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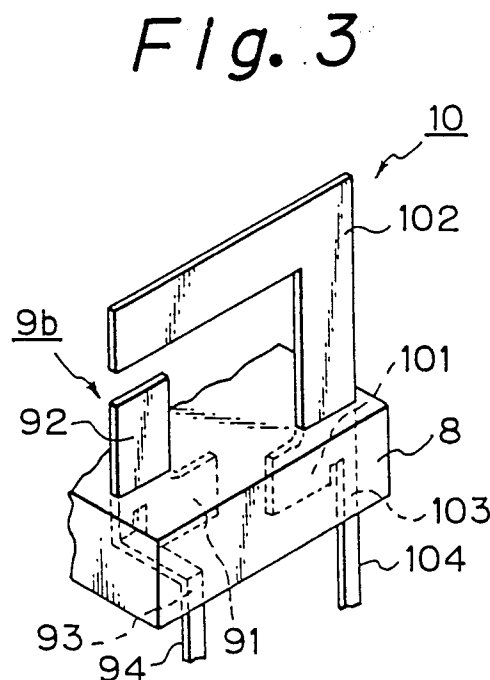
71 Applicant : **TAKAMISAWA ELECTRIC CO.,
LTD.
18-7, Kamiuma 3-chome
Setagaya-ku Tokyo (JP)**

72 Inventor : **Tomono, Noboru
745, Ohaza Shimogoe, Usudamachi
Minamisaku-gun, Nagano (JP)**
Inventor : **Kobayashi, Atsuto
Corp Marmo 2, 29-1, Ohaza Yokowa
Saku-shi, Nagano (JP)**

74 Representative : **Abnett, Richard Charles et al
REDDIE & GROSE 16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL (GB)**

54 **Small sized electromagnetic relay.**

57 In an electromagnetic relay a movable contact spring and a stationary contact spring (10) are inserted by molding a portion (91) of the movable contact spring and a portion (101) of the stationary contact spring (10) within the base block (8). The portions (91, 101) of the contact springs within the base block (8) are made larger than the respective portions thereof outside of the base block.



BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an electromagnetic relay wherein a movable contact spring and a stationary contact spring are inserted by molding into a base block.

2) Description of the Related Art

In an electromagnetic relay for an industrial apparatus, an automobile, and the like, a noise generated at a switching of contacts is transmitted to a winding, thereby erroneously operating or destroying electronic circuits connected to the winding. For this purpose, an anti-surgings characteristic and an anti-noise characteristic between the winding and contacts are required for an electromagnetic relay.

When fixing contact springs to a base block, a pressure method or an inserting-by-molding method is used. According to the latter method, a thickness of mold can be made smaller than that of the former method, and this helps to reduce the size of the relay. Contrary to this, to improve the anti-surgings characteristic and the anti-noise characteristic between the winding and contact springs, a distance between the winding and contact springs must be made larger, which increases the size of the relay. Therefore, in a small sized relay, it is difficult to effectively fix the contact springs to the base block, since the thickness of a mold is small but the distance between the winding and the contact springs must be large.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to improve the anti-surgings characteristic and the anti-noise characteristic in a small sized relay.

Therefore, according to the present invention, in an electromagnetic relay wherein a movable contact spring and a stationary contact spring are inserted by molding into a base block, the width of a portion of the movable contact spring and the stationary contact spring within the base block is larger than that of a portion thereof outside of the base block. Accordingly, the movable contact spring and the stationary contact springs can be effectively and reliably fixed to the base block, and this allows a substantial distance to be provided between the winding and the contact springs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be more clearly understood from the description as set forth below, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is an exploded, perspective view illustrating

an embodiment of the electromagnetic relay according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the assembled relay of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the contact springs of Fig. 1;

Figs. 4A and 4B are enlarged plan and side views of the contact springs and the card of Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the card of Fig. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In Fig. 1 and 2, which illustrates an embodiment of the present invention, reference X designates an electromagnet assembly, and Y designates a base block assembly.

Reference numeral 1 designates a bobbin on which a winding 2 is wound. The bobbin 1 has two collars 1a and 1b, and block-shaped portions 1c and 1d protruded from the collar 1b. Winding terminals 3a and 3b are inserted by pressure into the block-shaped portions 1c and 1d, respectively, and the ends of the winding 2 are fixed to the winding terminals 3a and 3b.

