



ABSTRACT

Low Profile Panel Mountable Retainer for Electrical Connectors

A low profile panel mountable retainer (10) is provided for mounting an elongated electrical connector (50) in an elongated generally rectangular opening (12) in a panel (14). The retainer is molded of plastic material and includes an elongated, generally rectangular housing (16) insertable into the panel opening for receiving the connector. The housing has end walls (18) and flexible elongated side walls (20, 22) defining a connector-mounting aperture (24). A pair of resilient wings extend along the outside of each side wall of the housing. Each wing includes an inner snap-in wing (26), made up of a plurality of discrete snap-in wing portions, spaced from the respective side wall and adapted for passing through the panel opening and bearing against an opposite side (14a) of the panel. Each snap-in wing portion provides a discrete retaining area to assure secure mounting of the retainer to the panel. Each wing also includes an outer stop wing (28) spaced from the respective inner snap-in wing for bearing against an entry side (14b) of the panel. A plurality of integral hinges (34) are located along each side wall of the housing and join each inner snap-in wing to the respective side wall, and a plurality of integral support beams (38) join each outer stop wing to the respective inner



snap-in wing. The resulting lattice construction of the retainer provides flexibility and support resulting in a low insertion, high retention connection of the retainer within the panel.