

DESCRIPTION

BATTERY

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention contains subject matter related to Japanese Patent Application JP 2004-367325 filed in the Japanese Patent Office on December 20, 2004, the entire contents of which being incorporated herein by reference.

10 This invention relates to a battery adapted to be removably loaded in an electronic apparatus.

BACKGROUND ART

 A battery including a case in which a battery cell
15 or cells are accommodated is known and disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 2002-245993. In the battery disclosed in the Patent Document, the case is divided into two first and second cases individually having joint portions at which they are joined together. A joining
20 thin wall is provided at the joint portion of one of the cases such that it projects in the thicknesswise direction of the case. Meanwhile, a joining recess is provided at the joint portion of the other of the cases such that the joining thin wall is inserted in the joining recess when
25 the joint portions of the two cases are jointed with each other. In the state that the joining portions joint with each other, the joining thin wall and the joining recess are joined together by ultrasonic welding.

30 DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

In a battery that two cases are joined together by ultrasonic welding in this manner, if they are welded while the joint portions of them are deformed by partial deflection or the like, then the welding is not performed with certainty. Therefore, it is important how to prevent possible deformation of the joint portions of the two cases.

It is desirable to provide a battery that two divisional cases can be welded to each other with certainty.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a battery is configured such that a joining thin wall and a joining recess are provided and a projecting wall is provided at a location of an outer face positioned on the outer side of the joining recess provided on one of first and second cases such that it extends along the joining recess.

In an aspect of the invention, there is provided a battery comprising: a case; and a battery cell accommodated in said case; wherein said case is divided in a thicknesswise direction of said battery cell into a first case and a second case; said first and second cases have joint portions formed along peripheries of the joint portions for jointing with each other; the joint portion of one of said first and second cases has a joining thin wall formed to extend along a periphery of the joint portion and project in the thicknesswise direction; the joint portion of the other of said first and second cases has a joining recess formed to extend along a periphery of the joint portion for receiving said joining thin wall inserted therein in a state that said joint portions of said first and second cases joint with each other; said joining thin wall and said joining recess in which said joining thin wall is inserted while said joint portions of said first and second cases joint with each other are joined together by welding; and said the other case has a projecting wall formed at a location of an outer face positioned on the outer side of said joining recess in such a manner as to extend along said joining recess.

In the battery, the joining thin wall and the joining recess are provided and besides the projecting wall is provided which is formed at a location of an outer face of one of the first and second cases which is positioned on the outer side of the joining recess provided on the one of the first and second cases in such a manner as to extend along the joining recess. Therefore, when the joint portions of the first and second cases are joined together by ultrasonic welding in a state that a welding jig is contacted with the end of the projecting wall, since contacting faces of clamps contact with the end face of the projecting wall which has high rigidity, the contact of the contacting faces of the clamps and the end face of the projecting wall can be kept with certainty and deformation of the joint portions of the first and second cases can be prevented. Consequently, the two divisional cases can be welded with certainty.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a battery according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2A is a plan view of the battery;

FIG. 2B is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark B of FIG. 2A;

FIG. 2C is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark C of FIG. 2A;

5 FIG. 2D is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark D of FIG. 2A;

FIG. 2E is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark E of FIG. 2D;

10 FIG. 2F is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark F of FIG. 2E;

FIG. 3A is a front elevational view of the battery;

FIG. 3B is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark B of FIG. 3A;

15 FIG. 3C is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark C of FIG. 3A;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the battery as viewed from an obliquely forwardly upward direction;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the battery in a reversed state as viewed from an oblique upward direction;

20 FIG. 6 is a sectional view of the battery;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of an upper case of the battery;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a lower case of the battery;

25 FIG. 9 is a sectional view of a connector section of the battery;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a battery cell section of the battery with a case removed;

30 FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the battery cell section of the battery with the case removed but as viewed

in a different direction from that of FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is a bottom plan view of the battery cell section of the battery with the case removed;

FIG. 13 is a top plan view of the battery cell
5 section of the battery with the case removed;

FIG. 14A is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark A in FIG. 12;

FIG. 14B is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark B in FIG. 12;

10 FIG. 15A is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark A in FIG. 13;

FIG. 15B is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark B in FIG. 13;

FIGS. 16 to 18 are perspective views as viewed in
15 different directions showing a battery cell held by a holding member of the battery;

FIG. 19 is an exploded perspective view of the battery cell, the holding member, and conductive plates of the battery;

20 FIGS. 20A and 20B are perspective views of a printed circuit board of the battery as viewed in different directions;

FIG. 21 is a perspective view of the holding member;

25 FIGS. 22 and 23 are perspective views of the conductive plates;

FIG. 24 is a perspective view of welded portions of one of the conductive plates of the battery cell;

FIGS. 25A and 25B are perspective views of the
30 battery cell;

FIGS. 26 and 27 are perspective views of the connector;

FIG. 28 is an exploded perspective view of the

5 connector;

FIG. 29 is a perspective view of a connection terminal of the connector;

FIG. 30 is a schematic perspective view illustrating connection between the connection terminal of the connector and a contact of a counterpart connector;

FIG. 31 is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark A of FIG. 8;

FIG. 32 is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark B of FIG. 8;

15 FIG. 33 is a schematic view showing joint portions of the upper case and the lower case before welded;

FIG. 34 is a schematic view showing joint portions of the upper case and the lower case after welded;

FIG. 35 is a schematic view of a welding jig;

20 FIG. 36 is an enlarged schematic view of part of FIG. 35; and

FIG. 37 is a view as viewed in the direction indicated by an arrow mark A of FIG. 35.

25 BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

An embodiment of the present invention is described below with reference to the drawings.

Referring first to FIGS. 1 to 5, 11 and 19, there is shown a battery to which the present invention is applied.

30 The battery 2 shown is removably loaded into a battery accommodating chamber, for example, of an electronic

apparatus. The battery 2 includes a case 10 for accommodating two battery cells 40, a connector 30 exposed from the case 10, a holding member 50 for holding the battery cells 40 in the case 10, a conductive plate 60, and a printed circuit board 70.

The case 10 has a form of a flattened rectangular plate and, in the present embodiment, is flattened and has a rectangular shape as viewed in plan.

The case 10 is divided in a thicknesswise direction of the battery cells 40 into an upper case 12 serving as a second case and a lower case 14 serving as a first case. As seen in Figure 33, the upper and lower cases 12 and 14 are joined together through a joining thin wall 1420 and a joining recess 1220.

The upper case 12 and the lower case 14 have joint portions 1201 and 1401 provided on peripheries thereof for jointing with each other.

