

### Abstract of the Disclosure

An electrical connector that uses an elastomeric element to provide a short path, high performance, electrical interconnection that is mechanically stable and reliable. In accordance with the present invention, lateral movement of the contacts is controlled by providing contact receiving slots formed in a rigid housing and/or an alignment plate. Movement of the contacts during actuation is controlled, at least in part, by specifying the compression properties of an elastomeric element, providing a contact stop portion in the housing, and/or providing a pre-load between the contacts and the corresponding printed circuit board terminals. Because the movement of the contacts is controlled, the wiping action between the contacts and the device leads and/or the printed circuit board pads is also controlled, resulting in a more reliable contacting system.

