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A. M. DRAVING

1,956,376

MOLDED SOCKET

Filed Sept. 2, 1931

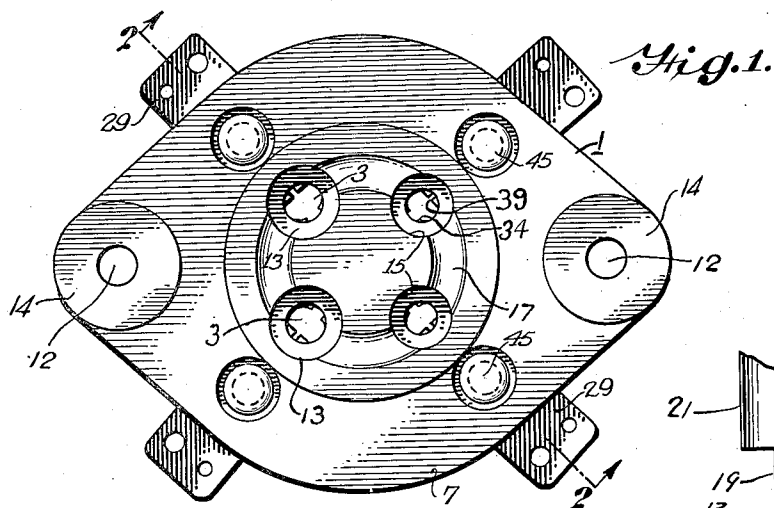


Fig. 1.

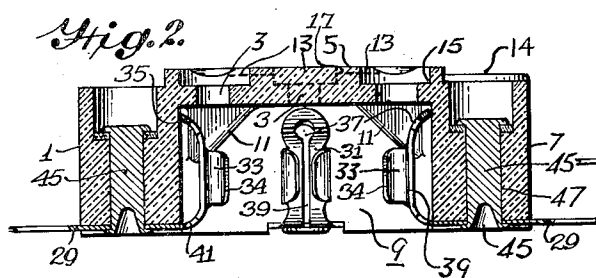


Fig. 2.

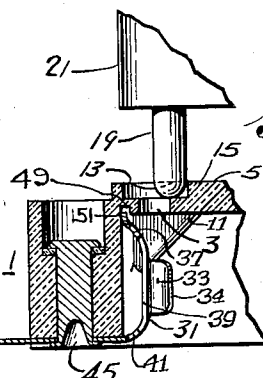


Fig. 4.

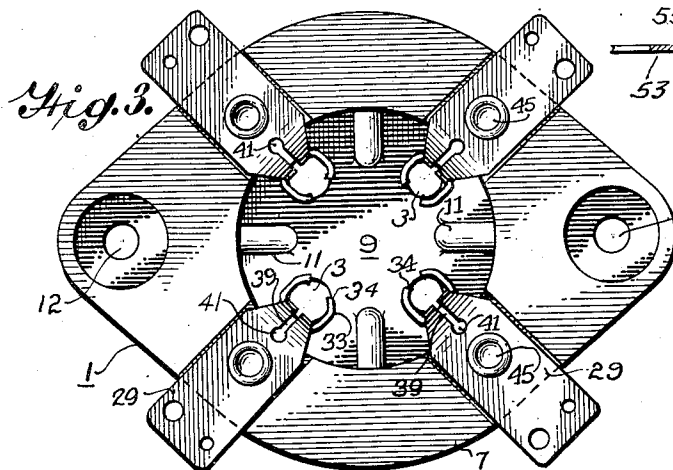


Fig. 3.

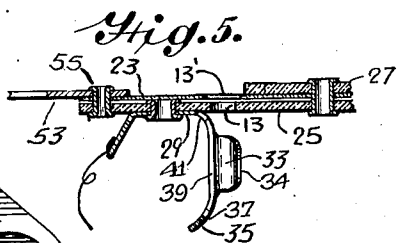


Fig. 5.