Referring to FIGS. 4-8, the case 10 is formed in the form of a flattened rectangular plate having an upper wall 10C and a lower wall 10D positioned at the opposite ends in the direction of a thickness, a pair of left and right side walls 10E positioned at the opposite ends in the direction of a width having a dimension greater than the thickness, and a front side wall 10A and a rear side wall 10B positioned at the opposite ends of a length in a forward and backward direction having a dimension greater than the width. It is to be noted that the leftward and rightward direction of the case 10 is represented as that as viewed from forwardly of the case 10.

The lower case 14 has a lower wall 10D of a rectangular shape as viewed in plan which faces one of the

opposite faces of the battery cells 40 in the thicknesswise direction, a front side wall 10A and a rear side wall 10B
5 extending perpendicularly from the minor sides of the lower wall 10D, and a pair of left and right side walls 10E extending perpendicularly from the major sides of the lower wall 10D.

The upper case 12 has an upper wall 10C of a
10 rectangular shape as viewed in plan which faces the other one of the opposite faces of the battery cell 40 in the thicknesswise direction, a front side wall 10A and a rear side wall 10B extending perpendicularly from the minor sides of the upper wall 10C, and a pair of left and right side
15 walls 10E extending perpendicularly from the major sides of the upper wall 10C.

Referring to FIG 3A, the front side wall 10A of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 has an opening 3206 formed therein for exposing the connector 30 therethrough. A
20 connector wall portion 32 for reinforcing the connector 30 is formed around the opening 3206.

Referring to FIGS 33, the joint portions 1201 and 1401 of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are formed from extremities of the side walls 10A, 10B, and 10E.

25 Referring to FIG. 33, the joining thin wall 1420 is formed on the joint portion 1401 of the lower case 14. More particularly, the joining thin wall 1420 is formed on an inner side portion of the lower case 14 leaving an end face 1401A at an extremity of each side wall 10E at a location of
30 the joint portion 1401 of the lower case 14. In the present embodiment, the end face 1401A is formed from a flat face.

The joining recess 1220 is formed on an inner side portion of the upper case 12 leaving an end face 1201A of the side wall 10E at an outer side portion of the upper case 12 at a location of the joint portion 1201 of the upper case 12. In the present embodiment, the end face 1201A is formed from a flat face.

Referring to FIG. 31, the joining thin wall 1420 positioned on the two major sides of the rectangular shape has cutaway portions 1421 formed by cutting away the joining thin wall 1420 at locations of the rectangular shape rather near to the minor sides (rather near to the side walls 10E), that is, at locations of the rectangular shape rather near to the front side wall 10A and the rear side wall 10B.

Referring to FIG. 33, the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are joined together such that the joint portions 1201 and 1401 thereof joint with each other and the joining thin wall 1420 and the joining recess 1220 in which the joining thin wall 1420 is fitted are welded by ultrasonic welding.

Referring to FIGS. 7 and 33, the projecting wall 1002^{***} is provided at a location of an outer face of the upper case 12 positioned on the outer side of the joining recess 1220 such that it projects outwardly in a widthwise direction and extends along the joining recess 1220. In the present embodiment, a pair of projecting walls 1002 are formed at locations of the side walls 10E of the upper case 12 corresponding to the two major sides of the rectangular shape, that is, at locations of the left and right side walls 10E, such that they extend with an equal height along the direction in which the left and right

side walls 10E extend.

5 Further, as seen in Figures 3 and 34, in the present embodiment, in the state that the joining thin wall 1420 is inserted in the joining recess 1220 and the joint portions 1201 and 1401 of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are jointed with and welded to each other, the end face 1401A
10 remaining at the extremity of the side walls 10E of the upper case 12 and the end face 1201A remaining at the extremity of the side walls 10E of the upper case 12 are spaced away from each other in the thicknesswise direction of the battery cells 40, and the location of the projecting walls 1002 which
15 are positioned on the lower wall 10D side is positioned nearer to the lower wall 10D than to the end face 1401A at the extremity of the side walls 10E remaining on the upper case 12.

 A cutaway portion 1004 for preventing letting off is
20 formed at an intermediate portion of each of the projecting walls 1002 in the extension direction. In the present embodiment, the cutaway portion 1004 is formed at a location of each projecting wall 1002 rather near to the front side wall 10A.

25 The projecting wall 1002 is engaged, when the battery 2 is inserted into the battery accommodating chamber, with an engaging groove (not shown) provided in the battery accommodating chamber to position the battery 2 in the thicknesswise direction in the battery accommodating chamber.

30 Further, in a state that the battery 2 is inserted in the battery accommodating chamber and the connector 30 and an electronic apparatus side connector section are

coupled to each other, a letting off preventing projection (not shown) provided in the battery accommodating chamber is releasably engaged with the cutaway portion 1004 thereby to stabilize the loaded state of the battery 2.

5 Further, a stopper wall 1006 is formed in a swollen state at a location of each of the two side walls 10E rather near to the rear side wall 10B. The stopper walls 1006 are connected to the projecting walls 1002 so that the rear side wall 10B of the battery may not be inserted
10 into the battery accommodating chamber of the electronic apparatus and serve as reverse insertion preventing walls.

 Further, in the present embodiment, a plurality of projections 15 is formed at different locations on an inner face of the upper wall 10C of the upper case 12 and
15 on an inner face of the lower wall 10D of the lower case 14. The battery cells 40 are held in the case 10 by the projections 15.

 Further, in the present embodiment, a displaced portion 1210 is formed on the upper wall 10C of the upper
20 case 12 such that it is displaced upwardly at a central portion of the upper wall 10C in the widthwise direction over the overall length in the lengthwise direction with respect to the remaining portions of the upper wall 10C near to the opposite sides in the widthwise direction.
25 Meanwhile, another displaced portion 1211 is formed on the lower wall 10D of the lower case 14 such that it is displaced at a central portion of the lower wall 10D in the widthwise direction over the overall length in the lengthwise direction with respect to the remaining
30 portions of the lower wall 10D near to the opposite sides

in the widthwise direction. Gaps 1212 and 1213 are formed between the inner faces of the displaced portions 1210 and 1211 and an upper face 4002 and a lower face 4004 of the battery cells 40 accommodated in the case 10 such that they absorb, when the battery cells 40 are expanded upon charging, the expansion.

Referring to FIGS. 1 to 6, the connector 30 is provided on the front side wall 10A of the case 10 such that it projects forwardly. In the present embodiment, the connector 30 is provided at a location of the front side wall 10A rather near to a right end in the widthwise direction and extends in the widthwise direction.

The position of the connector 30 in the thicknesswise direction on the front side wall 10A is determined with reference to faces of the projecting walls 1002 of the left and right side walls 10E which oppose to the upper wall 10C or the lower wall 10D. In the present embodiment, the walls 1002A of the projecting walls 1002 which oppose to the lower wall 10D make a reference to the position of the connector 30 in the thicknesswise direction.

