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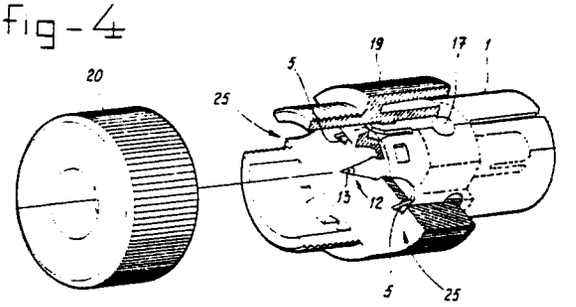
(54) Branch connector for coaxial cable.

(57) A branch connector for coaxial cable comprising an elongated circular cylindrical housing (1) of electrically conductive material and a supporting disc of insulation material inserted therein. The cylindrical housing (1) has at least one tooth (5) adapted to penetrate and electrically contact the outer conductor of a coaxial cable received in a feed-through channel of the housing. The supporting disc has a projecting pin (12) adapted to penetrate and electrically contact the inner conductor of the coaxial cable. A clamping element with a screwed sleeve (19) and a corresponding feed-through channel (25) fits over the cylindrical housing (1). A screw cap (20) couples with the screwed sleeve (19) for contacting and firmly retaining the cable in the feed-through channel.

Fig-4



EP 0 251 396 A1

Branch connector for coaxial cable.

The invention relates to a branch connector for coaxial cable having at least one inner conductor surrounded by an inner insulation sheath, said inner sheath being surrounded by at least one outer conductor and an outer insulation sheath respectively, said branch connector comprising an elongated housing of electrically conductive material, at least one end of which is provided with a feed-through channel for receiving the cable and at least one electrically conductive tooth adapted for contacting the outer conductor of the cable, an electrically conductive penetration pin axially arranged in the housing, said penetration pin being electrically insulated from the housing, at least one end of said penetration pin having a point radially penetrating in the one feed-through channel and adapted for contacting the inner conductor of the cable and with an insulation sheath for preventing electrical contact with the outer conductor of the contacted cable, and a at least one clamping element for retaining the contacted cable in the one feed-through channel.

A branch connector of this type is known from U.K. Patent application GB-A-2 082 850.

Due to the great increase in the use of micro-computers, home computers, word processing equipment and their accompanying visual display terminals, printer units, memory equipment etc., it is often necessary, for the transfer of information between the various users in practice, to have a local connection network by means of which this equipment can be interconnected. In office environments in particular, it is often necessary, for the connection of equipment, to have the possibility of branching off this connection network at any desired points.

A large number of units can be interconnected by means of coaxial cable and for that purpose have suitable coaxial junction boxes. These local interconnection networks are therefore largely built up of coaxial cable.

In the current networks the equipment is still generally connected by means of terminal boxes. This means a T-shaped interconnection element, which is provided with coaxial junction boxes, and to each end of which a coaxial cable is connected by means of a coaxial plug. This manner of connection is fairly expensive for building up a local connection network, and it is not possible with it to make branches in a cable in use without interrupting the stream of information flowing through it.

With the branch connector disclosed by the above-mentioned U.K. patent application, branching of a cable in use can be achieved, but this requires two succesive operations. First, the coaxial cable to be branched must be confined in the feed-through chanel using finger pressure, in which for contacting said cable an adequate amount of force is required. Particularly for a stiff cable, i.e. a cable with insulation sheats of a mechanically hard to penetrate material or a cable with relative thick conductors, a considerable amount of force may be required.

After the cable is seated in the feed-through channel, a connector cover has to be slideably fitted over the feed-through channel, to prevent the cable from being pressed out of the feed-through channel. In order to fit this connector cover, it is required that the cable is completely received in the feed-through channel, as seen in longitudinal direction of the housing of the connector. When part of the periphery of the cable protrudes the feed-through channel, it is not possible or just very difficult to fit this connector cover, in which there is also a possibility that the outer insulation sheat of the cable may be damaged by the connector cover sliding over the cable. Further, the connector cover provides no relieve against tensile forces in longitudinal direction of the cable. These tensile forces will be fully transferred to the penetration pin and the at least one tooth, which is not favourable to the reliability and durability of the electrical connections.

In view of the above-described disadvantages, the object of the invention is to provide a branch connector of the type referred to in the preamble, with which coaxial cables can be durably and reliably branched in one rapid and simple operation. The branch connector according to the invention is characterized in thart said housing is circular cylindrical in shape, the penetration pin is locked inside the housing on a transverse supporting disc of insulation material, while the at least one clamping element consists of a screwed sleeve with a corresponding feedthrough channel at one end thereof and adapted to be fitted over the jacket of the cylindrical housing, and a screw cap for coupling with said screwed sleeve for contacting and firmly retaining the cable in the one feed-through channel.

By coupling together the screwed sleeve and the screw cap, a force is exerted radially on the coaxial cable. Under the influence of this force, the penetration pin and the at least one tooth successfully penetrate into the cable for contacting the inner and the outer conductor, respectively. In contacted state, the cable is firmly confined between the screw cap and the screwed sleeve, as a result of which the electric al connections are relieved of tensile forces in longitudinal direction of the cable. A further embodiment of the invention is character-

ized in that the housing and the screwed sleeve are provided with means for retaining and positioning the screwed sleeve in such a way that in the fitted state the one feed-through channel is open for receiving to coaxial cable, as a result of which displacement of the cable in longitudinal direction of the housing is also excluded.

As before mentioned, in the U.K. patent application the coaxial cable has to be received and contacted in the feed-through channel by finger pressure. Such uncontrolled push-in can lead to deformation of the cable, and the possibility that the penetration pin penetrates not exactly radially in the cable, as result of which the inner conductor can be insufficiently contacted so that no reliable connection will be established, or the penetration pin may even arrive in the inner inslation sheat adjacent the inner conductor, without contacting the latter.

In order to obtain an evenly distributed force on the cable for avoidance as far as possible of deformation of the cable during contacting, according to a prefered embodiment of the invention, a tubular pressure element is provided concentrically inside the screw cap, said pressure element being adapted to fit into the housing, and one closed end face of said pressure element coincides with the open end of the screw cap. Further, an approximatley U-shaped supporting surface is pro-vided inside the screwed sleeve, said U-shaped supporting surface having openings for feeding through the penetration pin and the at least one tooth, said supporting surface together with U-shaped notched in the one screw-threaded end of the screwed sleeve forming the corresponding feed-through channel.

