

Claims

1. A unitary fastener, comprising:
 - a unitary body composed of resilient material, said body having a planar top with a circular periphery;
 - 5 a substantially rectangular opening through the center of the top, said opening having pairs of opposing short and long sides, the centerlines of which define minor and major axes of the fastener, respectively;
 - an opposing pair of resilient arms upwardly and inwardly extending from the top, each arm affixed to one of the short sides of the opening along the major axis; and
 - 10 a plurality of outwardly and downwardly extending resilient fingers located on the periphery of the top.
2. The fastener of claim 1 wherein the top has two through-holes, each located on an opposite side of the opening adjacent its longer sides along the minor axis, said holes having inward sides adapted to receive the application of an inwardly directed force whereby the
- 15 fastener is distorted such that the tabs spread apart.
3. The fastener of claim 2 wherein each of the arms has an arcuate jaw at its distal end.
4. The fastener of claim 3 wherein each of the fingers is tapered radially.
5. The fastener of claim 4 wherein the entire fastener is a unitary element composed of spring steel or stainless steel.
- 20 6. The fastener of claim 5 wherein the fastener has the same thickness throughout.
7. An assembly, comprising:
 - a first fastener member having a head and an elongate shank which extends from the head; and
 - the fastener of claim 1 located about the shank such that the arms engage the shank and
 - 25 a residual clamp load is applied to the head.
8. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the top has two through-holes, each located on an opposite side of the opening adjacent its longer sides along the minor axis, said holes adapted to receive the application of an inwardly directed force whereby the fastener is distorted such that the tabs spread apart.
- 30 9. The assembly of claim 8 wherein each of the arms has an arcuate jaw at its distal end.
10. The assembly of claim 9 wherein each of the fingers is tapered radially.
11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein the entire fastener is a unitary element composed of spring steel or stainless steel.
12. The fastener of claim 11 wherein the fastener has the same thickness throughout.

13. The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fastener is approximately 3 mm in diameter.
14. The fastener of claim 2 wherein the fingers are equally spaced about the periphery.
15. The fastener of claim 2 wherein there are only two arms.