Referring to FIGS. 3A to 3C and 9, the connector 30 has a channel-shaped connector wall portion 32 swollen in the lengthwise direction from the front side wall 10A. The connector 30 has a terminal forming member 36 disposed on the inner side of the connector wall portion 32, and a contact section 33 (FIG. 27) connected to the battery cells 40.

The connector wall portion 32 is provided to reinforce the connector 30 and has a pair of vertical

walls 3202 spaced from each other in the widthwise direction and extending in the thicknesswise direction, and a transverse wall 3204 extending in the widthwise direction at a location rather near to the upper wall 10C
5 and interconnecting end portions of the vertical walls 3202 in the thicknesswise direction.

The vertical walls 3202 and the transverse wall 3204 cooperatively define the space 3206 which is open in the lengthwise direction (forwardly) and is open to the
10 other face (downwardly) from between the faces at the opposite ends in the thicknesswise direction.

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 9, the terminal forming member 36 is made of an insulating material such as a synthetic resin material and disposed in the open space
15 3206.

The terminal forming member 36 has a plurality of grooves 3602 formed in a spaced relationship from each other in the widthwise direction in such a manner as to be open in the lengthwise direction (forwardly) and extend in
20 the thicknesswise direction. The grooves 3602 are formed such that they are open to the lower wall 10D.

Now, an internal structure of the battery 2 is described.

First, the battery cells 40 are described with
25 reference to FIGS. 25A and 25B. Each of the battery cells 40 in the present embodiment is formed as a rechargeable battery cell such as lithium ion cell or a nickel hydrogen cell.

The battery cell 40 has a sheath can 42 in the form
30 of a flattened rectangular plate which in turn has an

upper face 4002 and a lower face 4004 of a rectangular shape made of a conductive metal material and positioned at the opposite ends in the thicknesswise direction and four side faces 4006 interconnecting the upper face 4002 and the lower face 4004. In the present embodiment, the sheath can 42 is formed from a steel material on which nickel is plated.

A positive terminal 44 of the battery cell 40 is formed in a projecting manner on one of the four side faces 4006 such that it is isolated from the sheath can 42. More particularly, a swollen portion made of a nonconductive material and having a rectangular cross section is formed in a projecting manner on the side face 4006, and an end face of the swollen portion serves as the positive terminal 44. Further, a remaining location of the sheath can 42 other than the location at which the positive terminal 44 is provided is formed as a negative terminal 46 of the battery cell 40.

Referring to FIGS. 16 to 18 and 21, the holding member 50 includes a first battery accommodating section 50A and a second battery accommodating section 50B for accommodating the two battery cells 40 in a state that the battery cells 40 are juxtaposed in a rectangular shape in plan.

The holding member 50 is made of a nonconductive resilient material and has a first side piece 51, a second side piece 52, a third side piece 53, a fourth side piece 54, and edge pieces 56. The first side piece 51 is applied to the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the battery cell 40 accommodated in the first battery

accommodating section 50A which corresponds to a minor side of the rectangular shape as viewed in plan. The second side piece 52 is applied to the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the battery cell 40 which correspond to one of the major sides of the rectangular shape as viewed in plan. The third side piece 53 is applied to the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the battery cell 40 which corresponds to the other major side of the rectangular shape in plan. The fourth side piece 54 is disposed between the opposing side faces 4006 of the sheath cans 42 of the two battery cells 40. The edge pieces 56 project from the edges of the four side pieces 51, 52, 53, and 54 and applied to locations of one of the upper face 4002 and the lower face 4004 (in the present embodiment, the lower face 4004) of the sheath cans 42 of the battery cells 40 displaced to the edges.

Referring to FIGS. 16 and 17, in the present embodiment, the two battery cells 40 are accommodated in the first and second battery accommodating chambers 50A and 50B such that the positive terminal 44 of the battery cell 40 accommodated in the first battery accommodating section 50A faces the second side piece 52 while the positive terminal 44 of the battery cell 40 accommodated in the second battery accommodating section 50B faces the third side piece 53.

It is to be noted that, for the convenience of description, the battery cell 40 accommodated in the first battery accommodating section 50A is hereinafter referred to as first battery cell 40A and the battery cell 40 accommodated in the second battery accommodating section

50B is hereinafter referred to as second battery cell 40B.

Referring to FIGS. 19 and 21, the first side piece 51
5 is formed such that it extends over the overall length of one
of the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the first
battery cell 40A.

Referring to FIGS. 16 and 19, ribs 5102 for attachment
of the printed circuit board 70 are formed in a swollen
10 manner on the surface of the first side piece 51. Thus, the
printed circuit board 70 is attached to the first side piece
51 through the ribs 5102 such that it extends along the first
side piece 51.

Referring to FIGS. 19, 20A, 20B, and 28 to 30, the
15 connector 30 is mounted on the printed circuit board 70. The
printed circuit board 70 has a conductive portion 72 for the
positive pole, a conductive portion 74 for the negative pole,
and a conductive portion 76 for a midpoint formed thereon for
connecting to a contact piece 34 for the positive pole, a
20 contact piece 34 for the negative pole, and a contact piece
34 for a midpoint of the connector 30, respectively.

The connector 30 is provided such that it projects
forwardly through the opening 3206 from the front side wall
10A of the case 10. In the present embodiment, the connector
25 30 is provided at a location of the front side wall 10A
rather near to a right side end in the widthwise direction
such that it extends in the widthwise direction.

The position of the connector 30 in the thicknesswise
direction on the front face 10A is determined with reference
30 to faces of the projecting walls 1002 of the left and right
side faces 10E which oppose to

the upper face 10C or the lower face 10D. In the present embodiment, faces 1002A of the projecting walls 1002 which oppose to the lower face 10D make a reference to the position of the connector 30 in the thicknesswise
5 direction.

Referring to FIGS. 3A to 3C, the connector 30 has a terminal forming member 36 made of an insulating material such as a synthetic resin material and contact piece portions 33 (FIG. 27) incorporated in the terminal forming
10 member 36 and connected to the battery cells 40.

Referring to FIGS. 26 to 28, the terminal forming member 36 has a lower face 3610 disposed in an opposing relationship to the lower wall 10D, an upper face 3612 disposed in an opposing relationship to the upper wall 10C,
15 a rear face 3614 joined to the printed circuit board 70, and a front face 3616 facing forwardly of the case 10.

A plurality of grooves 3602 are formed in a spaced relationship from each other in the widthwise direction of the terminal forming member 36 from the front face 3616 to
20 the lower face 3610 and extend in the thicknesswise direction. The grooves 3602 are open also to the upper face 3612 as seen in FIGS. 26 and 28. In particular, the grooves 3602 are open to the upper face 3612 with a width greater than those to the front face 3616 and the lower
25 face 3610.