In contacted state the penetration pin may make contact by means of its conducting point only with the inner conductor of the coaxial cable. In order to avoid faulty contacts as much as possible, one must also prevent the penetration pin from moving in axial and/or radial direction inside the housing. According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the penetration pin is attached to a carrier strip on which the insulation material of the transverse supporting disc grips for the purpose of preventing axial and radial shifting of the penetration pin within the supporting disc, and the end of said penetration pin which is to penetrate into the cable is enclosed over a part by the insulation material of the supporting disc, in order to prevent electrical contact with the outer conductor of the contacted coaxial cable.

By designing the other end of the penetration pin as a contact socket or contact pin, one forms together with the other end of the circular cylindrical housing, not provided with the one feed-through channel, either a coaxial coupling socket or a coaxial plug for connecting in a simple manner the cable or equipment to be connected. It will be clear that the branch connector designed in this way according to the invention can also advantageously be used as the end connector for a coaxial cable.

Because, according to a further embodiment of the invention the supporting disc with the penetration pin is detachably locked inside the housing, it is with one type of housing and clamping means possible to form a branch connector with either a coaxial coupling socket or a coaxial plug output, simply by replacing the suporting disc with the penetration pin.

If a branch with a plug connection is not desired or necessary, for example if an additional coaxial cable has to be used between the branch point and the equipment for connection, a further embodiment of the branch connector according to the invention is characterized in that at the other end of the housing a second feed-through channel of the same type with at least one tooth is provided, and the other end of the penetration pin is also designed as a point, whereby a second coaxial cable can be received in said second feed-through channel, contacted and retained with a second clamping element of the same type.

The invention will now be explained in greater detail with reference to the examples of embodiments shown in the drawings.

Fig. 1 shows a drawing in perspective with disassembled parats of a preferred embodiment of the housing and the penetration pin of the branch connector according to the invention;

Fig. 2 shows in perspective the housing of the branch connector according to Fig. 1, with the penetration pin fitted therein, partially shown by dotted lines;

Fig. 3 shows a drawing in perspective with disassembled and "cutaway" parts of a preferred embodiment of a clamping element of the branch connector according to the invention, together with the fitted branch connector from Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 shows a drawing in perspective with "cutaway" parts of the preferred embodiment of the branch connector according to Fig. 3, in which part of the clamping element is fitted over the housing;

Fig. 5 shows on an enlarged scale with "cutaway" parts a preferred embodiment of the branch connector according to the invention, with a contacted coaxial cable confined therein;

Fig. 6 shows in various stages and views the structure of the penetration pin and the supporting disc according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7 shows a further embodiment of a branch connector according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 shows a drawing in perspective with disassembled and "cutaway" parts of a further preferred embodiment of the branch connector according to the invention for contacting of two coaxial cables;

Fig. 9 shows a drawing in perspective with "cutaway" parts of the preferred embodiment of the branch connector according to Fig. 8, in the partially fitted state; and

Fig. 10 shows a branching of a coaxial cable by means of branch connectors according to Fig. 4 and Fig. 9.

The preferred embodiment of the branch connector according to the invention illustrated in Fig. 1 shows a cylindrical housing 1 of springloaded electrically conducting material with a longitudinal seam 2. This longitudinal seam is closed under the influence of the spring force of the housing itself. Formed at one end of the housing by U-shaped notches 3 is a feed-through channel 4 running through in the radial direction. Formed at the base of each U-shaped notch is a tooth 5 which projects into the feed-through channel and has a pointed end 6 and sharp edges 7. The housing is provided along its periphery with circular rows of openings 8 and 9 which are displaced relative to each other in the longitudinal direction. From the two ends of the housing, provision is made in the longitudinal direction thereof for several slits 10 and 11, which preferably coincide with the longitudinal seam 2 as shown in Fig. 1. The slits are widened over a length at the ends of the housing.

The penetration pin 12 of electrically conducting material to be fitted in the housing 1 is provided, at the end penetrating into the coaxial cable to be contacted, with a sharply tapering conducting point 13, in such a way that this point together with the through-running insulation material 14 - conically tapering round the pin - of the transverse supporting disc 15 forms an externally smooth surface. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 the other end of the penetration pin is designed as a socket 16 with at least one slit 18 in the longitudinal direction thereof.

The penetration pin with the supporting disc fitted around it is subsequently fitted therein, overcoming the spring force of the housing, in such a way that the radially outward projecting bosses 17 of the sup porting disc engage with the openings 9 of the housing, which correspond thereto as regards shape and dimensions, as shown in Fig. 2. The openings 9 and the projecting bosses 17 are provided in such a way that, after fitting of the penetration pin in the housing, the conducting point 13 as a whole projects further outwards into the feed-through channel 4 than the teeth 5.

It will be clear that the spring force of the material of the housing has to have such strength that, on the one hand, the supporting disc can be fitted easily by hand and, on the other, the supporting disc is locked by means of the bosses 17 engaging in the openings 9, against axial and tangential displacement through forces acting thereon during normal use of the branch connector. Although the bosses 17 and the openings 9 are designed as circular in shape, it will be clear that other shapes (rectangular, square etc.) can also be used.

As can be seen clearly from Fig. 2, the socket 16 together with the end of the housing not provided with a feed-through channel forms a coaxial coupling socket. It will be clear that, instead of being designed as a socket, the end of the penetration pin can also be designed as a contact pin, as a result of which a coaxial plug is formed (not shown). A coaxial cable contacted by the penetration pin and the teeth of the housing can in this way be connected simply to a coaxial junction box of a piece of equipment to be connected. By means of the slits 11, 18, tolerance differences occurring can be overcome in a simple manner.

