

## Electrical cartridge fuse connector

This invention relates to an electrical cartridge fuse connector.

Often it is necessary to connect an electrical cartridge fuse in line in an electrical conductor, and many connectors for effecting this are known.

For example, U.S. Patent Specifications Nos. 3,356,806 and 3,417,359 each disclose an electrical cartridge fuse connector comprising two cylindrical housing members adapted to be screwthreaded together to contain a cartridge fuse, therein, and two electrical terminals each having a contact portion to establish electrical connection to a respective end of a cartridge fuse and a conductor-connection portion for connection to a conductor, each terminal being arranged in a respective one of the housing members.

In these known connectors one of the terminals has a contact portion in the form of a socket which receives one end of the cartridge fuse, while the other end of the cartridge fuse is contacted by a planar contact member urged into contact therewith by a compression spring. The socket terminal has a conductor-connection portion in the form of a ferrule which extends outside the associated housing member and is adapted to be connected to a conductor by crimping, the planar terminal being connected to a similar conductor-connection portion by way of a wire extending through the compression spring and having its ends soldered to the contact portion and the conductor-connection portion respectively.

These known connectors have the disadvantage that a tool is required for connection of conductors thereto, and also the disadvantage that they are complex in construction and thus involve considerable time and expense for assembly.

In recent years another form of conductor-connection portion for electrical connectors has come into common use, this being a portion in which an insulated conductor is urged into a slot in a conductive member such that the edges of the slot penetrate the insulation and establish electrical connection to the conductive core of the conductor.

British Patent Specification No. 1,006,621 discloses such a conductor-connection portion comprising a tubular portion the wall of which contains a slot extending axially of the tubular portion, the tubular portion being formed integrally with a contact portion (which may be identical to the tubular portion) for connection to another conductor, the slot in the tubular portion having an open end adjacent the associated contact portion and an opposite closed end.

For use of this conductor-connection portion an end of an insulated conductor is inserted into the tubular portion from the inner end thereof

and the conductor is then doubled back on itself to lie along the outside of the tubular portion and over the open end of the slot in the tubular portion. The conductor is then pulled in the direction parallel to the slot and away from the tubular portion such that the conductor is urged into the slot such that the edges thereof penetrate the insulation and establish electrical contact with the conductive core of the conductor.

This known conductor-connection portion is shown contained in a one-piece open-ended insulating housing with the conductor leaving the housing adjacent the side wall thereof.

The advantage of this known conductor-connection portion is that a conductor can be simply connected thereto without the use of tools.

However, difficulties would arise if this known conductor-connection portion were to be incorporated in the known cartridge fuse connector discussed above, since with the connector it is necessary for the housing members to have closed outer ends in order to contain the terminals and fuse, and thus a conductor connected to one of the terminals must pass out through the end wall of the associated housing member. However, the two housing members must be rotatable relative to each other if each is to be of one-piece construction, to enable the screw threads on the housing members to be engaged. One-piece construction for the housing members is preferable to the multi-piece construction used in the known connectors discussed above, for reasons of cheapness and ease of assembly. If, as with the known conductor-connection portion discussed above, a conductor leaves the associated housing member adjacent the wall thereof, rotation of the housing member about its axis will cause rotation of the conductor in a circle about this axis, thus causing twisting of the conductor and rotation of the terminals and fuse with the housing member. Such rotation can possibly be prevented by arranging for the conductor to leave the housing member through a hole in the end wall on the axis thereof, but there is then the possibility that the conductor will be squeezed between the free end of the conductor-connection portion of the terminal and the end wall of the housing such that the conductor will still be rotated together with the housing member.

According to this invention an electrical cartridge fuse connector as set out above is characterised in that the conductor-connection portion of each terminal comprises a tubular portion the wall of which contains a slot extending axially of the tubular portion, the slot having an open end adjacent the contact portion of the terminal and an opposite closed end, and in that each terminal has a tab portion

extending from the free end of the conductor-connection portion and adapted to engage the adjacent end wall of the associated housing member thereby to space the free end of the conductor-connection portion from the end wall.

With the connector of this invention the tabs on the terminals ensure that a conductor connected to the conductor-connection portion of a terminal will not be trapped between the free end of the conductor-connection portion and the end wall of the housing when the two housing members are screwed together, and thus the housing members can rotate relative to the terminals and conductors without imposing any strain or stresses on the conductors or on the connections between the conductors and the terminals.

The connector of the invention also has the advantages that it can consist of only four parts, namely two housing members and two identical terminals, and that it can be assembled to conductors without the use of any tools.

