

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner: Paumen, Gary F.

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Title: **CONNECTOR HAVING A CONSTANT CONTACT POST**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed May 31, 2011.

In the Specification:

Applicants hereby amend the specification to correct an unintentional error in the specification. Applicants contend that no new matter is entered by way of the following amendments.

Please amend paragraph 11 of the specification as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Some of the embodiments of this invention will be described in detail, with reference to the following figures, wherein like designations denote like members, wherein:

FIG. 1 depicts an exploded perspective cut-away view of an embodiment of the elements of an embodiment of a coaxial cable connector, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 depicts a perspective cut-away view of an embodiment of a connector ~~depicts a perspective view of an embodiment of a post, in accordance with the present invention;~~ and

FIG. 3 depicts a perspective view of an embodiment of a post ~~depicts a perspective cut-away view of an embodiment of a connector, in accordance with the present invention.~~

Please amend paragraph 21 of the specification as follows:

With continued reference to FIG.1, and additional reference to FIG. 3, post 40 includes a plurality of slots 140 positioned somewhere on or around the post 40 proximate or otherwise near the second end 42. A plurality of slots 140 may be a plurality of openings, spaces, voids, apertures, holes, cuts, channels, grooves, and the like, positioned on the flange 44 and a portion of the post 40 proximate or otherwise near the second end 42 of the post 40. For instance, the slots 140 can be axially aligned with the post 40; moreover, the slots 140 can axially extend

through the flange 44 a distance from the second end 42 towards the first end 41. In one embodiment, the slots 140 extend from the second end 42 to proximate or otherwise near the surface feature 47. In other embodiments, the slots 140 may extend to proximate or otherwise near a third of the length of the post 40. In many embodiments, the distance the slots axially extend through the flange 44 may vary, depending on the amount of deflection sought when compressed and/or the amount of any reactive radially outward force needed to establish and maintain physical and electrical continuity with the port coupling element 30. A post 40 having slots 140 axially extending too far along the post 40 toward the first end 41 may risk a partial or significant loss in the structural integrity of the post 40, and may not achieve the suitable amount of radial force to bias it into a position of interference with the port coupling element 30. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that the slots 130 can be used to make the nut 30 resilient in the radial direction; therefore, slots 130 may vary in size, shape, appearance, and the like. The nut 30 may be made resilient without introducing voids between portions of the nut 30. For example, instead of voids, such as slots 140, the post 40 may have portions separated by webbing, spacers, meshing, flexible material, netting, and the like.

Please amend paragraph 26 of the specification as follows:

With reference to FIG. 3 ~~FIGs.3~~, and continued reference to FIG.1, ~~an~~ another embodiment of connector 100 includes a post 40 having a first end 41, a second end 42, and a plurality of engagement fingers 145 proximate or otherwise near the second end 42. Engagement fingers 145 can be portions of the post 40 proximate or otherwise near the second end 42 that are separated, or spaced apart, by slots 140 running axially through the flange 44 and a portion of the post 40 proximate or otherwise near the second end 42. Engagement fingers 145

may also be resilient members, biasing members, fingers, biasing fingers, post fingers, teeth, engagement teeth, post teeth, expanding members, flexible members, and the like. The number of engagement fingers 145 depends on the number of slots 140 positioned on the post 40. For example, if the post 40 has six slots 140 axially extending from the second end 42, six engagement fingers 145 would be formed. Moreover, the engagement fingers 145 spaced apart by slots 140, or openings, are resilient in the radial directions (*e.g.* radially inward and outward). In one non-limiting example, as the nut 30 is operably attached to the post 40, the engagement fingers 145 may slightly compress radially inward to accommodate the attachment of the nut 30. When the nut 30 is attached to the post 40 (*i.e.* while operably configured), the resilient engagement fingers 145 should flex, expand, or “spring” back in a radially outward direction, applying a constant radial contact force with the nut 30, in particular, the inner surface 35 of the nut 30. The constant radial contact force applied by the engagement fingers 145 against the inside surface of the nut 30 may establish and maintain physical and electrical continuity between the post 40 and the nut 30. In many embodiments, the outer edges 45 of the engagement fingers 145 contact the inner surface 35 of the nut 30. In another embodiment, the engagement fingers 145 are in a biasing relationship with the port coupling element.

In the Claims:

The claims are as follows:

1. (Original) A coaxial cable connector comprising:
 - a connector body attached to a post, the post including a first end, a second end, and a flange proximate the second end;
 - a port coupling element attached to the post, wherein the port coupling element is rotatable about the post; and
 - a plurality of openings on the post, the plurality of openings extending a distance toward the first end from the flange.

2. (Original) The connector of claim 1, wherein an outer edge of the flange exerts a constant radial force against an inner surface of the port coupling element to establish and maintain physical and electrical continuity between the post and the port coupling element.

3. (Original) The connector of claim 1, wherein the plurality of openings are axially extending slots across the flange and a portion of the post which allow radial movement of the flange.

4. (Original) The connector of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a fastener member, wherein the fastener member is configured to operate on and deform the connector body sealingly compressing it against and affixing it to a coaxial cable.

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