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(54) **HIGH ISOLATION GROUNDING DEVICE**

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- (71) Applicant: **Cinch Connectivity Solutions, Inc.**,
Bannockburn, IL (US)
- (72) Inventors: **Robert Joseph Baumler**, Waseca, MN
(US); **Mark Daniel Dvorak**, Waseca,
MN (US); **James Richard Kerekes**,
Waterville, MN (US)
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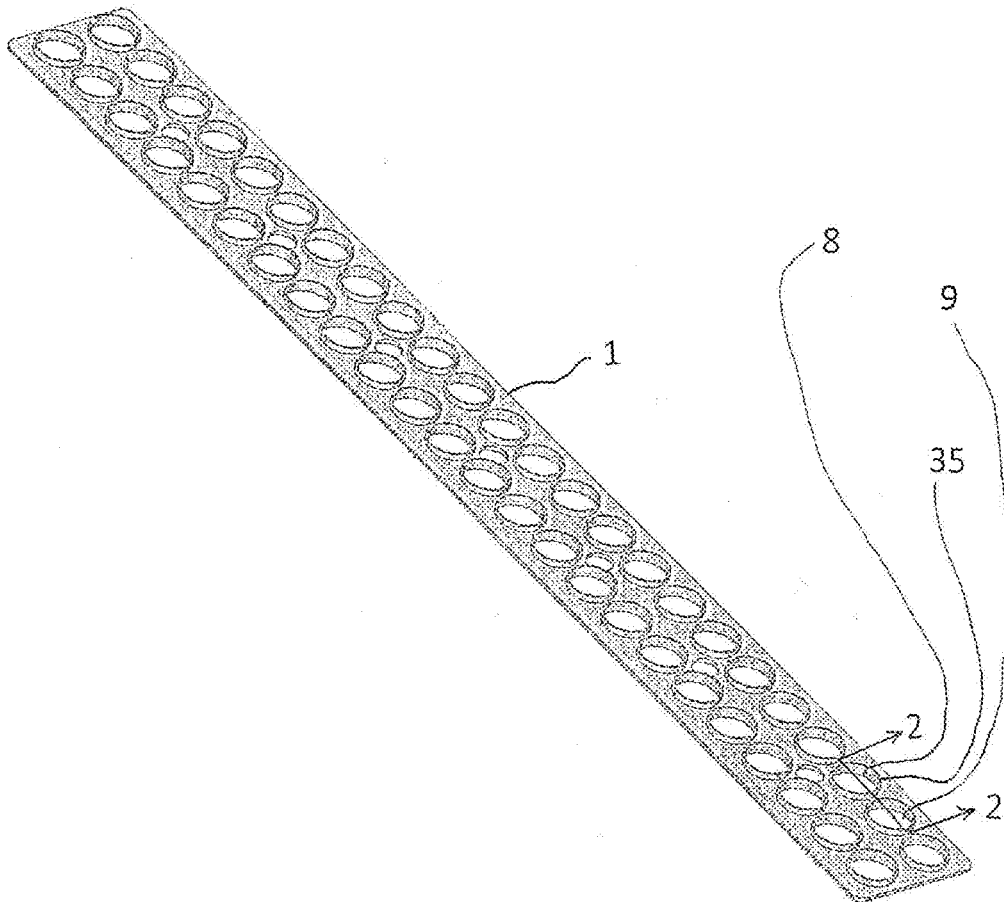
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See (60) Related U.S. Application Data.
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Related U.S. Application Data

- (63) Continuation of application No. 14/627,177, filed on
Feb. 20, 2015, now Pat. No. 9,510,489.
- (60) Provisional application No. 61/966,482, filed on Feb.
23, 2014.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The device includes a body and a plurality of contact portions. The body is substantially planar. The plurality of contact portions are associated with the body so as to form ports. The plurality of contact portions are in electrical communication with the body. The port of each contact portion having an inside diameter substantially equal to ID1. The body and the contact portions are constructed of a conductive metallic material.



