

FLEXIBLE PIPE CONNECTOR**ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

A flexible pipe connector including a first cylindrical member, a second cylindrical member to be inserted into the first cylindrical member, an annular restricting groove defined in an inner peripheral face of the first cylindrical member, an annular attaching groove defined in an outer peripheral face of the second cylindrical member and having a shorter length than the restricting groove in a direction of cylinder axis, a retaining member radially expandably and detachably fitted to the attaching groove for coming into contact with an end face of the restricting groove in the cylinder axis direction so as to restrict range of relative movement between the first and second cylindrical members in the cylinder axis direction. The outer peripheral face of the second cylindrical member and the inner peripheral face of the first cylindrical member are provided with a radial opposing distance therebetween determined so as to allow insertion and withdrawal of the retaining member. The connector also includes a radial-expansion restricting portion for preventing, through contact, a radially outward withdrawing movement of the retaining member from the attaching groove when

the retaining member comes into contact, along the direction of the cylinder axis, against an end face of the restricting groove located on the side of an entrance opening of the first cylindrical member. At least mutually contacting portions respectively of the end face of the restricting groove and an end face of the retaining member are formed as faces extending substantially normal to the cylinder axis or tapered faces extending radially outward as approaching the entrance opening of the first cylindrical member.

FIG. 3