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(54) Title: ROBUST, MINIATURIZED FFC CONNECTOR

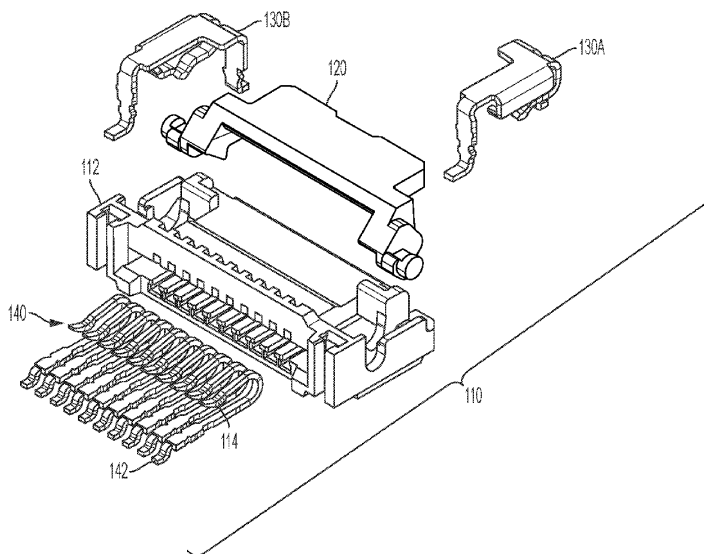


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: A robust, miniaturized electrical connector including a housing and an actuator movable between a latched and an unlatched position to hold or release a flexible circuit. The actuator is biased towards the latched position by a spring arm of a locking terminal. The actuator may be moved from the latched position by insertion of the flexible circuit and will return to that latched position by spring force to autolock. The actuator may have a stable, unlatched state that may be entered by a user pressing on the actuator, but may have an auto-close function. The actuator is held in the housing by the locking terminal, which is soldered to a PCB at two ends of a support arm. Overstress on the spring arm is prevented because the actuator will abut an interior surface of the housing and/or the support arm.

[Continued on next page]

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