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Telephone handset for a telephone set

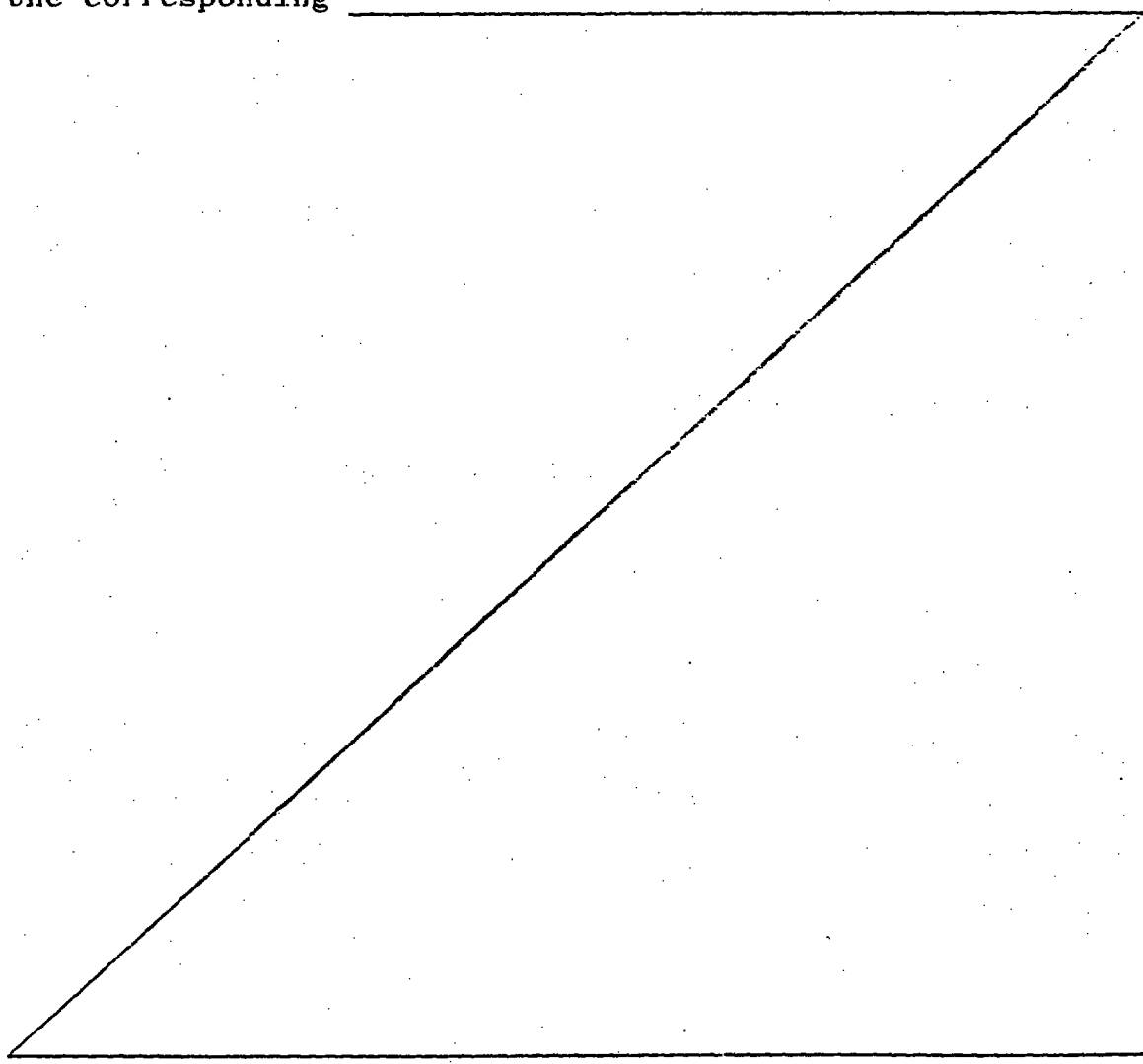
This invention relates to a handset, for a telephone set or other telecommunications terminal, and is particularly concerned with making the parts of a handset in a manner which avoids complex molds.