An electrical cartridge fuse connector according to this invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the connector with conductors connected thereto;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the connector;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of the connector;

Figure 4 is a plan view of one of the terminals used in the connector;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the terminal of Figure 4 with a conductor to be connected thereto;

Figure 6 is a plan view of a detail of the connector; and

Figures 7 and 8 are sections on the line VII—VII in Figure 6 with the connector in two different states.

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, the connector comprises two cylindrical housing members 1 and 2, the housing member 1 having a relatively large diameter internally threaded portion 3 and an axially aligned relatively small diameter portion 4 having a free end wall 5 with an axial through hole 6 therein, and the housing member 2 having a relatively large diameter externally threaded portion 7 adapted to mate with the portion 3 of the housing member 1, and an axially aligned relatively small diameter portion 8 having a free end wall 9 with an axial through hole 10 therein. The two housing members 1 and 2 can be screwthreaded together to contain a cartridge fuse 100 therein, as shown in Figure 2. The housing members 1 and 2 are moulded from electrically insulating plastics material, and are preferably transparent so that the condition of the fuse 100 can be seen through the housing members 1 and 2.

Referring now to Figures 4 and 5 also, each housing member 1 or 2 contains an electrical

terminal 11 stamped and formed from sheet metal. Each terminal 11 has a contact portion 12 in the form of a tubular, open-seam socket to receive a respective end of the cartridge fuse 100 the seam being defined by a pair of opposed axially offset tabs 13 which ensure reliable connection to the cartridge fuse.

Each terminal 11 also has a conductor-connection portion 14 comprising a tubular portion of lesser diameter than the socket portion 12 but having one side aligned with a side of the socket portion 12. The wall of the tubular portion 14 contains a slot 15 extending axially of the tubular portion 14, the slot 15 having a flared open end 16 (Figure 4) adjacent the socket portion 12, and an opposite closed end 17 at which the meeting edges of the wall of the tubular portion 14 are overlapped (as best seen in Figure 5).

With particular reference to Figure 5, an insulated conductor 200 is connected to one of the terminals 11 by inserting an end portion of the conductor 200 into the tubular portion 14 from the inner end thereof and then turning the conductor 200 back on itself to overlies the tubular portion 14 over the slot 15 and received in the flared open end 16 of the slot. The conductor 200 is then pulled, as indicated by the arrow in Figure 5, such that the conductor 200 is urged into the slot 15 the edges of which penetrate the insulation of the conductor 200 and establish electrical connection to the conductive core thereof in known manner.

For use of the connector conductors are passed into and through the housing portions 1 and 2 by way of the holes 6 and 10 therein respectively, and terminals 11 are then connected to the conductors as described above. The cartridge fuse 100 is then inserted into the socket portions 12 of the terminals 11 and the two housing members 1 and 2 are then screwthreaded together to contain the terminals 11 and the cartridge fuse 100.

As clearly shown in Figure 2, the conductors 200 extend out of the housing members 1 and 2 through the axial holes 6 and 10 therein, and in order to prevent the conductor 200 from being trapped between the free end of the conductor-connection portion 14 of the terminal 11 and the adjacent end wall 5 or 9 of the associated housing member 1 or 2 each terminal 11 has a tab portion 18 extending from the free end of the conductor-connection portion 14, which tab portion 18 is adapted to engage the adjacent end wall 5 or 9 to provide a free space for the conductor 200. The tab portion 18 is curved as seen in transverse cross-section and is devoid of sharp edges whereby each housing member 1 or 2 can rotate about the associated terminal 11 and conductor 200 when the housing members 1 and 2 are screwthreaded together whereby no twisting or other forces are applied to the conductors 200 or the connections between the conductors 200 and the terminals 11.

Referring now to Figures 6, 7 and 8 also, the external thread on the portion 7 of the housing member 2 is formed with a single projection 19, and the portion 3 of the housing member 1 is formed with a hole 20 positioned to receive a projection 19 when the housing members 1 and 2 are screwthreaded together. The projection 19 has a sloping leading edge 21 (leading as the housing members 1 and 2 are screwthreaded together) which enables the projection to pass the hole 20 and come to rest in a position as shown in Figure 8 when the housing members 1 and 2 are fully screwthreaded together. The opposite edge 22 of the projection 19 is steeper and in the event that the housing member 1 and 2 begin to unscrew due, for example, to vibration, the projection 19 will become received in the hole 20 as shown in Figure 7, with the edge 22 of the projection engaging the wall of the hole 20 to prevent further unscrewing of the housing members 1 and 2. The catch effect thus provided by the projection 19 and hole 20 can easily be overcome when the housing members are manually unscrewed to, for example, change the cartridge fuse 100.

