

ABSTRACT

ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR WITH TERMINAL LOCKING MEANS

An electrical connector (48) includes a housing (52) having an elongated terminal-receiving cavity (50) for insertion therein of a terminal (10) in a given insertion direction (A). The cavity includes a constricted opening (54) leading to a locking shoulder (58) facing in the insertion direction. An elongated terminal (10) is adapted to be inserted into the cavity (50) and has a body portion (18) with a cantilevered locking arm (28) formed out of a side wall (22) of the body portion. The locking arm has a fixed end (30) joined to the side wall and a free end (32) projecting outwardly from the side wall oblique to and opposite the insertion direction. The free end (32) is adapted to engage the locking shoulder (58). The housing (52) and terminal (10) are constructed such that, upon insertion of the terminal into the cavity (50), the locking arm (28) is biased laterally inwardly and then resiliently returned to a locking position with the free end (32) thereof engaged with the locking shoulder (58). The locking arm (28) has a first portion (36) bent inwardly from the fixed end (30) oblique to and opposite the insertion direction. A second portion (38) of the locking arm is bent outwardly from a juncture (40) with the first portion (36) beyond the side wall (22) to the free end (32) of the locking arm (28).

