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(54) **EXPANDABLE SOCKETS FOR USE WITH PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYERS**

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(60) Provisional application No. 62/376,237, filed on Aug. 17, 2016.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

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F16M 11/06	(2006.01)
F16M 13/00	(2006.01)
F16M 11/40	(2006.01)

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CPC ***F16M 11/06*** (2013.01); ***F16M 11/40*** (2013.01); ***F16M 13/00*** (2013.01); ***H01R 13/33*** (2013.01); *G06F 1/1626* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 455/575.8, 575.1
See application file for complete search history.

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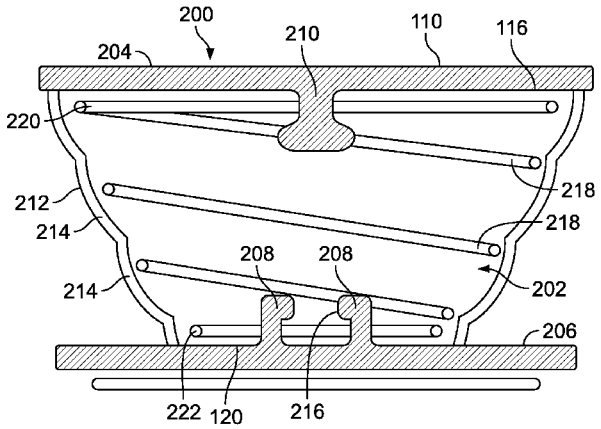
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case. The expandable socket generally includes a platform, a skin coupled to the platform, a button coupled to the skin opposite the platform, and a biasing element. The skin includes an outer wall, an inner wall spaced radially inward of the outer wall, and a cavity defined by the inner wall, wherein the skin is deformable between a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration. The biasing element is arranged within the cavity of the skin between the platform and the button, such that the biasing element is at least partially surrounded by the inner wall of the skin. The biasing element is configured to bias the skin into the expanded configuration.

16 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01R 13/33	(2006.01)
G06F 1/16	(2006.01)

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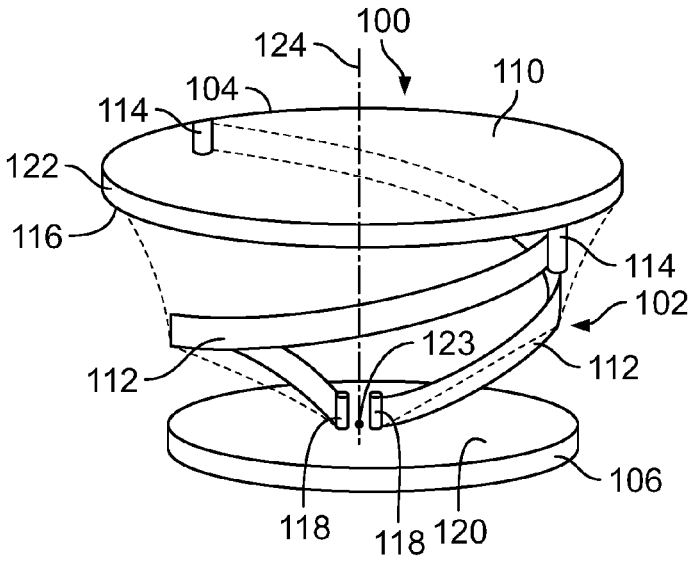