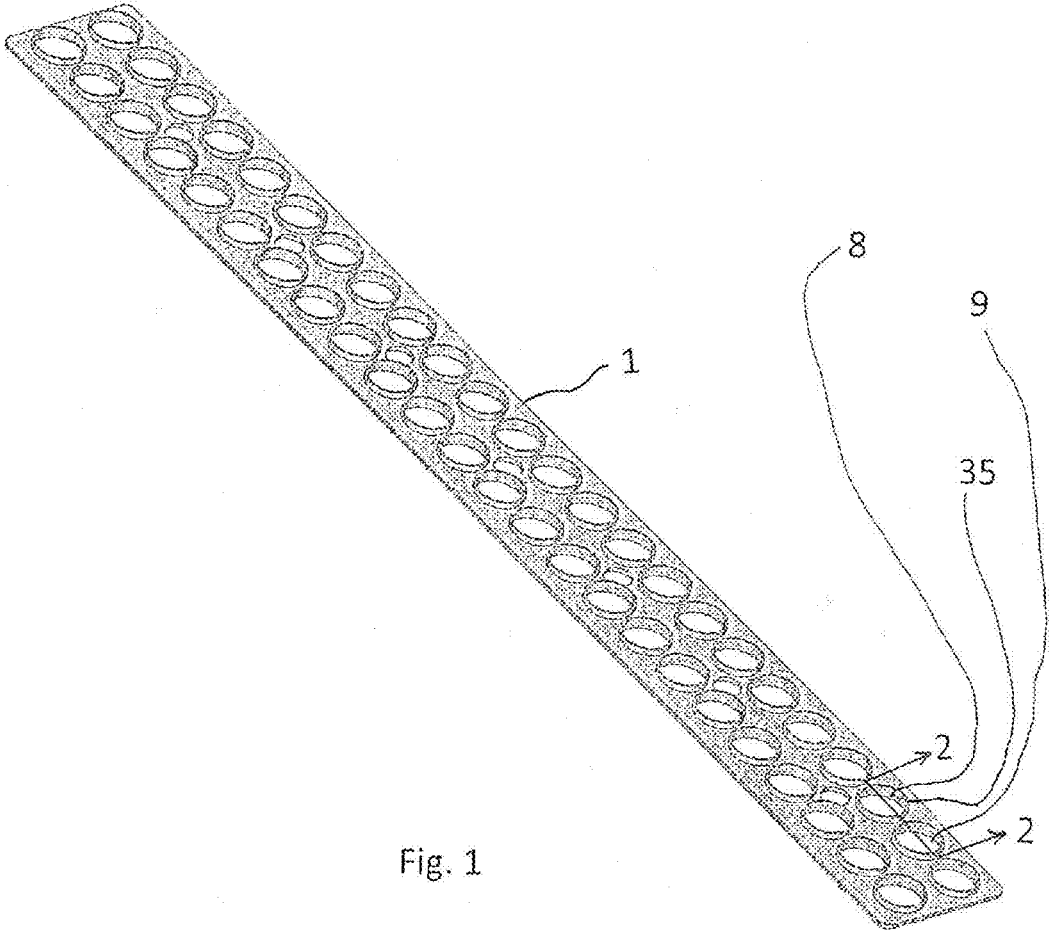


Fig. 1

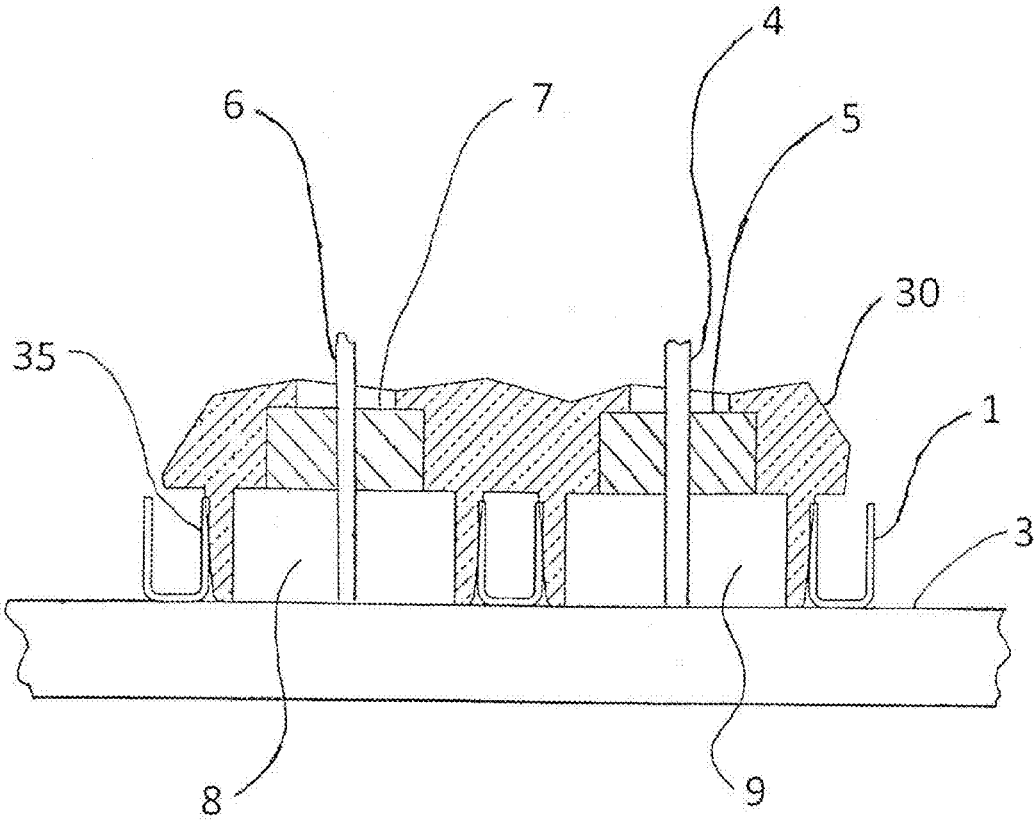


Fig. 2

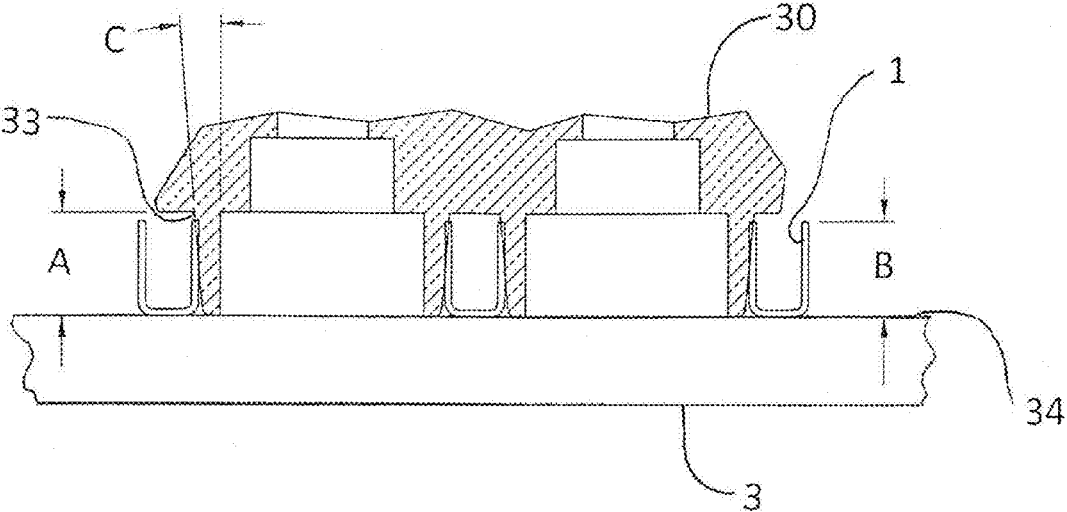


Fig. 3

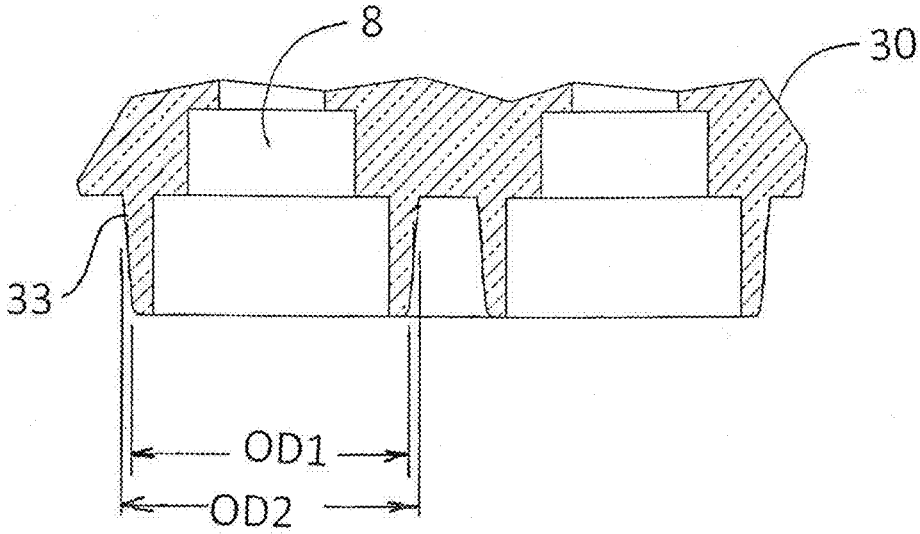


Fig. 4

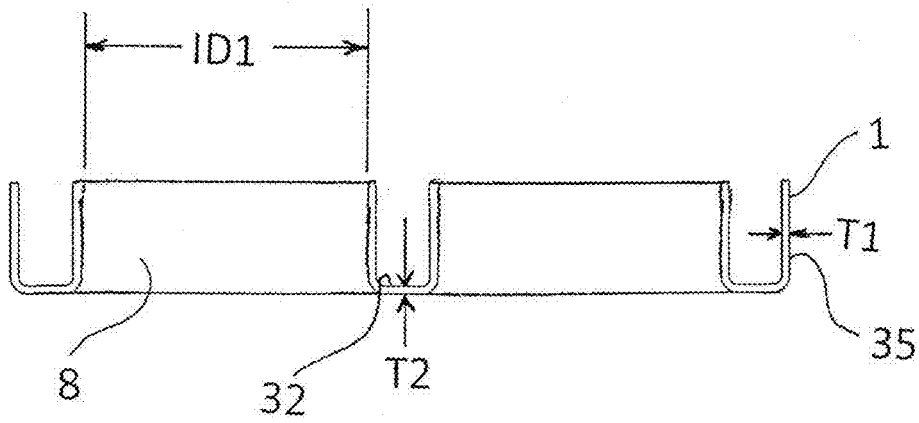


Fig. 5

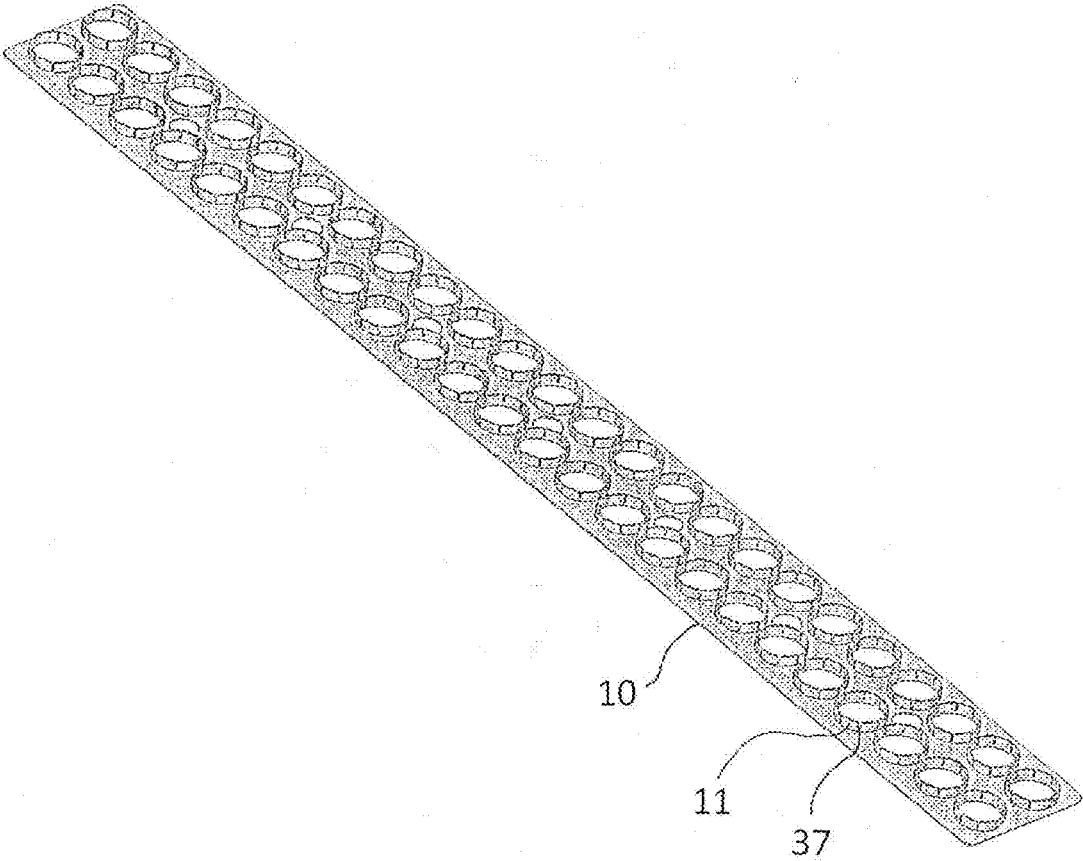


Fig. 6

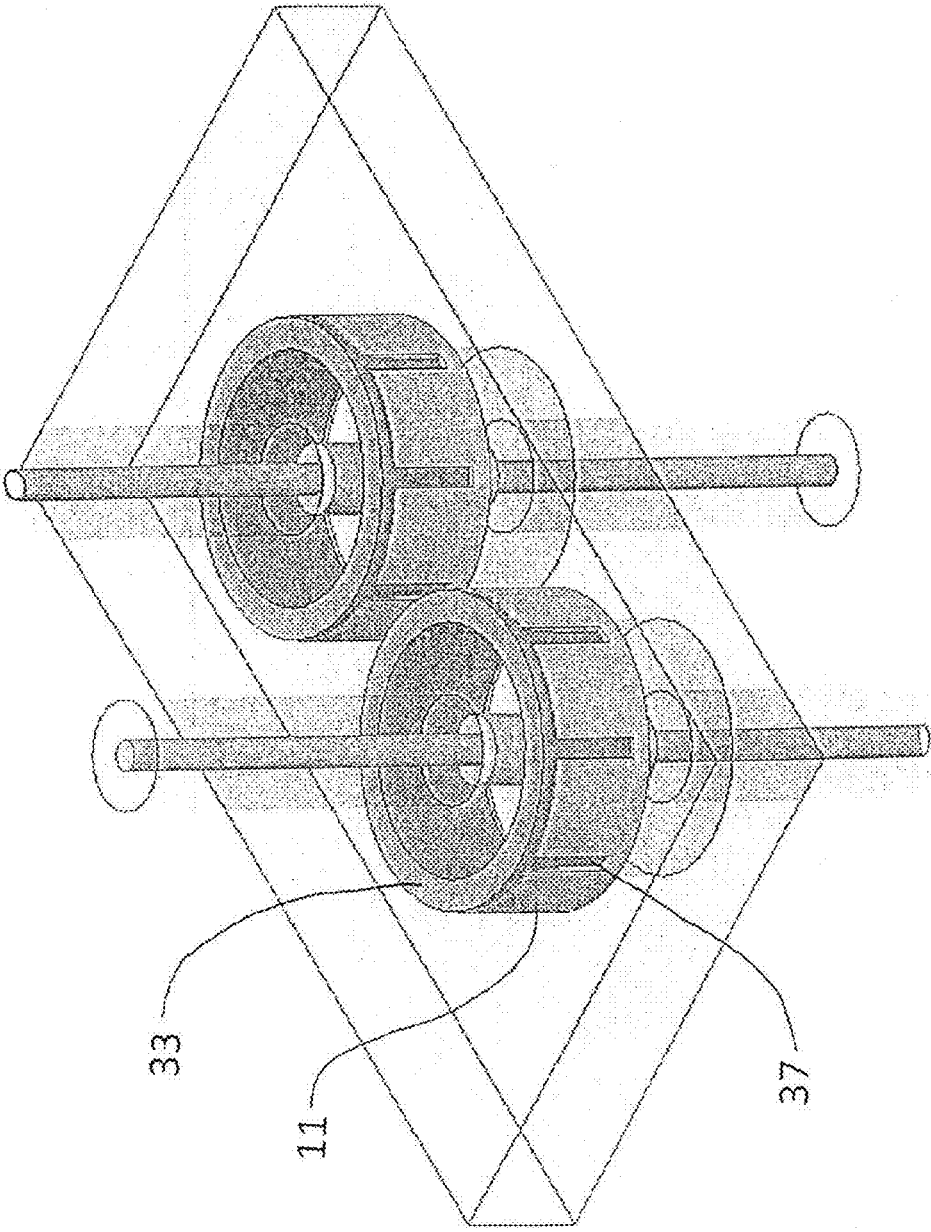


Fig. 7

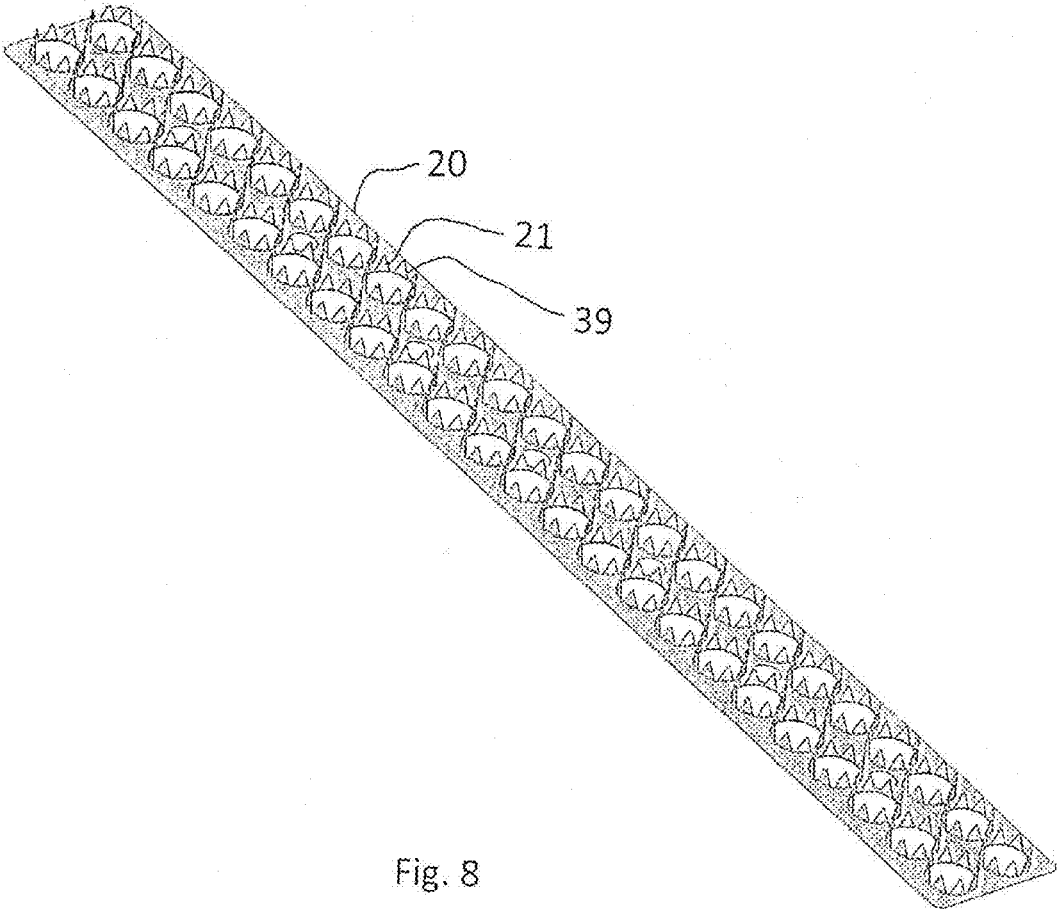


Fig. 8

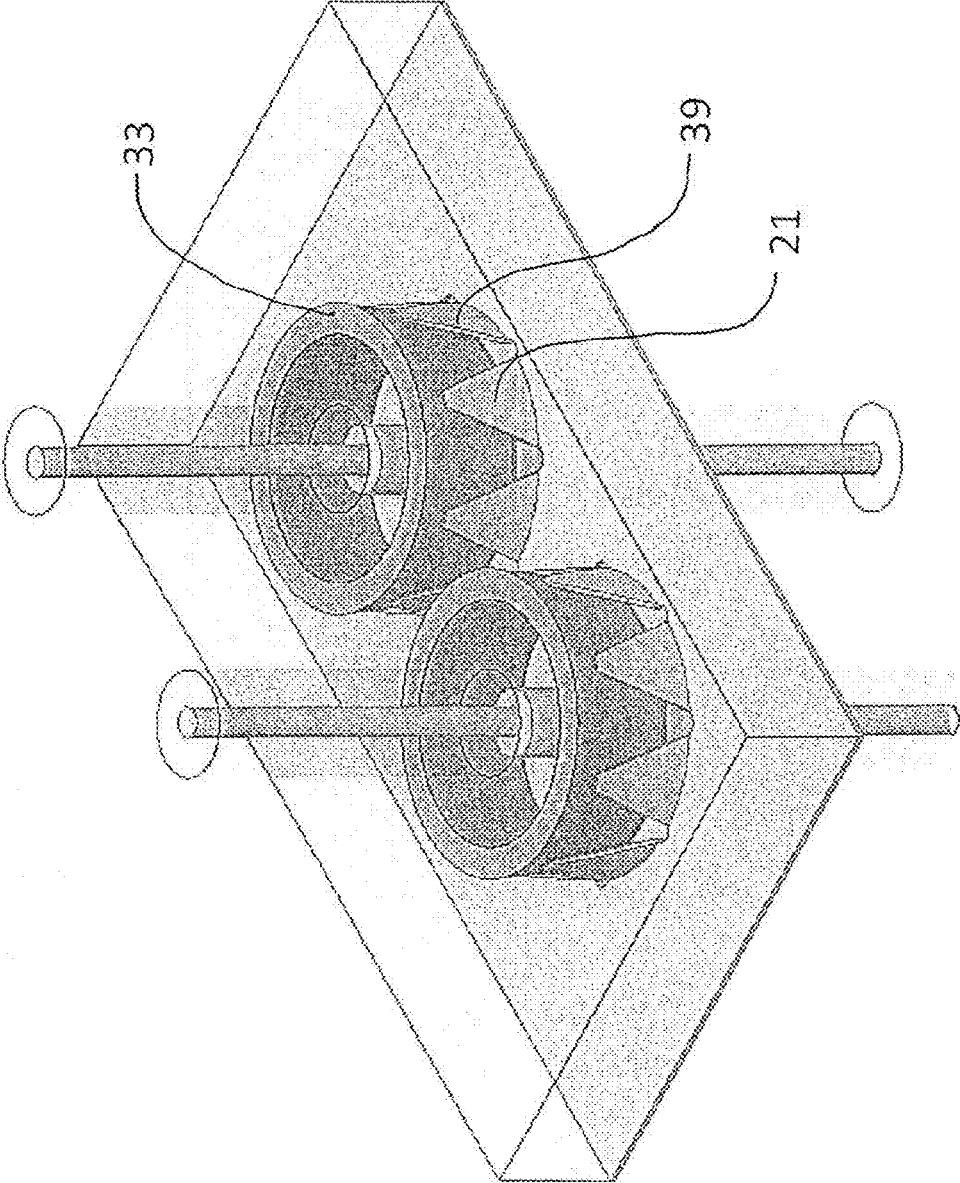


Fig. 9

HIGH ISOLATION GROUNDING DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/627,177 filed Feb. 20, 2015, which claims a benefit of priority to U.S. Patent Application 61/966,482 filed on Feb. 23, 2014, all of which are herein fully incorporated by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention pertains to devices which reduce electromagnetic interference (EMI). The invention more particularly concerns such a device which is mountable to a printed circuit board (PCB) and which is also engagable with a connector.