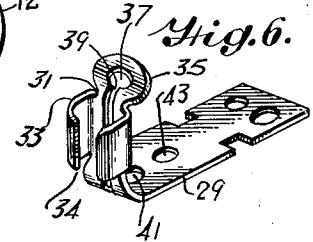


Fig. 6.

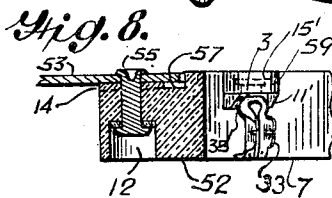


Fig. 8.

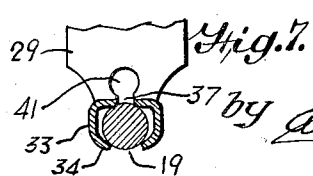


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,956,376

MOLDED SOCKET

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3 Claims. (Cl. 173—328)

REISSUED

My invention relates to improvements in electrical receptacles for vacuum tubes, electrical plugs, and the like.

Devices of this character with which I am familiar, have in the past had the following defects: In the insertion of the prongs of vacuum tubes into their sockets, it has been found that the solder on the bottom of the prongs has traced lines of conducting material on the surface of the receptacle between the sockets or apertures in the receptacle. This has resulted in leakage paths between the terminals of the vacuum tube or other device, and it has been particularly objectionable in the case of receptacles constructed of ceramic material having a roughened or porous surface. Additionally, difficulty has been encountered in socket contact terminals, of providing contact structure adapted to make firm electrical contact along a plurality of points on the terminal prongs of the vacuum tube, or other plug-in device.

Accordingly, an object of my invention is to provide an electrical receptacle so constructed as to prevent the formation of conducting or leakage paths between terminals.

A further object of my invention is to provide a receptacle of the "low-loss" type, preferably formed of molded ceramic material, having a minimum of insulation material therein and a maximum of efficiency when used in connection with radio apparatus employing short wave lengths.

A still further object of my invention is to provide contact terminal structure for the sockets, having extreme simplicity of design and an improved electrical contact with the prongs of a plug-in device.

A still further object of my invention is to provide electrical contact structure of novel design for my improved receptacle, together with novel means for securing the contact structure in assembled relation with the receptacle.

With these and other objects in view which will appear from the following description, the invention comprises the methods and the devices described and set forth in the following specification and claims.

The various features of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of my improved socket receptacle embodying a preferred form of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal view in section of the socket receptacle shown in Fig. 1 and taken on lines 2—2.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the socket receptacle shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view in sections similar to Fig. 2 embodying a modified form of my invention, and serving to illustrate one of the principles of my invention.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal view in section of a modified form of my improved socket receptacle.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the novel contact element forming a part of my improved socket receptacle.

Fig. 7 is a plan view partly in section of my improved resilient contact structure and serving to illustrate its operative relation to the prong terminal of a plug-in device.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view in longitudinal section of one end of the receptacle of Fig. 1, however, in slightly modified form.

Referring to the construction of my improved socket in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, I have provided a molded socket receptacle 1, having sockets or bores 3 in the top wall portion 5 for the insertion of the prongs of a plug-in device. The receptacle shown is composed of molded ceramic material or other desirable material having satisfactory mechanical strength and desirable low-loss characteristics for radio frequency purposes. This receptacle comprises the top portion 5 and the lower side wall portion 7, these portions forming a hollow chamber 9. In the device which I have designed and built, I have employed the brackets or partitions 11 for strengthening purposes and also for insulating reasons, located between the respective socket bores and contact structure, and connecting the top and side wall portions.

The receptacle is adapted to be secured to the metal chassis of a radio set by means of holes 12, the raised bosses 14 serving to space the top face of the receptacle from the chassis. Such relation is illustrated clearly in connection with Fig. 8, hereinafter described.