5 Conventionally a handset has an arcuate center portion which is grasped in the hand of the user, with an enlargement at each end projecting forwards. One enlargement is a housing containing the receiver and the other enlargement is a housing containing the transmitter. The forward faces are
10 inclined at a small angle, the better to fit against the ear at one end and be adjacent the mouth at the other. This usually results in the housings or enlargements having a peripheral wall which is re-entrant where the wall extends to the center portion. This results in complex dies or
15 molds, usually with cam pieces or collapsible members.

According to the present invention there is provided a telephone handset comprising an elongate front part and an elongate back part; the back part having a convex back surface and being substantially rigid and curved along its
20 length to have an arcuate form the back part also having a concave front peripherally extending rim; the front part including a flexible center portion and a forwardly extending housing at each end, a transmitter being positioned in one housing and a receiver being positioned in the other housing, the flex-
25 ible center portion being of substantially planar extent

when in an unrestrained condition; and means for retaining the front part against the peripherally extending rim of the back part so that the flexible center portion of the front part is constrained into an arcuate form.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the front part is molded. Because the center portion of the front part is substantially planar when in an unrestrained condition, the front part can thus be molded in a simple die or mold. The handset is intended for automated assembly
10 and in the preferred embodiment, has the receiver at one end, the transmitter at the other end and wires extend along the center portion, soldered at each end to the transmitter and receiver. The parts can be assembled by engaging a hook member at one end of one part into an aperture or recess at
15 the corresponding



(13) end of the other part. By flexing the front part outwards at the center, a hook member at the other end of one of the parts is engaged into a corresponding further aperture or recess. Alternatively the two parts can be assembled by flexing the front part to its arcuate form and the two parts snapped together.

The invention will be readily understood by the following description of one embodiment by way of example, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

10 Figure 1 is a side view of one form of conventional handset;

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of a handset in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a plan view on the back of the back part of the handset in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a cross-section on the line IV-IV of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a plan view on the front of the back part of the handset in Figure 1;

20 Figure 6 is a plan view on the front of the front part of the handset in Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a cross-section on the line VII-VII of Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is a plan view on the back of the front part of the handset in Figure 1.

Figure 1 illustrates one form of conventional handset having an arcuate center portion 10 with an enlargement or housing at each end, 11 and 12. The general shaping is for the handset to be

curved, so that the faces 13 and 14 of the housings 11 and 12 are proximate to the ear and mouth of a user when the handset is in use.

It will be seen that the peripheral walls of the housings are re-entrant, sloping forwardly and inwardly, where the walls meet the center portion. These positions are indicated generally at 15. The handset is generally divided into back and front parts, 16 and 17 respectively, for example along a line indicated at 18.

10 It will be appreciated that when the front part 17 is molded, the die is quite complex in that parts of the die have to move in order for the part to be removed. Such a die is expensive, requires maintenance and can cause problems in that markings may be formed on the molded part where there are joins in the die.

Figure 2 illustrates a telephone handset as made in accordance with the present invention. The handset comprises a back part 20 and a front part 21. The front part 21 has a hollow enlargement at each end, 22 and 23, forming housings for reception of a receiver 24 and transmitter 25 respectively. A foam resin or similar washer 26 rests on the front face 27 of housing 22, to provide an acoustic seal between the receiver 24 and the front face 27 of housing 22.

20 The transmitter in the example is mounted on a small printed circuit board 28, which also carries a modular jack 29. The transmitter rests on a hollow boss 30 formed on the front face 31 of housing 23, a foam resin or similar washer 32 being positioned between the transmitter and the boss. The printed circuit board rests on a pillar 33 and is held in place by a screw 34. The printed circuit board has two solder connection pads 35 at one end for solder

(5) attachment of leads 36 which connect to the receiver 24. The circuit pattern on the printed circuit board 28 connects the four terminals of the jack to the solder connection pads 35 and to soldered connections to the transmitter. In the example, two screws 37 attach the front part 21 to the back part 20, although a single screw, or more than two screws can be used if desired. Locating members 38 guide and locate the leads 36.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the back part 20 in more detail. The back part is generally arcuate in side view, as seen by the cross-section in Figure 4 having an open trough-like form, with a back wall 39. The center portion 40 is parallel in plan view, and at each end the top part is enlarged, having circular portions 41 and 42 which, as will be seen in respect to the front part described later, are shaped to cooperate with the enlargements or housings on the front part.