FIG. 1A

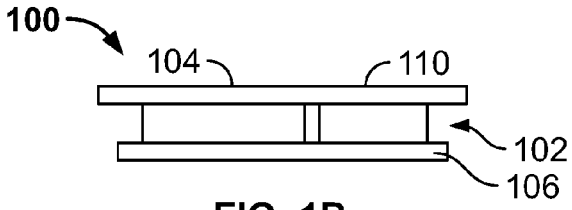


FIG. 1B

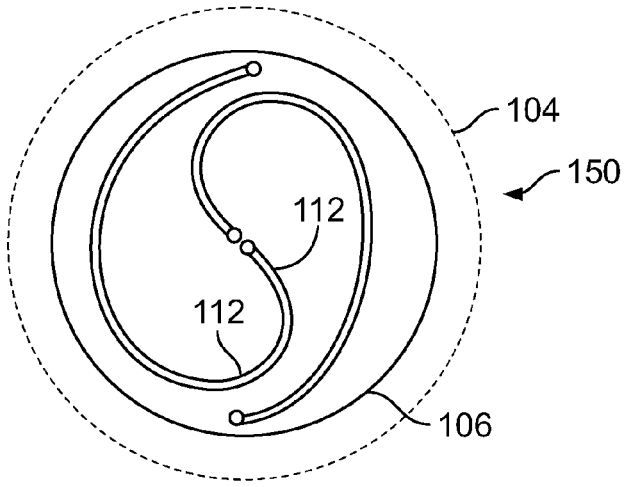


FIG. 1C

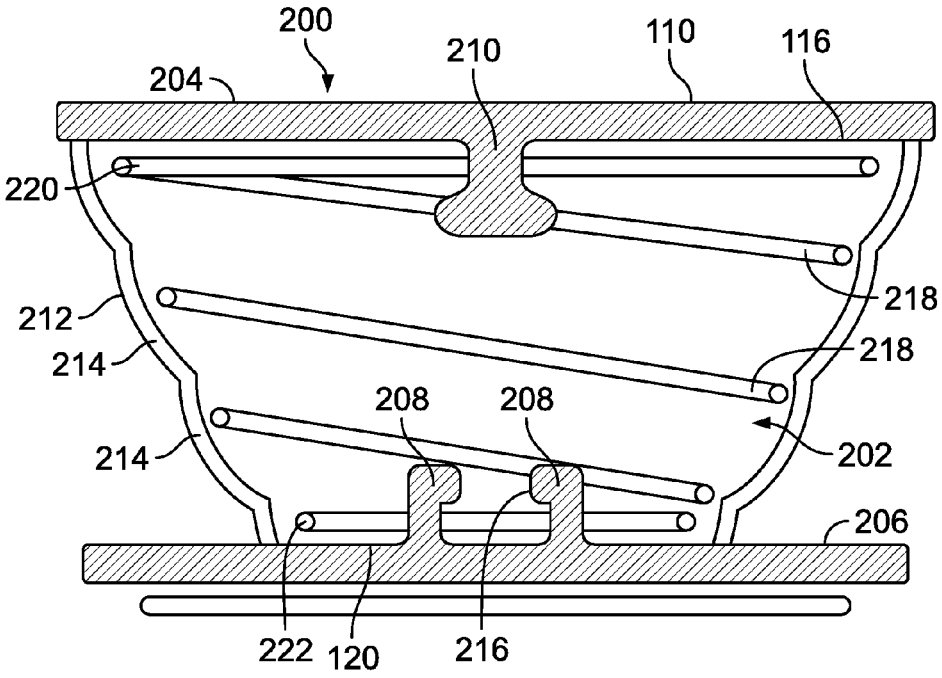

200
210
110
116
204
220
218
212
214
218
208
208
214
202
206
222
120
216

FIG. 2

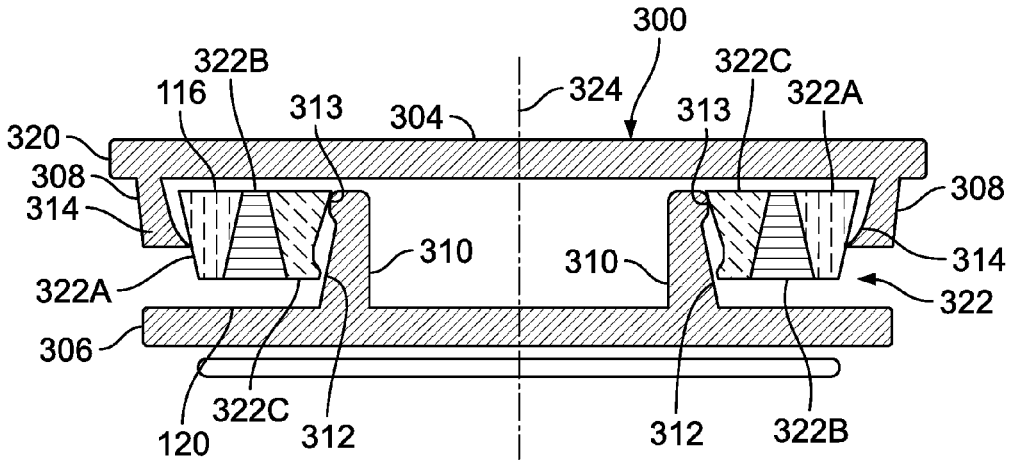
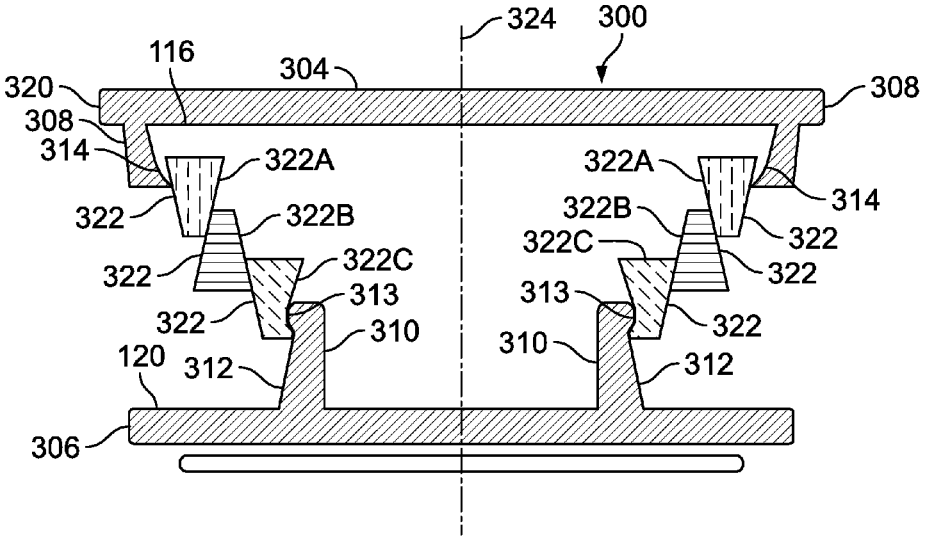

