Abstract: A spring-loaded wedge dead end connector (10) includes a connector body (12) having a base (28) and a pair of opposite jaw guides (30, 32) formed on and protruding outwardly from the base (28) and defining a guide channel (14) therein, a pair of jaws (16, 18) mounted between the jaw guides (30, 32) and on the base (28) of the connector body (12) for undergoing slid able movement within the guide channel (14) thereof along converging paths from an open position (Fig. 10) for receiving a segment of an electrical conductor (S) therebetween to a closed position (Fig. 11) in which the jaws (16, 18) provide a clamping wedging engagement with the electrical conductor segment (S) disposed therebetween, a plurality of complementary elements (20, 22) formed on the jaws (16, 18) such that the complementary elements (20, 22) directly and slidably interfit with one another so as to ensure that the jaws (16, 18) are coupled to one another to undergo their sliding movement together, and a plurality of retention elements (24) for preventing removal of the jaws (16, 18) from the connector body (12).
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
    26 September 2002
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16G 11/00
US CL. : 403/374.2; 24/136R, 132WL; 294/102.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 403/275, 374.1, 374.2; 24/136R, 132WL, 115M, 132R; 174/65SS; 294/102.1; 16/205

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,076,236 A (DEFRANCE) 20 June 2000 (20.06.2000), Figs. 1-7, column 4, lines 18-81.</td>
<td>1-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 3,758,922 A (FIELD) 18 September 1973 (18.09.1973), Fig. 1, abstract.</td>
<td>1-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
  * "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  * "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
  * "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  * "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  * "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

  "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
  "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
  "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
  "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
11 June 2002 (11.06.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report
24 JUL 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703)305-2330

Authorized officer

Telephone No. 703-308-1020

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of Item 4 of the first sheet:
The existing title is too long and has been changed to SPRING-LOADED WEDGE DEAD END CONNECTOR