[0004] 2. Discussion of the Background

[0005] Devices such as a gasket which is made of an elastomeric material which is impregnated with conductive material are known. Also, electrical connectors which operate in the RF spectrum are known. Typically, the gasket is mounted between the printed circuit board and the electrical connector so as to reduce the amount of electromagnetic radiation which potentially could escape somewhere between the surface of the PCB and the electrical connector. As the number of transmitted electrical signals increases the number of electrical connectors increases. However, in some applications, the amount of space available to accommodate the electrical connectors has not increased. Thus, the density per unit space of connectors is increased. The density can be increased, but the increase in density is limited by how closely the port of one coaxial conductor can be placed adjacent to the port of another coaxial conductor without there being an unacceptable amount of cross-talk or leakage of electromagnetic radiation from one port to another port. The amount of leakage becomes unacceptable when the signal being transported by one of the coaxial conductors is corrupted by the electromagnetic radiation emitted by the other coaxial conductor.

[0006] Also known in the art are ganged connectors, such as the connector disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 7,927,125, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. This connector has a predefined number of electrical ports that can be accommodated. If the number of desired ports exceeds the number of ports provided on the connector, then another connector must be used or a special connector must be made.

SUMMARY

[0007] The invention provides for a device which reduces the amount of electromagnetic radiation emitted between ports of a ganged electrical connector when the ganged electrical connector is connected to a printed circuit board.

[0008] In one aspect of the present disclosure, a device is disclosed that includes a planar body, and a plurality of contact portions in electrical association with the body so as to form ports, wherein the body and the plurality of contact portions include a conductive material, e.g., aluminum, beryllium copper, or combinations thereof.

[0009] In certain embodiments, each contact portion may include at least one slot.

[0010] In certain embodiments, each contact portion may include at least one triangular-shaped section.

[0011] Each contact portion has an inside diameter (ID1) and an overall thickness (T1), and the body has an overall thickness (T2).

[0012] In certain embodiments, the overall thickness (T2) of the body may be greater than the overall thickness (T1) of each contact portion.

[0013] In another aspect of the present disclosure, a device is disclosed that includes a planar body having an overall thickness (T2), and a plurality of contact portions in electrical association with the body so as to form ports, wherein each contact portion has an overall thickness (T1).

[0014] The body and the plurality of contact portions include a conductive material, e.g., aluminum, beryllium copper, or combinations thereof.

[0015] In certain embodiments, the overall thickness (T2) of the body may be greater than the overall thickness (T1) of each contact portion, whereas in certain other embodiments, the overall thickness (T2) of the body may be equal to the overall thickness (T1) of each contact portion.

