In the Claims

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a fan including a temperature sensor for sensing temperature at a location remote from the fan.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a passive infrared sensor.

3. The apparatus of any of the foregoing claims, wherein the fan comprises an overhead fan with a housing, and the temperature sensor is at least partially within the housing of the overhead fan.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fan includes a cover, and the temperature sensor receives energy through the cover.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a body at least partially projecting through an opening in the fan.

6. The apparatus of any of the foregoing claims, further including a controller for controlling the fan based on the temperature at the remote location.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the controller is adapted to activate the fan, de-activate the fan, regulate the speed of the fan, or reverse the direction of the fan, based on the remote temperature.

8. The apparatus of any of the foregoing claims, further including a temperature sensor for sensing a local temperature at the fan.

9. An apparatus for moving air within a space, comprising:

a fan including a plurality of blades for moving the air within the space; and

a temperature sensor for sensing temperature at a location external to the fan.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a passive infrared sensor.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fan comprises a cover, and the sensor is adapted for receiving energy from the cover to detect a temperature thereof as representative of the temperature external to the fan.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fan comprises a heat-generating element, such as a motor or electric circuit board, and the cover is spaced therefrom.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the temperature sensor is adapted for detecting a first temperature of an object in the space and a second temperature of the cover.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a first temperature sensor for detecting a first temperature of an object in the space and a second temperature sensor for detecting a second temperature of the cover.

15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the temperature sensor projects at least partially through an opening in the fan.

16. An apparatus for moving air within a space, comprising:

a fan including a plurality of blades for moving the air within the space, a motor for causing the blades to rotate, and a controller for controlling the fan;

a temperature sensor for indirectly sensing temperature at a location external to the fan without the influence of heat generated by the motor or the controller.

17. A method for detecting temperature for use in regulating the operation of a fan, comprising:

detecting a temperature of a structure in contact with an ambient environment external to the fan; and

regulating the operation of the fan based on the temperature.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the detecting step comprises receiving energy from or through a cover on the fan.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the cover comprises the structure.

20. A method for detecting temperature for use in regulating the operation of a fan, comprising:

sensing a temperature of an object at a location remote from the fan; and

regulating the operation of the fan using the sensed temperature.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the object comprises a ceiling, a wall, or a floor, and the sensing step comprises receiving energy from the object.

22. An apparatus for forming a connection, comprising:

a first part including a first radially extending projection;

a second part including a receiver having an axially extending opening for receiving the radially extending projection of the first part and also when rotated to move along a

circumferential path, and a second radially extending projection for preventing the first projection from entering a portion of the receiver without radial deformation of one or both of the first and second projections.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first projection includes a first end associated with a first diameter of the first part, and the second projection includes a second end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter of the first end.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second projection is associated with a reinforcement for controlling the amount of radial deformation created by the engagement with the first projection.

25. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first and second parts are generally cylindrical and the first part is nested at least partially within the second part.

26. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the axially extending opening is a slot terminating in a support surface for supporting the first projection prior to the engagement with the second projection.

27. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first part comprises a first fan component and the second part comprises a second fan component.

In the Claims

1. An apparatus for moving air within a space, comprising:

a fan including a plurality of blades for moving the air within the space; and

at least one temperature sensor for sensing temperature at a location external to the fan;

wherein the fan comprises a cover, and the at least one temperature sensor comprises a passive infrared sensor within the cover for receiving energy from the cover to detect a temperature wherein the temperature of the cover is the same temperature as the temperature external to the fan.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fan comprises a heat-generating element, such as a motor or electric circuit board, and the cover is spaced therefrom.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one temperature sensor comprises a first temperature sensor adapted for detecting a first temperature of an object in the space and, further including a second temperature sensor adapted for detecting a second temperature of the cover.

4. A method for detecting temperature for use in regulating the operation of a fan, comprising:

via a passive infrared sensor, detecting a temperature of a structure in contact with an ambient environment external to the fan by receiving energy from or through a cover on the fan; and

via a controller, regulating the operation of the fan based on the temperature of the structure

sensing a temperature of the cover adjacent to the fan via the passive infrared sensor;

comparing the temperature of the cover to the temperature of the structure to determine a temperature difference via the controller; and

increasing a speed of the fan until the temperature difference is reduced or eliminated via the controller.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the regulating step comprises regulating a speed of the fan based on the detected temperature of the structure relative to a pre-determined or user-inputted set point value via the controller.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the regulating step comprises regulating the fan once the detected temperature of the structure reaches a pre-determined level set by a thermostat via the controller.