ELECTRICAL SOCKET

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 15/940,221, filed on March 29, 2018, entitled Electrical Socket, the subject matter of which is herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to an electrical socket, such as for high current applications, with improved durability and performance.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Conventional electrical sockets, such as barrel terminals, are configured to accept an electrical pin or prong. Known electrical sockets are disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Nos. 6,899,571, 6,837,756, 4,734,063, and 4,657,335, the subject matter of each of which is incorporated by reference. The designs of such conventional electrical sockets can, however, lead to reduced performance and service life of the socket, namely due to deformation of the socket contacts, misalignment of the mating pin when inserted into the socket, and skiving of the mating pin.

[0004] Therefore, a need exists for an improved electrical socket that is designed to address the above problems and maintain high performance of the socket.

SUMMARY

[0004a] In an aspect, the present disclosure refers to an electrical socket, comprising a cylindrical body defining a longitudinal axis and having opposite first and second end rings, a plurality of spaced contact beams extending between the first and second end rings, and an inner receiving area for accepting a mating pin, the first and second end rings being rotatably offset from one another with respect to the longitudinal axis, thereby twisting the contact beams into a hyperbolic geometry, each of the contact beams comprising a middle section between first and second end

sections, the first and second end sections being attached to the first and second end rings, respectively, and the middle section of each contact beam being longer and wider than each of the first and second end sections such that each contact beam has a generally teardrop shape, and wherein the middle section of each contact beam has a contour that defines an inner contact area such that the middle section extends further into the inner receiving area than the first and second end sections and such that the inner contact areas are positioned for contact with the mating pin when inserted into the inner receiving area.

[0004b] In another aspect, the present disclosure refers to a method of making an electrical socket, comprising the steps of: providing a conductive blank having opposite first and second connecting portions and a plurality of contact beams extending between the first and second connecting portions, each contact beam having a middle section between first and second end sections, the first and second end sections being attached to the first and second connecting portions, respectively; contouring each of the middle sections of the contact beams of the blank to define a contact area; after contouring, rolling the blank to form a cylindrical body wherein the first and second connecting portions form opposite first and second end rings of the body; and then twisting the first and second end rings in opposite directions with respect to a longitudinal axis of the body, thereby twisting the contact beams into a hyperbolic geometry and forming an inner receiving area of the body configured to accept a mating pin with the contact areas of the contact beams facing inside.

[0005] According to an example, the present disclosure may provide an electrical socket that comprises a cylindrical body defining a longitudinal axis and having opposite first and second end rings, a plurality of spaced contact beams extending between the first and second end rings, and an inner receiving area for accepting a mating pin. The first and second end rings are rotatably offset from one another with respect to the longitudinal axis, thereby twisting the contact beams into a hyperbolic geometry. Each of the contact beams may comprise a middle section between first and second end sections. The first and second end sections are attached to the first and second

end rings, respectively, and the middle section of each contact beam may be longer and wider than each of the first and second end sections, such that each contact beam has a generally teardrop shape. The middle section of each contact beam has a contour that defines an inner contact area such that the middle section extends further into the inner receiving area than the first and second end sections and such that the inner contact areas are positioned for contact with the mating pin when inserted into the inner receiving area.

[0006] In certain examples, the contour of the middle section of each contact beam comprises a substantially concave form extending into the inner receiving area; the contour of the middle section of each contact beam comprises angled radii forms extending across the middle section substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis; the end rings have substantially the same diameter and width; the width of each end ring is greater than the width of each middle section of the contact beams; the hyperbolic geometry has a twist of about 40 to 70 degrees; the cylindrical body is a one-piece unitary member; the contact beams are uniformly spaced; and/or the cylindrical body is made of copper, copper alloy, or silver plating.

[0007] In an example, the present disclosure may also provide a method of making an electrical socket, that comprises the steps of providing a conductive blank having opposite first and second connecting portions and a plurality of contact beams extending between the first and second connecting portions, each contact beam having a middle section between first and second end sections, the first and second end sections being attached to the first and second connecting portions, respectively; contouring each of the middle sections of the contact beams of the blank to define a contact area; after contouring, rolling the blank to form a cylindrical body wherein the first and second connecting portions form opposite first and second end rings of the body; and then twisting the first and second end rings in opposite directions with respect to a longitudinal axis of the body, thereby twisting the contact beams into a hyperbolic geometry and forming an inner receiving area of the body configured to accept a mating pin with the contact areas of the contact beams facing inside.

[0008] In accordance with some examples of the method, the step of contouring provides a substantially concave form in each middle section of each contact beam such that the

middle sections extend into the inner receiving area after the step of twisting the first and second end

rings; the step of contouring provides angled radii forms across each middle section of each contact beam; the step of twisting includes twisting the first and second end rings until the angled radii forms are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis; the step of twisting the first and second end rings provides a twist between about 40 and 70 degrees with respect to the longitudinal axis; after the step of rolling the blank, attaching respective ends of the first and second connecting portions to form the first and second end rings, respectively; further comprising the step of welding or mechanically locking end edges of the blank after contouring and rolling the blank to form the cylindrical body; further comprising the step of stamping the blank from a sheet of conductive material; the sheet is made of copper, copper alloy, or silver plating; further comprising the step of forming the cylindrical body as a one-piece unitary member; and/or further comprising the step of uniformly spacing the contact beams.

[0009] With those and other objects, advantages, and features of the invention that may become hereinafter apparent, the nature of the invention may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of the invention, the appended claims, and the several drawings attached herein.