300
322B
322C
116
313
304
324
313
322A
320
308
314
308
314
310
310
322A
322
306
120
322C
312
312
322B

FIG. 3A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116
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320
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308
314
322A
322A
314
322
322B
322B
322
322C
322C
322
313
313
322
322
310
310
120
312
312
306

FIG. 3B

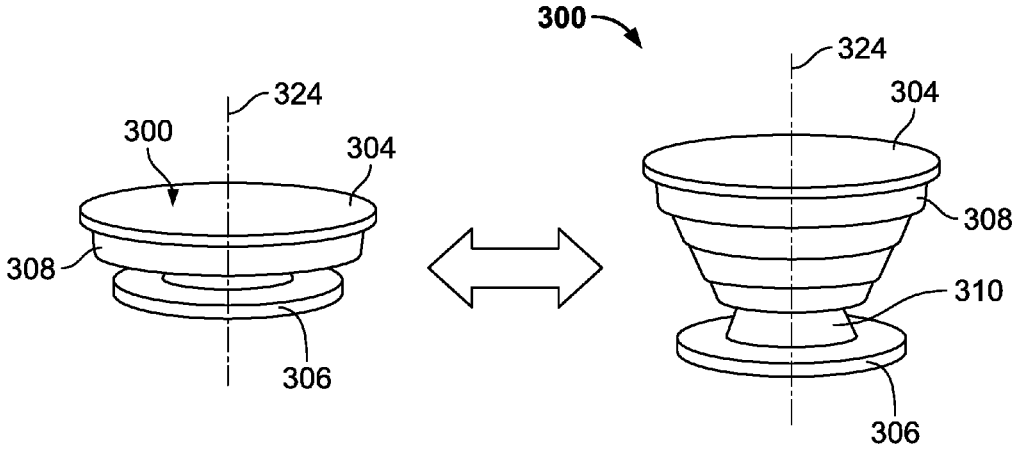
300
324
324
304
300
304
308
308
310
306
306

FIG. 3C

EXPANDABLE SOCKETS FOR USE WITH PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYERS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/679,934, filed Aug. 17, 2017, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/376,237, filed Aug. 17, 2016, and is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/615,900 filed Jun. 7, 2017, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/376,237, filed Aug. 17, 2016. The entire respective disclosures of each of the above-identified applications are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to expandable sockets and more particularly to expandable sockets, which may also be referred to as collapsible sockets, that can be attached to portable media players (e.g., smart phones, MP3 players) or portable media player cases and used as grips, stands, or for other purposes.

BACKGROUND

U.S. Pat. No. 8,560,031, which issued Oct. 15, 2013, and is hereby incorporated herein by reference, discloses extending sockets, formed of accordions generally with buttons attached at their distal ends, for attaching to portable media players or portable media player cases. The sockets are used to wrap cords, as grips or stands, and to attach the player to another object.

