



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
11.10.2000 Bulletin 2000/41

(51) Int Cl.7: **H01R 13/627, H01R 13/639**

(43) Date of publication A2:
14.06.2000 Bulletin 2000/24

(21) Application number: **99309907.6**

(22) Date of filing: **09.12.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: **Sai, Noriaki**
Yokohama, Kanagawa 231-0859 (JP)

(74) Representative: **Warren, Keith Stanley et al**
BARON & WARREN
18 South End
Kensington
London W8 5BU (GB)

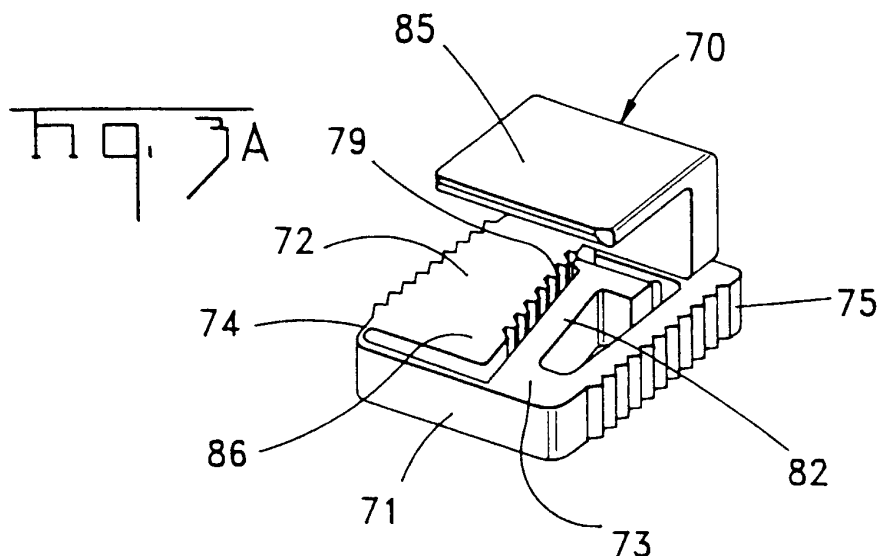
(30) Priority: **11.12.1998 JP 35230298**

(71) Applicant: **WHITAKER CORPORATION**
Wilmington, Delaware 19808 (US)

(54) **Connector-latching device**

(57) A connector-latching device (70) is described which can be applied even to relatively small connectors and has enough holding force effectively to prevent uncoupling of engaged connectors. It comprises a first member (72) and a second member (73) which are generally wedge-shaped. The first member (72) has an outer surface (74) for engaging a connector (30) and an inner surface (78) which serves as the latching surface and which engages with the second member (73). The latter has an outer surface (75) for engaging the con-

connector and a latching surface (81) which engages with the inner surface (78) of the first member (72). In use, the first member (72) of the device is placed under the locking arm (34) of the connector, after which the second member (73) is pushed in to an adjacent position which results in the first and second members being wedged between opposing walls of the connector housing located on opposite sides of the locking arm. Displacement of the locking arm is thereby prevented. A cover (85) for protecting the locking arm is located on the first member (72).



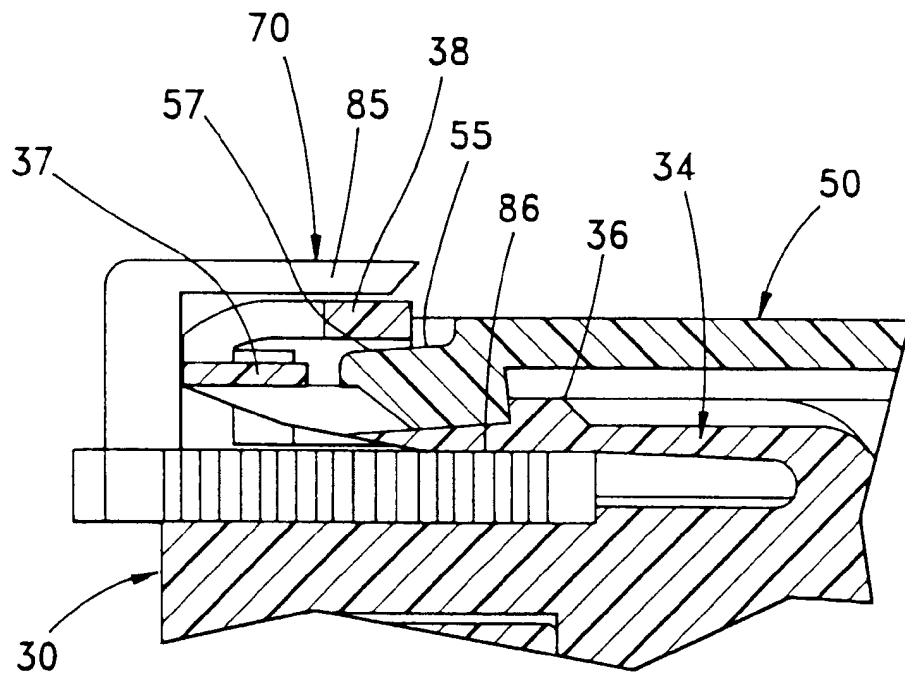


Fig. 5



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 9907

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 655 807 A (WHITAKER CORP) 31 May 1995 (1995-05-31) * figures 5,6 *	6,7	H01R13/627 H01R13/639
X	US 4 634 204 A (DETTOR GARY C ET AL) 6 January 1987 (1987-01-06) * the whole document *	6,7 1	
A	US 4 708 413 A (SCHROEDER DIANE M) 24 November 1987 (1987-11-24) * abstract; figures 7,9-11 *	1,5	
A	EP 0 848 458 A (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 17 June 1998 (1998-06-17) * figures 5,6 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01R
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		23 August 2000	Corrales, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 9907

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-08-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0655807 A	31-05-1995	AU 7775594 A	08-06-1995
		BR 9404767 A	25-07-1995
		CN 1110016 A	11-10-1995
		JP 8007982 A	12-01-1996
US 4634204 A	06-01-1987	CA 1290835 A	15-10-1991
		EP 0227288 A	01-07-1987
		JP 7019631 B	06-03-1995
		JP 62160674 A	16-07-1987
US 4708413 A	24-11-1987	DE 3709098 A	24-09-1987
		JP 62229777 A	08-10-1987
EP 0848458 A	17-06-1998	JP 10172672 A	26-06-1998
		CN 1185048 A	17-06-1998
		DE 69701557 D	04-05-2000
		US 5910028 A	08-06-1999