Reference 4 designates a core which penetrates the center of the bobbin 1 and is fixed by a yoke 5. Note, a magnetic pole portion of the core 4 is indicated by 4a.

Reference 6 designates an armature which is fixed to an end of a L-shaped hinge spring 7, the other end of which is fixed to the yoke 5 by inserting the protrusions (not shown) thereof into holes 7a and 7b of the hinge spring 7, whereby the electromagnet assembly X is completed.

Next, the base block assembly Y is explained below.

A base block 8 includes an approximately cylindrical insulating barrier 8a having an opening through which the electromagnet assembly X is inserted. Also, a movable contact spring 9 having a contact 9a and a terminal 9b and a stationary spring 10 having a contact 10a are inserted by molding into the base block 8. Note that the body of the movable contact spring 9 and a terminal 9b thereof can be formed separately or integrally.

Also, a slit 9c is provided at the movable contact spring 9, to thereby effectively increase the length of the movable contact spring 9, i.e., reduce the stiffness thereof. Further, the stationary contact spring 10 is approximately L-shaped, to thus effectively increase the length of the stationary contact spring 10, i.e., reduce the stiffness thereof. As a result, after the winding 2 is excited, whereby the contact 9a of the movable contact spring 9 is in contact with the contact 10a of the stationary contact spring 10, the stationary contact spring 10 can be moved to easily obtain a desired contact follow through.

Reference 12 designates a two-parallel-arm type and card for transmitting a motion of the armature 6 to the movable contact spring 9. For this purpose, curled portions 12a and 12b of the card 12 are inserted into holes 6b and 6c of the armature 6.

Also, reference 13 designates a box for accommodating the body of relay. When the body of the relay is accommodated in the box 13, the box 13 is adhered by adhesives to the base block 8. In this case, the adhesives are inserted in through holes 8b and 8c of the base block 8, but the adhesive may be spilt to form a hinge portion 5a of the yoke 5. To avoid this, two parallel rails (protrusions) 8d and 8e are provided at the base block 8 on the opening side of the barrier 8a. The parallel rails 8d and 8e are positioned inside of the block-shaped portions 1c and 1d when the electromagnet assembly X is inserted into the cylindrical insulating barrier 8a of the base block 8, and thus the parallel rails 8d and 8e also serve as guides for the electromagnet assembly.

The movable contact spring 9 (in this case, the terminal 9b) and the stationary contact spring 10 of Figs. 1 and 2 are explained in more detail with reference to Fig. 3.

A portion 91 of the terminal 9b within the base block 8 is made wider than a portion 92 of the terminal 9b outside of the base block 8, to ensure a secure adhesion of the terminal 9b of the movable contact spring 9 to the base block 8. Also, a portion 93 of the terminal 9b towards the external terminal 94 thereof is made slimmer. As a result, even when a large force is applied to the external terminal 94, such a large force is absorbed by the slim portion 93, to thus avoid a transformation of the movable contact spring 9.

Similarly, a portion 101 of the stationary contact spring 10 within the base block 8 is made wider than a portion 102 of the stationary contact spring 10 outside of the base block 8, to thus ensure a secure adhesion of the stationary contact spring 10 to the base block 8. Also, a portion 103 of the stationary contact spring 10 towards the external terminal 104 thereof is made slimmer. As a result, even when a large force is applied to the external terminal 104, such a large force is absorbed by the slim portion 103, to thus avoid a transformation of the stationary contact spring 10.

Also, although the movable contact spring 9 and the stationary contact spring 10 are arranged at different faces spaced along the longitudinal direction of the relay, since the slim portion 93 of the terminal 9b is bent, both of the external terminals 94 and 104 are arranged at the same face with respect to the longitudinal direction of the relay. The terminal 9b of the movable contact spring 9 is further securely adhered to the base block 8.

The card 12 of Figs. 1 and 2 is explained in more detail with reference to Figs. 4A, 4B, and 5. That is, a portion 12c of the card 12 is fitted on an upper portion of the movable contact spring 9, and simultaneously,

a protrusion 12d of the card 12 penetrates through a hole 9d of the movable contact spring 9, thus avoiding a separation of the card 12 from the movable contact spring 9.

According to the present invention, since the movable contact spring 9 and the stationary contact spring 10 are located on opposite sides of the electromagnetic assembly X with respect to the base block 8, it is possible to obtain a sufficient distance between the electromagnet and the contacts, thus improving the anti-surge characteristic and anti-noise characteristic of the relay.

