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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/26824 (22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 09/055,016 3 April 1998 (03.04.98) US (71) Applicants: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 920 Disc Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066 (US). HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY [US/US]; 3000 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US). INTER- NATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US). (72) Inventors: HEATON , James; 18750 Castle Hill Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 (US). HEINZE , Robert, R.; 1931 Via Pimpollo, San Clemente, CA 92673 (US). McALLISTER , Jeffrey, S.; 11536 Wildrose Court, Boise, ID 83713 (US). ALBRECHT , Thomas, R.; 6414 Beal Court, San Jose, CA 95123 (US). VON ALTEN , Thomas, W.; 2824 Grandee Street, Boise, ID 83704 (US). MANSBRIDGE , Geoffrey, W.; 11725 W. Hazeldale Court, Boise, ID 83713 (US). HOERGER , Carl, R.; 1610 N. 24th Street, Boise, CA 83702 (US). HAMMING , John, A.; 23962 Lanteen Circle, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (US).		(74) Agents: PACIULAN, Richard, J.; Ladas & Parry, Suite 2100, 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679 (US) et al. (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims.</i>
(54) Title: TAPE LEADER PIN ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME		
(57) Abstract A leader pin assembly (10) for attachment to tape (30) as a generic and space-efficient interface between tape and equipment which manipulates the tape, and a method for making the same. The leader pin assembly preferably includes a leader pin (12), an elastomer element (14), and a clip (16). The leader pin is barbell-shaped, having enlarged ends and at least one pair of flanges (20) each spaced a distance from a respective enlarged end (24) to define a pair of recesses (26) and a center section (18) of the leader pin. The center section of the leader pin is sized to permit tape to be wound around the center section, with the elastomer element surrounding the tape and with the clip snugly surrounding the elastomer element to keep the tape securely in place around the center section of the leader pin. The end surfaces of the leader pin may have an outward curve (48) to ensure smooth movement across equipment surfaces during leader pin assembly manipulation. Also the edges of the leader pin may be radiused.		