Further, as seen in FIG. 28, a plurality of recesses 3618 are formed on the upper face 3612 and the rear face 3614 of the lower face 3610 such that they individually connect to the grooves 3602.

30 The contact section 33 is formed from a plurality

of pairs of contact pieces 34 juxtaposed in a spaced relationship in the widthwise direction such that the contact pieces 34 in each pair are opposed to each other in the widthwise direction and are open forwardly and
5 downwardly. In the present embodiment, the contact pieces 34 are disposed such that they form side faces of the grooves 3602 of the terminal forming member 36.

The contact pieces 34 in each pair are provided integrally on a resilient contact forming member 35 made
10 of a conductive material as seen in FIGS. 28 to 30.

The contact forming member 35 has a pair of contact pieces 34 opposing to each other, a base portion 3502 interconnecting the contact pieces 34, a first extension 3504 extending from the base portion 3502, and a second
15 extension 3506 extending perpendicularly from an end of the first extension 3504.

Referring to FIG. 28, the pair of contact pieces 34 and the base portion 3502 of the contact forming member 35 are assembled such that they are inserted into a groove
20 3602 from above the upper face 3612 of the terminal forming member 36 until the base portion 3502 is fitted into the groove 3602 and the first extension 3504 and the second extension 3506 are inserted into the corresponding recess 3618 of the upper face 3612 and the rear face 3614
25 of the terminal forming member 36.

The connector 30 that the contact forming members 35 are attached to the terminal forming member 36 in this manner is soldered at the second extensions 3506, which are positioned in the recesses 3618 of the rear face 3614,
30 to conductor portions of the printed circuit board 70.

It is to be noted that, in the state that the contact forming members 35 are incorporated in the terminal forming member 36, the first extension 3504 and the second extension 3506 of each of the contact forming members 35 are disposed in a spaced relationship from the bottom face of the recess 3618.

Accordingly, when a counterpart side connector 80 is coupled to and removed from the connector 30 as seen in FIG. 30, that is, when each contact piece 82 of the counterpart side connector 80 is inserted between and removed from between a pair of contact pieces 34 of the connector 30, force applied to the connector 30 is absorbed by the resiliency of the first extension 3504 so that it may not be applied to the location at which the second extension 3506 is soldered to the printed circuit board 70.

Therefore, even if dispersion appears in the positioning accuracy when the connector 30 is mounted on the printed circuit board 70, inadvertent force which may be applied to the connector 30 or the printed circuit board 70 can be reduced or eliminated advantageously.

From this, flow soldering which is likely to suffer from dispersion in the positioning accuracy when the connector 30 is mounted on the printed circuit board 70 can be used advantageously. Where reflow soldering is used, a connector which can be mounted on a plane and has a small occupation area when compared with a connector which has leads which project therefrom and are soldered by manual operation and hence has a large occupation area can be used for the connector 30. Consequently, the

printed circuit board 70 can be reduced in size and hence the battery 2 can be reduced in size.

5 LSIs and electronic parts which form a control circuit are mounted on the printed circuit board 70. The control circuit has functions of transmitting and receiving data of characteristics and identification information of the battery 2 to and from a control section of the electronic apparatus
10 through the contact pieces 34 for data communication of the connector 30 and supervising output voltages, output current, and so forth of the battery cells 40 through the conductive portions 72, 74, and 76.

 Referring to FIGS. 17, 21 and 25A/B, the second side
15 piece 52 is connected at one end thereof to the first side piece 51 and formed such that it extends over the overall length of one of the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the first battery cell 40A and extends up to the side face 4006 of the second battery cell 40B rather near to the fourth
20 side piece 54. The second side piece 52 is connected at a portion rather rear to an end thereof to an end portion of the fourth side piece 54.

 A second engaging recess 5202 and a third engaging recess 5204 for engaging with the conductive plate 60 (refer
25 to FIGS. 19, 22 and 23) are formed in a spaced relationship in the extension direction of the second side piece 52 on the second side piece 52.

 Further, an opening 5206 is formed in the second engaging recess 5202 rather near to the first side piece 51
30 such that the positive terminal 44 of the first battery cell 40A can project therethrough. It is to be noted that the third engaging recess 5204 is formed with a size with

which the positive terminal 44 can be fitted into the opening 5206.

Referring to FIGS. 16 and 21, the third side piece 53 is formed separately from the first side piece 51 and extends along one of the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 of the first and second battery cells 40A and 40B. The third side piece 53 is connected at an intermediate portion thereof to an end portion of the fourth side piece 54.

It is to be noted that the second side piece 52 and the third side piece 53 are disposed in a spaced relationship from each other by a distance corresponding to the dimension between that one of the side faces 4006 which includes the positive terminals 44 of the battery cells 40 and that one of the side faces 4006 which opposes to the side face 4006. Consequently, when the battery cells 40 are inserted into the first and second battery accommodating chambers 50A and 50B, the second side piece 52 and the third side piece 53 are individually applied to the side faces 4006 of the sheath cans 42 of the battery cells 40.

An opening 5302 for allowing the positive terminal 44 of the second battery cell 40B to project therethrough is formed at a portion of the third side piece 53 spaced away from the fourth side piece 54. The opening 5302 is formed with a size which allows the positive terminal 44 to be fitted in the opening 5302.

Further, a first engaging recess 5304 for engaging with the conductive plate 60 is formed on the third side piece 53.

Referring to FIGS. 18 and 21, the fourth side piece 54 is configured so as to be applied to those two ones of the side faces 4006 of the battery cell 40 which do not include the positive terminal 44 together with the first side piece 51.

The fourth side piece 54 is formed to extend over the overall length of the battery cells 40 similarly to the first side piece 51.

Referring to FIGS. 16 to 19, the edge pieces 56 project from edges of the four side pieces 51, 52, 53, and 54 and have a width with which they are applied to locations rather near to edges of the lower face 4004 of the first and second battery cells 40A and 40B.

The edge piece 56 which projects from the edge of the fourth side piece 54 has an opening 5604 formed at an intermediate portion thereof in the extension direction.

Further, edge pieces 57 are formed at an intermediate portion of the fourth side piece 54 such that they are applied to edges of the upper face 4002 of the two battery cells 40 which are adjacent each other.

It is to be noted that the edge pieces 56 are formed in a rectangular framework shape such that they extend along the four sides of the lower face 4004 of the first battery cell 40A. Accordingly, the lower face 4004 is exposed at portions thereof except the four edge portions through an opening 5602 at the center of the four edge pieces 56. Further, the lower face 4004 of the second battery cell 40B is exposed at portions thereof other than the edge piece 56 of the third side piece 53 and the edge piece 56 of the fourth side piece 54.

