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(54) **Electrical connector**

(57) A connector (2) is provided with a safety element (70) that is pivoted over a release grip portion (76), of a latching arm (74). The safety element (70) prevents inadvertent uncoupling of the connectors. The connector is supplied With the safety element (70) in the secured position. Elasticity of the latch is sufficient to

allow coupling of the connectors when the safety element blocks the release portion of the latch. The connector is thus easy to couple without requiring subsequent actuation of a safety element, yet prevents inadvertent release.

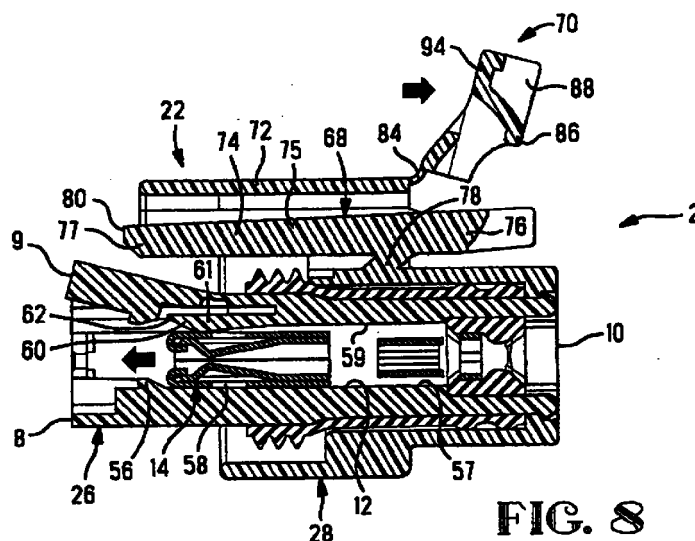


FIG. 8

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 10 1168

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	FR 2 408 232 A (SOURIAU & CIE) 1 June 1979 * figures 2-4 * * page 6, line 5 - page 7, line 7 * ---	1,2,4	H01R13/627
A	EP 0 621 658 A (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 26 October 1994 * abstract; figures 4,5 * * column 11, line 3 - line 45 * ---	1,4	
A	EP 0 637 102 A (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 1 February 1995 * abstract; figures 2,3 * * column 4, line 47 - column 5, line 24 * ---	1,3,5-8	
A	GB 2 291 545 A (SUMITOMO WALL SYSTEMS LTD) 24 January 1996 * abstract; figures 1,5 * * page 13, line 18 - page 17, line 10 * ---	1-3,5,7,8	
A	EP 0 821 441 A (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 28 January 1998 * abstract; figures 4,9 * * column 11, line 15 - line 49 * ---	1,2,4	
A	EP 0 757 411 A (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 5 February 1997 * abstract; figures 12,13,16 * * column 8, line 7 - column 9, line 32 * -----	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H01R
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 April 1999	Examiner Serrano Funcia, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P4/C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-8



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 99 10 1168

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-8

Resilient latch for securing connectors in a fully coupled position.

2. Claims: 9-11

A connector having locking members to engage terminals in place.

3. Claims: 12-14

Sealing means for an electrical connector.