

DESCRIPTION

Title of Invention: PROBE PIN AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE USING
SAME

5 Technical Field
 [0001]

 The present invention relates to a probe pin, and for
example, relates to a probe pin for use in an integrated
circuit test socket.

10

 Background Art
 [0002]

 Conventionally, there has been proposed a probe pin
disclosed, for example, in Patent Literature 1, in
15 particular in Fig.6 thereof. The probe pin comprises an
upper contact pin, a lower contact pin having the same
shape as the upper contact, and a coil spring. The upper
and the lower pins are connected to each other within the
coil spring with the major surfaces thereof oriented
20 orthogonal to each other and with a pair of hooks of the
upper and lower contact pins engaged in the associated
slots of the lower and the upper contact pins,
respectively.

25 Prior Art Document(s)
 Patent Literature

[0003]

Patent Literature 1: JP 2008-516398 A

Summary of the Invention

Problems to be solved by the invention

[0004]

The probe pin is designed so that the pair of hooks of one contact pin engages in the associated slot of the other contact pin to make an electric contact therebetween at at least one contact portion thereof. Unfortunately, the contact between the contact pins is unstable, which results in an unreliable electric connection.

[0005]

Also, the contact portion of the upper and lower contact pins may not be identified in a precise manner. This requires that dimensional tolerance of the components should be controlled severely, which disadvantageously increases the manufacturing cost of the probe pin.

[0006]

In view of the foregoing, an object of the invention is to provide a probe pin with increased contact stability and decreased manufacturing cost.

Means for solving the problem

[0007]

A probe pin according to one aspect of the invention comprises:

a coil spring;

a first plunger including a major portion, a first elastic extension and a second elastic extension, the first and the second elastic extensions extending from the major portion in the same direction; and

a second plunger forcedly inserted between the first and the second elastic extensions,

wherein the first and the second plungers have electric conductivity, and

wherein the first and the second plungers are inserted from one and the other ends of the coil spring, respectively, so that the first and the second elastic extensions of the first plunger hold the second plunger with the first elastic extension making a forced contact with a surface of the second plunger to form thereat an electric connection between the first and the second plungers.

Advantageous Effect of Invention

[0008]

According to one aspect of the invention, the first and the second elastic extensions of the first plunger hold the second plunger with the first elastic extension kept in a forced contact with a surface of the second plunger. This

results in a stable electric connection between the first and the second plungers without instability of the contact between the contact pins.

[0009]

In another aspect of the invention, at least the first elastic extension may have a contact part projected therefrom to form the forced contact with the one surface of the second plunger for making the electric connection between the first and the second plungers.

[0010]

According to this aspect of the invention, the contact part of the first plunger comes into surface contact with the second plunger, which ensures a stable electric contact between the first and the second plungers through the contact part. This requires less dimensional tolerance of the components than ever before and thereby reduces a manufacturing cost of the probe pin.

[0011]

In another aspect of the invention, the first and the second elastic extensions of the first plunger may have different lengths from each other.

[0012]

According to this aspect of the invention, a high degree of freedom is provided in designing the probe pins for various applications.

[0013]

In another aspect of the invention, at least one of the first and the second elastic extensions of the first plunger may include a guide projection, and

the second plunger may include a guide slot in which the guide projection is fitted in so that the first and the second plungers slidably move relative to each other along the guide slot.

[0014]

According to this aspect of the invention, the first and the second plungers slide smoothly relative to each other by the guide projection and the guide slot. This results in a precise identification of a contact position of the first and the second plungers.

[0015]

In another aspect of the invention, wherein the first plunger may have first supporting projections provided at proximal portions of the first and the second elastic extensions and first dropout preventing projections provided at positions spaced a distance away from the first supporting projections, and

the second plunger may have second supporting projections provided on surfaces thereof opposing in a transverse direction of the second plunger and second dropout preventing projections provided at positions spaced

a distance away from the second supporting projections, so that one end of the coil spring is positioned between the first supporting projections and the first dropout preventing projections and the other end of the coil spring is positioned between the second supporting projections and the second dropout preventing projections.