However, a need remains in the art for other designs of collapsible grips and stands.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1**A is a side isometric, cutaway view of a first example of an expandable socket constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, showing the socket in an expanded configuration;

FIG. **1**B is a side, cross-sectional view of FIG. **1**A, showing the socket in a collapsed configuration;

FIG. **1**C is a top, cutaway view of a second example of an expandable socket constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, showing the socket in a collapsed configuration;

FIG. **2** is a side, cross-sectional view of a third example of an expandable socket constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, showing the socket in an expanded configuration;

FIG. **3**A is a side, cross-sectional view of a fourth example of an expandable socket constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, showing the socket in a collapsed configuration;

FIG. **3**B is similar to FIG. **3**A, but shows the socket in an expanded configuration; and

FIG. **3**C is a side-by-side, perspective view of the socket of FIG. **3**A and the socket of FIG. **3**B.

SUMMARY

One aspect of the present invention provides an expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case. The expandable socket includes a base adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case, a cover coupled to the base, wherein the cover is movable between a collapsed position and an expanded position, a button coupled to the cover opposite the base, and a spring arranged within the cover between the base and the button.

Another aspect of the present invention provides an expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case. The expandable socket includes a base adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case, a button that is spaced from and movable relative to the base, and a spring disposed between the base and the button, the spring arranged to resist movement of the button toward the base.

Another aspect of the present invention provides an expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case. The expandable socket includes a base adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case, an elastomeric skin coupled to the base and having a hollow shape, the skin including at least one folded section and being deformable between a collapsed position and an expanded position, a button coupled to the skin opposite the base, the button being disposed a first distance from the base when the skin occupies the collapsed position and a second distance greater than the first distance from the base when the skin occupies the expanded position, and a spring arranged within the skin between the base and the button, the spring configured to resist movement of the skin from the expanded configuration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIGS. **1**A and **1**B illustrate a first example of one example of an expandable socket **100** constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The expandable socket **100** in this example includes a button **104**, a base **106**, e.g., a platform, and a collapsible or expandable mechanism **102** coupled to and extending between the button **104** and the base **106**. While removed from FIGS. **1**A and **1**B for clarity, the expandable socket **100** also includes a deformable cover (e.g., a cover as illustrated in FIG. **2**) that is coupled to the button **104** and/or the base **106** in a manner that surrounds and houses (e.g., protects) the collapsible mechanism for safety and comfort. In other examples, the expandable socket **100** can include additional, different, and/or fewer components. As an example, the expandable socket **100** need not include the cover.

As best illustrated in FIG. **1**A, the base **106** in this example has an annular shape. In other examples, however, the base **106** may instead have a rectangular, square, triangular, or other shape. The base **106** is preferably made of metal or plastic, though other suitable materials (e.g., cardboard) can be used. In any case, the base **106** is generally configured to be directly or indirectly coupled (e.g., attached, mounted) to a portable media player (e.g., an MP3 player, a smart phone, a tablet) or a case of such a portable media player. To this end, the base **106** can, in some cases, include a securing element known to one of ordinary skill in the art, such as, for example, adhesive, glue, tape, a suction cup, a snap-fit connection, a friction fit, other means, or combinations thereof. Alternatively, in other cases, the base **106** can be integrally formed with the portable media player or the case for the portable media player.

As best illustrated in FIG. **1**A, the button **104** in this example has an annular shape. In other examples, however, the button **104** may have a rectangular, square, triangular, irregular, or other shape. The button **104** in this example also has an outer diameter that is larger than an outer diameter of the base **106**, though this need not be the case. Like the base **106**, the button **104** is preferably made of metal or plastic, though other suitable materials can be used. The button **104** has an outer side **110** that may, for example, include a design (including, e.g., a logo, text, graphics, a picture). In some cases, the design may be selected by a user of the expandable socket **100**.

The collapsible or expandable mechanism **102** is generally configured to facilitate movement of the expandable socket **100** between an expanded configuration, illustrated in FIG. **1**A, and a collapsed configuration, illustrated in FIG. **1**B, and to retain the expandable socket **100** in the desired configuration (expanded or collapsed). In this example, the mechanism **102** takes the form of two, thin strip springs **112** arranged within the cover (not shown), with each spring **112** having a first end **114** coupled (e.g., mounted) to an inner side **116**, i.e., an underside, of the button **104**, and a second end **118** coupled (e.g., mounted) to an inner side **120** of the platform **106**. The first end **114** of the each strip **112** is preferably coupled to the inner side **116** of the button **104** at or proximate to a perimeter edge **122** of the button **104**, and the second end **118** of each strip **112** is preferably coupled to the inner side **116** of the platform **106** at or proximate to a center **123** of the platform **106**. The first end **114** of each spring **112** may be removably coupled to the button **104**, fixedly coupled to the button **104**, or integrally formed with the button **104**. Likewise, the second end **118** of each spring **112** may be removably coupled to the platform **106**, fixedly coupled to the platform **106**, or integrally formed with the platform **106**.

