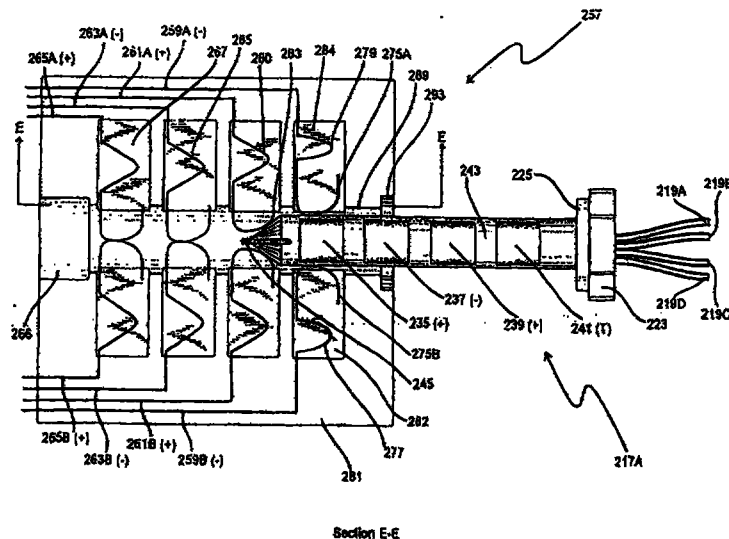


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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSFERRING ELECTRICAL SIGNALS AMONG ELECTRICAL DEVICES



(57) Abstract

An apparatus for a power and/or data I/O port, comprised of a connector assembly (400 in figure 21A) which has male plug (433) with conductors (437, 435, 439 and 441), insulators (443, 438), and a female receptacle (414) with conductors (417, 419 and 421), and related elements (423) that create different electrical paths than had previously been present in electrical and electronic host devices. These newly-created electrical paths enable host devices and peripherals – such as a battery pack (450) and its battery power source (413), as well as one or more external power sources – to perform power and/or data functions in ways they could not perform without such an apparatus. By locating a connector assembly (400) in replaceable modules, such as a battery pack (450), users can upgrade and enhance the functionality of a multiplicity of existing (and future) electronic and electrical goods.