[0016]

According to this aspect of the invention, one end of the coil spring is positioned between the first supporting projections and the first dropout preventing projections and the other end of the coil spring is positioned between the second supporting projections and the second dropout preventing projections, which prevents rattling movements of the coil spring, dropping of the coil spring, or disassembling of the probe pin.

[0017]

In another aspect of the invention, an electronic device comprises any one of the probe pin.

[0018]

According to this aspect of the invention, the electronic device with increased contact stability and decreased manufacturing cost is achieved.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0019]

Fig. 1A is a perspective view showing a probe pin according to the first embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 1B is an exploded perspective view of the probe pin shown in Fig 1A.

Fig. 2A is a plan view of a first plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 1A and 1B.

Fig. 2B is a plan view of a second plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 1A and 1B.

Fig. 3A is a front elevational view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 1A and 1B.

Fig. 3B is a cross sectional view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 1A and 1B taken along lines III-III in Fig. 3A.

Fig. 4A is a perspective view of a probe pin of the second embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4B is an exploded view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 4A.

Fig. 5A is a plan view of a first plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 4A and 4B.

Fig. 5B is a plan view of a second plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 4A and 4B.

Fig. 6A is a front elevational view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 4A and 4B.

Fig. 6B is a cross sectional view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 4A and 4B taken along lines VI-VI in Fig. 6A.

Fig. 7A is a perspective view of a probe pin of the

third embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 7B is an exploded view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 7A.

Fig. 8A is a plan view of a first plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 8B is a plan view of a second plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 9A is a front elevational view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 9B is a cross sectional view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 7A and 7B taken along lines IX-IX in Fig. 9A.

Fig. 10A is a perspective view of a probe pin of the fourth embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 10B is an exploded view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 10A.

Fig. 11A is a plan view of a first plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 10A and 10B.

Fig. 11B is a plan view of a second plunger of the probe pin shown in Fig. 10A and 10B.

Fig. 12A is a front elevational view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 10A and 10B.

Fig. 12B is a cross sectional view of the probe pin shown in Fig. 10A and 10B taken along lines XII-XII in Fig. 12A.

Description of Embodiments

[0020]

With reference to the accompanying drawings, a probe pin according to an embodiment of the invention will be described below. For convenience of explanation, a coil spring of an embodiment is shown as a transparent member.

[0021]

First embodiment

As shown in Fig. 1, a probe pin 10 according to the first embodiment of the invention includes a first plunger 1, a second plunger 2, and a coil spring 3. The first and the second plungers 1 and 2 have electric conductivity and are made by electroforming technique, for example.

[0022]

As shown in Fig. 2, the first plunger 1 includes a major portion 11, a first elastic extension 12, and a second elastic extension 13, having the same thickness.

[0023]

The major portion 11, which is substantially rectangular in configuration, has one longitudinal end 11A terminated by a tapered distal end 14 and the other longitudinal end 11B with the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 extending therefrom in parallel to each other. The major portion 11 further has a pair of first supporting projections 15 extending orthogonally in the opposite directions from the adjacent proximal ends of the

first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13.

[0024]

The first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 have a rectangular cross section. The first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 are designed so that the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 have different lengths from each other. In the embodiment, the first elastic extension 12 is longer by a length of L2 than the second elastic extension 13.

[0025]

Specifically, in the first embodiment, as shown in Fig. 2, the length L2 is defined by a difference between a length of the first elastic extension 12 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B of the major portion 11 to the contact part 17 thereof (described below) and a length of the second elastic extension 13 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B to a guide projection 18 thereof (described below).

[0026]

The first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 are spaced a certain gap D1, defined therebetween, away from each other in the transverse direction of the major portion 11. Also, the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 are configured so that a distance between the opposite, longitudinal outwardly facing surfaces 12A and 13A of the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 is

substantially the same as a transverse length or width W1 of the major portion 11.

[0027]

The outwardly facing surfaces 12A and 13A of the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 have a dropout preventing protrusion 16 formed therewith. The dropout preventing protrusion 16 is positioned with its center located at a position spaced a certain distance D2 away from the associated supporting projection 15. The contact part 17 is provided at the distal end of the inwardly facing surface 12B of the first elastic extension 12, and the guide projection 18 is provided at the distal end of the inwardly facing surface 13B of the second elastic extension 13.

