

[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

INSULATING COVER FOR TERMINAL

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an insulating cover for a terminal, and more particularly to improvements in an insulating cover for a terminal used for insulating a connecting terminal of a coated wire.

5 Conventionally, such an insulating cover for a terminal as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 has been in wide use. This insulating cover shown in Fig. 1 is a cover for a flat-type terminal. The referential numeral 1 denotes a flat-type terminal, 2 a coated wire, and 3 a sleeve-type cover made of
10 a soft vinyl chloride resin. This sleeve-type cover is attached to the wire by taking the complicated steps of

 a) inserting the wire into the cover in advance,
 b) attaching the terminal to the wire by contact bonding,

15 c) moving the cover to the position suitable for covering the terminal, and

 d) fitting the cover so as to enclose the terminal therewith.

 The cover attachment operation is, therefore, very
20 inefficient, and various sizes of covers are required in accordance with the sizes of wires and terminals; that is,

there are many problems to solve in terms of control of parts and mass production.

5 In Fig. 2, another cover for a flat-type terminal is shown. A cover 4 is made of a hard synthetic resin, and has a projection 4a and a stopper piece 4b contained within it. After the terminal has been attached to the wire by contact bonding, the cover is moved to a position appropriate for covering the terminal in order to enclose it together with the wire. This cover 4 is prevented from slipping off the 10 wire by its engagement with the projection 4a and the stopper piece 4b, which structure facilitates the fitting to the terminal as compared with the cover shown in Fig. 1. However, the cover of this structure has a problem in that though insertion and fitting are easy in the case of a thick 15 wire, in the case of a thin wire, which is easily bent, insertion and retention are difficult and some subsidiary means are required.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to solve the problem described above, and to provide an insulating cover for a terminal which requires no force for insertion of and engagement with the terminal, which is able to enclose the terminal with great ease and simplicity without

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the use of any subsidiary means, and which is suitable for mass production.

According to the present invention there is provided an electrically insulating cover for an electrical terminal connected to a wire, the cover having a cover body formed of synthetic resin and including a tubular sleeve means for receiving a head portion of the terminal substantially coaxially of the sleeve means, and two fitting portions integrally hinged to the sleeve means and having engaging portions providing a snapfit latching upon manual closing of the fitting portions together, the sleeve means and the fitting portions, when closed, being such as to cover substantially the terminal and its attachment to the wire with the terminal retained in the cover body and restricted by means provided in the fitting portions, the sleeve means occupying substantially one half of the length of the cover body.

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figs. 1 and 2 are sectional views of the conventional insulating covers for terminals;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of an embodiment of an insulating cover for a terminal according to the invention:

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view of the cover shown in Fig. 3 with a terminal inserted;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged plan view of the cover with the fitting portions opened;

Figs. 6 and 7 are a side view and an end view, respectively, of the cover shown in Fig. 5;

5 Fig. 8 is a sectional view of the fitting portions of the cover;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged sectional view of a hook pin portion;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view of an engaging portion of
10 the hook pin and receiving hole;

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of another embodiment of an insulating cover for a terminal according to the invention;

Fig. 12 is an enlarged plan view of the cover shown in
15 Fig. 11 with the fitting portions opened;

Figs. 13 is a side view of the cover shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of an insulating cover for a terminal according to the invention;

20 Fig. 15 is an enlarged plan view of the cover shown in Fig. 14 with the fitting portions opened;

Fig. 16 is a side view of the cover shown in Fig. 15;

Fig. 17 is an end view of the cover shown in Fig. 15;

Fig. 18 is a perspective view of a still further embodiment of an insulating cover for a terminal according to the invention;

Fig. 19 is an enlarged plan view of the cover shown in Fig. 14 with the fitting portions opened;

Fig. 20 is a side view of the cover shown in Fig. 19; and

Fig. 21 is an end view of the cover shown in Fig. 19.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to Figs. 3 to 10, there is shown an embodiment of an insulating cover for a terminal according to the invention. This embodiment is used for insulating a linear flat-type terminal (1) which is connected to a wire (2).

An insulating cover body (A) is formed of a synthetic resin such as nylon or hard vinyl chloride, and is divided into two portions in the longitudinal direction in which the terminal (1) is inserted. One division is a sleeve portion (10) having a rectangular section for easily receiving the insertion of the head portion (1a) of the flat-type terminal (1). On the inner surface at the end of the sleeve portion a projection (10a) is provided for restricting the inserting position of the terminal and the sleeve portion (10) has at one end an opening with a lip (10b) which is formed at this end with a lip so that its walls are in this portion thinner

than the main portion of the outer walls of the sleeve portion for the purpose which will be described later. The other portion of the cover body is further vertically divided into two box-shaped fitting portions (11), (12), which are connected to the sleeve portion (10) at the lip of the opening with a lip (10b) such as to be freely bent, opened and closed. Each end of the fitting portions (11), (12) is a lead portion (11a), (12a) having a smaller inner width. On the protruding fitting positions at the four corners of one (11) of the fitting portions, are provided hooked pins (11b), on the bases of which reinforcing ribs (11c) are integrally provided. On the protruding fitting positions at the four corners of the other fitting portion (12), receiving holes (12b) for receiving the hooked pins (11b) are formed, and on the inner surface of each receiving hole (12b), a projection (12c) for retaining the hook of the hooked pin (11b) is provided.

Each of the opposing side plates (11d), (12d) of the box-shaped fitting portions (11), (12) are formed such as to dovetail into each other when fitted (see Fig. 8).

