contacts, said conductor terminating covers (56,58) secured to said terminal support block (36).

5. An electrical connector assembly (10) as recited in claim 4 further characterized by a pair of spaced apertures (38) in said terminal support block (36) defining aperture walls, said cover securing means comprising spaced first leg means (72) having first aperture means (73) adjacent thereto on a first terminating cov-

er (56), said first aperture (73) means defining first wall means, spaced second legs (74) means having second aperture means (75) adjacent thereto on a second terminating cover (58), said second aperture means defining second wall means, said first leg means (72) adapted to be received in said pair of spaced apertures (38) at a predetermination position in an interference fit between a first portion of said first leg means (72) and a first portion of said aperture walls, said second leg means (74) adapted to be received in said pair of spaced apertures (38) from an opposed direction from said first leg means, said second leg means (74) adapted to be received in said pair of spaced apertures (38) at a predetermined position in an interference fit between a first portion of said second leg means (74) and a second portion of said aperture walls, said first leg means (72) adapted to be secured in said spaced apertures at a termination position with said first leg means (72) extending into said second aperture means (75) in an interference fit between a second portion of said first leg means (72) and said second wall means, said second leg means (74) adapted to be secured in said apertures (38) at a termination position with said second leg means (74) extending into said first aperture means (73) in an interference fit between a second portion of said second leg means (74) and said first wall means, said second leg means (74) adapted to be secured simultaneously with said first leg means (72), whereby when the first and second terminating covers (56,58) terminate conductors (48) to the terminating portion of contacts (32) as they move from the pretermination position to the terminated position with the interference fit that secures the terminating covers in the terminated position being between a wall means and an area of the respective leg means not previously deformed by the interference fit that retains the terminating covers in the pretermination position.

6. A method of terminating the conductors (48) of a multiconductor cable (46) at a midpoint thereof, to a connector assembly according to any of claims 1 to 5 having a housing (20) and a plurality of contacts (16) having terminating portions (32) for receiving the conductors (48), the method comprising the steps of: splitting the cable (46) between adjacent conductors (48) through a limited length (50) of the cable (46) before dividing the conductors (48) of the multiconductor cable (46) into a preselected first group (48a) of conductors (48) and a preselected second group (48b) of conductors (48), contouring the conductors (48) of the first group (48a) into a first loop (52) and terminating said first group (48a) of conductors each to a first terminating portion (32) of said contacts (16), whereby said preselected first group (48a) of conductors (48) is comprised of other than alternate conductors (48).

7. A method as recited in claim 6, including the step of contouring the second group (48b) of conductors into a second loop (54), and terminating said second group (48b) of conductors each to a second terminating portion (32) of said contacts (16).

8. A method as recited in claim 6 or 7, wherein the step of dividing the conductors into a preselected first group (48a) of conductors and a preselected second group (48b) of conductors is such that the preselected second group (48b) of conductors (48) is formed so as to include at least one of the conductors (48) also included in the first group (48a) of conductors (48).

Patentansprüche

1. Elektrische Verbinderanordnung (10) zum Anschließen in Verbindung mit Leitern (48) eines Mehrfachleiterkabels (46) zum Anschluß mit der Anordnung (10) in einer Verkettungsstruktur (daisy-chain configuration), wobei die Anordnung (10) ein dielektrisches Gehäuse (20) aufweist, das eine Kupplungsseite (22) und eine gegenüberliegende Rückseite (24) mit einer Vielzahl von Kontaktaufnahmedurchgängen (26) hat,die, in zwei Reihen angeordnet, sich dazwischen erstrecken, wobei darin eine erste und eine zweite Reihe (27, 29) von Kontakten (16) befestigt sind, wobei die Kontakte (16) eine Achse, einen Kupplungsabschnitt (14) in der Nähe der Kupplungsseite (20) und einen Anschlußabschnitt (32), der sich von der Rückseite (24) nach außen erstreckt, aufweisen, wobei der Anschlußabschnitt (32) so ausgebildet ist, daß er eine Schneidklemmenplatte (34) mit einem darin befindlichen Schlitz (40) darstellt, und mit einem Paar Leiteranschlußkappen (56, 58), wobei jede der Leiteranschlußkappen (56, 58) so gestaltet ist, daß sie an der Rückseite (24) anliegend aufgenommen werden kann, und daß sie die Leiter (48) an dem Anschlußabschnitt (32) der entsprechenden Kontake (26) einer Kontaktreihe (16) anschließt, wobei jede der Leiteranschlußkappen (56, 58) Mittel zum Befestigen der Kappe am Gehäuse (20) aufweist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, daß jede Anschlußkappe (56, 58) einen an der Rückseite

(24) anliegenden Leiteraufnahmedurchgang (78) aufweist, der eingerichtet ist, um Leiter (48) zwischen der Rückseite (24) und einer entsprechenden Anschlußkappe (56, 58) zu führen, und daß sich der Schlitz (40) in jeder Schneidklemmenplatte (34) normal zur Achse der Kontakte (16) erstreckt, wobei die Schneidklemmenplatte (34) in der ersten Reihe (27 oder 29) von Kontakten (16) sich in einer ersten Richtung und die Schneidklemmenplatte (34) der zweiten Reihe (29 oder 27) von Kontakten (16) sich in einer zweiten Richtung erstreckt, wobei die zweite Richtung entgegengesetzt zur ersten Richtung zeigt; wodurch, wenn die Leiter (48) eines Mehrfachleiterkabels (46) an den Kontakten (16) der elektrischen Verbinderanordnung (10) in einer Verkettungsstruktur angeschlossen sind, die Leiter (48) von einer ersten Seite der Verbinderanordnung aufgenommen werden, die sich quer zur Kupplungsseite (22) und zur Rückseite (24) erstreckt, an den entsprechenden Schneidklemmenplatten (34) zum Anschluß daran vorbeigehen und von dort durch den Leiteraufnahmedurchgang (78) gehen, um sich von einer, der ersten Seite gegenüberliegenden, zweiten Seite der Verbinderanordnung zu einem anderen Verbinder in der Verkettungsstruktur zu erstrecken.

