

ABSTRACTWIRE SPRING GRIP, LEAD FRAME CARRIER BELT AND PLATING SYSTEM

A wire spring grip for an IC lead frame and a lead frame carrier belt are described. The grip 20 comprises a wire formed to provide two parallel arms extending from a curved, central portion 22 of the wire. The curved portion 22 is angled from the plane including the portions of the arms immediately adjacent the curved portion 22 to form a gripping portion. The end of each arm is angled to form an arm tip portion 23 for engaging with a belt web 100 so as to support the grip 20. The arms of the grip extend from their ends and form a coil 24 having a plurality of turns. Between each coil 24 and the curved portion 22, each arm is angled to form an engagement portion 25 for biasing the arms against the tension in the spring coils. The grips are supported on the belt 100 with a portion of the arms substantially parallel with the belt web.

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