The abutting surfaces of the lead portions (11a), (12a) are cut obliquely such that the opposing surfaces fit each other snugly (see Fig. 7).

Incidentally, the holes (11e) adjacent to the hooked pins (11b) are holes necessary for synthetic resin formation.

5 The insulating cover for a terminal of the above-described structure encloses the terminal in the way shown in Figs. 3 and 4. That is, when the fitting portions (11), (12) are opened, the head portion (1a) of the terminal (1) which is connected to the wire by contact bonding is inserted into the receiving portion at the end of the sleeve portion (10) to the position where the terminal abuts the inner projection (10a), and thereafter both fitting portions (11) (12) are pressed tightly together.

10 This pressing operation inserts the hooked pins (11b) of the fitting portion (11) into the receiving holes (12b) of the fitting portion (12). During the pressing operation, the hooked pins (11b) are slightly inclined from their upright posture by virtue of the projections (12c) at the entrance of the receiving holes (12b), but after passing this position, they recover the original posture, whereby 15 the hooks are retained by the projections (12c) such as to prevent slipping off.

20 When the fitting portions (11), (12) are closed, as is shown in Fig. 8, the opposing side plates (11d), (12d) dovetail into each other, and a part of each of the opposing side plates (11d), (12d), respectively, fits around the 25

opening with a lip (10b) of the sleeve portion (10). When the fitting portions (11), (12) are closed, the protruding portions at the four corners of both fitting portions are situated at the head portion (1a) and the narrow portion of the wire contacting portion (1b), and these protruding portions retain the cover body (A) such that it does not move from this terminal enclosing position. The insulating cover which encloses the terminal in this way can be removed from the terminal by pushing and opening the fitting portions (11), (12).

Therefore, this structure of insulating cover dispenses with the need for a troublesome task of inserting the wire and the terminal into the cover, and enables a simple operation of enclosing the terminal by inserting only the head portion of the terminal into the sleeve portion of the cover, and closing and pressing the fitting portions with the thumb and first finger. In this way, working efficiency in cover attachment can be remarkably heightened.

Furthermore, since the terminals can be retained fast within the cover, there is no danger of slippage when the terminal is fitted to a tab terminal, whereby an accident caused by bad connection or bad insulation can be prevented.

Furthermore, since the fitting portions (11), (12) have a structure in which the opposing side plates dovetail into each other and a part of each of the opposing side plates

(11d), (12d), respectively, fits without a gap around the opening with a lip (10b) of the sleeve portion (10), there is an adequate creeping distance in respect to electrical insulation as compared with the structure in which the
5 opposing side plates only abut each other, whereby superior insulation effect is obtained.

In addition, according to the above-described structure, since the narrow hooked pins (11b) are integrally formed with the reinforcing ribs (11c) at the bases, when
10 the pins are inserted into the receiving holes (12b), in spite of a slight inclination being caused by the projections (12c) in the receiving holes, not only is there a repulsing which restores the pins to their original upright posture, but the pins are prevented from being
15 damaged.

Figs. 11 to 13 show another embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, two hooked pins (11b) and two receiving holes (12b) corresponding thereto retain the fitting portions (11d), (12d), and one of the opposing side
20 plates is formed with a protruding lip such as to dovetail into the other side plate (11d).

In Figs. 14 to 17 is shown an example in which a further embodiment of the invention is used for an insulating cover for a flag-type terminal (1). The two hooked pins
25 (11b) and the two receiving holes (12b) corresponding

thereto retain the fitting portions (11d), (12d), and one of the opposing side plates is formed with a protruding lip such as to dovetail into the other side plate (11d).

A still further embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs. 18 to 21. This cover is also used for a flag-type terminal. In this embodiment, one hooked pin (11b) and one receiving hole (12b) corresponding thereto retain the fitting portions (11), (12), and two sides of one (12d) of the opposing side plates (11d), (12d) are formed with a protruding lip such as to dovetail into the other side plate (11d).

As described above, according to the invention, an insulating cover for a terminal formed into a sleeve of a synthetic resin such as nylon or hard vinyl chloride is composed of: a sleeve portion for receiving the head portion of a terminal which is connected to a wire; and two fitting portions for covering the remaining portion of the terminal together with the wire which can freely open and close at the point where the fitting portions are connected to the sleeve portion; and which, in the main portion, has hooked pin portions and receiving hole portions for fitting to each other when the two fitting portions are closed. Accordingly, not only is attachment to a terminal simple and easy and the enclosed terminal securely retained, but also an insulating cover for a terminal which is suitable for mass

production irrespective of the sizes of terminals or wires can be provided.

CLAIMS

1. An electrically insulating cover for an electrical terminal connected to a wire, the cover having a cover body formed of synthetic resin and including a tubular sleeve means for receiving a head portion of the terminal substantially coaxially of the sleeve means, and two fitting portions integrally hinged to the sleeve means and having engaging portions providing a snapfit latching upon manual closing of the fitting portions together, the sleeve means and the fitting portions when closed, being such as to cover substantially the terminal and its attachment to the wire with the terminal retained in the cover body and restricted by means provided in the fitting portions, the sleeve means occupying substantially one half of the length of the cover body.

2. An electrically insulating cover according to claim 1, wherein the cover can be removed from a terminal retained thereby, the fitting portions being disengagable by pushing and opening.

3. An electrically insulating cover substantially as described hereinbefore with reference to Figs. 3 to 10, or Figs. 11 to 13, or Figs. 14 to 17, or Figs. 18 to 21 of the accompanying drawings.