2. Elektrische Verbinderanordnung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, daß der Leiteraufnahmedurchgang (78) profiliert ist, um Leiter (48) des Kabels (46) mit dem Anschlußabschnitt (32) der entsprechenden Kontakte (16) in Flucht zu bringen.

3. Elektrische Verbinderanordnung (10) nach Anspruch 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, daß die Oberfläche einer Leiteranschlußkappe (56, 58) geriffelt ist, um das Positionieren von Leitern (48) des Kabels (46) im selben Abstand wie die entsprechenden Kontakte (16) zu unterstützen.

4. Elektrische Verbinderanordnung (10) nach Anspruch 3, **gekennzeichnet** durch einen Anschlußträgerblock (36), der sich von der Rückseite (24) des Gehäuses (20) zwischen den Reihen der Kontakte erstreckt, wobei die Leiteranschlußkappen (56, 58) an diesem Anschlußträgerblock (36) befestigt sind.

5. Elektrische Verbinderanordnung (10) nach Anspruch 4, **gekennzeichnet** durch ein Paar im Abstand stehender Öffnungen (38) im Anschlußträgerblock (36), die Öffnungswände bilden, wobei das Kappenbefestigungsmittel in Abstand stehende erste Fußelemente (72) aufweist, die erste danebenliegende Öffnungen (73) in einer ersten Anschlußkappe (56) haben; wobei die ersten Öffnungen (73) erste Wände festlegen, und zweite im Abstand stehende Fußelemente (74) aufweist, die zweite danebenliegende Öffnungen (75) in einer zweiten Anschlußkappe (58) aufweisen, wobei die zweiten Öffnungen zweite Wände festlegen, wobei die ersten Fußelemente (72) so gestaltet sind, daß sie in einem Paar in Abstand stehender Öffnungen (38) in einer vorher festgelegten Position in einem Festsitz zwischen einem ersten Abschnitt der ersten Fußelemente (72) und einem ersten Abschnitt der Öffnungswände aufgenommen werden, und wobei die zweiten Fußelemente (74) so gestaltet sind, um in einem Paar in Abstand stehender Öffnungen (38) aus einer den ersten Fußelementen entgegengesetzten Richtung aufgenommen zu werden, wobei die zweiten Fußelemente (74) so gestaltet sind, daß sie in dem Paar in Abstand stehender Öffnungen (38) in einer vorher festgelegten Position in einem Festsitz zwischen einem ersten Abschnitt der zweiten Fußelemente (74) und einem zweiten Abschnitt der Öffnungswände aufgenommen werden, wobei die ersten Fußelemente (72) so gestaltet sind, daß sie in den in Abstand stehenden Öffnungen in einer Anschlußposition befestigt werden, wobei die ersten Fußelemente (72) sich in die zweiten Öffnungen (75) in einem Festsitz zwischen einem zweiten Abschnitt der ersten Fußelemente (72) und der zweiten Wände erstrekken, wobei die zweiten Fußelemente (74) so gestaltet sind, daß sie in den Öffnungen (38) in einer Anschlußposition befestigt werden, wobei die zweiten Fußelemente (74) sich in die erste Öffnung (73) in einem Festsitz zwischen einem zweiten Abschnitt des zweiten Fußelementes (74) und der ersten Wände erstrecken, wobei die zweiten Fußelemente (74) so gestaltet sind, daß sie gleichzeitig mit den ersten Fußelementen (72) befestigt werden, wodurch, wenn die ersten und zweiten Anschlußkappen (56, 58) Anschlüsse (48) an dem Anschlußabschnitt der Kontakte (32) anschließen, sie sich von der Voranschlußposition zu der angeschlossenen Position bewegen, wobei der Festsitz, der die Anschlußkappen in der angeschlossenen Position befestigt, zwischen einer Wand und einem Bereich des entsprechenden Fußelementes liegt, der nicht vorher durch den Preßsitz verformt worden ist, der die Anschlußkappen in der Voranschlußposition hält.

6. Verfahren zum Anschließen der Leiter (48) eines Mehrfachleiterkabels (46) an ihrem Mittel-

punkt, an eine Verbinderanordnung gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, mit einem Gehäuse (20) und einer Vielzahl von Kontakten (16), die Anschlußabschnitte (32) zur Aufnahme der Leiter (48) aufweisen, wobei das Verfahren folgende Schritte aufweist:

- Zerteilen des Kabels (46) zwischen nebeneinanderliegenden Leitern (48) bis zu einer begrenzten lange (50) des Kabels (46),
- Aufteilen der Leiter (48) des Mehrfachleiterkabels (46) in eine vorausgewählte erste Gruppe (48a) von Leitern (48) und in eine vorausgewählte zweite Gruppe (48b) von Leitern (48),
- Zusammenführen der Leiter (48) der ersten Gruppe (48a) in einer ersten Schleife (52) und Anschließen der ersten Gruppe (48a) von Leitern, jeden an einem ersten Anschlußabschnitt (32) der Kontakte (16), wodurch die vorausgewählte erste Gruppe (48a) von Leitern (48) aus anderen als alternierenden Leitern (48) besteht.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, **gekennzeichnet** durch den Schritt des Zusammenführens der zweiten Gruppe (48b) der Leiter in einer zweiten Schleife (54), und Anschließen der zweiten Gruppe (48b) von Leitern jeweils an einem zweiten Anschlußabschnitt (32) der Kontakte (16).

8. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 6 oder 7, wobei der Schritt des Teilens der Leiter in eine vorausgewählte erste Gruppe (48a) von Leitern und eine vorausgewählte zweite Gruppe (48b) von Leitern darin besteht, daß die vorausgewählte zweite Gruppe (48b) von Leitern (48) so gebildet wird, daß sie wenigstens einen der Leiter (48) aufweist, der auch in der ersten Gruppe (48a) der Leiter (48) eingeschlossen ist.