[0016] In another aspect of the present disclosure, a device is disclosed that is mountable to a printed circuit board, and engagable with a ganged connector, wherein the printed circuit board has a surface, and the ganged connector has at least one boss with a tapered outer wall.

[0017] The disclosed device includes a planar body, and a plurality of contact portions in electrical association with the body so as to form ports, wherein each contact portion has an inner wall defining an inside diameter (ID1).

[0018] The body and plurality of contact portions include a conductive material, e.g., aluminum, beryllium copper, or combinations thereof.

[0019] The device is configured and dimensioned such that, when mounted on the printed circuit board, no air pockets are formed or exist between the device and the printed circuit board.

[0020] The ganged connector is configured and dimensioned such that when the ganged connector is introduced toward the printed circuit board, the at least one boss of the ganged connector is introduced into contact with one of the plurality of contact portions. The ganged connector is further configured and dimensioned such that when the ganged connector is introduced into contact with the printed circuit board, the tapered outer wall of the boss contacts the inner wall of one of the ports so that the boss is in electrical communication with the device.

[0021] The device has a height which is less than a distance measured between the surface of the printed circuit board and a surface on the ganged connector from which the boss originates.

[0022] In certain embodiments, each contact portion may include at least one slot.

[0023] In certain embodiments, each contact portion may include at least one triangular-shaped section.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0024] A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0025] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the device of the invention;

[0026] FIG. 2 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the device of FIG. 1, taken along section line 2-2, mounted between a ganged connector and a printed circuit board;

[0027] FIG. 3 is the partial cross-sectional side view of FIG. 2, minus the conductors and insulative spacers, which identifies more details of the device of FIG. 1;

[0028] FIG. 4 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the ganged connector of FIG. 2;

[0029] FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the device of the invention as taken from FIG. 2;

[0030] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the invention;

[0031] FIG. 7 is a partial perspective view of the second embodiment of the invention as it engages the ganged connector;

[0032] FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the invention; and

[0033] FIG. 9 is a partial perspective view of the third embodiment of the invention as it engages the ganged connector.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0034] Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate identical or corresponding parts through the several views, embodiments of the present invention are displayed therein.

[0035] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the first embodiment of the device or EMI gasket 1. The EMI gasket 1 contains forty-eight ports which are arranged in two rows where each row contains twenty-four ports. A first port 8 and a second port 9 are identified. The EMI gasket 1 is constructed of a conductive metallic material such as aluminum or beryllium copper. The EMI gasket 1 includes a contact portion 35 which is shown in conjunction with port 8, but note that each port includes a contact portion. The contact portion 35 can be machined integral with the remainder of the EMI gasket 1 or the contact portions 35 can be joined to the remainder of the EMI gasket by way of welding, brazing, or other joining techniques well known in the art. The contact portion 35 is shown to have a shape of a ring or annulus.

[0036] FIG. 2 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the first embodiment of the invention, taken along section line 202 of FIG. 1, where the EMI gasket 1 is soldered to a printed circuit board 3. The EMI gasket 1 is soldered to the printed circuit board 3 so that no air pockets are formed or exist between the EMI gasket 1 and the printed circuit board 3. The EMI gasket 1 is also shown engaged with a ganged connector 30. Further shown are a conductor 6 positioned in port 8, where the conductor 6 is separated from the conductive body of the ganged connector 30 by an insulative spacer 7. Still further shown are a conductor 4 positioned in port 9, where the conductor 4 is separated from the conductive body of the ganged connector 30 by an insulative spacer 5. The engagement of the EMI gasket 1 with the printed circuit board 3 and with the ganged connector 30 prevents an unacceptable level of electromagnetic radiation from entering one port from another port. Thus the signals being carried by conductors 4 and 6 are not corrupted. For reasons of clarity, the EMI gasket 1 is not shown as being cross-hatched, even though the component is section, since the EMI gasket 1 is relatively thin as compared to the other components.

[0037] FIG. 3 is the partial cross-sectional side view of FIG. 2 without conductors 4, 6 and insulative spacers 5, 7 being shown for reasons of clarity. A boss 33 is shown as projecting from the body of the ganged connector 30. The boss 33 generally has a ring or annular shape. The boss 33 of the ganged connector 30 is shown in contact with a surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3. A boss is associated with each port. The outside diameter of the boss 33 is shown to have a draft angle C. A distance A identifies the distance from the surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3 to a surface from which the boss 33 originates out of the body of the ganged connector 30 when the boss 33 contacts the surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3. A distance B identifies a height of the EMI gasket 1. Note that distance A is greater than distance B.

[0038] FIG. 4 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the ganged connector 30 including boss 33. Identified in FIG. 4 are an outside diameter OD1 of the boss 33 and an outside diameter OD2 of the boss 33 which are associated with port 8. Note that outside diameter OD2 is greater than outside diameter OD1.

