The term "align" may particularly denote "to be in or come into precise adjustment or correct relative position". As a consequence of clamping the single contact springs are in the proper positioning or state of adjustment in relation to each other.

The expression that the "the group of single contact springs is clamped by clipping clip-on device to the base block" may denote that the single contact springs are directly or non-directly fixed and held tightly when the clip-on device is clipped to the base block.

According to a further embodiment of the invention a contact socket comprises a number (for instance one, two, three or four) of contact spring blocks comprising the features of the described contact spring block. Each of the contact spring blocks may be arranged in a mounting position on a side section of the contact site.

In particular, the contact spring blocks are arranged on each side, of the four sides of the contact socket. "Contact site" usually denotes the central area of the contact socket in which the electronic components are pressed so that the contact portions of the electronic components and the contact tips of the contact socket match.

A contact spring block may be screwed into the contact socket so that the clip-on device is pressed against a rigid part of the contact socket and is prevented from falling off. In particular, the clip-on device is pressed against the mounting position of the contact socket, so that the clip-on device cannot be clipped off when the contact spring block is mounted on the contact socket in the mounting position.

According to another embodiment of the invention a method of changing contact springs of a contact spring block, ~~in particular a contact spring block according to an embodiment of the invention,~~ the method comprising:

- Removing a clip-on device from a base block~~, wherein in particular the clip-on device and the base block are part of the contact spring block~~,
- Removing a first contact spring of a group of single contact springs of~~f~~ the contact spring block and putting a second contact spring in the position of the first contact spring,

CLAIMS

1. A contact spring block ~~(300)~~ for a sequential test of electronic components ~~(108)~~, comprises:
a base block ~~(320)~~,
a group of single contact springs ~~(340)~~,
and a clip-on device ~~(330)~~,
wherein
the group of single contact springs ~~(340)~~ is clamped and aligned when the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ is clipped to the base block ~~(320)~~.

2. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claim 1, wherein
the group of single contact springs ~~(340)~~ comprises
a first subgroup of a first contact spring type ~~(342)~~, wherein each single contact spring of the first contact spring type has a first alignment pin ~~(343)~~, and
a second subgroup of a second contact spring type ~~(345) )~~, wherein each single contact spring of the second contact spring type has a second alignment pin ~~(346)~~, wherein
at least one single contact spring of the first type ~~(342)~~ or of the second type ~~(345)~~ comprises a contact tip ~~(491)~~, wherein
a first type contact spring ~~(342)~~ and a second type contact spring ~~(345)~~ are clamped adjacently and wherein
a distance from the contact tip ~~(491)~~ to the first alignment pin ~~(343)~~ is smaller than a distance from the contact tip ~~(491)~~ to the second alignment pin ~~(346)~~.

3. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claim 2, further comprises
a clip plate ~~(339)~~ having a first alignment hole ~~(435)~~ and a second alignment hole ~~(436)~~, wherein
the first alignment hole ~~(435)~~ engages with the first alignment pin ~~(343)~~ and the second alignment hole ~~(436)~~ engages with the second alignment pin ~~(346)~~.

4. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to any one of the claims 1 to 3, wherein
the base block ~~(320)~~ comprises a clip-in groove ~~(323)~~, and wherein the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ comprises a retaining clip ~~(331)~~ having a hook-like projection ~~(333)~~, and wherein
the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ and the base block ~~(320)~~ are clipped together by an engagement of the clip-in groove ~~(323)~~ and the hook-like projection ~~(333)~~.

5. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claim 4, wherein
the base block ~~(320)~~ comprises a further clip-in groove ~~(325)~~, and the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ comprises a further retaining clip ~~(332)~~ having a further hook-like projection ~~(334)~~, wherein
the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ and the base block ~~(320)~~ are clipped together by an engagement of the further clip-in groove ~~(325)~~ and the further hook-like projection ~~(334)~~.

6. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claim 5, wherein
the retaining clip ~~(331)~~ and the further retaining clip ~~(332)~~ project in the same direction from opposite side sections of the clip plate ~~(339)~~.

7. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claims 5 or 6, wherein
the first alignment hole ~~(435)~~ and the second alignment hole ~~(436)~~ are located between the retaining clip ~~(331)~~ and the further retaining clip ~~(332)~~.

8. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to any one of the claims 3 to 7, wherein
the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ is integrally formed from one piece and comprises at least two elements out of the group consisting of the clip plate ~~(339)~~, the retaining clip ~~(331)~~ and the further retaining clip ~~(332)~~.

9. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to any one of the claims 1 to 8, wherein

the base block ~~(320)~~ comprises a chamfer ~~(324)~~ by which the retaining clip ~~(331)~~ is pre-stressed when clipping the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ to the base block ~~(320)~~.

10. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to any one of the claims 1 to 8, wherein

the base block ~~(320)~~ comprises a mounting pin ~~(421)~~ and wherein
the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ comprises a clip mounting hole ~~(431)~~, and wherein
the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ is fixed by an engagement of the mounting pin ~~(421)~~ and the clip mounting hole ~~(431)~~ in a direction perpendicular to a clamp force.

11. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claims 1 to 10, further comprising

a further group of contact springs ~~(360)~~ and a distance plate ~~(350)~~, wherein the distance plate ~~(350)~~ is arranged between the group of contact springs ~~(340)~~ and the further group of contact springs ~~(360)~~.

12. The contact spring block ~~(300)~~ according to claim 11 wherein

the distance plate ~~(350)~~ comprises a distance plate mounting hole ~~(451)~~ and wherein
the distance plate ~~(350)~~ is fixed by an engagement of the mounting pin ~~(421)~~ and the distance plate mounting hole ~~(451)~~.

13. A contact socket ~~(200)~~ comprises:

a contact site ~~(210)~~ and a number of contact spring blocks ~~(300)~~ according claims 1 to 12 wherein
each of the contact spring blocks ~~(300)~~ is arranged in a mounting position ~~(309)~~ on a side section of the contact site ~~(210)~~.

14. A method of changing contact springs ~~(342, 345, 361)~~ of a contact spring block ~~(300)~~ the method comprising:

Removing a clip-on device ~~(330)~~ from a base block ~~(320)~~,

Removing a first contact spring ~~(342, 345, 361)~~ of a group of single contact springs ~~(340, 360)~~ of the contact spring block ~~(300)~~ and putting a second contact spring ~~(342', 345', 361')~~ in the position of the first contact spring ~~(342, 345, 361)~~,

Clipping the clip-on device ~~(330)~~ to the base block ~~(320)~~ so that the group of single contact springs ~~(340', 360')~~ comprising the second contact spring ~~(342', 345', 361')~~ is clamped.

15. The method of changing contact springs ~~(342, 345, 361)~~ of a contact socket ~~(200)~~ according to claim 14 the method further comprising:

Removing a first contact spring block ~~(300)~~ comprising the first contact spring ~~(342, 345, 361)~~ from a mounting position ~~(309)~~,

Putting a second contact spring block ~~(300')~~ comprising the second contact spring ~~(342', 345', 361')~~ in the mounting position ~~(309)~~.