In particular, where the first and second battery cells 40A and 40B are accommodated in the holding member 50, the upper face 4002 of the first and second battery cells 40A and 40B is open at all portions of the locations to which the edge pieces 57 are applied and the lower face 4004 has, although the edge pieces 56 exist, a cutaway portion formed among them for allowing a central portion to be exposed therethrough so that, when the battery cells 40 expand upon charging thereof, the expansion is permitted.

Further, the first and second battery cells 40A and 40B are inserted into and removed from the first and second battery accommodating chambers 50A and 50B through a portion of the holding member 50 at which the edge pieces 56 are not formed.

Referring to FIGS. 19, 22 and 23, the conductive plate 60 includes a positive terminal connecting thin plate 60A for interconnecting the positive terminals 44 of the two battery cells 40 electrically connected in series to each other and the connector 30, and a negative terminal connecting thin plate 60B for interconnecting the negative terminals 46 of the two battery cells 40 electrically connected in series to each other and the connector 30.

The positive terminal connecting thin plate 60A and the negative terminal connecting thin plate 60B are both formed from a conductive material.

The positive terminal connecting thin plate 60A includes a first thin plate 61 and a second thin plate 62 disposed on the side on which the third side piece 53 is positioned, and a third thin plate 63 disposed on the side

on which the second side piece 52 is positioned.

More particularly, the positive terminal connecting
5 thin plate 60A includes a first thin plate 61 connected to
the positive terminal 44 of the second battery cell 40B, a
second thin plate 62 attached to the first thin plate 61 and
connected to the negative terminal 46 of the first battery
cell 40A, and a third thin plate 63 joined to the positive
10 terminal 44 of the first battery cell 40A and connected to
the conductive portion 72 of the printed circuit board 70.

The first thin plate 61 has an extension 6102 passing
above the edge piece 56 connecting to the fourth side piece
54 and extending above the edge piece 56 connected to the
15 third side piece 53, and two positive terminal joining bent
lugs 6104 extending perpendicularly from one end of the
extension 6102 for being joined to the positive terminal 44
of the second battery cell 40B. The first thin plate 61
further has two thin plate joining bent lugs 6106 extending
20 perpendicularly from an intermediate portion of the extension
6102 above the second thin plate 62, and a conductive portion
joining bent lug 6108 extending perpendicularly from the
other end of the extension 6102 and connected to the
conductive portion 76 for a midpoint of the printed circuit
25 board 70.

One of the two positive terminal joining bent lugs 6104
of the first thin plate 61 is joined to the positive terminal
44 of the second battery cell 40B by welding.

The reason why two such positive terminal joining bent
30 lugs 6104 and two such thin plate joining bent lugs 6106 are
provided is that it is possible to set only one

of the bent portions and cut away the one bent portion upon
exchange of the battery cell 40 such that the remaining bent
5 portion can be used.

The conductive portion joining bent lug 6108 of the
first thin plate 61 is joined to the conductive portion 76
for a midpoint of the printed circuit board 70 by welding.
Consequently, in the present embodiment, it is possible to
10 utilize part of the positive terminal connecting thin plate
60A to supply the potential at the joining location of the
positive terminal 44 and the negative terminal 46 of each of
the two battery cells 40 connected to each other to the
conductive portion 76 of the printed circuit board 70 such
15 that output voltages or output current of the two battery
cells 40 is supervised by the control circuit of the printed
circuit board 70.

The second thin plate 62 is disposed such that a
portion thereof extends over the overall length on the side
20 face 4006 of the first battery cell 40A at a location at
which the third side piece 53 does not exist while the
remaining portion extends on the third side piece 53 and is
engaged with the first engaging recess 5304 of the third side
piece 53.

25 The second thin plate 62 includes two thin plates 6202
made of a metal material and a thermistor 6204 interposed
between the thin plates 6202. In the present embodiment, the
thermistor 6204 is formed from a PTC (Positive Temperature
Coefficient) thermistor. The PTC thermistor has a resistance
30 value which exhibits such a positive characteristic that it
increases as the temperature rises. Thus, the PTC thermistor
has a

resistance value of a positive characteristic that it increases suddenly as excessive current flows therethrough to suppress the current to flow thereby to protect the electronic apparatus in which the battery cells 40 and the battery 2 is incorporated.

A portion of an increased thickness formed by one of the thin plates 6202 and the thermistor 6204 made of metal placed one on the other extends on the side face 4006 of the first battery cell 40A at which the third side piece 53 does not exist, and an end portion of the second thin plate 62 positioned near to the first side piece 51 is joined to the side face 4006 of the first battery cell 40A by welding, that is, joined to the negative terminal 46 of the first battery cell 40A.

Further, a portion of the second thin plate 62 which extends along the first engaging recess 5304 of the third side piece 53 is formed only from the single thin plate 6202 and is engaged with the first engaging recess 5304.

The two thin plate joining bent lugs 6106 described above are placed on the portion of the second thin plate 62 engaged with the first engaging recess 5304, and one of the thin plate joining bent lugs 6106 is joined to the second thin plate 62 by welding.

In the present embodiment, in the state that the second thin plate 62 is engaged with the first engaging recess 5304, the first thin plate 61 and the second thin plate 62 which form the positive terminal connecting thin plate 60A are positioned in the direction perpendicular to that one of the side faces 4006 of the sheath can 42 to

which the third side piece 53 is applied. Consequently,
assembly of the first thin plate 61 and the second thin plate
5 62 can be performed simply.

Further, in the present embodiment, in the state that
the second thin plate 62 is engaged with the first engaging
recess 5304 and the two thin plate joining bent lugs 6106 are
placed on the second thin plate 62, the surface of the thin
10 plate joining bent lugs 6106 is positioned in flush with the
surface of the third side piece 53 at any other portion than
the portion at which the first engaging recess 5304 is formed
or at a location lower than the surface of the third side
piece 53. Consequently, the unit of the battery cells 40 held
15 by the holding member 50 and having the conductive plate 60
assembled thereto can be miniaturized.

Referring to FIG. 11, the third thin plate 63 has an
extension 6302 extending over the overall length on the
second engaging recess 5202 of the second side piece 52 and
20 disposed so as to cover the opening 5206, and a conductive
portion joining bent lug 6304 extending perpendicularly from
one end of the extension 6302 and connected to the conductive
portion 72 for the positive pole of the printed circuit board
70.

25 Above the second engaging recess 5202, the extension
6302 is joined at a location thereof rather near to an end
portion in the extension direction to a location of the
positive terminal 44 of the first battery cell 40A rather
near to an end portion (location rather near to an end
30 portion of the positive terminal 44 on the side spaced from
the first side piece 51). The reason why the

extension 6302 is jointed to the location rather near to the end portion of the positive terminal 44 is that, when any of
5 the battery cells 40 is exchanged, the jointed portion can be cut such that a new end portion of the extension 6302 can be joined to a location of the positive terminal 44 rather near to the other end portion.