Revendications

1. Assemblage (10) de connecteur électrique en combinaison avec des conducteurs (48) d'un câble (46) à conducteurs multiples devant être terminé par ledit assemblage (10) dans une configuration en guirlande, ledit assemblage (10) ayant un boîtier diélectrique (20) présentant une face d'accouplement (22) et une face arrière opposée (24) entre lesquelles s'étendent plusieurs passages (26) de réception on de contacs disposés en deux rangées et dans lesquels sont fixées des première et seconde rangées (27, 29) de contacts (16), lesdits contacts (16) ayant un axe, une partie d'accouplement (14) proche de ladite phase d'accouplement (22) et une partie de terminaison (32) s'étendant au-delà de ladite face arrière (24), ladite partie de terminaison (32) étant formée de façon à être une plaque (34) à déplacement d'isolant présentant une fente (40), et une pairé de couvercles (56, 58) de terminaison de conducteurs, chacun desdits couvercles (56, 58) de terminaison de conducteurs étant conque pour être reçu à proximité immédiate de ladite face arrière (24) et pour terminer des conducteurs (48) sur la partie de terminaison (32) de contacts respectifs (26) d'une rangée de contacts (16), chacun desdits couvercles (56, 58) de terminaison de conducteurs comportant des moyens pour assujettir ledit couvercle audit boîtier (20) ; caractérisé en ce que chaque couvercle (56, 58) de terminaison présente un passage (78) de réception de conducteurs adjacent à ladite face arrière (24) et destiné au passage de conducteurs (48) entre la face arrière (24) et un couvercle respectif (56, 58) de terminaison, et en ce que la fente (40) dans chaque plaque (34) de déplacement d'isolant s'étend normalement à l'axe desdits contacts (16), la plaque (34) de déplacement d'isolant dans la première rangée (27) ou (29) de contacts (16) s'étendant dans une premier sens et la plaque (34) à déplacement d'isolant de la seconde rangée (29 ou 27) de contacts (16) s'étendant dans un second sens, ledit second sens étant opposé audit premier sens ; grâce à quoi, lorsque les conducteurs (48) d'un câble (46) à conducteurs multiples sont terminés sur les contacts (16) de l'assemblage (10) de connecteur électrique dans une configuration en guirlande, les conducteurs (48) sont reçus depuis un premier côté de l'assemblage de connecteur, s'étendant transversalement à la face d'accouplement (22) et à la face arrière (24), passent au-dessus dos plaques respectives (34) à déplacement d'isolant pour être terminés sur elles, puis dans lesdits passages (78) de réception de conducteurs de façon à s'étendre depuis un second côté de l'assemblage de connecteur opposé audit premier côte jusqu'à un autre connecteur dans la configuration en guirlande.

2. Assemblage de connecteur électrique selon le revendications 1, caractérisé en outre en ce que le passage (78) de réception de conducteurs est profilé de façon à aligner des conducteurs (48) du câble (46) avec la partie (32) de terminaison de contacts respectifs (16).

3. Assemblage (10) de connecteur électrique selon la revendications 2, caractérisé en outre en ce que la surface d'un couvercle (56, 58) de terminaison de conducteurs est cannelée pour aider au positionnement de conducteurs (48) du câble (46) au même écartement que les contacts respectifs (16).

4. Assemblage (10) de connecteur électrique selon la revendication 3, caractérisé en outre par un bloc (36) de support de bornes s'étendant depuis la face arrière (24) dudit boîtier (20) entre les rangées de contacts, lesdits couvercles (56, 58) de terminaison de conducteurs étant fixés audit bloc (36) de support de bornes.

5. Assemblage (10) de connecteur électrique selon la revendication 4, caractérisé en outre par une paire d'ouvertures espacées (38) dans ledit bloc (36) de support de bornes, définissant des parois d'ouvertures, lesdits moyens de fixation des couvercles comprenant des premiers moyens à tenons espacés (72) ayant des premiers moyens à ouvertures (73) qui leur font adjacents sur un premier couvercle (56) de terminaison, lesdits premiers moyens à ouvertures (73) définissant un premier moyen à paroi, des seconds moyens à tenons espacés (74) ayant des seconds moyens à ouvertures (75) qui leur sont adjacents sur un second couvercle (58) de terminaison, lesdits seconds moyens à ouvertures définissant des seconds moyens à parois, lesdits premiers moyens à tenons (72) étant destinés à être reçus dans ladite paire d'ouvertures espacées (38) dans une position prédéterminée en un ajustement serré entre une première position desdits premiers moyens à tenons (72) et une première partie desdites parois d'ouvertures, lesdits seconds moyens à tenons (74) étant destinés à être reçus dans ladite paire d'ouvertures espacées (38) à partir d'une direction opposée par rapport à celle desdits premiers moyens à tenons lesdits seconds moyen à tenons (74) étant destinés à être reçus dans ladite paire d'ouvertures espacées (38) en une position prédéterminée dans un ajustement serré entre une première partie desdits seconds moyens à tenons (74) et une seconde partie desdites parois d'ouvertures, lesdits premiers moyens à tenons (72) étant destinés à être fixés dans lesdites ouvertures espacées dans une position de terminaison, lesdits premiers moyens à tenons (72) pénétrant dans lesdits seconds moyens à ouvertures (75) en un ajustement serré entre une seconde partis desdits premiers moyens à tenons (72) et lesdits seconds moyens à parois, lesdits seconds moyens à tenons (74) étant destinés à être fixés dans lesdites ouvertures (38) en une position de terminaison, lesdites seconds moyens à tenons (74) pénétrant dans lesdits premiers moyens à ouvertures (73) en un ajustement serré entre une seconde partie desdits seconds moyens à tenons (74) et lesdits premiers moyens à parois, lesdits seconde moyens à tenons (74) étant destinés à être fixés en même temps que lesdits premiers moyens à tenons (72), grâce à quoi, lorsque les premier et second couvercles (56, 58) de terminaison terminent des conducteurs (48) sur la partie de terminaison de contacts (32) pendant qu'ils sont déplacés de la position de préterminaison à la position terminée, l'ajustement serré qui assujettit le couvercle de terminaison dans la position terminée étant entre des moyens à parois et une zone des moyens à tenons respectifs qui n'était pas précédemment déformée par l'ajustement serré retenant les couvercles de terminaison dans la position de préterminaison.

