TOGGLE SWITCH GUARD

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INVENTOR:
EDWARD A. SPACEK

Myron Amer
ATTORNEY
TOGGLE SWITCH GUARD

Edward A. Spacek, 215—12 24th Ave.,Bayseite, N. Y. 11360

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4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A guard for a toggle switch which occupies a protective position about the switch member so as to minimize inadvertent actuation of the switch member without, at the same time, rendering the switch member unduly inaccessible for switching operation.

The present invention relates generally to a toggle switch guard, and more particularly to a guard adapted to be readily and effectively assembled to this type of switch so as to minimize inadvertent actuation of the switch.

As generally understood, a toggle switch includes a switch member having a projected position from the housing of the electrical contacts and is adapted to be moved between on-off switching positions. While switches are generally subject to inadvertent actuation, a toggle switch is particularly prone to this disadvantageous occurrence. Moreover, in providing a guard about the switch member in order to minimize inadvertent striking of the switch it is necessary that the protective guard does not at the same time unduly complicate and interfere with accessibility of the switch member since this would defeat one of the primary reasons for using a toggle switch which is noted for the ease in which it is operated. Additionally, it is necessary that the assembly of the guard to the switch be as simple as possible and yet this assembly be sufficiently firm to withstand vibration if the switch is an integral part of a motor or other such apparatus which during normal operation is characterized by considerable vibration. Presently known guards for toggle switches and similar such switches fail to satisfy all of these commercial requirements.

Broadly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved toggle switch guard overcoming the foregoing and other shortcomings of the prior art. Specifically, it is an object to provide an improved guard for a toggle switch which is simple in its construction, easily assembled to the switch which, once firmly assembled, remains in this condition despite even excessive vibration.

A toggle switch guard demonstrating objects and advantages of the present invention has a concavely shaped base which during attachment to the switch housing is flattened against the housing with the result that forces are induced to hold the base firmly to the switch housing despite excessive vibration. Additionally, formed as an integral part of the base is an upstanding, generally semi-circular wall which cooperates with the base to define a protective compartment into the switch member of the toggle switch is projected during assembly of the guard to the switch.

The above brief description, as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention, will be more fully appreciated by reference to the following detailed description of a presently preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiment in accordance with the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a switch guard according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an isolated side elevational view of the guard;
inadvertent actuation of said switch member is minimized while access thereto preparatory to intended actuation therof is possible through said side openings.

2. A switch guard as defined in claim 1 wherein said base is constructed of a flexible material and has a concave shape relative to said support, and said connecting means is operatively effective in the completion of said connection of said base to said support to cause flexing in said base incident to the flattening of said concave shape of said base against said support, whereby said flexing induces holding forces between said base and said support which minimizes the loosening of the connection therebetween due to vibration.

3. A switch guard as defined in claim 2 wherein said upstanding wall is generally semicircular in shape.

4. A switch guard as defined in claim 3 wherein said switch member includes a threaded base having an operative projected position through an opening in said base, and said connecting means is a nut adapted to be threadably engaged to said threaded base.

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HERMAN O. JONES, Primary Examiner
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