10 In the present embodiment, in the state that the third thin plate 63 is engaged with the second engaging recess 5202, the third thin plate 63 is positioned in the direction perpendicular to the side face 4006 of the sheath can 42 to which the second side piece 52 is applied.

15 Further, in the present embodiment, in the state that the third thin plate 63 is engaged with the second engaging recess 5202, the surface of the third thin plate 63 is positioned on the same plane as the surface of the second side piece 52 other than the location at which the second engaging recess 5202 is formed or is positioned at a location
20 lower than the surface of the second side piece 52.

The conductive portion joining bent lug 6304 is joined to the conductive portion 72 for the positive pole of the printed circuit board 70 by welding.

25 Consequently, as seen in FIGS. 11, 19 and 22 to 23, the positive terminal 44 of the second battery cell 40B, negative terminal 46 of the first battery cell 40A, positive terminal 44 of the first battery cell 40A, and connector 30 are connected to each other by the positive terminal connecting thin plate 60A.

30 The negative terminal connecting thin plate 60B includes a fourth thin plate 64 and a fifth thin plate 65 disposed on the side on which

the second side piece 52 is positioned.

More particularly, the negative terminal connecting thin plate 60B includes a fourth thin plate 64 connected to the negative terminal 46 of the second battery cell 40B, and a fifth thin plate 65 attached to the fourth thin plate 64 and connected to the conductive portion 74 of the printed circuit board 70.

The fourth thin plate 64 extends at a portion thereof over the overall length on the side face 4006 of the second battery cell 40B. The remaining portion of the fourth thin plate 64 is extended over the second side piece 52 and is in engagement with the third engaging recess 5204 of the second side piece 52.

The fourth thin plate 64 includes, similarly to the second thin plate 62, two thin plates 6402 made of a metal material, and a thermistor 6404 interposed between the thin plates 6402. In the present embodiment, the thermistor 6404 is formed from a PTC thermistor similarly to the thermistor 6204 described hereinabove.

A portion of an increased thickness formed by the thin plate 6402 and the thermistor 6404 of metal placed one on the other extends on the side face 4006 of the second battery cell 40B at which the second side piece 52 does not exist, and an end portion of the fourth thin plate 64 positioned remotely from the first side piece 51 is joined to the side face 4006 of the second battery cell 40B by welding, that is, joined to the negative terminal 46 of the second battery cell 40B.

Further, a portion of the fourth thin plate 64 which extends along the third engaging recess 5204 of the

second side piece 52 is formed only from the single thin plate 6402 and is engaged with the third engaging recess 5204.

The fifth thin plate 65 includes an extension 6502 passing above the edge piece 56 connecting to the fourth side piece 54 and extending on the edge piece 56 connected to the second side piece 52, two thin plate joining bent lugs 6504 extending perpendicularly from one end of the extension 6502 and capable of being joined to the fourth side piece 54, and a conductive portion joining bent lug 6506 extending perpendicularly from the other end of the extension 6502 and connected to the conductive portion 74 of the printed circuit board 70.

One of the two thin plate joining bent lugs 6504 of the fifth thin plate 65 is joined to a portion of the fourth thin plate 64 which is positioned above the third engaging recess 5204 by welding.

The reason why two such thin plate joining bent lugs 6504 are provided is that it is possible to use only one of the bent portions and cut away the one bent portion upon exchange of the battery cells 40 such that the remaining bent portion can be used.

The conductive portion joining bent lug 6506 of the fifth thin plate 65 is joined to the conductive portion 74 of the printed circuit board 70 by welding.

In the present embodiment, in the state that the fourth thin plate 64 is engaged with the third engaging recess 5204, the fourth thin plate 64 and the fifth thin plate 65 which form the negative terminal connecting thin plate 60B are positioned in the direction perpendicular to

the side face 4006 of the sheath can 42 to which the second side piece 52 is applied. Consequently, assembly of the fourth thin plate 64 and the fifth thin plate 65 can be performed simply.

5 Further, in the present embodiment, in the state that the fourth thin plate 64 is engaged with the third engaging recess 5204 and the two thin plate joining bent lugs 6504 are placed on the fourth thin plate 64, the surface of the thin plate joining bent lugs 6504 is
10 positioned on the same plane as the surface of the second side piece 52 other than the location at which the third engaging recess 5204 is formed or is positioned at a location lower than the surface of the second side piece 52. Consequently, the unit of the battery cells 40 held
15 by the holding member 50 and having the conductive plate 60 assembled thereto is miniaturized.

Where the holding member 50 is provided in this manner, the battery cells 40 are held by the holding member 50 while they are isolated from each other, and the
20 conductive plate 60 is disposed along the holding member 50 by the holding member 50 while the conductive plate 60 is isolated from the battery cell 40. Therefore, when compared with an alternative case that insulating paper or a double-sided adhesive tape is used to assure isolation
25 between the battery cells, fixation of the battery cells to each other, and isolation between the battery cells and the conductive plate, miniaturization of the battery 2 can be anticipated and the number of parts can be reduced significantly and besides assembly can be simplified.
30 Consequently, the cost can be reduced.

Further, where the holding member 50 is provided, upon assembly of the battery 2, the first to third engaging recesses 5304, 5202, and 5204 can be utilized to dispose the conductive plate 60 simply while the

5 conductive plate 60 is positioned on the holding member 50. Accordingly, if, in the state that the battery cell 40 is held by the holding member 50, the printed circuit board 70 is positioned and disposed at a front portion of the first side piece 51, for example, using a jig or the like,

10 then the conductive plate 60 is positioned and disposed on the holding member 50 making use of the first to third engaging recesses 5304, 5202, and 5204. Accordingly, welding can be performed simply in the state that the printed circuit board 70 and the conductive plate 60 are

15 positioned, which is advantageous for simplification of assembly.

Further, where the holding member 50 is provided, since each of the battery cells 40 in the first and second battery accommodating chambers 50A and 50B is open except

20 peripheral portions of the upper face 4002 and the lower face 4004, even if the central portions of the upper face 4002 and the lower face 4004 are swollen to increase the thickness upon charging of the battery cells 40 or the like, the thickness increase can be absorbed. Further,

25 since the holding member 50 does not exist at central portions of the swollen upper face 4002 and lower face 4004, the gaps 1212 and 1213 between the inner face of the case 10 and the battery cells 40 can be utilized effectively. This is advantageous when it is tried to

30 prevent the case 10 of the battery 2 from being swollen in

the thicknesswise direction.