Fig. 3 shows in perspective the fitted branch connector of Fig. 2 and a preferred embodiment of the clamping element according to the invention, in which a part thereof is "cut away" for the purpose of showing clearly the internal layout of the clamping element. Shown on the left of the mounted housing are the two separate parts of the clamping element for confining in the feed-through channel the coaxial cable to be contacted, namely the screwed sleeve 19 and the screw cap 20. The internal diameter of the screwed sleeve is slightly larger than the external diameter of the housing. The screw cap 20 contains internal screw thread 21 which can mate with the external screw thread 22 of the screwed sleeve 19. At the end provided with screw thread, the screwed sleeve has a corresponding feed-through channel 25, which is formed by U-shaped notches 23 and an approximately U-shaped supporting surface 24, for accommodation and through-feed of the coaxial cable to be contacted. In the supporting surface 24, along the periphery, are openings 26 and in the centre thereof an opening 27 through which - after the screwed sleeve is fitted over the housing - the teeth 5 and the penetration pin 12 project into the corresponding feed-through channel 25.

Formed on the inside at the end of the screwed sleeve which is not provided with screw thread are radially projecting trapezoidal bosses 28, of which one slanting side 29 rests against the open end of the screwed sleeve, and of which the

other straight side 30 is adjacent to the convex side of the supporting surface 24. Only one of such trapezoidal bosses 28 can be seen in the drawing in Fig. 3.

These trapezoidal bosses 28 can mate with rectangular openings 8 provided in the jacket of the housing along the periphery thereof, in such a way that when the screwed sleeve is fitted from the end of the housing provided with the feed-through channel the bosses 28 engage with the openings 8, as shown in Fig. 4. Through the straight side 30 of the respective trapezoidal bosses 28 and the convex side of the supporting surface 24, te fitted screwed sleeve is prevented from being displaced in the logitudinal direction of the housing under the effect of the forces acting thereon during normal use. The relative placing and dimensions of the trapezoidal pins 28 and the openings 8 in the housing are chosen in such a way that the screwed sleeve can be locked to the housing only in that position in whcih the feed-through channels 4 and 25 of the housing and the screwed sleeve respectively lie opposite each other. The convex side of the supporting surface 24 and the U-shaped notches 3 of the housing have such dimensions that the convex part of the supporting surface fits into these notches. Together with the trapoezoidal bosses 28, this in an effective manner prevents the screwed sleeve from turning in the tangential direction as a result of the screw cap being screwed on the screwed sleeve.

The projecting bosses 17 on the supporting disc 15 and the accompanying openings 9 in the housing 1 are chosen in a different shape compared with the projecting bosses 28 of the screwed sleeve 19 and the accompanying openings 8, in order to prevent the penetration pin from being fitted wrongly into the housing through the projecting bosses 17 engaging in the openings 8.

The openings 70 along the periphery of the supporting surface 24 are produced for manufacturing reasons during the formation of the trapezoidal bosses 28. The grooves 71 in the wall of the screwed sleeve 19 serve purely to save material.

The screw cap contains a pressure element 31 which fits concentrically in tubular form in the interior of the screwed sleeve, and whose closed end face 32 coincides with the face bounded by the edge 33 of the open end of the screw cap.

When in the assembly shown in Fig. 4 a coaxial cable is inserted into the corresponding feed-through channel 25, through tightening of the screw cap on the screwed sleeve, the cable can be moved in the longitudinal direction of the housing under the effect of the pressure exerted through the pressure face 32 and the edge 33. First of all here, the conducting point 13 of the penetration pin penetrates into the insulating outer sheath 34 of the coaxial cable, shown in Fig. 5. Further tightening of the screw cap results in the point 13 successively penetrating through the outer conductor 35 and the insulating inner sheath 36 to the inner conductor 37 of the coaxial cable. After some time the teeth 5 also penetrate into the outer sheath, the outer conductor and the inner sheath.

If it is now ensured that the distance between the pointed end 6 of the tooth 5 and the base of the point 13 is greater than the thickness of the outer conductor 35 of the coaxial cable to be contacted, the point 13 and the tooth 5 cannot make contact simultaneously with the outer conductor, so that short-circuiting of the tooth and the penetration pin is prevented. In the final situation shown in Fig. 5 the cable sits, under the influence of the clamping action of the screwed sleeve and the screw cap, firmly retained in the feed-through channel 25.

It will be clear that the cable is both contacted and clamped in the feed-through channel in one operation, namely tightening of the screw cap on the screwed sleeve. Through the pressure element 31 and the shape of the feed-through channel 25 corresponding to the round cable and the curved supporting face 24 in the screwed sleeve 19, the cable is prevented from being deformed during the contacting, in such a way that the conducting point 13 of the penetration pin does not penetrate radially into the cable and consequently will not make contact with the inner conductor 37 of the cable.

The screwed sleeve and the screw cap are provided with external ridges 38, 39 respectively, in order to have sufficient grip for fixing the screw cap on the screwed sleeve by hand. The screw cap and the screwed sleeve can be made of either metal or (injection-moulded) plastic.

The teeth 5 of the housing must be sufficiently rigid to be able to penetrate without deformation through the insulating outer sheath 34 and the outer conductor 35 -generally made up of a braided wire screen and/ or a thin copper foil-of the coaxial cable. Making the tip 13 of the penetration pin pointed means that both coaxial cables with a solid inner conductor 37 and also an inner conductor 37 consisting of stranded wires can be contacted. Of course, the penetration pin must also have sufficient rigidity to enable it to pass through the cable without deformation.

Fig. 6 illustrates how the penetration pin 12, the socket 16 and the supporting disc 15 are connected together in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In the carrier strip 40 of electrically conducting material an opening 41 is provided in such a way that lips 42 which are bent from the position shown by the dotted line perpendicular to the plane of the drawing in Fig. 6a are thereby formed. The electrically conducting

penetration pin 12 is clamped between these bent-over lips 42 at a distance from the carrier strip 40. The socket 16, the development 43 of which is shown by dotted lines in Fig. 6a, is fixed with the lips 44 - bent inwards perpendicular to the plane of the drawing - on the end opposite the pointed end 13 of the penetration pin around the latter. Fig. 6b shows the top view of the system thus formed, seen from the point 13 of the penetration pin.