[0028]

The contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 12 may take appropriate shapes and sizes according to the design requirements of the probe pin. For example, a change in shape of the contact part 17 allows controlling a contact force of the first elastic extension 12 against the second plunger 2.

[0029]

The guide projection 18 of the second elastic extension 13 has appropriate shapes and sizes which allows the guide projection 18 to engage in and move along a guide slot 23 (described below), allowing a relative sliding and

reciprocating movement between the first and the second plungers 1 and 2.

[0030]

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the second plunger 2 has a major portion 21 and a contact portion 22, having the same thickness D3. The contact portion 22 has the guide slot 23.

[0031]

The major portion 21, which has a substantially rectangular configuration as shown in Fig. 2B, has one longitudinal end 21A terminated by a distal end 24 formed with a V-shaped notch and the other longitudinal end 21B terminated by a substantially rectangular contact portion 22. The contact portion 22 has a substantially tapered distal end indicated on the left side in Fig. 2B and the guide slot 23 adjacent the distal end defined therein. The other longitudinal end 21B of the major portion 21 has a pair of substantially rectangular supporting projections 25 extending orthogonally in the opposite directions from the adjacent proximal end side surfaces thereof. The outwardly facing surfaces of the contact portion 22 each have a dropout preventing projection 26 formed therewith. The dropout preventing projection 26 is positioned with its center positioned at a position spaced a certain distance D4 away from the associated supporting projection 25 in a direction toward the distal end of the contact portion 22.

[0032]

An appropriated surface finishing such as plating or coating may be provided to the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 according to the design requirements.

[0033]

As shown in Fig. 3, the coil spring 3, which is made of, for example, carbon steel or stainless steel, has an inside diameter slightly larger than the width $W1$ of the first plunger 1 and a width $W2$ of the second plunger 2. The coil spring 3 further has an outside diameter which is substantially equal to a total width $W3$ of the major portion 11 and the supporting projections 15 of the first plunger 1 and also a total width $W4$ of the major portion 21 and the supporting projections 25 of the second plunger 2. A length of the coil spring 3 is determined so that, when mounted on the assembled first and second plungers 1 and 2, the spring 3 is compressed between and by the plungers to generate a predetermined repelling force against the plungers.

[0034]

The first and the second plungers 1 and 2 are designed so that the width $W1$ of the first plunger 1 and the width $W2$ of the second plunger are the same.

[0035]

The supporting projections 15 and 25 have the same shape and size. This means that the total width $W3$ of the

major portion 11 and the supporting projections 15 of the first plunger 1 is the same as the total width W4 of the major portion 21 and the supporting projections 25 of the second plunger 2.

[0036]

The first and the second plungers 1 and 2 are assembled so that one of those plungers can slide and move relative to the other.

[0037]

In assembling, the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 are aligned so that the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 oppose the distal end of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2. Then, the opposing ends of the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 are inserted through the opposite end openings of the coil spring 3 into the interior of the coil spring 3 as the distal end of the second plunger 2 is forced between the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 and thereby retained between the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13.

[0038]

In this operation, as shown in Fig. 3, the first plunger 1 is inserted in a first end 3A of the coil spring 3, and the guide projection 18 of the second elastic extension 13 of the first plunger 1 is fitted in the guide slot 23 of the second plunger 2, which allows the relative sliding

movement of the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 along the guide slot 23. The guide projection 18 regulates the sliding movement between the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 within the range of the guide slot 23. This means that the maximum amount of movement of the first plunger 1 relative to the second plunger 2 or vice versa amounts to the length of the guide slot 23.

[0039]

The second plunger 2 is inserted in a second end 3B of the coil spring 3. As shown in Fig. 2, the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 are designed so that a difference L2 between the lengths of the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 is substantially the same as the length L1 of the guide slot 23. This ensures that the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 12 of the first plunger 1 stays in contact with the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2 irrespective of the movement of the first plunger 1 relative to the second plunger 2 or vice versa.

[0040]

The first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 of the first plunger 1 are designed so that a distance D5 between the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 12 and the inwardly facing surface 13B of the second elastic extension 13 is smaller than the thickness D3 of the second plunger 2. This causes that, when the first and the second

plungers 1 and 2 are assembled to each other, the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 12 stays in contact with the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2 as it is forced outward (upward in Fig. 2) by the contact portion 22, which ensures that the first elastic extension 12 always keeps in forced contact with the associated surface of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2. This results in a stable electric connection between the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 through the forcedly contacting portion, or contact portion 22.