[0039] FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional side view of the EMI gasket 1. The contact portion 35 of the EMI gasket 1 includes an inside diameter ID1 associated with port 8. The contact portion 35 has a thickness T1 and the remainder or body 32 of the EMI gasket 1 has a thickness T2. The inside diameter ID1 of the EMI gasket 1 is greater than the outside diameter OD1 of the boss 33 so that the boss 33 can enter the contact portion 35 of the EMI gasket 1. The inside diameter ID1 is less than the outside diameter OD2 of boss 33. So, when the boss 33 is further introduced into the contact portion 35, the outside diameter of the boss 33 engages the contact portion 35, and when the boss 33 and hence the ganged connector 30 are further urged toward the printed circuit board 3 so that the boss 33 contacts the surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3, then a portion of the contact portion 35 is deformed to a larger diameter. Preferably the deformation is elastic. As compared to the contact portion 35, the boss 33 is substantially rigid. When the boss 33 contacts the contact portion 35, then the ganged connector 30 is in electrical communication with the EMI gasket 1, and thus the components are grounded to each other. Thickness T1 is shown as being substantially the same as thickness T2.

[0040] However, note that thickness T1 need not be substantially the same as T2. Additionally, dimension B which identifies the height of the EMI gasket 1 can be substantially different than as shown in FIG. 2. If the deformation is elastic, then the gang connector 30 can be mounted and de-mounted to the EMI gasket 1 more than once. Additionally, it has been found that adequate isolation can be achieved even if the boss 33 does not contact the surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3, but it must be close. However, it is preferable that the boss 33 does contact the surface 34 of the printed circuit board 3.

[0041] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the invention which is an EMI gasket 10 having a contact portion 11 which includes slots 37 in the contact portion 11. Otherwise, EMI gasket 10 is substantially similar to EMI gasket 1.

[0042] FIG. 7 is a partial perspective view of the contact portion 11, including the slots 37, of EMI gasket 10 engaged with boss 33. The slotted contact portion 11 allows for more flexibility of the contact portion 11 as compared to the

contact portion **35** that does not include slots, yet the EMI gasket **10** still provides for adequate reduction of electromagnetic interference between adjacent ports of the ganged connector **30**.

[0043] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the invention which is an EMI gasket **20** having a contact portion **39** which includes triangular-shaped sections **21**. Otherwise, EMI gasket **20** is substantially similar to EMI gasket **1**.

[0044] FIG. **9** is a partial perspective view of the contact portion **39**, including the triangular-shaped sections **21**, of EMI gasket **20** engaged with boss **33**. The contact portion **39**, including the triangular-shaped sections **21**, allows for more flexibility of the contact portion **39** as compared to the contact portion **35** that does not include triangular-shaped sections, yet the EMI gasket **20** still provides for adequate reduction of electromagnetic interference between adjacent ports of the ganged connector **30**.

[0045] Obviously, numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. For example, persons skilled in the art will understand that additional components and features may be added to any of the embodiments discussed herein above without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. It is therefore to be understood that within the scope of appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein.

[0046] The scope of the present disclosure is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the presently disclosed subject matter in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure, including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the present disclosure pertains and as may be applied to the essential features herein before set forth. Further, it is envisioned that any feature described in connection with any one embodiment may also be applicable to, or combined with, any other embodiment.

What is claimed is:

1. A device comprising:
a gasket including:
a body which is conductive, linear, and planar, and
a row of ports extending on the body longitudinally, wherein at least one of the ports includes a contact portion extending in a closed shape, wherein the contact portion is conductive and in electrical communication with the body.
2. The device of claim **1**, wherein the closed shape includes a pair of wall portions and a slot, wherein the slot is positioned between the pair of wall portions.
3. The device of claim **2**, wherein the slot includes an open end distal to the body.
4. The device of claim **1**, wherein the closed shape includes a triangular-shaped section.

5. The device of claim **4**, wherein the triangular-shaped section includes a base portion and a peak portion, wherein the base portion is longer than the peak portion, wherein the base portion opposes the peak portion, wherein the base portion is proximal to the body, wherein the peak portion is distal to the body.

6. The device of claim **1**, wherein the closed shape is annular.

7. The device of claim **1**, wherein the closed shape encloses a boss, wherein the contact portion engages the boss.

8. The device of claim **1**, wherein at least two of the ports include the contact portion.

9. The device of claim **8**, wherein the at least two ports are consecutive.

10. The device of claim **1**, further comprising:
a circuit board, wherein the gasket is mounted on the circuit board.

11. The device of claim **10**, wherein the closed shape encloses a boss, wherein the contact portion engages the boss, wherein the boss contacts the circuit board.

12. The device of claim **1**, wherein the contact portion is deformable.

13. The device of claim **12**, wherein the contact portion is elastic.

14. The device of claim **1**, wherein the body is rectilinear.

15. The device of claim **1**, wherein the body is constructed from a first material, wherein the contact portion is constructed from a second material, wherein the first material and the second material is a single material.

16. The device of claim **1**, wherein the body is constructed from a first material, wherein the contact portion is constructed from a second material, wherein the first material and the second material are distinct materials.

17. The device of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the body or the contact portion includes aluminum.

18. The device of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the body or the contact portion includes beryllium copper.

19. A method comprising:

positioning a row of ports on a body longitudinally such that a gasket is formed, wherein the body is conductive, linear, and planar, wherein at least one of the ports includes a contact portion extending in a closed shape, wherein the contact portion is conductive and in electrical communication with the body.

20. A method comprising:

attaching a gasket to a circuit board, wherein the gasket includes a body which is conductive, linear, and planar, wherein the gasket includes a row of ports extending on the body longitudinally, wherein at least one of the ports includes a contact portion extending in a closed shape, wherein the contact portion is conductive and in electrical communication with the body.

* * * * *