The back part is hollow and trough-like having a peripherally extending wall 43. A series of longitudinal and transverse ribs 44 and also, in the particular example, angled ribs 44a, provide, with the wall 43, and back wall 39, a high degree of stiffness. The back part is very resistant to bending about a transverse axis and also has considerable torsion stiffness. Two bosses 45 extend up from the interior surface of the center portion for reception of the screws 37 (Figure 1) attaching the front part.

The peripheral wall 43 has a forwardly extending rib 46 extending around the periphery of the outer surface to provide a seating for a cooperative formation on the front part. At each end of the back part an inwardly extending rib 47 is formed at the edge

of the wall. In the example, the ribs 47 are formed partly by material extending beyond the wall and partly by reducing the thickness of the wall at these positions. An extension is formed on each of the longitudinally extending ribs 44, formed within the enlargement 41, and indicated at 48. These extensions press down on the back of the receiver 24 (Figure 1) and hold it firmly in position when the two parts of the handset are assembled. These could be at both ends and make the part symmetrical.

10 Figures 6, 7 and 8 illustrate the front member 21, in the form as it is molded. It comprises a flat center portion 50 having the two forwardly extending hollow enlargements or housings 22 and 23. The housings are cup-shaped, the housing 22, for the receiver having a flat inner bottom surface 51. Apertures 52 extend through the bottom of the housing to permit passage of sound from the receiver. An annular recess 53 provides a seating for the washer 26 (Figure 1). On the side of the housing adjacent to the center portion 50, a small recess 54 is formed, in the example illustrated. However, this is an optional detail.

00 The housing 25 for the transmitter has the hollow boss 30 on which seats the transmitter. The washer 32 (Figure 1) rests on top of the boss and the transmitter rests on the washer. Locating ribs 55 are provided for positioning the transmitter. A semi-circular slot 56 is formed in the bottom or inner surface 57. Pillar 33 extend up from the inner surface 57.

A narrow rib 58 extends around the periphery of the front part, on the rear surface. The rib is spaced inward slightly to fit inside the rib 46 on the back part. At each end of the front

(17) part is formed a projection 59 extending rearward from the edge. A slot 60 is formed through each projection 59. At the transmitter end, in the wall of the housing 23, is formed an aperture 61. This aperture is profiled to accept a modular plug which inserts into the modular jack 29 (Figure 1). Two hollow bosses 62, one at each end of the central portion 50 permit passage of screws 37 (Figure 1). The bores of the bosses are recessed at their outer ends, at 63 for the heads of the screws. The inner end surfaces 64 of the bosses 62 and the surfaces at the bottom of recesses 63 are inclined, for reasons as will be explained.

After assembly of receiver and transmitter to the front part, including the printed circuit board and modular jack, and the positioning and soldering in place the leads 36, the two parts of the handset are assembled. One way of doing this is by engaging a rib 47 at one end of the back part in the corresponding slot 60 at the end of the front part. This is done with the two parts inclined slightly, one relative to the other. The back part and front part are then pivoted together and by pushing the parts together, particularly at the center portions, the rib 47 at the other end of the back part will snap into the slot 60 at the other end of the front part. The inner surfaces of the ribs 47 and the outer surfaces of the projections 59 are chamfered to assist in the snapping together. The snapping together will result in some curving of the center portion 50 of the front part 21. This is because the overall length of the front part, on the joint surface or line, when in the as molded condition, is slightly longer than the overall length of the back part. This is to allow for curving of the front part. On

insertion and tightening of the screws 37, the front part curves further at the center portion, until the two parts fit closely together with the ribs 46 and 58 in cooperative engagement. As the center portion curves or bends, so the surfaces 64 on the inner ends of the bosses 62 on the front part, and the bottom surfaces of the recesses 63, rotate and eventually the surfaces 64 abut the end surfaces of the bosses 45.

10 The back part is made to be a strong member with considerable stiffness. It is somewhat in the form of a relatively rigid beam with a high degree of torsional stiffness. Basically, the rigidity of the handset is obtained from the back part, although additional stiffness will be attained on assembly of the two parts together.