6. Procédé de terminaison des des conducteurs (48) d'un câble (46) à conducteurs multiples, en un point intermédiaire de ces conducteurs, sur un assemblage de connecteur selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, comportant un boîtier (20) et plusieurs contacts (16) ayant des parties (32) de terminaison destinées à recevoir les conducteurs (48), le procédé comprenant les étapes qui consistent : à fendre le câble (46) entre des conducteurs adjacents (48) sur une longueur limitée (50) du câble (46) avant de diviser les conducteurs (48) du câble (46) à conducteurs multiples en un premier groupe préalablement choisi (48a) de conducteurs (48) et un second groupe préalablement choisi (48b) de conducteurs (48), à façonner les conducteurs (48) du premier groupe (48a) en une première boucle (52) et terminer ledit premier groupe (48a) de conducteurs, chacun sur une première partie de terminaison (32) desdits contacts (16), grâce à quoi ledit premier groupe préalablement choisi (48a) de conducteurs (48) est constitue des conducteurs autres que es conducteurs alternés (48).

7. Procédé selon la revendication 6, comprenant les étapes qui consistant à façonner le second groupe (48b) de conducteurs en une seconde boucle (54), et à terminer ledit second groupe (48b) de conducteurs chacun sur une seconde partie de terminaison (32) desdits contacts (16).

8. Procédé selon la revendication 6 ou 7, dans lequel l'étape de division des conducteurs en un premier groupe préalablement choisi (48a) de conducteurs et un second groupe préalablement choisi (48b) de conducteurs est telle que le second groupe préalablement choisi (48b) de conducteurs (48) est formé de façon à comprendre au moins l'un des conducteurs (48) faisant également partie du premier groupe (48a) de conducteurs (48).