The assembly operation of the relay of Figs. 1 and 2 is explained.

The winding terminals 3a and 3b are fixed by a pressure insertion thereof in the holes of the block-shaped portions 1c and 1d of the bobbin 1. Next, the core 4 is inserted in the bobbin 1 having the winding 2 thereon, and an end of the core 4 opposite to the magnetic pole face 4a thereof is caulked at the yoke 5, to thus complete a core assembly X1.

Further, the armature 6 is caulked at a portion 6a of the hinge spring 7, to thus complete an armature assembly X2.

Thereafter, holes 7a and 7b of the armature assembly X2 are fitted into the respective protrusions (not shown) of the under face of the yoke 5 of the core assembly X1, to thus complete the electromagnet assembly X.

Then, the electromagnet assembly X is inserted into the cylindrical insulating barrier 8a of the base block 8, and the armature 6 is linked by the card 12 to the movable contact spring 9, and thereafter, the entire relay is covered by the box 13, to thus complete the overall assembly thereof.

In this assembled relay, since the protrusion 12d of the card 12 is inserted into the hole 9d of the movable contact spring 9, the card 12 cannot be separated from the movable contact spring 9. Also, noise generated from the contacts of the movable contact spring 9 and the stationary contact spring 10 is not transmitted to the winding 2, due to the long distance therebetween, and therefore, a special noise shield is not required, which reduces the number of components.

The operation of the relay of Figs. 1 and 2 is explained below.

In a standby state in which no current is supplied to the winding 2, a force of the hinge spring 7 and a force of the movable contact spring 9 via the card 12 are applied to the armature 6, so that the armature 6 is separated from the magnetic pole face 4a of the core 4, and thus the contact 9a of the movable contact spring 9 is opened with respect to the contact 10a of the stationary contact spring 10.

Next, when a current is supplied to the winding 2, to excite same, the armature 6 is attracted to the magnetic pole face 4a of the core 4, whereby the armature

6 is rotated in the clockwise direction at the portion 5a. As a result, the movable contact spring 9 is moved toward the stationary contact spring 10 by a motion of the card 12 associated with the armature 6, and thus the contact 9a of the movable contact spring 9 abuts against the contact 10a of the stationary contact spring 10.

When the current supplied to the winding 2 is shut off, the relay is restored to the original state thereof by a restoring force of the movable contact spring 9 and the stationary contact spring 10.

As explained above, the electromagnetic relay according to the present invention can be made in a small size, which improves the anti-surfing characteristic and the anti-noise characteristic.

Claims

1. An electromagnetic relay comprising:
an electromagnet assembly (X);
a base block assembly (Y) for fixing said electromagnet thereto, said base assembly having a base block (8), a movable contact spring (9), and a stationary contact spring (10), said movable contact spring and said stationary contact spring being inserted by molding into said base block, the width of a portion of said movable contact spring and said stationary contact spring within said base block being larger than that of a portion of said movable contact spring and said stationary contact spring outside of said base block.
2. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said movable contact spring has an external terminal (94) at an extension thereof, and said stationary contact spring has an external terminal (104) at an extension thereof, a portion of said movable contact spring and said stationary contact spring within said base block near said external terminals being partially made slimmer.
3. An electromagnetic relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein a portion of said movable contact spring or said stationary contact spring within said base block is bent.
4. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said electromagnet assembly comprises:
a core (4);
a bobbin (1) for inserting said core thereinto;
a winding (2) wound on said bobbin;
an armature (6) provided in an opposite direction to said movable contact spring and said stationary contact spring with respect to said core; and

a card (12) for connecting said armature to said movable contact spring;

said card having a portion (12c) for fitting said movable contact spring thereto, and a protrusion (12d) to be inserted into a hole provided at said movable contact spring.

5. A relay as set forth in claim 4, wherein said card further has two parallel arms.
6. A relay as set forth in claim 5, wherein said electromagnet assembly further comprises an approximately cylindrical insulating barrier (8a) for covering said winding, said two parallel arms of said card being positioned on both upper sides of said insulating barrier.
7. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said movable contact spring has a slot (9c) to effectively expand the length thereof.
8. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said stationary contact spring is made approximately L-shaped, to effectively increase the length thereof.
9. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said electromagnet is located at a distance from said movable contact spring and said stationary contact, to obtain an insulating effect therebetween.
10. A relay as set forth in claim 1, wherein said base block has two parallel rails (8d, 8e) along an inserting direction of said bobbin.

