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(71) Applicant: MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).		Published <i>With international search report.</i>	
(72) Inventor: PULIDO, Jacqueline, J.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 33427 (US).			
(74) Agents: MUSGROVE, Jack, V. et al.; Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).			

(54) Title: FIBER OPTIC SPLICE ORGANIZERS

(57) Abstract

A fiber optic splice organizer including a fiber optic storage tray having a region for receiving a splice insert (98a), and at least one splice insert (98a) having a pad (146) and a plurality of flexible arms (150a) attached and extending generally perpendicular to the pad (146), the arm (150a) positioned to form a series of parallel grooves for receiving individual fiber optic components, such as splice elements, and the arms (150a) being staggered along a given one of the grooves to provide a multi-point load on any component inserted therein. There are preferably at least three arms (150a) on each side of a given groove, and each of the arms (150a) advantageously has a hook (152) or other latching element formed thereon for retaining the optical component, with hooks (152) on arms (150a) along a given side of one of the grooves alternately facing in opposite directions. In one embodiment, the pad (146) is provided with ears to engage respective cutouts in the tray. The pad, ears and arms may be integrally formed (injection molded) of a flexible material such as natural or synthetic rubbers, polyurethane, EPDM, Neoprene or nitrile, or blends of these materials, including blends with polypropylene. The material should have a hardness in the range of 30 Shore A to 50 Shore D, and preferably in the range of 60-80 Shore A.