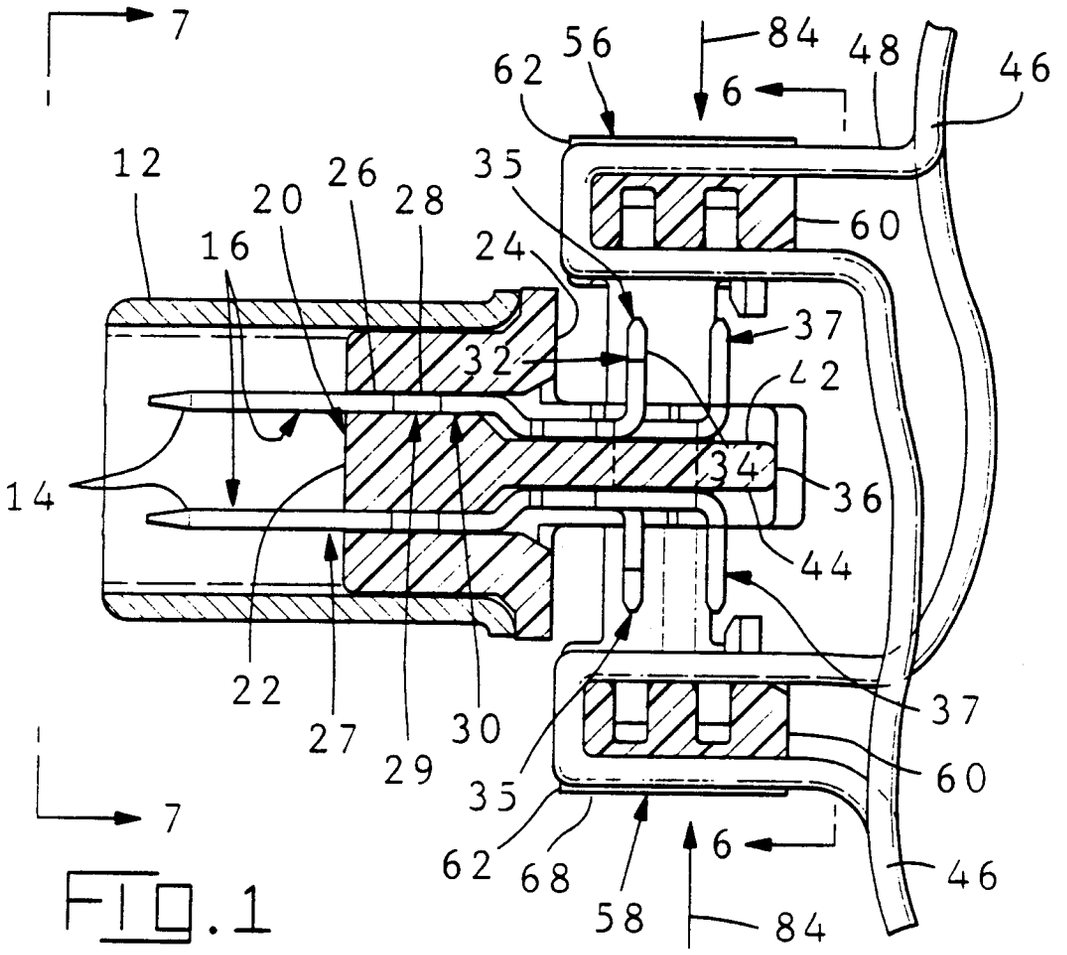

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FIG.1

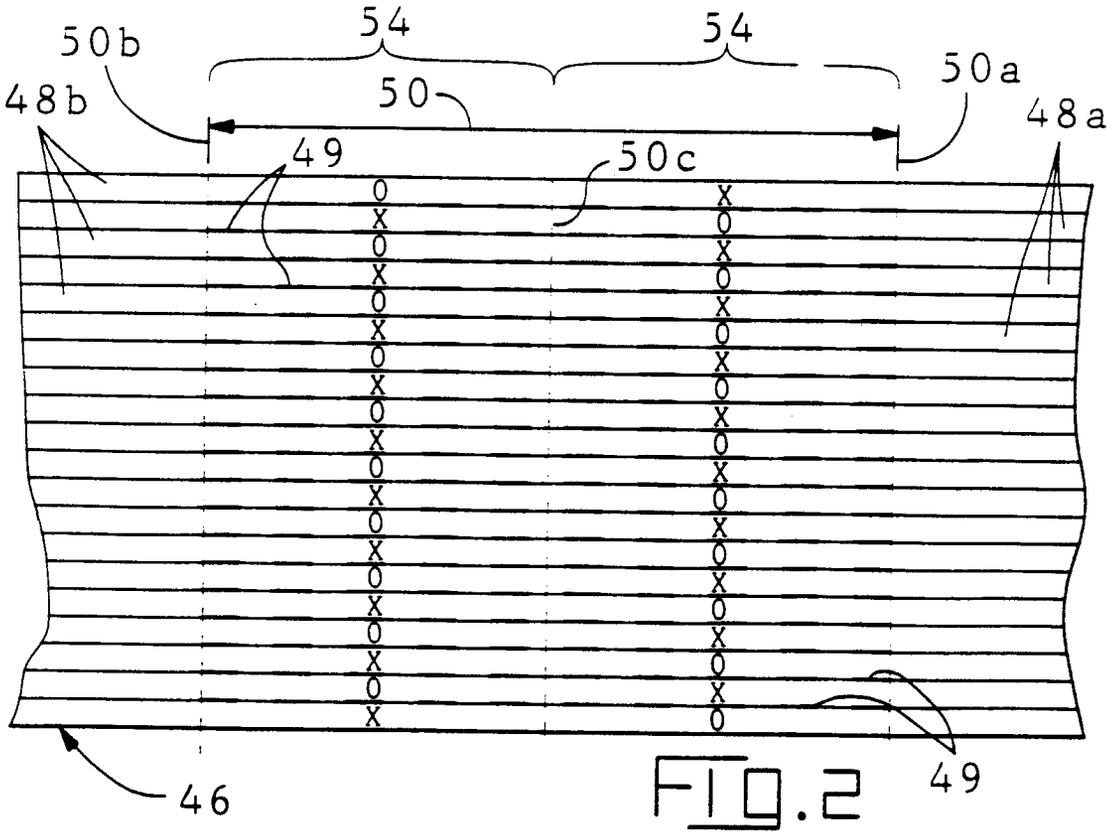

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50b
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48b
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48a
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50c
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49