[0041]

As described above, the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 12 of the first plunger 1 always stays on and keeps in forced contact with one surface of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2, which ensures a stable contact between the first and the second plungers 1 and 2. Also, the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 maintain a contact at the contact part 17 during the relative sliding movement of the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 along the guide slot 23, which ensures a stable electric contact between the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 through the contact portion 22. This requires less dimensional tolerance of the components than ever before and thereby reduces a manufacturing cost of the probe pin.

[0042]

When assembled, the first end 3A of the coil spring 3 stays between the supporting projections 15 and the dropout preventing protrusions 16 of the first plunger 1 and the second end 3B of the coil spring 3 stays between the supporting projections 25 and the dropout preventing protrusions 26 of the second plunger 2. This results in that one end of the coil spring 3 is held by the supporting projection 15 and the dropout preventing protrusion 16 of the first plunger 1 and the other end of the coil spring 3 is held between the supporting projection 25 and the dropout preventing protrusion 26 of the second plunger 2, which prevents rattling movements of the coil spring 3, dropping of the coil spring 3, or disassembling of the probe pin 10.

[0043]

The dropout preventing protrusions 16 and 26 of the first and the second plungers 1 and 2 take appropriate shapes and sizes provided that they hold the coil spring 3 therebetween when assembled.

[0044]

The distance D2 between the supporting projection 15 and the dropout preventing protrusion 16 of the first plunger 1 is determined so that the first end 3A of the coil spring 3 is held therebetween. The distance D4 between the supporting projection 25 and the dropout preventing protrusion 26 of the second plunger 2 is determined so that

the second end 3B of the coil spring 3 is held therebetween.

[0045]

Although the difference in length L2 between the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 is substantially the same as the length L1 of the guide slot 23 in the first embodiment, this is not restrictive and they may take any dimensions as long as the length L2 is equal to or greater than the length L1 of the guide slot 23.

[0046]

Although the major portion 11 and the first and the second elastic extensions 12 and 13 of the first plunger 1 have the same thickness and the major portion 21 and the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2 have the same thickness in the first embodiment, this is not restrictive and they may have different thicknesses.

[0047]

Second embodiment

As shown in Figs. 4 to 6, a probe pin 30 according to the second embodiment of the invention has a first plunger 31, a second plunger 32, and a coil spring 3. The first and the second plungers 31 and 32 have electric conductivity and are formed by electroforming technique, for example. Like parts are designated like reference numerals as used in the first embodiment.

[0048]

As shown in Fig. 5, the first plunger 31 has a first elastic extension 42 and a second elastic extension 43. The first and the second elastic extensions 42 and 43 extend in parallel to each other from the longitudinal proximal end 11B of the major portion 11, and are designed so that the second elastic extension 43 is longer by a length L3 than the first elastic extension 42. The second plunger 32 has a major portion 21 and a contact portion 52. The contact portion 52 has a guide slot 23 formed at a portion adjacent the major portion 21. The guide slot 23 is defined by a part of a side in the longitudinal direction of the major portion 21 and the contact portion 52.

[0049]

In the second embodiment, as shown in Fig. 5, the length L3 is defined by a difference between a length of the first elastic extension 42 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B of the major portion 11 to a contact part 47 thereof and a length of the second elastic extension 43 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B to a guide projection 48 thereof.

[0050]

As shown in Fig. 6, when assembled, the guide projection 48 of the second elastic extension 43 of the first plunger 31 is fitted in the guide slot 23 of the contact portion 52 of the second plunger 32 to regulate the

sliding movement between the first and the second plungers 31 and 32 within the range of the guide slot 23. The first and the second elastic extensions 42 and 43 are configured so that a difference in length $L3$ is substantially the same as the length $L1$ of the guide slot 23. This results in that the contact part 47 of the first elastic extension 42 of the first plunger 31 always stays on and keeps in forced contact with one surface of the contact portion 52 of the second plunger 32, which ensures a stable contact between the first and the second plungers 31 and 32.

