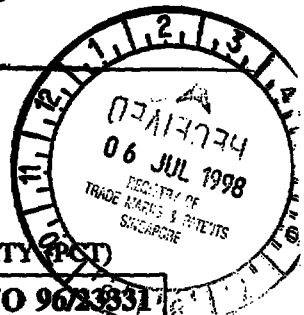


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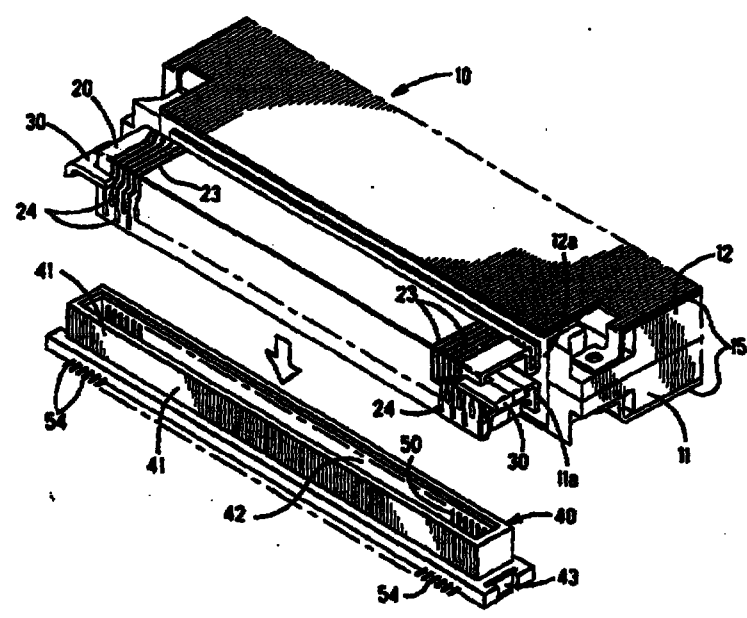
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(54) Title: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract

Connector housings (11, 12) to be mounted on a printed circuit board (100) have a plurality of rows of contacts (13, 14) extending from wall surfaces of the housings (11, 12). These contacts (13, 14) are soldered to conductive pads (23) of a flexible circuit (20). The flexible circuit (20), bent in a generally U-shape, is preferably inserted by a metallic guide member (30) between rows of contacts (50) of a mating connector (40) for interconnection therebetween. The guide member (30) preferably causes a ground conductor (176) on the reverse surface of the flexible substrate to groundingly engage conductive members (43, 124) positioned at both ends of the housing. In an alternate embodiment strengthening plates may be adhered to the flexible circuit between the opposed arrays of conductive pads and ground contact pads.