FIG.2

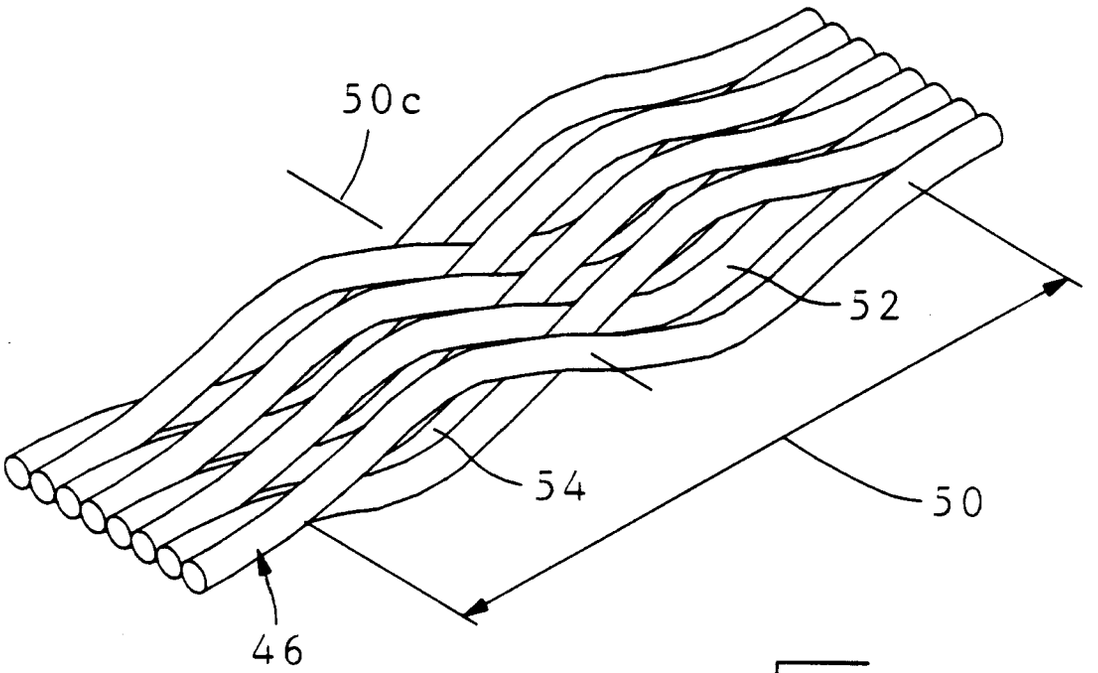


FIG.3

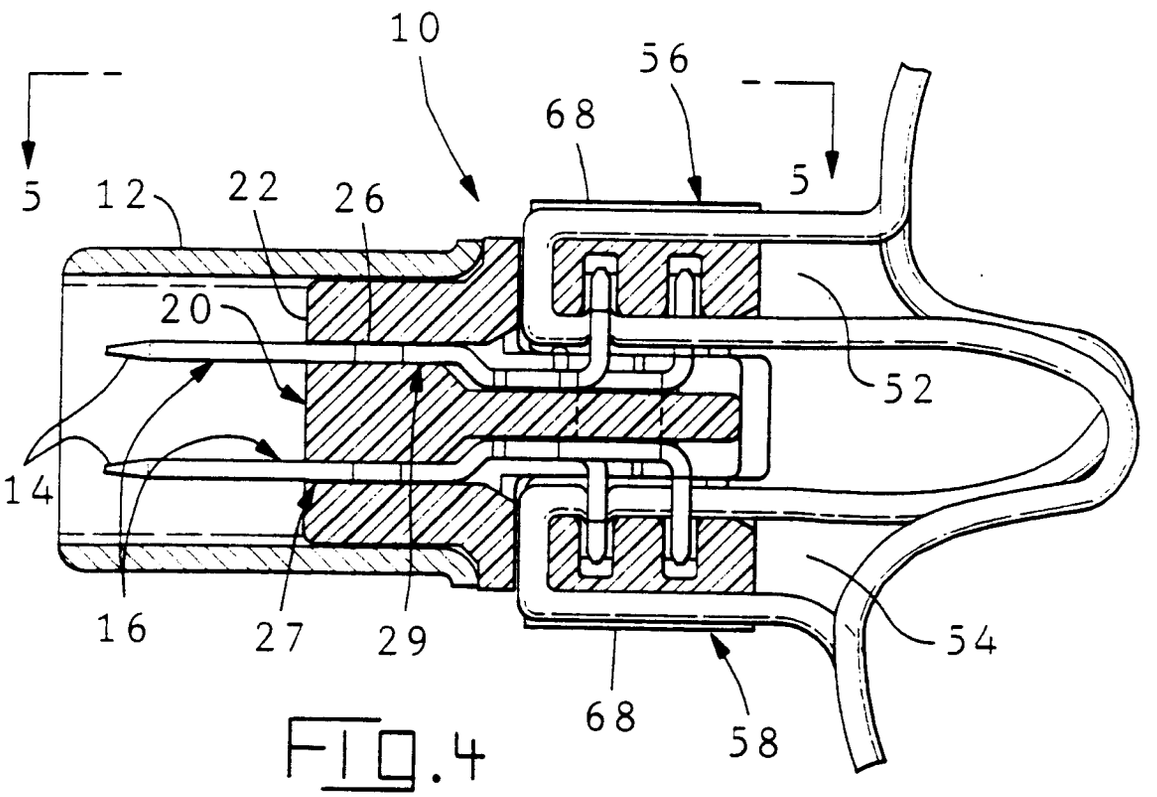


FIG.4

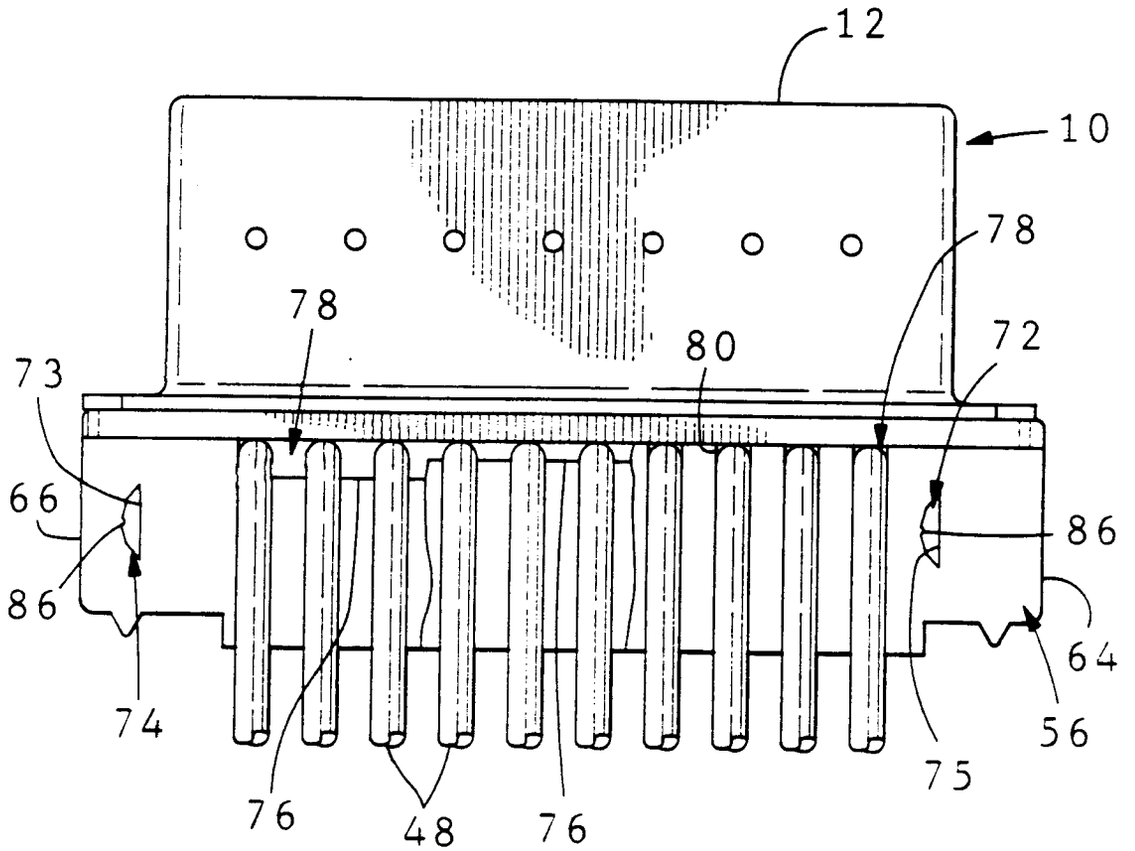