[0051]

The contact part 47 of the first elastic extension 42 and the guide projection 48 of the second elastic extension 43 may take appropriate sizes and shapes according to the design requirements of the probe pin.

[0052]

Although the difference in length $L3$ between the first and the second elastic extensions 42 and 43 is substantially the same as the length $L1$ of the guide slot 23 in the second embodiment, this is not restrictive and they may take any dimensions as long as the length $L3$ is equal to or greater than the length $L1$ of the guide slot 23.

[0053]

Third embodiment

As shown in Figs. 7 to 9, a probe pin 60 according to

the third embodiment of the invention has a first plunger 61, a second plunger 62, and a coil spring 3. The first and the second plungers 61 and 62 have electric conductivity and are made by electroforming technique, for example. Like parts are designated like reference numerals as used in the first embodiment.

[0054]

As shown in Fig. 8, the first plunger 61 of the probe pin 60 has first elastic extensions 12 which are arranged symmetrically with respect to a longitudinal central axis of a major portion 11. The second plunger 62 has a major portion 21 and a contact portion 82. No guide slot is provided in the contact portion 82.

[0055]

As shown in Fig. 9, when assembled, the first elastic extensions 12 of the first plunger 61 hold the second plunger 2. The first elastic extensions 12 are configured so that a distance D6 between the contact parts 17 is smaller than a thickness D3 of the second plunger 62. This allows that, when assembled, the contact parts 17 of the first elastic extensions 12 are always forced outward by the contact portion 82 of the second plunger 62, which ensures that the first elastic extensions 12 always keeps in forced contact with the associated surface of the contact portion 82 of the second plunger 62. This results in a stable

contact and then a reliable electric connection between the first and the second plungers 61 and 62.

[0056]

Fourth embodiment

As shown in Figs. 10 to 12, a probe pin 90 according to the fourth embodiment of the invention has a first plunger 91, a second plunger 2, and a coil spring 3. The first plunger 91 has electric conductivity and is made by electroforming technique, for example. Like parts are designated like reference numerals as used in the first embodiment.

[0057]

As shown in Fig. 11, the first plunger 91 of the probe pin 90 has a first elastic extension 102 and a second elastic extension 103.

[0058]

As shown in Fig. 11, the first elastic extension 102 is provided by adding a guide projection 108 at substantially a mid-portion of the inwardly facing surface 12B of the first elastic extension 12 of the first embodiment. The guide projection 108 is provided at a position spaced a distance L4 away from the distal contact part 17. The second elastic extension 103 is in the form of square rod and has the same length as the first elastic extension 102. The first and the second elastic extensions 102 and 103, which are spaced

a certain distance D1 away from each other in the transverse direction of the major portion 11, extend in parallel to each other from the longitudinal proximal end 11B of the major portion 11.

[0059]

Specifically, in the fourth embodiment, as shown in Fig. 11, the length L4 is defined by a difference between a length of the first elastic extension 102 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B of the major portion 11 to a contact part 17 thereof and a length of the first elastic extension 102 from the longitudinal proximal end 11B to a guide projection 108 thereof.

[0060]

As shown in Fig. 12, when assembled, the guide projection 108 of the first elastic extension 102 of the first plunger 91 is fitted in the guide slot 23 of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2 to regulate the sliding movement between the first and the second plungers 91 and 2 within the range of the guide slot 23. The length L4 between the contact part 17 and the guide projection 108 is substantially the same as the length L1 of the guide slot 23, which allows that the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 102 of the first plunger 91 always stays on one surface of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2.

[0061]

When assembled, the second plunger 2 is held between the first and the second elastic extensions 102 and 103 of the first plunger 91. The distance D5 between the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 102 and the inwardly facing surface 103B of the second elastic extension 103 is smaller than the thickness D3 of the second plunger 2. This allows that, when assembled, the contact part 17 of the first elastic extension 102 stays in contact with the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2 as it is forced outward by the contact portion 22, which ensures that the first elastic extension 102 always keeps in forced contact with the associated surface of the contact portion 22 of the second plunger 2. Also, the inwardly facing surface 103B of the second elastic extension 103 always comes into surface contact with the second plunger 2. This results in a secure contact and a stable electric connection between the first and the second plungers 91 and 2.