Fig. 1

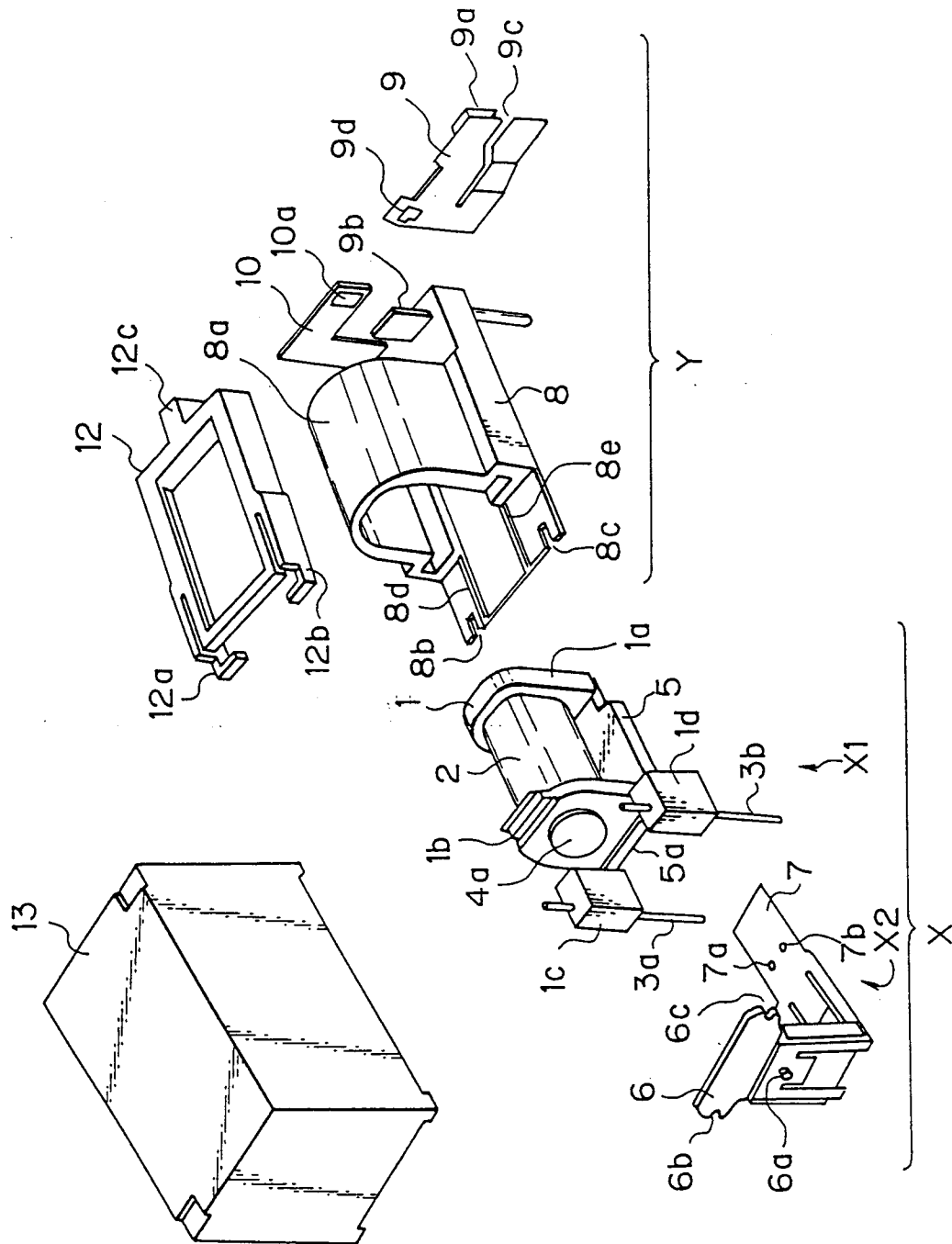


Fig. 2

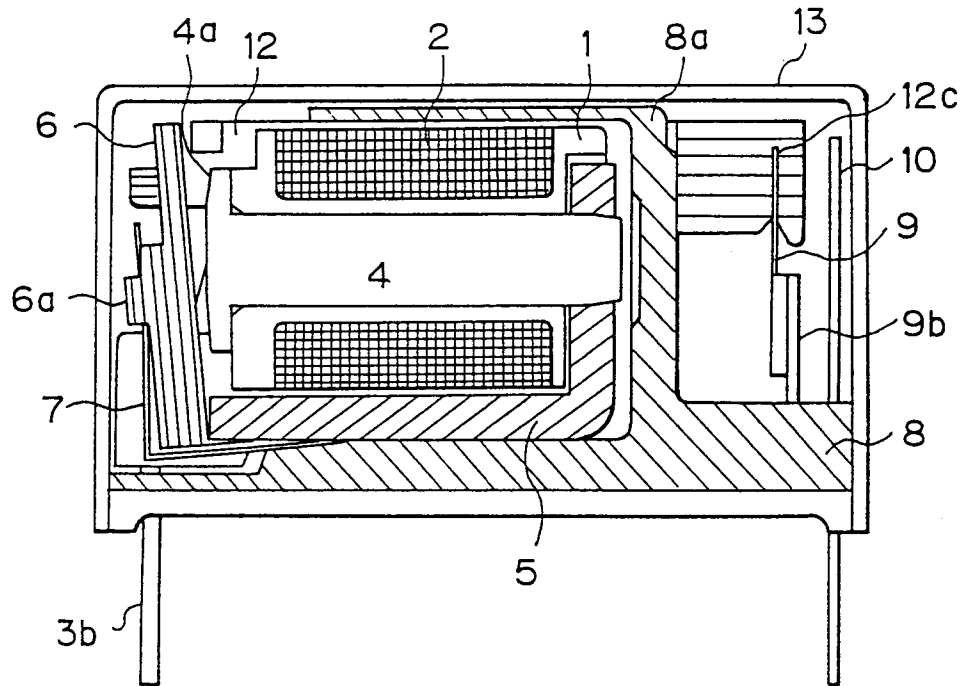


Fig. 3

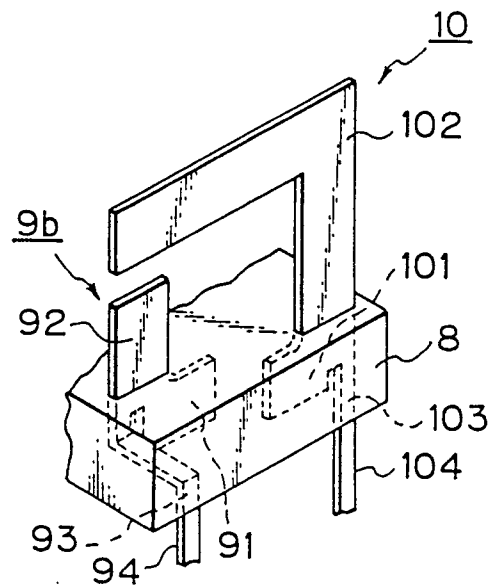