Coaxially disposed with each of said sockets or bores is a counterbore or well 13 of enlarged diameter, formed in the surface of the top wall, and having preferably a sharp corner at 15. I have shown a circular groove 17 on the surface of the top wall in alignment with the socket bores 3 for assisting in the insertion of a plug-in device. As will be obvious, the ends of the prongs are located in this groove and the plug-in device is rotated until the prongs of the polarized plug-in device come into registering relation with the corresponding sockets. Ordinarily such a groove is not essential, although in many cases the groove, or the equivalent, is desirable.

Referring to Fig. 4, I have illustrated a prong 19 of a plug-in device such as a base 21 of a vacuum tube, in the process of being inserted into the socket 3. The rounded end portion of the prong cannot come into contact with the corner 15 of the enlarged bore 13, and it is apparent that any path that is traced upon the surface of the socket between the socket bores, and particularly in the groove 17 when used, is effectively broken by the presence of the corner 15. It may be considered that this corner 15 has a radius of curvature which is less than that of the end of prong 19.

In the modified form of Fig. 5, I have illustrated my invention in its application to a laminated socket of the type disclosed in Patent #1,771,094 to MacFadden. Here, the aperture 13' in the top plate 23 is made larger in diameter than aperture 13 in the bottom plate 25, thereby forming in effect a step with a corner, as in Fig. 2, and for a similar purpose. The guide disc 27 is preferably made sufficiently small in diameter that its perimeter is spaced from the prong terminals of the plug-in device when in the operating position in the socket.

Referring to Fig. 6, I have illustrated, in perspective, a novel form of contact terminal structure used in the above forms of socket as shown in Figs. 1 to 5. This contact structure is formed from a strip 29 of any desirable resilient material such as phosphor-bronze, and has a portion 31 bent at right angles thereto. This portion has a pair of arms or fingers 33 extending therefrom with inwardly directed ends 34 adapted to grip the sides of a terminal prong.

The right-angled portion 31 has its end portion 35 preferably bent backwardly and provided with an aperture 37. The base portion 29 similarly has an aperture 41 therein. A slot 39 is disposed longitudinally of the right angled portion 31, and connects the apertures 37 and 41. The presence of these apertures and the slot considerably improves the resiliency and freedom of movement of the arms 33, providing a firm grip on the terminal prongs as shown clearly in Fig. 7. Here it is seen that the edges of the slot 37 and those of the ends 34, firmly contact with the prong 19, and may in fact even slightly cut into the sides of the prong, tracing four lines longitudinally thereof. This insures substantially a perfect electrical contact, and with a self cleaning action.

The contact structure 29 is adapted to be mounted in the socket receptacle by means of a rivet 45, as shown in Figs. 1 to 4, which extends thru the aperture 43 in the contact and thru the bore 47 in the body of the socket 1. The right angled portion of the contact structure extends up into the chamber 9 of the socket 1 substantially parallel to the side walls thereof, and with the contact arms 33, is in alignment with the socket bore 3. The bent back end 35 of the contact structure is adapted to rest against the inside walls of said chamber for reinforcing the action of the said contact structure. It will thus be seen that when the tube prongs are inserted into engagement with the contact structure the latter are sprung slightly toward the side walls, exerting an outward pressure on the prongs.

I have found that it is possible because of this construction to even omit the arms 33 and obtain a satisfactory contact between the portion 31 or slot 39 and the terminal prong of the plug-in device, although I prefer to obtain more perfect contact by means of the arms 33 in addition. The

reinforced construction resulting from the end 35 of the contact bearing against said walls tends to prevent injury to the contact by the insertion of the prongs particularly when the contact structure is made of metal having the desired thinness for purpose of flexibility.

To further insure against injury or displacement of the contact I have shown in Fig. 4 a recess 49 extending into the top wall 5 and into which an upturned end or projection 51 on the end of the contact slides. An advantage of this upturned end is that it permits the end of the contact structure more easily to slide along the wall surface when the prong is inserted and forces the portion 31 of the terminal toward said wall.