In one example, the strips **112** are fabricated from spring steel or comparable metal. In another example, the strips **112** are produced from a stiff, flexible polymer. In any case, the strips **112** are preferably formed such that they are bistable, i.e., they each have two stable states in which they resist movement (at least initially), with one of the stable states being the expanded state shown in FIG. **1**A, which corresponds to the expanded configuration of the expandable socket **100**, and the other of the stable states being the collapsed state shown in FIG. **1**B, which corresponds to the collapsed configuration of the expandable socket **100**. Thus, when the strips **112** are in the expanded state shown in FIG. **1**A, the strips **112** maintain (e.g., bias) the expandable socket **100** in the expanded configuration, and when the strips **112** are in the collapsed state shown in FIG. **1**B, the strips **112** maintain (e.g., bias) the expandable socket **100** in the collapsed configuration.

In operation, the expandable socket **100** may be transitioned between the two configurations by manipulating the mechanism **102** between the two stable states. The mechanism **102** may be manipulated by grabbing or grasping the button **104** and rotating the button **104** about a longitudinal axis **124**, which will in turn rotate the mechanism **102** coupled thereto about the same longitudinal axis **124**, and/or grabbing or grasping the cover (not shown), which carries the mechanism **102**, and rotating the cover about the longitudinal axis **124**. The strips **112** will, in turn, rotate about the longitudinal axis **124**, with the exact direction of rotation dependent upon whether the expandable socket **100** is being moved to the expanded configuration of FIG. **1**A or the collapsed configuration of FIG. **1**B. When, for example, the expandable socket **100** is moved from the expanded configuration of FIG. **1**A to the collapsed configuration of FIG. **1**B, the button **104** and the strips **112** will rotate in a first rotational direction (e.g., a counter-clockwise direction) about the longitudinal axis **124**, thereby moving the button **104**, the strips **112**, and the cover toward the platform **106** along the longitudinal axis **124** in a first axial direction, and substantially reducing the profile of the expandable socket **100**. Conversely, when the expandable socket **100** is moved from the collapsed configuration of FIG. **1**B to the expanded configuration of FIG. **1**A, the button **104**, the strips **112**, and the cover will rotate in a second direction, opposite the first direction, about the longitudinal axis **124**, thereby moving the button **104**, the strips **112**, and the cover away from the platform **106** along the longitudinal axis **124** in a second axial direction opposite the first axial direction. Thus, the button **104** is spaced from the platform **106** so as to permit the user of the expandable socket **100** to wrap a headphone cord of the portable media player around a portion of the expandable socket **100**, forming an adjustable stand for the portable media player, forming a grip for the portable media player, and/or to perform other desired functionality.

FIG. **1**C illustrates a second example an expandable socket **150** constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The expandable socket **150** is substantially similar to the expandable socket **100**, in that it also includes the button **104**, the platform **106**, and the mechanism **102**. However, in the expandable socket **150**, the strips **112** are wrapped in the opposite direction from their path in the expandable socket **100**. Thus, the expandable socket **150** may generally be transitioned between a collapsed configuration, shown in FIG. **1**C, and an expanded configuration, not shown, by rotating the button **104** and/or the cover in a direction opposite how the button **104** and/or the cover are rotated in the expandable socket **100**.

FIG. **2** illustrates a third example of an expandable socket **200** constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The expandable socket **200** generally includes a button **204**, a base **206**, a collapsible or expandable mechanism **202** coupled to and extending between the button **204** and the base **206**, a deformable cover **212** that is coupled to the button **204** and/or the base **206** in a manner that surrounds and houses the collapsible mechanism **202** for safety and comfort, and a lock **214** configured to releasably secure the expandable socket **200** in a collapsed configuration that is not shown but is consistent with the collapsed configuration of the expandable socket **100** described above. In other examples, the expandable socket **200** may include additional, fewer, or different components. As an example, the expandable socket **200** may not include the cover **212**.