Subsequently, by means of, for example an injection-moulding process, the supporting disc 15 is formed round the penetration pin and part of the socket 16, as shown in Fig. 6c. Material of the supporting disc penetrates in the process into the opening 41 of the carrier strip and the holes 45 of the socket, which provides in an eficient manner a barrier against axial shifting of the socket and the penetration pin in the supporting disc. The whole is then separated from the adjacent carrier strips on either side at the level of the side faces 46 which were produced during formation of the supporting disc such that they lie inwards relative to the periphery thereof. The surfaces of fracture of the carrier strip are indicated by 47 (see also Fig. 1). The fact that the surfaces of fracture 47 lie inwards relative to the periphery of the supporting disc means that they are prevented in the mounted state from making electrical contact with the housing.

Fig. 7 shows another partially "cutaway" embodiment of the branch connector according to the invention. At one end of the cylindrical housing 48, as in the embodiment according to Fig. 1, provision is made for U-shaped notches which form a feed-through channel 49 with projecting teeth 72 therein. The supporting disc 50 with the penetration pin 51 projecting into the feed-through channel 49 is held clamped here between rows - displaced relative to each other in the longitudinal direction of the housing - of spring-loaded lips 52 projecting inwards radially along the periphery thereof and elevations 53. These lips and elevations are formed as bent-through parts of the cylindrical jacket of the housing. At the end of the housing 48 which is provided with the feed-through channel provision is made for short radially outward projecting lips 54. The penetration pin 51 is insulated in the same way as in Fig. 1 at the end which is to penetrate into the cable, and at the other end is provided with a socket 55. The screwed sleeve 56 is cylindrical in shape, with an internal diameter which is slightly larger than the external diameter of the housing 48. The screwed sleeve has at the end provided with the screw thread 59 a corresponding feed-through channel 57, formed by U-shaped notches, but without internal supporting surface 24 as in the embodiment according to Fig. 3. Provided on this same end internally in the longitudinal direction of the screwed sleeve around the periphery thereof are short grooves 58, of such dimensions that the lips 54 of the housing 48 fit into these grooves 58. These lips and grooves work together in such a way that when the screwed sleeve is slid over the housing, from the end of the housing not provided with the feed-through channel, the screwed sleeve is held and positioned in such a way that the feed-through channels 49 and 57 of housing 48 and screwed sleeve 56 respectively lie opposite each other and form a feed-through channel which is open for receiving the coaxial cable. The screw cap 60 is the same shape as the screw cap 20 according to the embodiment of Fig. 3, the diameter of the pressure element inside the screw cap 60 being such that the pressure element fits in the interior of the housing 48. A cable inserted in the feed-through channel is contacted in the same way as described in connection with the preferred embodiment of the invention. When the screw cap 60 is screwed onto the screwed sleeve 56, the latter is locked by means of the lips 54 and the grooves 58 against turning in the tangential direction.

A further embodiment of a branch connector according to the invention for contacting two separate coaxial cables is shown in perspective in Fig. 8. The other end of the housing is here also provided with a similar second feed-through channel 61 with tooth 62 and openings 67, as in the case of the branch connector with a single feed-through channel 4, tooth 5 and openings 8 in Fig. 1. The penetration pin 64 supported by the transverse supporting disc 63 is now formed in such a way that it has two pointed conducting points 65, 66, which each project into a feed-through channel at the two ends of the housing. The supporting disc 63 can be locked in the housing in the same way as in the branch connector according to Fig. 1. The screwed sleeves 19 are locked to the houseing in the same way as shown in Fig. 4.

A coaxial cable can now be inserted in both feed-through channels 4, 61, and is contacted in the same way as that described for the branch connector for a single cable. The fitted assembly of two of the same screwed sleeves 19 with the screw thread ends facing away from each other is shown in Fig. 9.

Fig. 10 shows how a branching can be achieved according to the invention with the branch connector built up in a simple and universal manner. The coaxial cable 68, designed for example as a ring circuit, is branched by means of a branch connector according to Fig. 8, while the cable 69 for connection is provided at the other end with a branch connector according to Fig. 3 or Fig. 7. This end can then be connected to a coaxial junction box of an apparatus to be connected.

It goes without saying that the invention is not restricted to the embodiments discussed above and shown in the figures, but that modifications and additions can be provided, for example in the numbers of teeth, the locking of the penetration pin in the housing, or the way in which the separate parts of the clamping element are connected together, for example instead of screw thread, by means of a "snap connection" etc., without going beyond the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A branch connector for coaxial cable, having at least one inner conductor surrounded by an inner insulation sheath, said inner sheath being surrounded by at least one outer conductor and an outer insulation sheath respectively, said branch connector comprising an elongated housing of electrically conductive material, at least one end of which is provided with a feed-through channel for receiving the cable and at least one electrically conductive tooth adapted for contacting the outer conductor of the cable, an electrically conductive penetration pin axially arranged in the housing, said penetration pin being electrically insulated from the housing, at least one end of said penetration pin having a point radially penetrating in the one feed-through channel and adapted for contacting the inner conductor of the cable and with an insulation sheath for preventing electrical contact with the outer conductor of the contacted cable, and a at least one clamping element for retaining the contacted cable, in the one feed-through channel,characterized in that said housing is circular cylindrical in shape, the penetration pin is locked inside the housing on a transverse supporting disc of insulation material, while the at least one clamping element consists of a screwed sleeve with a corresponding feed-through channel at the one end thereof and adapted to be fitted over the jacket of the cylindrical housing, and a screw cap for coupling with said screwed sleeve for contacting and firmly retaining the cable in the one feed-through channel.

2. A branch connector according to Claim 1, in which the one feedthrough channel is accessible from said one end of the housing and the at least one tooth projects a distance less than the point of the penetration pin into the feed-through channel, characterized in that said one feed-through channel is defined by two approximately U-shaped notches disposed opposite each other in the jacket of the cylindrical housing, on at least one narrow edge of which notches the at least one tooth is provided.

3. A branch connector according to claim 2, characterized in thatthe housing and the screwed sleeve are provided with means for retaining and positioning the screwed sleeve in such a way that in the fitted state the one feedthrough channel is open for receiving the coaxial cable.

4. A branch connector according to claim 3, characterized in that an approximately U-shaped supporting surface is provided inside the screwed sleeve, said U-shaped supporting surface having openings for feeding through the penetration pin and the at least one tooth, said supporting surface together with U-shaped notches in the one screw-threaded end of the screwed sleeve forming the corresponding feed-through channel.

