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ELECTRICAL FUSE HOLDER

The present invention relates to fuse holders suitable for electrical plugs or sockets, but is not restricted to such a use.

It is known to provide non rewirable plugs with externally accessed fuse holders. In one example a plug base has a fuse holder which comprises a holding member for retaining the fuse in a socket a pair of clips within a recess to engage the end contact clips of the fuse. The holding member has an outer planar face and is slightly smaller than the surrounds of the recess so that a screwdriver or any pointed tool can be inserted at one end to extract the holding member and fuse. This can damage the holder and is not vandal resistant. Further the holder relies on the clips to retain the fuse in place and to make electrical contact with the fuse.

A fuse holder suitable for an electrical plug or socket according to the present invention comprises a fuse container adapted to hold a fuse and a rotatable means so arranged as to move the container linearly from a position in which the fuse engages electrical contacts to a position where the fuse can be removed from the holder.

Preferably the container is "jacked" out of a socket in the holder by means of a worm. In one embodiment the container has a semi circular worm engaging portion engaging the worm in position where the fuse engages the electrical contacts but so as the container can be disengaged from the worm to remove the fuse.

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An advantage of the invention is that the fuse container can be made to lock the fuse securely in the holder. When a worm is used to "jack" out the container, a recess which can only be engaged by a special tool may be provided in the head of the worm or an extension therefrom so as to prevent casual access to the fuse. In this way the fuse holder is resistant to vandalisation.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of a fuse holder according to the invention, and

Figure 2 is a cross section taken on A-A of Figure 1.

In the drawings a fuse 2 of a standard domestic form is fitted into a fuse container 4 which is movable from a first position L shown in Figure 2 in broken lines linearly to a second position U. In the first position the container 4 holds the contact caps 6 and 8 of fuse 2 in electrical contact with contacts 10 and 12. In the second "jacked" out position the fuse container is outside socket 14 so that the fuse 2 can be slid out of a retaining aperture or apertures 16 in container 4 and replaced.

The container 4 is moved from position L to position U partly by means of a worm 18 having a head 20 and driving slot 22 in the head and finally when the worm disengages by hand. The worm 18 engages with a semi circular threaded surface 24 which enables the container 4 to be disengaged from the worm.

Stops 26 and 28 are provided on downward legs 30 of the container which in the upper position U engage on the

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underside 32 of the surround of the socket 14 so as to present removal of the container from the socket.

The fuse holder is suitable for use in a plug or socket or other electrical article. The driving slot 22 can be shaped for use with a screwdriver or differently shaped as an hexagonal recess to accept an Allen key. This makes casual access more difficult.

In another embodiment, not shown, the jacking (rotatable) means can be a pinion and rack arrangement.

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CLAIMS

1. A fuse holder suitable for an electrical plug or socket comprising a fuse container adapted to hold a fuse and a rotatable means so arranged as to move the container linearly from a position in which the fuse engages electrical contacts to a position where the fuse can be removed from the holder.

2. A fuse holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the container is "jacked" out of a socket in the holder by means of a worm.

3. A fuse holder as claimed in claim 2 wherein the container has a semi circular worm engaging portion engaging the worm in the position in which the fuse engages electrical contacts.

4. A fuse holder as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein the worm has a head recessed to accept a tool.

5. A fuse holder as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein one or more stops are provided to prevent the container being removed from its socket.

6. A fuse holder substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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