The cover **212** is generally coupled to and disposed between the button **204** and the base **206**. The cover **212** preferably takes the form of an elastomeric skin (made of an elastomeric material) that includes a plurality of folding sections **214** connected to one another between the button **204** and the base **206**. In some examples, such as illustrated in FIG. **2**, the plurality of folding sections **214** are arranged so as to form or a define a tapered conical shape that looks like an accordion. Thus, in these examples, the cover **212** has an outer diameter that tapers from the button **204** to the base **206** (though the opposite is possible as well). In other examples, the plurality of folding sections **214** may be arranged to form a different shape or the cover **212** may only include one folding section **214**.

Like the collapsible mechanism **102**, the collapsible mechanism **202** generally facilitates movement of the expandable socket **200** between an expanded configuration, illustrated in FIG. **2**, and the collapsed configuration, not

shown, and to retain the expandable socket **200** in the desired configuration (expanded or collapsed). However, the collapsible mechanism **202** in this example takes the form of a coil spring **218** (e.g., made of, for example, metal or plastic) that is arranged within the cover **212** between the button **204** and the base **206**, such that the cover **212** surrounds and houses (e.g., protects) the coil spring **218**. More particularly, the coil spring **218** has a first end **220** that is seated against the inner side **116** of the button **204** and a second end **222**, opposite the first end **220**, that is seated against the inner side **120** of the base **206**. The coil spring **218** illustrated in FIG. **2** has a shape that substantially corresponds to the shape of the cover **212**. In other words, the coil spring **218** illustrated in FIG. **2** has a conical or tapered shape, such that the first end **220** has an outer diameter that is larger than an outer diameter of the second end **222**.

The button **204** in this example is similar to the button **104** described above, with common components referred to using common reference numerals. However, unlike the button **104**, the button **204** also includes a first projection **210** that is carried by the and extends axially inward of and from the inner side **116** of the button **204**. The base **206** in this example is likewise similar to the base **206** described above, with common components referred to using common reference numerals. However, unlike the base **106**, the base **206** also includes a pair of second projections **208** that are carried by the inner side **120** of the base **206**. The projections **208** extend axially inward from the inner side **120** of the base **206** before extending radially inward, thereby defining a recess **216** sized to receive the first projection **210**.

As will be appreciated from FIG. **2**, the coil spring **218** is arranged to bias the expandable socket **200** to its expanded configuration. More particularly, the coil spring **218** is arranged to bias the button **204** and the cover **212** away from the base **206** and to the positions shown in FIG. **2**, which correspond to the expanded configuration of the expandable socket **200**. Thus, the coil spring **218** may also be referred to herein as the biasing element **218**. In any case, when the expandable socket **200** is in the expanded configuration, the button **204** is spaced from the platform **206** so as to permit the user of the expandable socket **200** to wrap a headphone cord of the portable media player around a portion of the expandable socket **200**, forming an adjustable stand for the portable media player, forming a grip for the portable media player, and/or to perform other desired functionality.

The expandable socket **200** may be moved from this expanded configuration to the collapsed configuration by overcoming the biasing force applied by the coil spring **218**. Generally speaking, the user of the expandable socket **200** may accomplish this by grabbing or grasping the button **204** and/or the cover **212** and moving (e.g., pushing) the button **204** and the cover **212** toward the platform **206** along a longitudinal axis **224**. As the button **204** and the cover **212** are moved toward the platform **206** in this manner, the plurality of folding sections **214** fold onto one another and the button **204**, the cover **212**, and the coil spring **218** may rotate about the longitudinal axis **224**.

As will also be appreciated from FIG. **2**, the recess **216** is arranged to receive and retain the first projection **210** when the expandable socket **200** is moved to the collapsed configuration such that the button **204** is moved toward and into close proximity with the base **206**. As this happens, the first projection **210** is moved past the second projections **208** and into the recess **216**, at which time the second projections **208** engage the first projection **210** (and vice-versa). By virtue of the shape and size of the first projection **210** and the second projections **208**, the first projection **210** is securely retained in the recess **216**. In this manner, the first projection **210**, the second projections **208**, and the recess **216** define or form the lock **214** that locks the expandable socket **200** in the collapsed configuration.

One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the first projection **210** and the second projections **208** can be reversed and yet still interact to help lock the Popsocket **200** in the collapsed configuration. More particularly, the first projection **210** can be carried by the base **206** and the second projections **208** (which define the recess **216**) can be carried by the button **204**.