[0062]

Although the length L4 between the contact part 17 and the guide projection 108 of the first elastic extension 102 is substantially the same as the length L1 of the guide slot 23 in the fourth embodiment, this is not restrictive and they may take any dimensions as long as the length L4 is equal to or greater than the length L1 of the guide slot 23.

[0063]

Although the first plungers 1, 31, 61 and 91 and the second plungers 2, 32 and 62 are made by electroforming technique in the first to fourth embodiment, this is not restrictive and they may be made by different manners capable of manufacturing the first plungers 1, 31, 61, and 91 and the second plungers 2, 32 and 62.

[0064]

Although the first plungers 1, 31, 61, and 91 have the first elastic extensions 12, 42 and 102 and the second elastic extensions 13, 43 and 103 extending therefrom in parallel to each other and in the same direction in the first to fourth embodiment, this is not restrictive. For example, the first plunger may have first and second elastic extensions which extend so that a distance therebetween becomes gradually narrower toward the distal end thereof, which allows a contact pressure of the first and the second elastic extensions relative to the second plunger to be increased.

[0065]

Each of the structural components of the probe pins 10, 30, 60 and 90 in the first to fourth embodiments may be replaced with another similar component in a different embodiment or may be added to a different embodiment.

[0066]

Each of the probe pins 10, 30, 60 and 90 in the first to fourth embodiments may be incorporated in an electronic device such as an integrated circuit test socket.

Industrial Applicability

[0067]

A probe pin of the invention is not limited to that in any one of first to fourth embodiments provided that it has at least a first elastic extension.

Parts List

[0068]

- 1, 31, 61, 91: first plunger
- 2, 32, 62: second plunger
- 3: coil spring
- 10, 30, 60, 90: probe pin
- 11, 21: major portion
- 12, 42, 102: first elastic extension
- 13, 43, 103: second elastic extension
- 14, 24: tip part
- 15, 25: supporting projection
- 16, 26: dropout preventing protrusion
- 17, 47, 107: contact part
- 18, 48, 108: guide projection
- 22, 52, 82: contact portion

- 27 -

23: guide slot

CLAIMS

1. A probe pin, comprising:
 - a coil spring;
 - 5 a first plunger made from an electrically conductive material, the first plunger including
 - a first major portion,
 - a first elastic extension,
 - a second elastic extension,
 - 10 the first elastic extension and the second elastic extension extending from the first major portion in parallel in a longitudinal direction of the first plunger,
 - the first elastic extension and the second elastic extension having different lengths in the longitudinal direction,
 - 15 the first elastic extension and the second elastic extension having respective first and second inner surfaces opposing to each other,
 - 20 the first inner surface of the first elastic extension having a first contact portion and the second inner surface of the second elastic extension having a guide projection projecting toward the first elastic extension,
 - 25 the first contact and the guide projection being spaced away from each other in the longitudinal direction;
 - a second plunger made from an electrically conductive material, the second plunger including
 - 30 a second major portion,
 - a second contact portion provided adjacent the second major portion, and

a guide slot provided away from the second major portion than the second contact portion,

wherein the first and second plungers are inserted in an inside of the coil spring from one end and the other end
5 of the coil spring, respectively, where the first and second plungers are combined with each other with the guide projection engaged in the guide slot and with the first contact portion forced in contact with the second contact portion, allowing the first plunger to slidably move
10 relative to the second plunger in the longitudinal direction while maintaining an electrical contact between the first and second contact portions of the first and second plungers.

15 2. The probe pin of claim 1, wherein

the first plunger has a first projection provided at adjacent proximal ends of the first and second elastic extensions and a first protrusion provided distally away from the first projection;

20 the second plunger has a second projection provided at adjacent a proximal end of the second major portion and a second protrusion provided distally away from the second projection;

wherein the one end of the coil spring is engaged on a
25 portion of the first plunger between the first projection and the first protrusion, and the other end of the coil spring is engaged on a portion of the second plunger between the second projection and the second protrusion.

30 3. An electronic device comprising the probe pin of claim 1 or 2.

- 30 -

4. A plunger for use as the first plunger of the probe
pin in claim 1 or 2.

5. A plunger for use as the second plunger of the probe
5 pin in claim 1 or 2.