5. A branch connector according to Claim 4, characterized in that at least one projecting trapezoidal boss is provided internally along the periphery of the screwed sleeve between the end thereof not provided with screw thread and the convex side of the supporting surface, said at least one trapezoidal boss being adapted to engage with at least one corresponding opening provided at the end of the housing provided with the one feed-through channel.

6. A branch connector according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a tubular pressure element is provided concentrically inside the screw cap, said pressure element being adapted to fit into the screwed sleeve or the housing, and one closed end face of said pressure element coincides with the open end of the screw cap.

7. A branch connector according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the penetration pin is attached to a carrier strip on which the insulation material of the transverse supporting disc grips for the purpose of preventing axial and radial shifting of the penetration pin within the supporting disc, and the end of said penetration pin which is to penetrate into the cable is enclosed over a part by the insulation material of the supporting disc, in order to prevent electrical contact with the outer conductor of the contacted coaxial cable.

8. A branch connector according to at least one of the preceding claims, in which inside the housing locking means are provided, in order to prevent displacement of the penetration pin in the axial and tangential direction, characterized in that said locking means are formed such, that the supporting disc with the penetration pin is detachably locked inside the housing.

9. A branch connector according to Claim 8, characterized in that the locking means includes at least one boss which projects radially outwards on

the periphery of the supporting disc and is adapted to engage in at least one corresponding opening provided in the jacket of the cylindrical housing.

10. A branch connector according to at least one of the preceding claims, in which the other end of the conductive penetration pin is designed as a socket, characterized in that said socket together with the other end of the circular cylindrical housing not provided with the feedthrough channel forms a coaxial coupling socket.

11. A branch connector according to Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the other end of the conductive penetration pin is designed as a contact pin, and together with the other end of the circular cylindrical housing not provided with the one feed-through channel forms a coaxial plug.

12. A branch connector according to Claims 1 to 10, characterized in thatat the other end of the housing a second feed-through channel of the same type with at least one tooth is provided, and the other end of the penetration pin is also designed as a point, whereby a second coaxial cable can be received in said second feed-through channel, contacted and retained with a second clamping element of the same type.

