



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 767 515 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
07.01.1998 Bulletin 1998/02

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: H01R 13/436

(43) Date of publication A2:
09.04.1997 Bulletin 1997/15

(21) Application number: 96115451.5

(22) Date of filing: 26.09.1996

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

(30) Priority: 03.10.1995 GB 9520188

(71) Applicant:
THE WHITAKER CORPORATION
Wilmington, Delaware 19808 (US)

(72) Inventors:

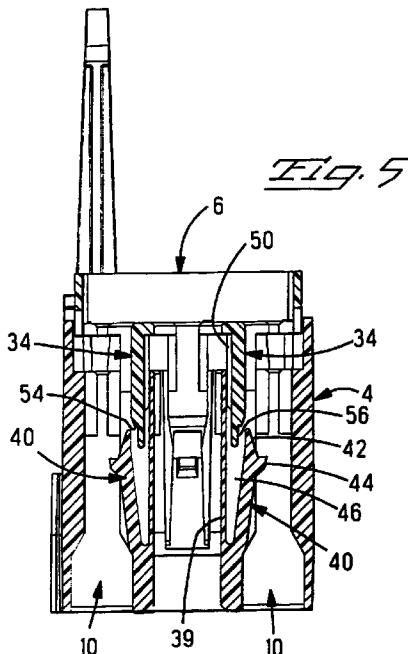
- Beken, Alan John
Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2RA (GB)
- Mistry, Maganlal
Harlow, Essex, CM17 0DJ (GB)

(74) Representative:

Heinz-Schäfer, Marion
AMP International Enterprises Limited
Ampèrestrasse 3
9323 Steinach (SG) (CH)

(54) Electrical connector having front loadable secondary locking member

(57) An electrical connector (2) comprising a connector housing (4) and a locking member (6) where the connector housing (4) includes a contact cavity (10) for receiving an electrical contact and has a retention arm (40) that is deflectable to allow the contact to be inserted into the cavity (10) and after the contact passes thereby resiles therebehind, the locking member (6) having a wedge (34) extending therefrom where the locking member (6) has a first position relative the connector housing (4) such that the retention arm (40) is deflectable to allow the contact to pass and a second position where the wedge (34) is located behind the retention arm (40) and prevents deflection thereof, the connector (2) being characterized in that the wedge (34) includes an abutment shoulder (54) along the backup surface (48) that is oriented transversely to the direction of insertion of the locking member (6) such that the abutment shoulder (54) stubs the retention arm (40) if the retention arm (40) is in a deflected position, thereby preventing the locking member (6) from achieving the second position and where the locking member 40 further includes a resilient tab (26) that interferes with the connector housing 4, thereby preventing insertion thereof to the second position unless deflected.



EP 0 767 515 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 96 11 5451

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.6)
X A	FR 2 702 889 A (CONNECTEURS CINCH) * page 15, line 23 - line 35; figures 14-17 *	1-3 6	H01R13/436
Y A	EP 0 251 518 A (LUCAS INDUSTRIES LTD.) * column 5, line 31 - column 6, line 27; figures 4,5 *	1-3 6	
Y	US 4 557 542 A (COLLER ET AL.) * column 3, line 1 - line 24; figures 4A,4B *	1-3	
A	US 5 059 142 A (OHTA ET AL.) * column 4, line 56 - line 68; figure 5 *	4-6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H01R
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	14 November 1997	Kohler, J	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone			
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category			
A : technological background			
O : non-written disclosure			
P : intermediate document			