0 The particular form and arrangement of the ribs 44 in the back part can vary. Also the particular arrangement of the ribs 47 and slots 60 can be varied. The importance of the present invention is the ability to mold the front part in a flat configuration, avoiding complex die arrangements, and obtaining the curving of the front part, with the desirable inclination of the housings holding the transmitter and receiver by causing the center portion of the front part to be bent or deformed on assembly of the two parts. Thus two relatively simple moldings are required, with relatively simple dies. This results in a considerable saving in molding die costs, which in turn reduces the cost of the handset.

The form of the front part lends itself very easily to automated assembly of the transducers to the part, and automated soldering of the leads. This also reduces costs.



CLAIMS

1. A telephone handset comprising an elongate front part and an elongate back part; the back part having a convex back surface and being substantially rigid and curved along its length to have an arcuate form the back part also having
5 a concave front peripherally extending rim; the front part including a flexible center portion and a forwardly extending housing at each end, a transmitter being positioned in one housing and a receiver being positioned in the other housing, the flexible center portion being of substantially planar
10 extent when in an unrestrained condition; and means for retaining the front part against the peripherally extending rim of the back part so that the flexible center portion of the front part is constrained into an arcuate form.
2. A handset as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means
15 for retaining the front part include interengaging formations at each end of each of the back and front parts.
3. A handset as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means retaining the front part further include at least one screw extending through the front part into the back part.
- 20 4. A handset as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising a modular jack positioned in the housing for the transmitter, an aperture in the wall of the housing for insertion of a modular plug into the jack, and means electrically connecting the transmitter and the receiver to
25 contact members in the jack.
5. A handset as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a plurality of ribs extending forwardly from a back wall of the back part, within the peripheral wall.

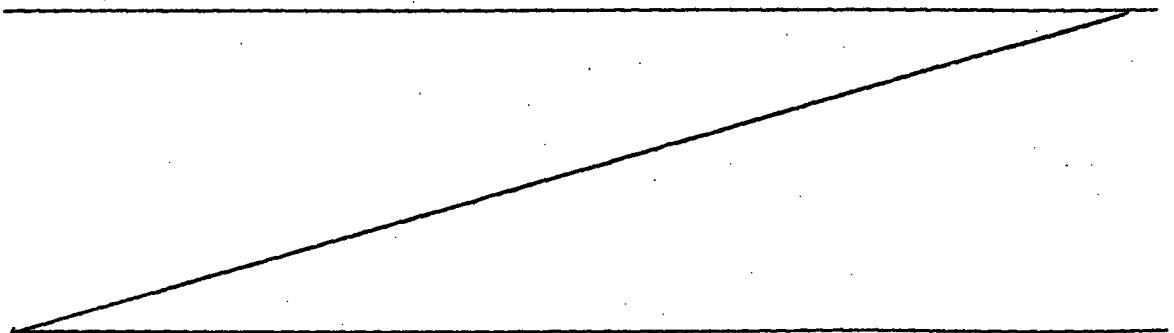


6. A handset as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plurality of ribs include ribs extending longitudinally of the back part, and a plurality of transversely extending ribs extending across the back part to interconnect the peripheral wall and the longitudinally extending ribs.

7. A handset as claimed in claim 8, including further ribs extending at an inclination to the transverse ribs, to interconnect the transverse ribs and the longitudinally extending ribs.

10 8. A handset as claimed in claim 2, wherein the inter-engaging formations comprise a projection extending rearwardly from an inner surface of the wall of each housing, each projection having an outwardly facing inclined surface and an aperture below the inclined surface extending through the projection; and an inwardly extending rib at the forward edge of the peripheral wall at each end of the front part, the inwardly extending ribs snapping into the apertures on assembly of the front and back parts.

9. A handset as claimed in claim 4, wherein the transmitter is an electric transmitter, the transmitter and the modular jack being mounted on a printed circuit board and the handset includes means in the housing for the transmitter for holding the printed circuit board, the modular jack and the transmitter in predetermined positions in the housing.





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10. A handset substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 2 to 8 of the accompanying drawings.