The user of the expandable socket **200** may move the expandable socket **200** from the collapsed configuration to the expanded configuration by releasing the lock **214**. Generally speaking, the user may release the lock **214** by grabbing or grasping and rotating the button **204** and/or the cover **212** about the longitudinal axis **224**, which therefore rotates first projection **210** out of engagement with the second projections **208** and out of the recess **216**. Once the lock **214** has been released, the biasing force of the coil spring **218** drives the button **204** and the cover **212** outward, away from the base **206**, until the button **204** and the cover **212** reach the expanded configuration.

FIGS. **3**A-**3**C illustrate a fourth example of an expandable socket **300** constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The expandable socket **300** is similar to the expandable socket **200** in that it includes a button **304**, a base **306**, a collapsible or expandable mechanism **302** coupled to and extending between the button **304** and the base **306**, and a lock configured to releasably secure the expandable socket **300** in an expanded configuration (shown in FIG. **3**B), but is different from the expandable socket **200** in the manner described below. In other examples, the expandable socket **300** may include additional, fewer, or different components. As an example, the expandable socket **300** may also include a deformable cover such as the cover **212**.

As with the collapsible mechanism **102** and the collapsible mechanism **202**, the collapsible mechanism **302** generally facilitates movement of the expandable socket **300** between a collapsed configuration, shown in FIG. **3**A, and the expanded configuration shown in FIG. **3**B. However, the collapsible mechanism **302** in this example takes the form of a plurality of concentric rings **322** arranged between the button **304** and the base **306**. In this example, the collapsible mechanism **302** includes three concentric rings **322**A, **322**B, and **322**C each having a substantially wedge-shaped cross-section, though in other examples, more or less concentric rings may be employed and/or the concentric rings may have a different shape. In any case, the concentric rings **322** are movable relative one another along a longitudinal axis **324** as the expandable socket **300** moves between the collapsed and expanded configurations. Moreover, as illustrated in FIGS. **3**A and **3**B, the concentric ring **322**B is movable within the concentric ring **322**A and the concentric ring **322**C is movable within the concentric ring **322**B (and, in turn, the ring **322**A) as the expandable socket **300** moves between the collapsed and expanded configurations.

The button **304** in this example is similar to the button **104** described above, with common components referred to using common reference numerals. However, unlike the button **104**, the button **304** also includes a first, annular projection **308** that is carried by and extends axially inward of and from the inner side **116** of the button **304** at or proximate to a perimeter edge **320** of the button **304**. The projection **308** in this example has an inner surface **314** that

curves radially inward as the projection **308** extends away from the button **304**. The inner surface **314** is therefore arranged to interface with an outermost one of the concentric rings **322** (the concentric ring **322**A in this example) to help maintain the concentric rings **322** in the proper position between the button **304** and the base **306**.

The base **306** in this example is similar to the base **106** described above, with common components referred to using common reference numerals. However, unlike the base **106**, the base **306** includes a second, annular projection **310** that is carried by and extends axially inward of and from the inner side **120** of the base **106**. The second projection **310** is disposed radially inward of both the first projection **308** and the concentric rings **322**. In other words, the second projection **310** is nested within the first projection **308** and the concentric rings **322**. The second projection **310** has an outer surface **312** that tapers as the projection **310** extends away from the base **306**. A detent **313** is formed at or proximate to an end of the outer surface **312**. The detent **313** is thus arranged to interface with an innermost one of the concentric rings **322** (the concentric ring **322**C in this example) to help maintain the concentric rings **322** in the proper position between the button **304** and the base **306**. In some examples, such as the one illustrated in FIGS. **3**A and **3**B, the innermost concentric ring **322** (**322**C in this example) may also include a groove that is sized to receive and interferingly engage the detent **313** in order to further help maintain the concentric rings **322** in the proper position.

In operation, the expandable socket **300** may be transitioned between the expanded and collapsed configurations by manipulating the button **304** and/or the mechanism **302**. More particularly, the user of the expandable socket **300** may move the expandable socket **300** from the collapsed configuration (FIG. **3**A) to the expanded configuration (FIG. **3**B) by, for example, grabbing or grasping the button **304** and moving (e.g., pulling) the button **304** upward, away from the base **306**, along the longitudinal axis **324**. As briefly mentioned above, the expandable socket **300** includes a lock that may in turn lock, or securely retain, the expandable socket **300** in this expanded configuration. In this example, the lock is a friction-based lock that is defined by the detent **313** and the inner surface **315**, which not only help to maintain the concentric rings **322** in the proper position between the button **304** and the base **306**, but also respectively frictionally engage the innermost and outermost of the concentric rings **322** (**322**C and **322**A, respectively, in this example) when the expandable socket **300** is in the expanded configuration In this example, the concentric rings **322** are also shaped so as to frictionally engage one or both adjacent concentric rings **322** when the expandable socket **300** is in the expanded configuration, thereby helping to lock the expandable socket **300** in the expanded configuration. The user of the expandable socket **300** may release or disengage these locking features, and move the expandable socket **300** from the expanded configuration to the collapsed configuration, by, for example, moving (e.g., pushing, pressing) the button **304** downward, toward the base **306**, along the longitudinal axis **324**. As the expandable socket **300** is moved from the expanded configuration to the collapsed configuration, the concentric rings **322** nest within one another, with the innermost ring **322** nesting within the next innermost ring **322** and so on, until the projection **310** is positioned immediately adjacent or in contact with the inner side **116** of the button **304**.