Fig-1

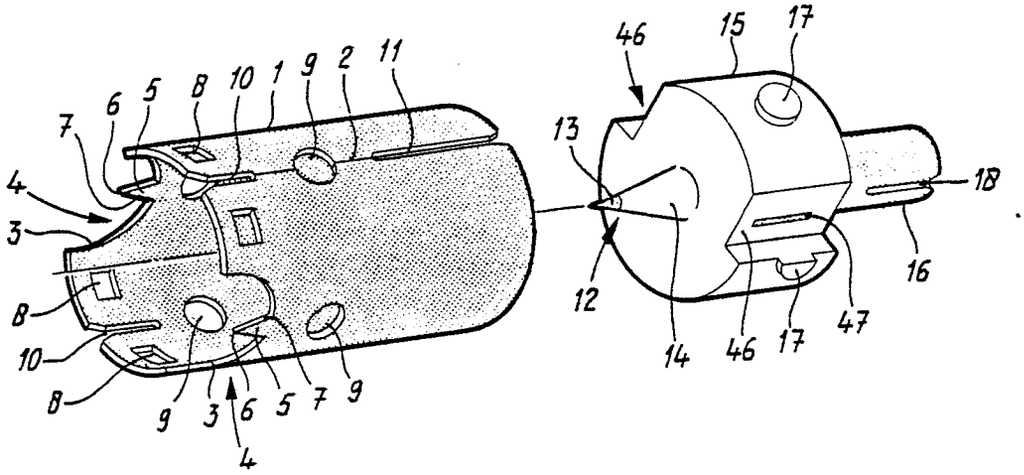


Fig-2

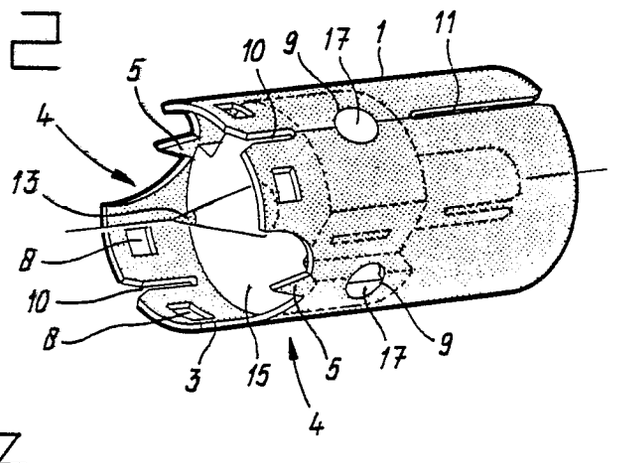


Fig-3

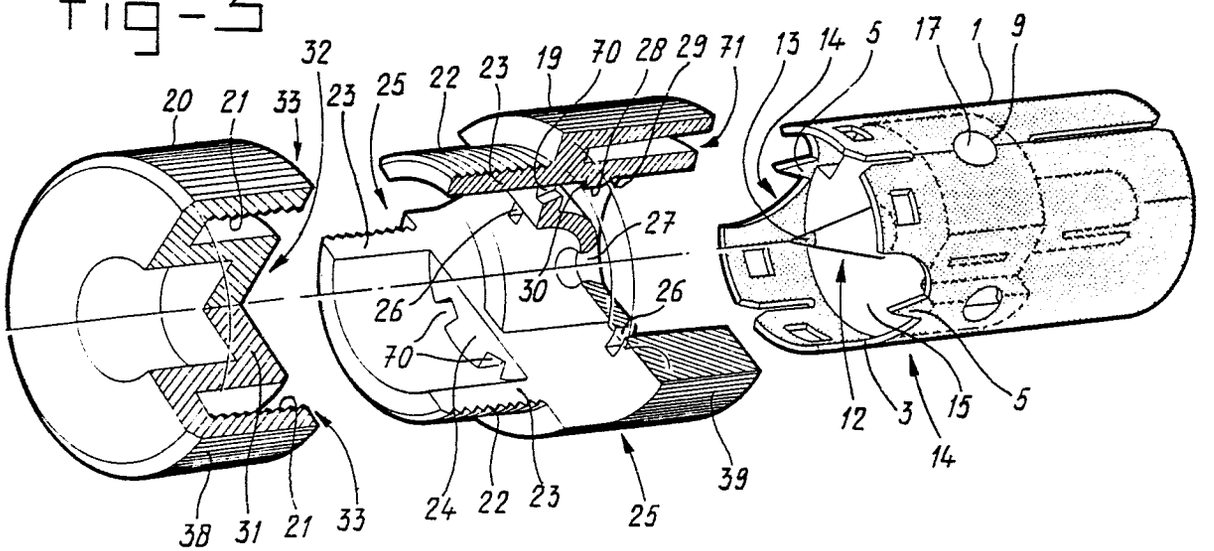


Fig-4

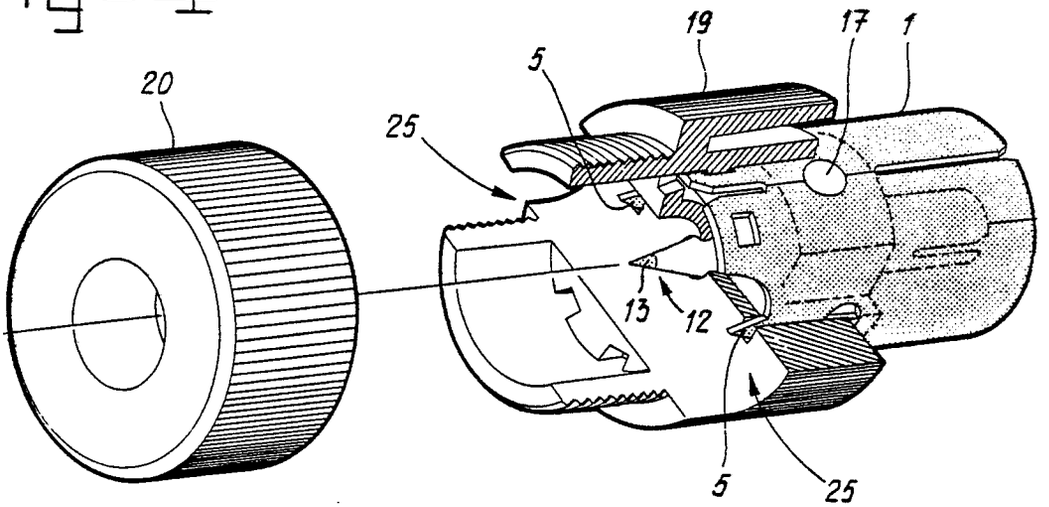

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Fig-5

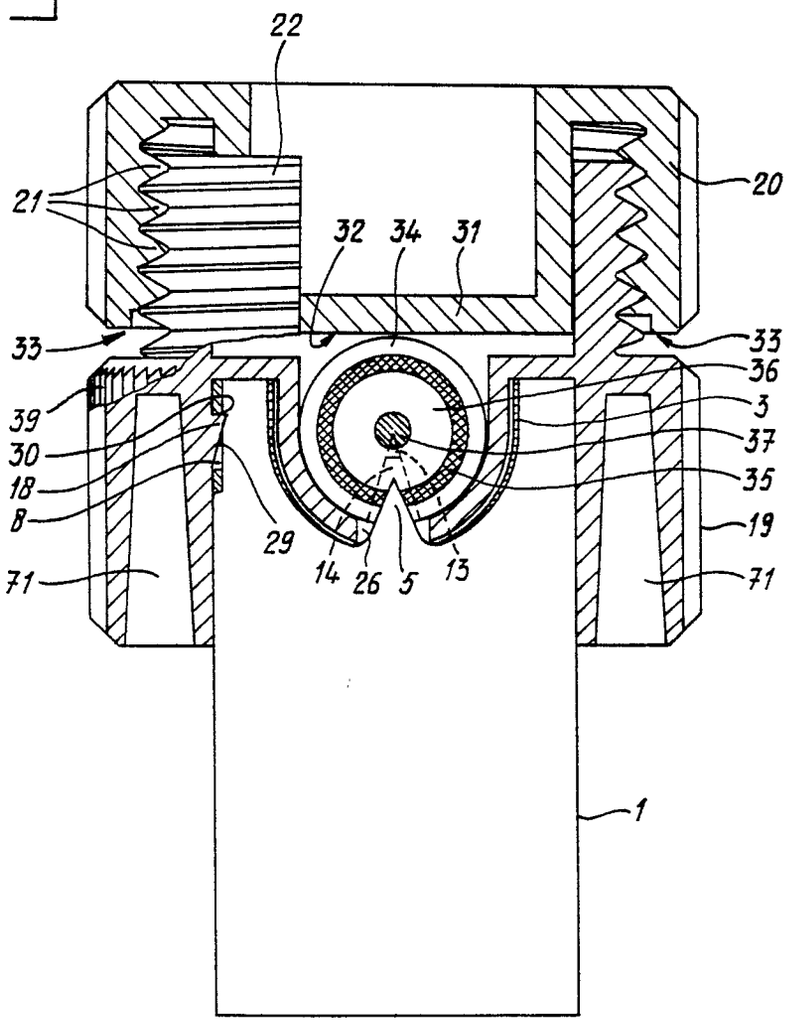
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Fig-6a