Fig. 4A

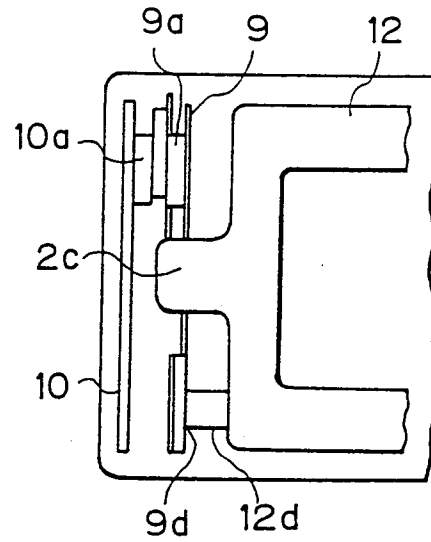


Fig. 4B

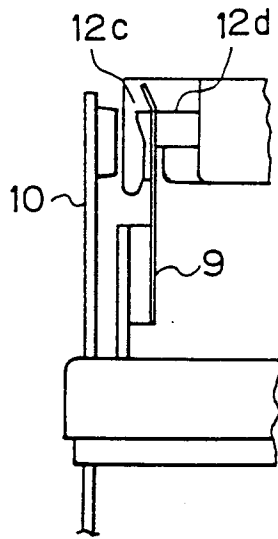


Fig. 5