The invention claimed is:

1. An expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case, the expandable socket comprising:

a platform adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case;

a button that is spaced from and movable relative to the platform;

a biasing element disposed between the platform and the button, the biasing element arranged to bias the button away from the platform; and

a lock configured to releasably secure the button to the platform, the lock comprising a first projection carried by the button and arranged to engage a second projection carried by the platform when the lock releasably secures the button to the platform,

wherein the first projection extends outward from the button in a first direction and the second projection extends outward from the platform in a second direction opposite the first direction, and

wherein the lock comprises a recess defined by the platform or the button, the recess configured to receive the first or second projection when the lock releasably secures the button to the platform.

2. The expandable socket of claim **1**, wherein the first projection has an outer diameter that is less than a diameter of the button.

3. The expandable socket of claim **1**, wherein the second projection has an outer diameter that is less than a diameter of the platform.

4. The expandable socket of claim **1**, wherein the first projection has an outer diameter that is less than a diameter of the button, and wherein the second projection has an outer diameter that is less than a diameter of the platform.

5. The expandable socket of claim **1**, further comprising a skin arranged between the platform and the button, wherein the skin surrounds the biasing element.

6. The expandable socket of claim **5**, wherein the skin comprises an elastomeric material.

7. The expandable socket of claim **5**, wherein the skin comprises at least one folding section.

8. The expandable socket of claim **1**, wherein the biasing element comprises a conical coil spring.

9. An expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case, the expandable socket comprising:

a platform adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case;

a button that is spaced from and movable relative to the platform;

a skin arranged between the platform and the button, wherein the skin comprises at least two folding sections;

a biasing element disposed between the platform and the button, the biasing element arranged to bias the button away from the platform; and

a first projection carried by the button and arranged to selectively engage a second projection carried by the platform to releasably secure the button to the platform, wherein the first projection extends outward from the button in a first direction and the second projection extends outward from the platform in a second direction opposite the first direction.

10. The expandable socket of claim **9**, wherein the skin is movable between a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration, and wherein the at least two folding sections

are configured to fold onto one another as the skin is moved from the expanded configuration to the expanded configuration.

11. The expandable socket of claim **9**, wherein the skin has a first end coupled to the button and a second end coupled to the platform, the skin having a first diameter at the first end and a second diameter at the second end, the second diameter being less than the first end.

12. The expandable socket of claim **9**, wherein the skin surrounds the biasing element.

13. The expandable socket of claim **9**, wherein the skin comprises an elastomeric material.

14. The expandable socket of claim **9**, wherein the biasing element comprises a conical coil spring.

15. The expandable socket of claim **9**, further comprising a recess defined by the platform or the button, the recess configured to selectively receive the first or second projection to releasably secure the button to the platform.

16. An expandable socket for attachment to a portable media player or a portable media player case, the expandable socket comprising:

a platform adapted to engage a portion of the portable media player or the portable media player case;

an elastomeric skin coupled to the platform and having at least two folding sections defining an outer wall and an inner wall spaced radially inward of the outer wall, the skin including a cavity defined by the inner wall and being deformable between a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration;

a button coupled to the skin opposite the platform, the button being disposed a first distance from the platform when the skin occupies the collapsed configuration and a second distance greater than the first distance from the platform when the skin occupies the expanded configuration;

a spring arranged within the cavity of the skin between the platform and the button, such that the spring is surrounded by the inner wall of the skin, the spring biasing the button away from the platform to urge the skin into the expanded configuration; and

a lock for selectively coupling the button to the platform such that the skin occupies the collapsed configuration when the button and platform are coupled, the lock comprising a first projection carried by the button and arranged to engage a second projection carried by the platform when the lock selectively couples the button to the platform.

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