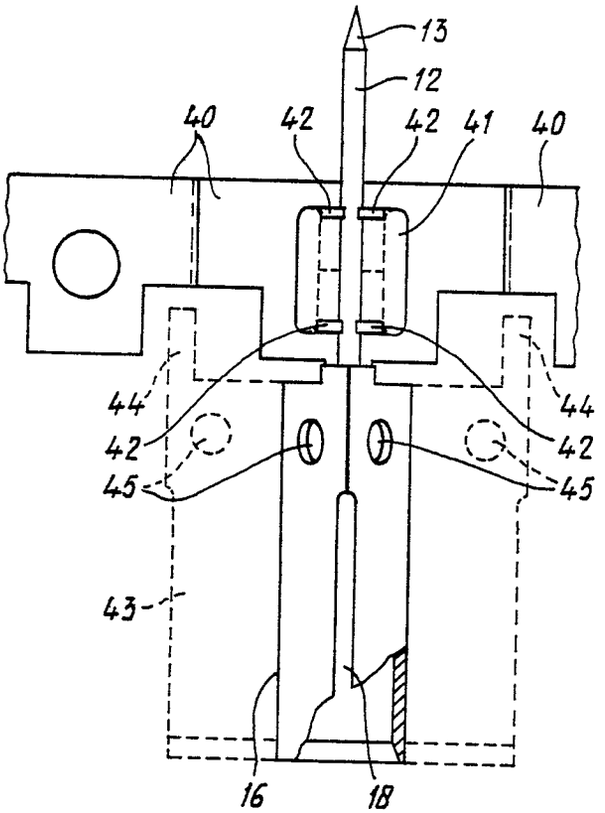


Fig-6c

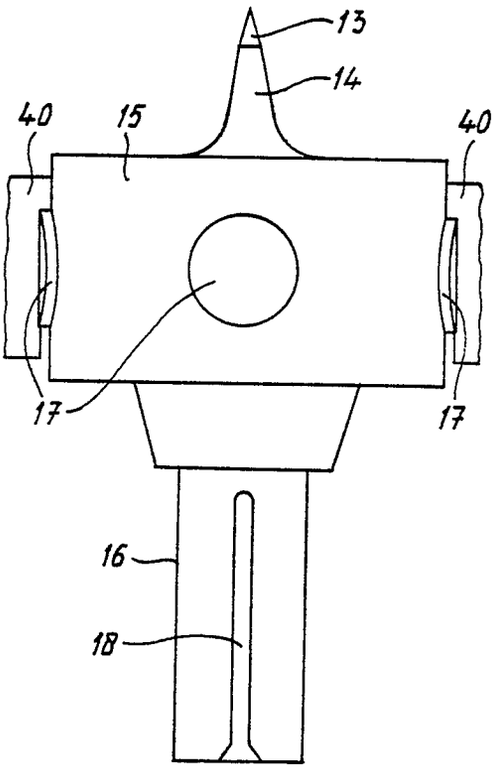


Fig-6b

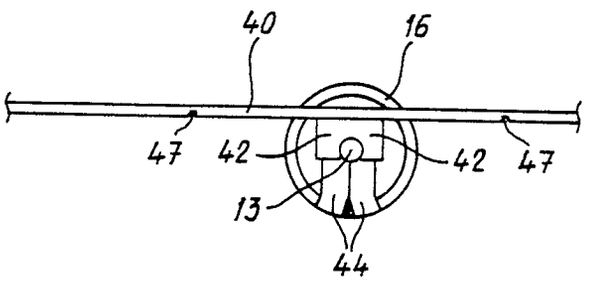


Fig-6d

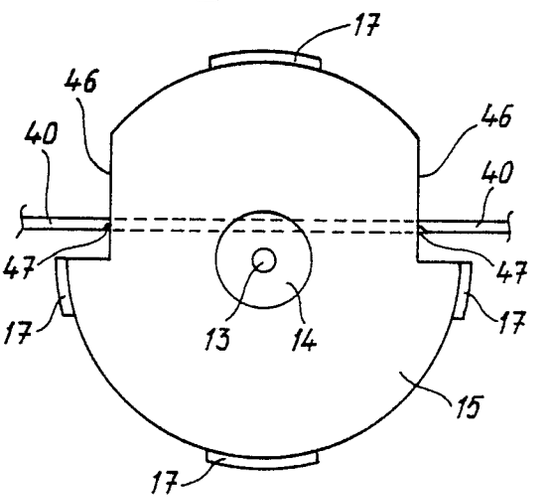


Fig-7

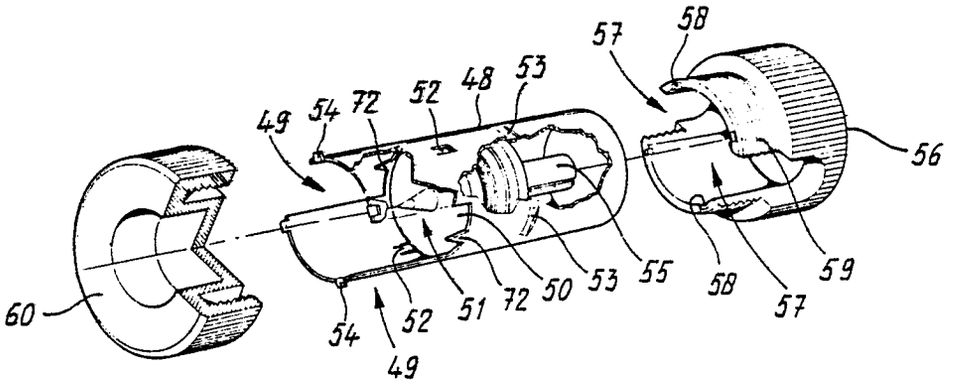
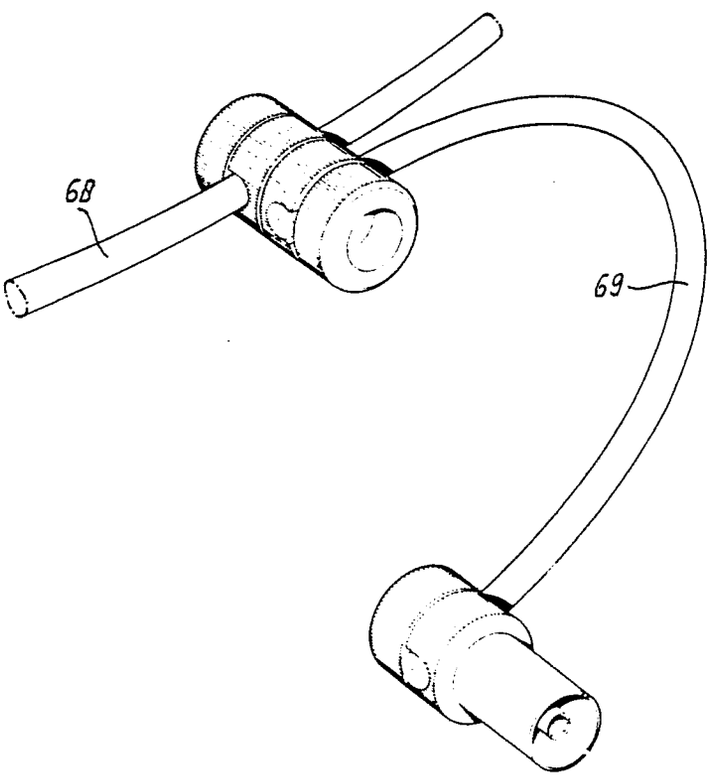