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FIG.5

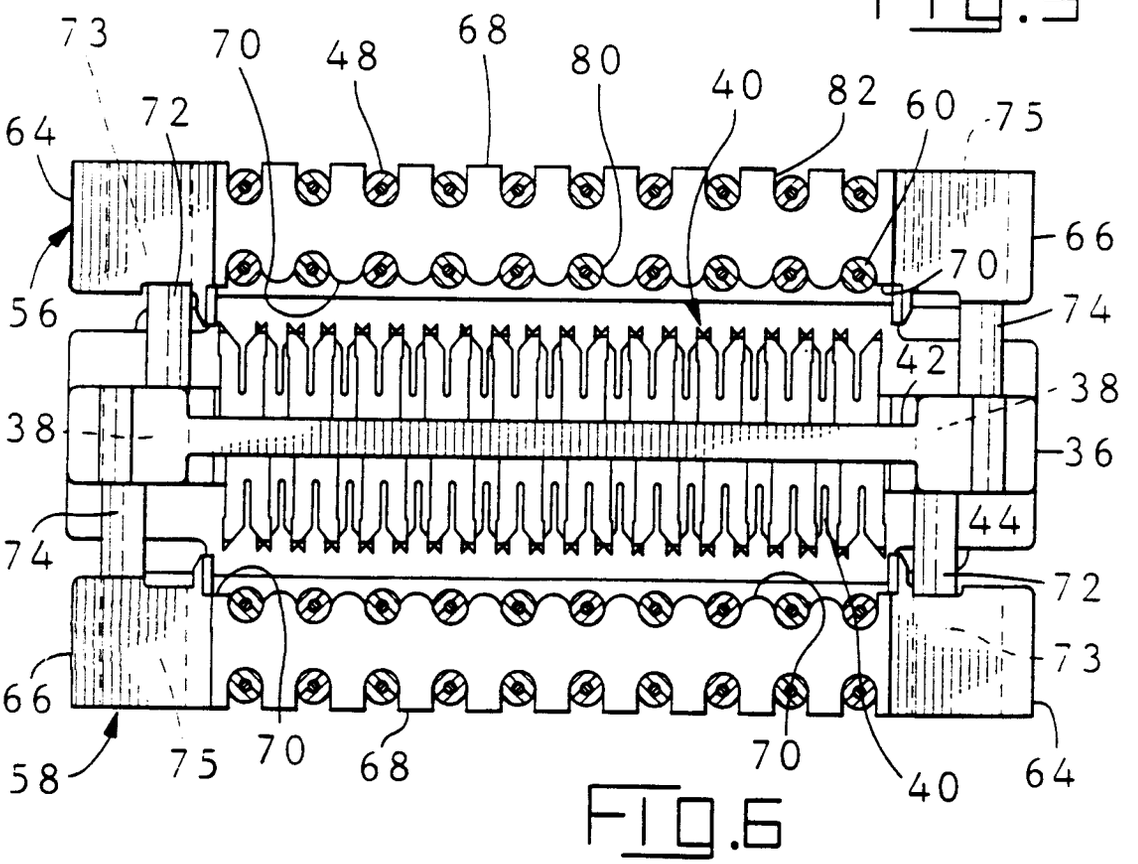
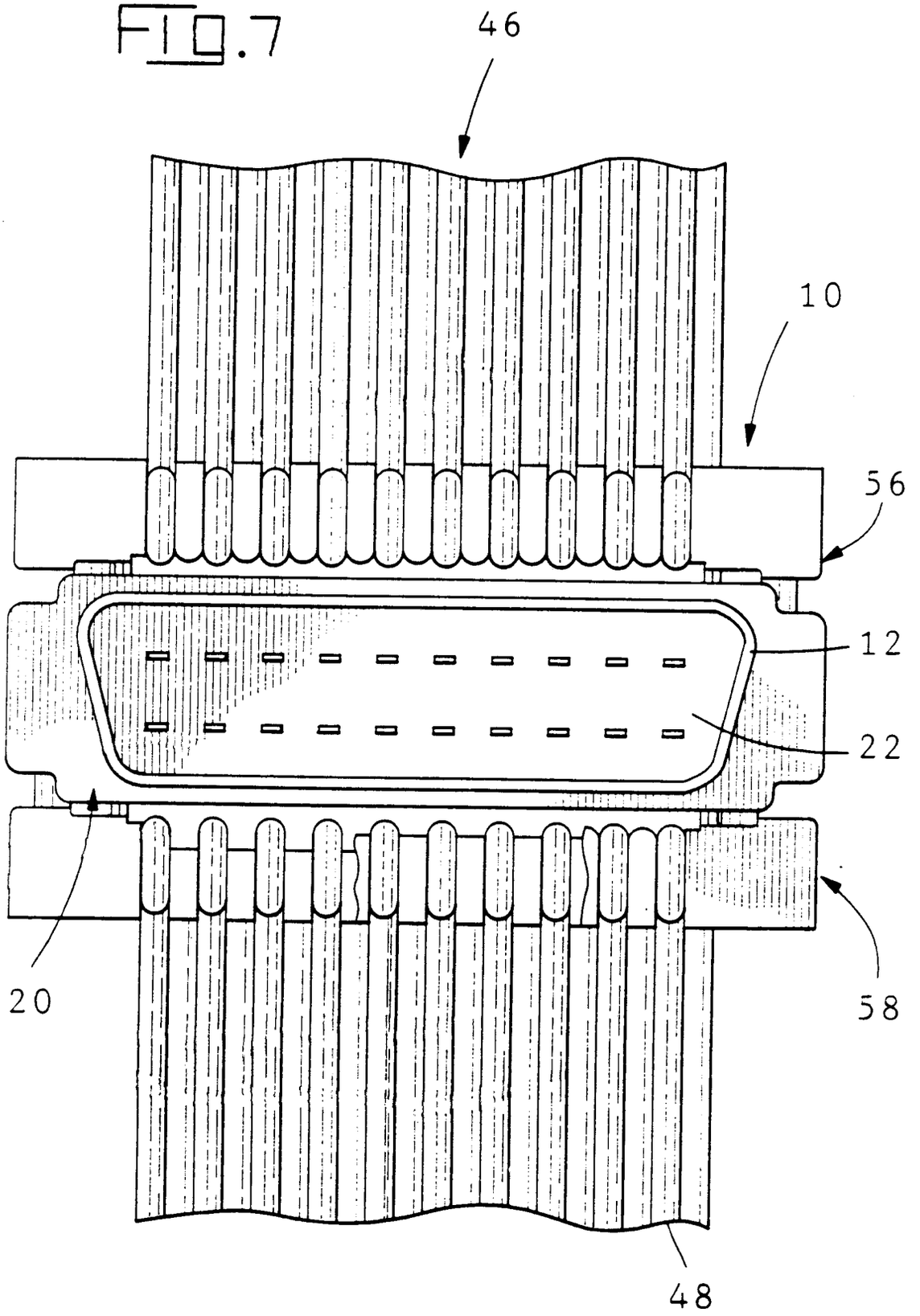