Further, the positive terminal connecting thin plate
5 60A which interconnects the positive terminal 44 of the
second battery cell 40B and the negative terminal 46 of the
first battery cell 40A is formed including the first thin
plate 61 which passes a location of the edge pieces 56
connecting to the fourth side piece 54. The negative terminal
10 connecting thin plate 60B which interconnects the negative
terminal 46 of the second battery cell 40B and the conductive
portion 74 of the printed circuit board 70 is formed
including the first thin plate 61 and the fifth thin plate 65
which pass a location of the edge pieces 56 to which the
15 fourth side piece 54 is connected. Even if, for example, the
battery 2 is placed into a pocket and deformed in the
thicknesswise direction, the external force which is applied
to the joining portion of the positive terminal connecting
thin plate 60A and the negative terminal connecting thin
20 plate 60B can be reduced, which is advantageous when it is
tried to prevent failure in connection.

Now, referring to Fig 35 to 37, assembly of the case 10
is described.

The upper case 12 and the lower case 14 in the present
25 embodiment are joined together by ultrasonic welding. Thus, a
welding jig 200 which is used for the ultrasonic welding is
described.

The welding jig 200 is shown and includes a pedestal
210, a horn 220, and two clamps 230.

30 The pedestal 210 has a flat receiving face 212 on

which a lower wall of the lower case 14 is placed.

The horn 220 has two flat contacting faces 222 which
5 contact with portions of an upper wall of the upper case 12
in the proximity of the opposite sides in the widthwise
direction along the lengthwise direction. Ultrasonic
oscillations are applied from the contacting faces 222 to the
upper wall of the upper case 12.

10 Each of the clamps 230 has a contacting face 232 for
contacting with the projecting wall 1002 of the upper case 12.
Referring to FIG. 37, the contacting face 232 has a flat
portion 234 for contacting with a central portion of the
projecting wall 1002 in the lengthwise direction, curved
15 portions 236 connected to the opposite ends of the flat
portion 234 and curved in a direction in which they are
spaced away from the projecting wall 1002 as the distance
from the flat portion 234 increases, and connecting portions
238 for interconnecting the flat portion 234 and the curved
20 portions 236.

Now, welding of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14
is described.

Referring to FIGS 19 and 35, a unit of the battery
cells 40 held by the holding member 50 and having the
25 conductive plate 60 and the printed circuit board 70
assembled thereto is accommodated into the inside of the
lower case 14, and in this state, the lower wall of the lower
case 14 is placed on the receiving face 212 of the pedestal
210.

30 Then, the upper case 12 is fitted on the lower case 14
with the side walls 10E thereof directed downwardly as seen
in FIG. 33, and an end of the joining thin wall 1420 of the
lower case 14 is inserted into the joining recess

1220 of the upper case 12 and the joint portions of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are jointed with each other.

5 In this state, the contacting faces 222 of the horn 220 are applied to the upper wall of the upper case 12 by predetermined pressing force as seen in FIG. 35 to establish a state that the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 are contacted with the projecting walls 1002 of the upper case 12.

10 In this state, the cutaway portions 1421 of the lower case 14 are positioned at locations of the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 corresponding to the connecting portions 238.

 Then, the horn 220 is driven by ultrasonic oscillations
15 to apply the ultrasonic oscillations from the contacting faces 222 of the horn 220 to the upper case 12.

 Consequently, the locations at which the joining recess 1220 of the upper case 12 and the joining thin wall 1420 of the lower case 14 contact with each other are oscillated to
20 generate heat, and the joining recess 1220 and the joining thin wall 1420 are melted and welded to each other as seen in FIG. 33 and 34.

 It is to be noted that, while the curved portions 236 of the clamps 230 are spaced from the end faces of the
25 projecting wall 1002, since the opposite ends of the side walls 10E of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 corresponding to the curved portions 236 are connected to the front side wall 10A and the rear side wall 10B of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 and reinforced by the front
30 side wall 10A and the rear side wall 10B,

respectively, the opposite side portions of the side walls 10E in the extension direction are not deformed outwardly in the widthwise direction.

After the welding is completed, the pressing
5 against the upper case 12 of the horn 220 and the contact of the clamps 230 with the projecting wall 1002 are canceled, and then the case 10 that the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are integrated with each other is removed from the welding jig 200.

10 According to the present embodiment, the joining thin wall 1420 is provided at the joint portion 1401 of the lower case 14 while the joining recess 1220 is provided at the joint portion 1201 of the upper case 12, and the projecting walls 1002 are provided at locations of
15 the outer faces of the side walls 10E positioned on the outer side of the joining recess 1220 such that they extend along the joining recess 1220.

Accordingly, when the joint portions 1201 and 1401 of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 are joined
20 together by ultrasonic welding in the state that the welding jig 200 is contacted with the extremity of the projecting wall 1002, since the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 contact with the end face of the projecting wall 1002 having a higher rigidity than the side walls 10E,
25 the contact between the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 and the end face of the projecting wall 1002 can be maintained. Consequently, deformation of the joint portions 1201 and 1401 of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 can be prevented and welding of the upper case 12
30 and the lower case 14 can be performed with certainty.

Further, in the present embodiment, in the state that the joining thin wall 1420 is inserted in the joining recess 1220 and the joint portions 1201 and 1401 of the upper case 12 and the lower case 14 joint with each other, the location of the projecting wall 1002 which is positioned on the lower wall 10D side is positioned on the lower wall 10D side with respect to the end face 1401A at the end of the side wall 10E remaining on the upper case 12. Consequently, a gap between the end face 1201A of the side wall 10E of the upper case 12 and the end face 1401A of the side wall 10E of the lower case 14 is covered with the projecting wall 1002. Therefore, even if the magnitude of the gap varies along the lengthwise direction of the case 10, since the gap is hidden by the projecting wall 1002, a fine view of the case 10 is not damaged.

Further, the cutaway portions 1421 are formed on the joining thin wall 1420 having a length of a great dimension corresponding to the major side of a rectangular shape as viewed in plan by removing the joining thin wall 1420. Therefore, the amount by which the portions of the joining recess 1220 and the joining thin wall 1420 are melted upon welding can be limited. Consequently, excess material (mold chips) overflowing to the inside or the outside of the case 10 from the joint portions 1201 and 1401 can be suppressed. Therefore, such a situation that excess material flows out from the case 10 to damage the fine view of the case 10 can be prevented.

Further, in ultrasonic welding, the amount by which portions of the joining recess 1220 and the joining thin wall 1420 at the welded locations corresponding to the

connecting portions 238 (refer FIG. 37) of the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 is likely to become greater than those at the other welded locations, and a phenomenon that excess material overflowing from the joint portions 1201 and 1401 is liable to appear is likely to occur. However, in the present embodiment, since the cutaway portions 1421 of the lower case 14 are positioned at locations corresponding to the connecting portions 238 of the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230, appearance of excess material can be prevented further effectively. Consequently, such a situation that excess material overflows to the outside of the case 10 to damage the fine view of the case 10 can be prevented.

