

CONVERTER SOCKET

The present invention relates to a converter socket. More especially, the invention relates to a converter socket which has more than one input terminal set.

Wall converter sockets are known. They are commonly used to increase the number of sockets of existing installations without the need for building work. A number of versions of converter socket are available with two, three and four socket outlets. The sockets have a single set of terminals for wired connection to a mains supply. Consequently, all known converter sockets of this type can only be installed in a single position.

One disadvantage of there only being one way in which the socket can be installed is that it is difficult, and in some cases impossible to install the socket in locations where there are already various wall mounted outlets (for example, other electrical sockets, television aerial points) close together or where there are other obstructions, another wall for example, close to the wall mounting box.

The present invention seeks to alleviate the aforementioned disadvantages of known converter sockets by providing a converter socket having more than one terminal set.

By "terminal set" it is meant a block of terminals having connections to the earth, neutral and live wires necessary to connect the socket to a mains supply. Clearly, in certain countries where power supplies do not have the same system of wires, then the terminal set would have connections for the set of wires appropriate to that country.

In one aspect there is provided an electrical wall socket having more than one terminal set secured thereto.

Preferably the terminal sets are spaced apart.

Preferably still, the wall socket includes at least one cover that in use, is located over at least one of the terminal sets.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the following figures, in which :

Figure 1 is a rear perspective view of a converter socket constructed in accordance with the present invention with covers over the terminal sets; and

Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of the converter socket of Figure 1 with the terminal set covers removed.

The socket 10 shown in the Figures generally comprises standard features. For the purposes of this description only those features relevant to the invention will be described.

Starting first with Figure 2, the socket 10 comprises a casing which has a front plate 12 and a rear moulding 14.

The rear moulding 14 has two sets of terminals 16, 18. Each set of terminals includes three terminals 16a,b,c and 18a,b,c to receive the live, neutral and earth wires of a mains supply.

The figures and description refer to the rear moulding 14 as having two sets of terminals 16, 18. It is however envisaged that any number of terminal sets could be located on the rear moulding 14, the number of which would depend mainly on the size of the socket 10 and the number of plugs the converter socket 10 has been designed to accept.

The fact that two sets of terminals 16, 18 are present in the socket 10 allows for the socket 10 to be installed in two different positions, depending on which terminal set 16, 18 is used to connect to the main supply wires.

For example, if a television aerial point extends out of a wall close to the left hand side of the mounting box then the socket 10 can be installed in a position slightly to the right, by connecting the mains supply wires to the right-hand

terminal set 18. If on the other hand, the mounting box is located close to the wall on its right, then the socket 10 can be installed in a position slightly to the left, by connecting the mains supply wires to the left- hand terminal set 16.

As can be seen in Figure 1, a first cover 20 is provided which can be located over the terminal set 16 that is used to protect the terminals from being touched when the socket 10 is installed and in use. Moreover the cover 20 protects the terminal set 16 from being damaged during installation.

A second cover 22 is also provided for location over the terminal set 18 (being used) which is designed to make it easier and safer for a user to connect the mains supply wires to the appropriate live, neutral and earth terminals.

Once the position of the socket 10 has been decided upon, the appropriate cover 20, 22 is located over the appropriate terminal set 16, 18 to ensure that the socket 10 is correctly installed in its desired position, all covers must be used to ensure the safety of the installation. Clearly, further covers would be utilised for further terminal sets.

The above described embodiments are given by way of example only, and the skilled reader will naturally appreciate that many variations could be made thereto without departing from the scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. An electrical wall socket having more than one terminal set secured thereto.
2. An electrical wall socket according to claim 1, wherein the terminal sets are spaced apart.
3. An electrical wall socket according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the wall socket includes at least one cover that, in use, is located over at least one of the terminal sets.
4. An electrical wall socket constructed and arranged substantially as shown and described with respect to the accompanying drawings.