Fig-10



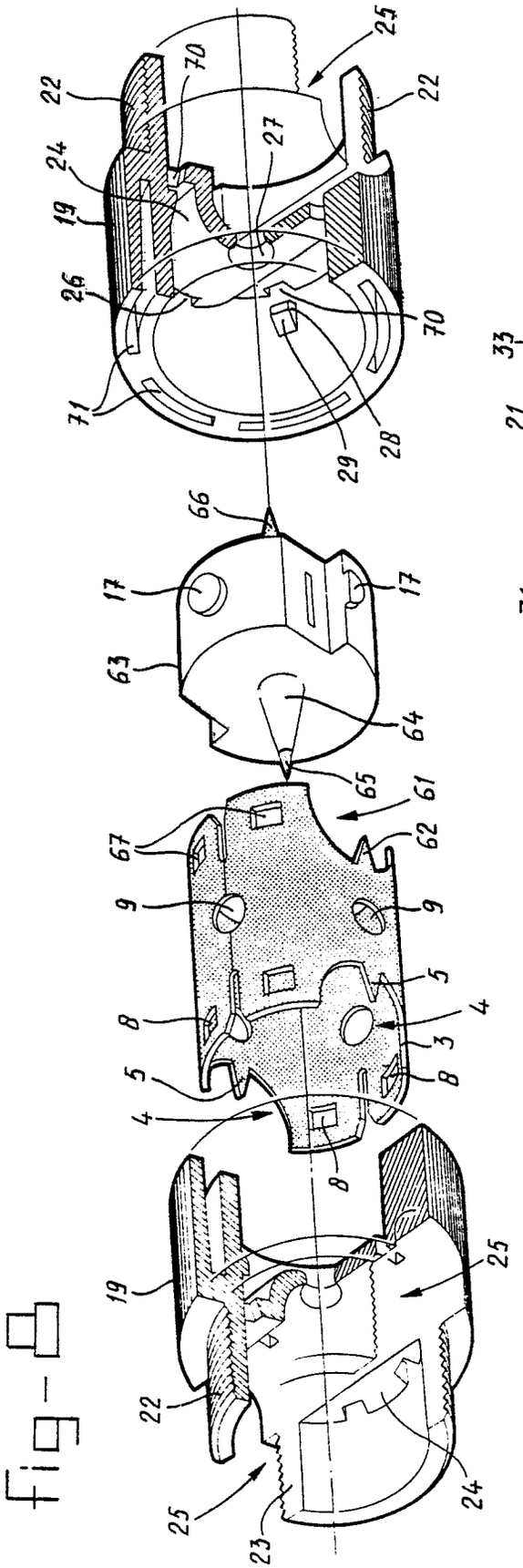

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Fig-8

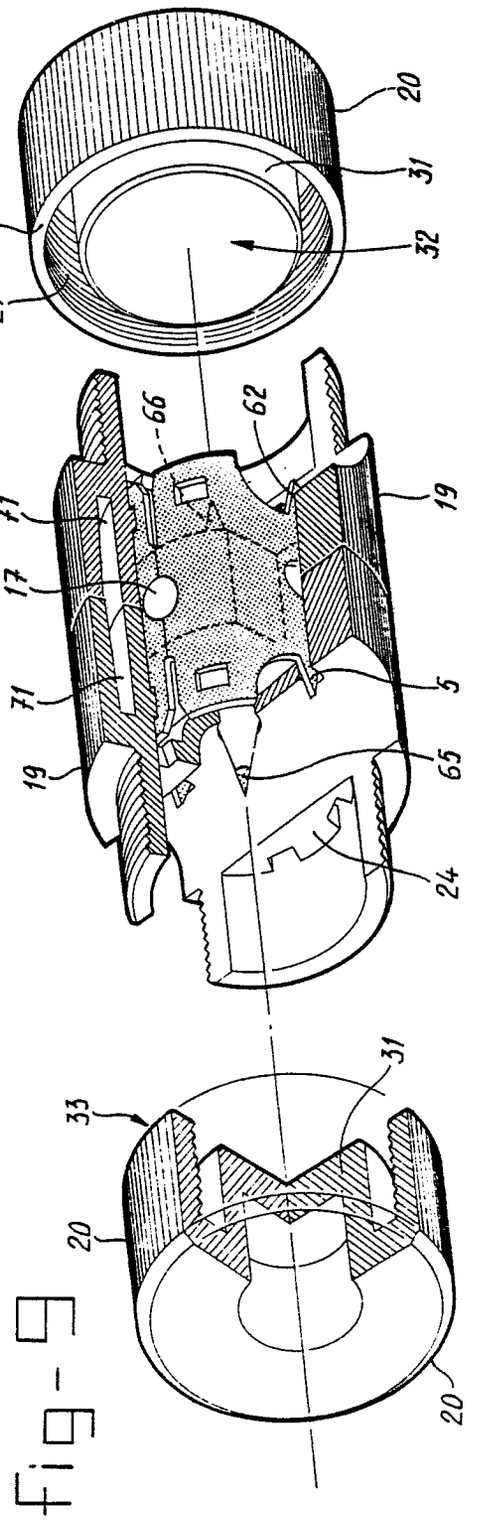
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Fig-9

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 87 20 1182

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.4)
Y	GB-A- 888 213 (ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES LTD) * Page 2, line 100 - page 3, line 107 *	1	H 01 R 17/12
A		2,4	
Y	DE-A-3 340 943 (SIEMENS) * Pages 1,2 *	1	
D,A	GB-A-2 082 850 (BUNKER RAMO) * Page 2, line 15 - page 3, line 54 *	3	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)

H 01 R 17/00
H 01 R 9/00
H 01 R 4/00

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	09-09-1987	BERTIN M.H.J.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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