This recess 49 may be in the form of a groove running around the corner of the wall and top portion of the socket but I prefer to limit its length to substantially the width of the end 51 of the terminal in order to further strengthen said contact in some cases against the possibility of sidewise displacement. It is therefore obvious that this recess 49 not only tends to prevent sidewise displacement of said contact but likewise prevents inward displacement toward the center of the socket in case the end of an inserted prong should catch on the top edge of arms 33, which are however preferably flared slightly outward and rounded as shown.

I have illustrated in Fig. 5, the mounting of substantially the same form of contact element, shown in Figs. 1 to 3, in a depending position from the laminated socket plates 23 and 25. In this construction it is not essential for obvious structural reasons that the end 35 of the terminal rest against a support because of the fact that the character of the combination is different from that above. Here a prong of the plug-in device engages the contact structure, or the upper portion of the arms 33, at a point near the base of support at 29.

Although in the above figures, I have shown but one step or break between the top surface of the socket receptacle and the socket bore, it is obvious that one or more steps or breaks may be provided if desirable. It is likewise possible, in Fig. 2, for example, to omit all or certain central portions of the top wall 5 of the socket in case it is desirable to reduce to a minimum the socket material between the prongs of a vacuum tube. Such a structure is shown in Fig. 8. Here, in effect, the receptacle consists of a ring of insulation material 52 mounted on a metal chassis 53 of a radio set by means of a plurality of rivets 55, and the boss 14 on the top of the socket reduces the tendency to breakage. The latter improves the insulation by spacing the top portion 57 away from the metal chassis. The fingers 33 may be subdivided as shown, if desired.

The contact terminals 29 are here mounted as in Fig. 8, and I have shown most of the top wall cut away, leaving a portion 59 having a socket bore 3, and if desired, a plurality of counterbores or steps at 15' around the bore 3. Brackets 11' between the socket portion 59 and the wall 7 serve to strengthen the portion 59, and additionally serve to support the end 35 of the contact terminal, as in the case of the recess 49 in Fig. 4.

It has been found that the enlarged counterbores, particularly in the absence of the guiding means such as the groove 17, facilitates insertion of the prongs into their sockets.

While I illustrated certain embodiments of my invention I do not desire to be limited by the de-

tails of construction shown therein, since I am entitled to all reasonably changes in details which might be effected by one skilled in the art.

Altho the counterbored portions of the sockets
5 have been shown as being of the same contour as the socket bore, and as positioned in concentric relation therewith, it should be obvious to one skilled in the art that the enlarged counterbores or apertures can be of any desired configuration,
10 for example square, and furthermore that the sides of the counterbore need not be straight as shown. The counterbore may also be positioned in any desired relation with respect to the main socket bore.

15 What I claim as my invention is:

1. An electrical socket receptacle for a plug in device having terminal prongs, comprising a ring of electrical insulation material, electrical contact structure for said prongs, each structure supported by one end of said ring and extending
20 along the inside wall of said ring toward the other end thereof, and means on the end of said contact structure adjacent said other end of said ring for strengthening said contact structure and for supporting said structure from movement toward said wall during the insertion of the prongs,
25 and characterized in that each contact structure is slotted longitudinally along an intermediate

portion and is provided with a pair of contact arms extending therefrom for embracing the inserted prongs.

2. Electrical contact structure for a vacuum tube receptacle, comprising a metallic strip, said
80 strip having a base portion for anchorage to said receptacle and a contact portion for making connection with one of the prongs of a vacuum tube, said contact portion having a longitudinal slot
85 along one side of the said prong and having fingers extending from said contact portion on either side of said slot for embracing an inserted prong.

3. An electrical receptacle for a plug-in device having terminal plugs comprising a support of
90 insulation material having openings in it for the passage of plugs and a plurality of contact devices secured to the support and each comprising a plate parallel to the bottom of the support and
95 an end slitted throughout a large portion of its length and almost to its extremity and carrying contact members folded toward each other from the outer sides of the end portion along the slit, the contact members differing in contour from
100 the contour of the plugs and adapted to engage the plugs through a part only of their circumferences.

ARTHUR M. DRAVING.

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