Jan. 25, 1966 E. J. KRESSEL 3,231,847

TERMINAL BLOCK WITH REMOVABLE MARKER STRIP

Filed June 17, 1963

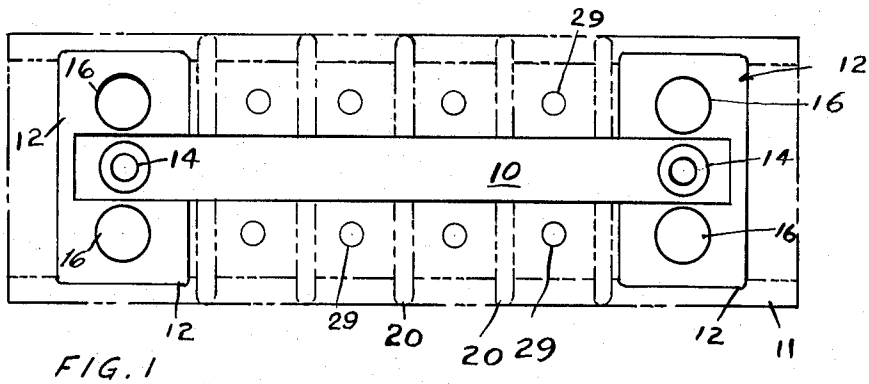


FIG. 1

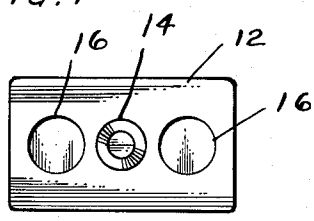


FIG. 3

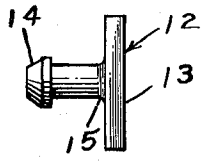


FIG. 4

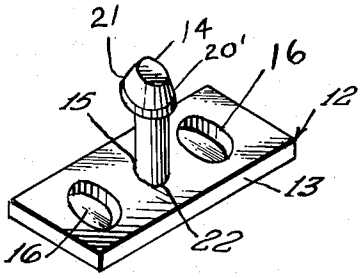


FIG. 2

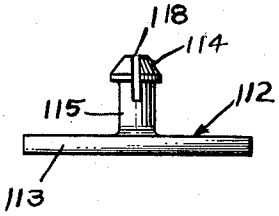


FIG. 5

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TERMINAL BLOCK WITH REMOVABLE MARKER STRIP

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This invention relates to terminal strip covers and, more particularly, to devices in combination with terminal strips for protecting the electrical terminals connected thereto and for providing ready access thereto.

Terminal strips according to prior inventions have been difficult to remove and have been inefficent in operation. The present invention proposes the use of a generally rectangular strip of material made of synthetic plastic or the like with holes at either end and studs fixed to the terminal strip at each end. The studs have heads which can be forced through the terminal strip and, when forced through will hold it in position.

It is accordingly, an object of the present invention to provide an improved terminal strip.

Another object of the invention is to provide a combination terminal strip cover and holding device therefor.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved combination terminal block, terminal strip cover and holder.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a terminal strip which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and simple and efficient to use.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claim, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a terminal block having a terminal strip cover supported thereon by means of the improved support devices disclosed therein;

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of the terminal strip holder shown in FIG. 4;

FIG. 3 is a top view of a terminal strip holder shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a side view of the terminal strip holder shown in FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a side view of another embodiment of the invention.

Now with more specific reference to the drawing, FIGS. 1 to 4 shows a terminal block **11** having a terminal strip **10** supported thereon. The terminal strip **10** is an elongated, flat, generally rectangular piece of material which may, in practice, be approximately one-eighth inch thick with a hole at each end thereof. The holes receive bodies **15** of headed studs **12**.

The body **15** is relatively slender and the base of the frusto-conical head is substantially larger than the slender body and defines a shoulder that faces the base **13** and extends outwardly from the slender body around substantially the entire outside surface thereof.

The studs **12** have heads **14** which have a frusto-conical end **20'** which terminates in a lower flange **21**. The flange **21** is of considerably larger diameter than the body **15**. The body **15** is generally cylindrical and integrally fixed to the base **13** at **22**. Holes **16** receive screws which hold the device to the terminal block **11**. The holes **16** could receive rivets or they could receive plastic members which could be riveted or heat sealed into place on the terminal block **11**.

The terminal block **11** has spaced ridge members **19** thereon which define spaces therebetween. Terminal screws are received between the ridge members **19**. The terminal screws **29** may secure the terminal ends of electrical wires in place. The terminal strip **10** is forced down over the terminal end members after the wires are fastened in position with the screws **29**.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 5, molded plastic terminal strip supports **112** have bodies **115** integrally fixed thereto on a base **113**. These bodies terminate at their upper ends in a frusto-conical head **114**. A lateral slot **118** is cut in the body **115** and up through the frusto-conical head **114** so that the side edges of the head can be forced together to force the head up through the openings in the terminal strip.

The terminal strip and body support may all be made of integrally molded polyethylene, nylon, or some suitable similar material.

The foregoing specification sets forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but it is understood that the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claim.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

In combination, a terminal block, a terminal strip, and means securing said terminal strip to said terminal block,

said terminal block comprising an enlongated, generally rectangular block made of electrical insulating material,

spaced laterally extending ribs on said block defining spaces for the terminal ends of electrical wires thereon,

a stud fixed to each opposite end of said terminal block and extending outwardly therefrom,

each said stud having a slender body and terminating at its distal end in an enlarged size head,

each said head being generally in the shape of the frustum of a cone having a base,

said base of said frustum of said cone being substantially larger than said slender body and defining a shoulder extending outwardly from said slender body around substantially the entire outside surface of said slender body,

and a terminal strip having a hole at each end thereof,

said holes being smaller than said heads and substantially the same size as said bodies,

said strip being made of resilient material and snapping over said heads onto said bodies with said slender body received in said holes and said shoulder overlying a portion of said strip around said holes and adjacent to said holes whereby said strip is held in place over said terminal ends.

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