Referring to FIGS 35 and 37, further, where the outer faces of the front side wall 10A, rear side wall 10B, upper wall 10C, lower wall 10D, and two side walls 10E of the case 10 are formed, for example, from embossed faces having fine projections and depressions, if ultrasonic welding is performed with the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 contacted with the locations of the walls, then the embossed faces are damaged. However, since the contacting faces 232 of the clamps 230 contact with the end face of the projecting wall 1002, the embossed faces are not damaged and there is no possibility that the fine view may be damaged. Further, since the end face of the projecting wall 1002 is a sliding face when the battery 2 is loaded into a battery accommodating chamber, even if it is damaged by the contacting face 232 of the clamps 230, the damage does not stand out.

While a preferred embodiment of the present

invention has been described using specific terms, such
description is for illustrative purpose only, and it is to be
5 understood that changes and variations may be made without
departing from the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A battery comprising:

a case; and

a battery cell accommodated in said case;

5 wherein said case is divided in a thicknesswise
direction of said battery cell into a first case and a
second case;

 said first and second cases have joint portions
formed along peripheries of the joint portions for
10 jointing with each other;

 the joint portion of one of said first and second
cases has a joining thin wall formed to extend along a
periphery of the joint portion and project in the
thicknesswise direction;

15 the joint portion of the other of said first and
second cases has a joining recess formed to extend along a
periphery of the joint portion for receiving said joining
thin wall inserted therein in a state that said joint
portions of said first and second cases joint with each
20 other;

 said joining thin wall and said joining recess in
which said joining thin wall is inserted while said joint
portions of said first and second cases joint with each
other are joined together by welding; and

25 said the other case has a projecting wall formed at
a location of an outer face positioned on the outer side
of said joining recess in such a manner as to extend along
said joining recess.

2. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

30 said case has a form of a flattened rectangular

plate,

5 said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one
face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and
side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of
said lower wall,

10 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing
the other face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise
direction and side faces extending perpendicularly from the
four sides of said upper wall,

 said joint portions of said first and second cases are
formed from extremities of said side walls,

15 said joining thin wall is formed at the joint portion
of said first case, and

 said joining recess is formed at the joint portion of
said second case.

3. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

20 said case is flattened and has a rectangular shape as
viewed in plan,

 said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one
face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and
side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of
said lower wall,

25 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing
the other face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise
direction and side faces extending perpendicularly from the
four sides of said upper wall,

30 said joint portions of said first and second cases are
formed from extremities of said side walls, and

 said projecting wall is formed at a location of each of
those of said side walls of said first or second

case which correspond to the two major sides of the rectangular shape.

5 4. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

 said case is flattened and has a rectangular shape as viewed in plan,

 said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and
10 side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of said lower wall,

 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing the other face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and side faces extending perpendicularly from the
15 four sides of said upper wall,

 said joint portions of said first and second cases are formed from extremities of said side walls, and

 said projecting wall is formed at a location of each of those of said side walls of said first or second case which
20 correspond to the two major sides of the rectangular shape in such a manner as to extend at a uniform projecting height from the side wall.

 5. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

 said case is flattened and has a rectangular shape as
25 viewed in plan, and

 a cutaway portion is formed at each of locations at which said joining thin wall positioned on the two major sides of the rectangular shape is positioned rather near to the minor sides of the rectangular shape by removing the
30 joining thin wall.

 6. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

 said case has a form of a flattened rectangular

plate,

5 said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one
face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and
side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of
said lower wall,

10 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing
the other face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise
direction and side faces extending perpendicularly from the
four sides of said upper wall,

 said joint portions of said first and second cases are
formed from extremities of said side walls,

15 said joining thin wall is formed at an inner side
portion of said case at a location of the joint portion of
said first case leaving an end face at an extremity of said
side walls at an outer side portion of said case, and

20 said joining recess is formed at an inner side portion
of said case at a location of the joint portion of said
second case leaving an end face of an extremity of said side
walls at an outer side portion of said case.

7. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

 said case is flattened and has a rectangular shape as
viewed in plan,

25 said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one
face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and
side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of
said lower wall,

30 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing
the other face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise
direction and side faces extending perpendicularly from the
four sides of said upper wall,

said joint portions of said first and second cases are formed from extremities of said side walls,

5 said joining thin wall is formed at an inner side portion of said case at a location of the joint portion of said first case leaving an end face at an extremity of said side walls at an outer side portion of said case,

10 said joining recess is formed at an inner side portion of said case at a location of the joint portion of said second case leaving an end face of an extremity of said side walls at an outer side portion of said case,

15 said projecting wall is formed at a location of each of those of said side walls of said second case which correspond to the two major sides of the rectangular shape, and

20 said projecting wall is positioned nearer to said lower wall than to an end face at an extremity of said side walls remaining on said first case such that said end faces of said first and second case join with each other with said joining thin wall inserted in said joining recess.

8. The battery according to claim 1, wherein

25 said case has a form of a flattened rectangular plate, said first case has a rectangular lower wall facing one face of said battery cell in the thicknesswise direction and side walls extending perpendicularly from the four sides of said lower wall,

 said second case has a rectangular upper wall facing the other face of said battery cell in the

thicknesswise direction and side faces extending
perpendicularly from the four sides of said upper wall,

5 said joint portions of said first and second cases are
formed from extremities of said side walls,

 said joining thin wall is formed at an inner side
portion of said case at a location of the joint portion of
said first case leaving an end face at an extremity of said
10 side walls at an outer side portion of said case,

 said joining recess is formed at an inner side portion
of said case at a location of the joint portion of said
second case leaving an end face of an extremity of said side
walls at an outer side portion of said case,

15 said projecting wall is formed at a location of each of
those of said side walls of said second case which correspond
to the two major sides of the rectangular shape,

 an end face which remains at an extremity of said side
walls of said first case and an end face which remains at an
20 extremity of said side walls of said second case are spaced
from each other in the thicknesswise direction in such that
said end faces of said first and second case join with and
are welded to each other with said joining thin wall inserted
in said joining recess, and

25 said projecting wall is positioned nearer to said
lower wall than to an end face at an extremity of said side
walls remaining on said first case.

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a battery including a case and a battery cell accommodated in the case. The case is divided in a thicknesswise direction of the battery cell into a first case and a second case. The first and second cases have joint portions formed along peripheries thereof for jointing with each other. The joint portion of one of the first and second cases has a joining thin wall formed to extend along a periphery thereof and project in the thicknesswise direction. The joint portion of the other of the first and second cases has a joining recess formed to extend along a periphery thereof for receiving the joining thin wall inserted therein in a state that the joint portions of the first and second cases joint with each other. The joining thin wall and the joining recess in which the joining thin wall is inserted while the joint portions of the first and second cases joint with each other are joined together by welding. The other case has a projecting wall formed at a location of an outer face thereof positioned on the outer side of the joining recess in such a manner as to extend along the joining recess.