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FIG.6

FIG.7



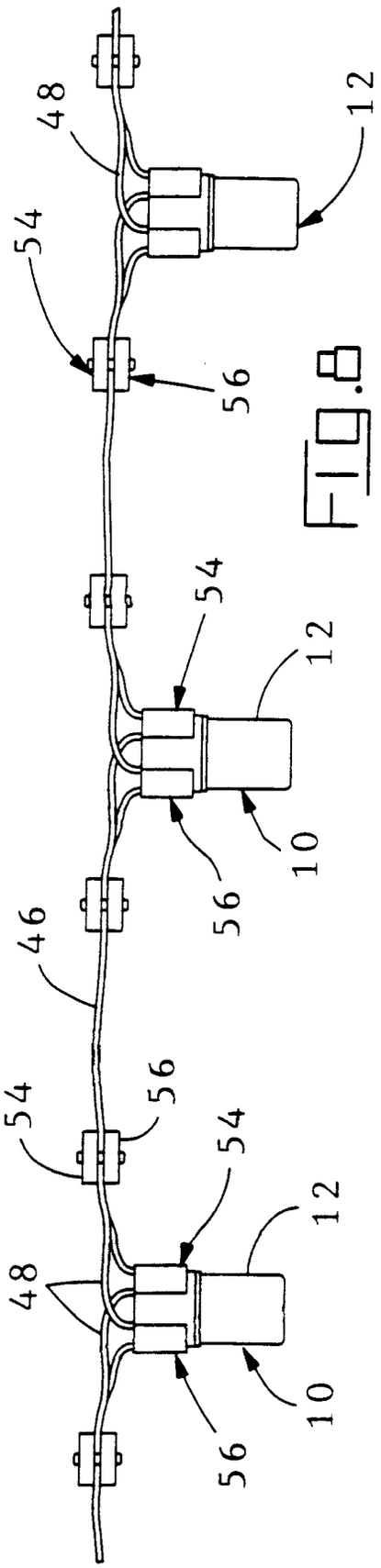

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FIG.8

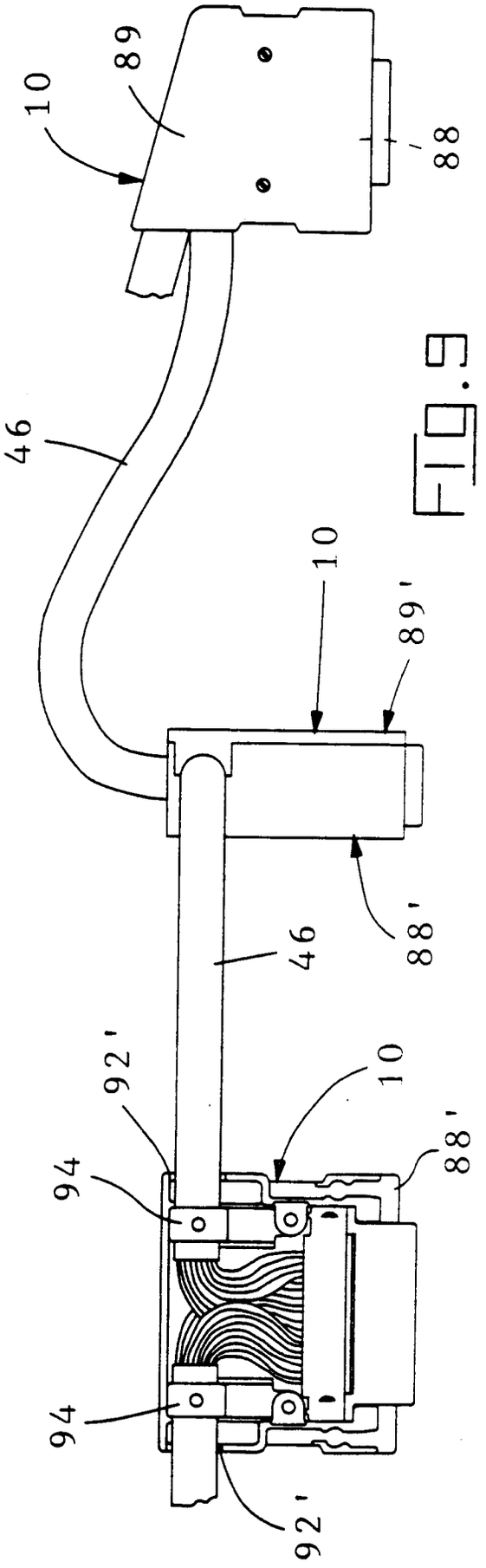

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88'
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92'
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88'
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94
92'

FIG.9