#### Claims

1. An electrical cartridge fuse connector comprising two cylindrical housing members (1, 2) adapted to be screwthreaded together to contain a cartridge fuse (100) therein, and two electrical terminals (11) each having a contact portion to establish electrical connection to a respective end of a cartridge fuse and a conductor-connection portion (14) for connection to a conductor, each terminal being arranged in a respective one of the housing members, characterised in that the conductor-connection portion (14) of each terminal (11) comprises a tubular portion the wall of which contains a slot (15) extending axially of the tubular portion (14), the slot (15) having an open end (16) adjacent the contact portion (12) of the terminal (11) and an opposite closed end (17), and in that each terminal (11) has a tab portion (18) extending from the free end of the conductor-connection portion (14) and adapted to engage the adjacent end wall (5 or 9) of the associated housing member (1 or 2) thereby to space the free end of the conductor-connection portion (14) from the end wall (5 or 9).

2. A connector as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the tab portion (18) of each terminal (11) is curved as seen in transverse cross-section.

3. A connector as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterised in that the contact portion (12) of each terminal (11) is in the form of a tubular, open-seam socket, the seam being defined by a pair of opposed axially offset tabs (13).

4. A connector as claimed in Claim 1, Claim 2 or Claim 3, characterised in that one (1) of the

housing members has an internally threaded portion (3), and the other (2) of the housing members has an externally threaded portion (7) adapted to mate with the threaded portion (3) of the one housing member (1), the thread on the externally threaded portion (7) of the other housing member (2) being formed with a projection (19), and the threaded portion (3) of the one housing member (1) being formed with a hole (20) positioned to receive the projection (19) when the housing members (1 and 2) are screwthreaded together.

5. A connector as claimed in Claim 4, characterised in that the edge (21) of the projection (19) which leads as the housing members (1 and 2) are screwthreaded together is shaped to enable the projection (19) to pass the hole (20), and the opposite edge (22) of the projection (19) is steeper and adapted to engage the wall of the hole (20) to prevent unintentional unscrewing of the housing members (1 and 2).

#### Patentansprüche

1. Elektrischer Patronensicherungs-Verbinder mit zwei zylindrischen Gehäuseelementen (1, 2), die zur Aufnahme einer Patronensicherung (100) miteinander verschraubbar sind, ferner mit zwei elektrischen Anschlüssen (11), von denen jeder einen Kontaktabschnitt zur Herstellung einer elektrischen Verbindung mit einem jeweiligen Ende einer Patronensicherung und einen Leiter-Verbindungsabschnitt (14) zur Verbindung mit einem Leiter aufweist, wobei jeder Anschluß in jeweils einem der Gehäuseelemente angeordnet ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Leiter-Verbindungsabschnitt (14) jedes Anschlusses (11) einen rohrförmigen Abschnitt aufweist, dessen Wand einen sich axial zum rohrförmigen Abschnitt (14) erstreckenden Schlitz (15) enthält, daß der Schlitz (15) ein offenes Ende (16) angrenzend zum Kontaktabschnitt (12) des Anschlusses (11) und ein entgegengesetztes verschlossenes Ende (17) aufweist, und daß jeder Anschluß (11) einen Laschenteil (18) umfaßt, der sich vom freien Ende des Leiter-Verbindungsabschnitts (14) wegerstreckt und zum Eingriff mit der angrenzenden Endwand (5 oder 9) des zugeordneten Gehäuseelements (1 oder 2) ausgebildet ist, wodurch das freie Ende des Leiter-Verbindungsabschnitts (14) im Abstand zur Endwand (5 oder 9) gehalten wird.

2. Verbinder nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Laschenteil (18) jedes Anschlusses (11) im Querschnitt gekrümmt ist.

3. Verbinder nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kontaktabschnitt (12) jedes Anschlusses (11) die Gestalt eines rohrförmigen Sockels mit offener Naht aufweist, und daß die Naht von einem Paar von entgegengesetzten, axial versetzten Laschen (13) begrenzt wird.

4. Verbinder nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eines (1) der

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2. A connector as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the tab portion (18) of each terminal (11) is curved as seen in transverse cross-section.

3. A connector as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterised in that the contact portion (12) of each terminal (11) is in the form of a tubular, open-seam socket, the seam being defined by a pair of opposed axially offset tabs (13).

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housing members has an internally threaded portion (3), and the other (2) of the housing members has an externally threaded portion (7) adapted to mate with the threaded portion (3) of the one housing member (1), the thread on the externally threaded portion (7) of the other housing member (2) being formed with a projection (19), and the threaded portion (3) of the one housing member (1) being formed with a hole (20) positioned to receive the projection (19) when the housing members (1 and 2) are screwthreaded together.

5. A connector as claimed in Claim 4, characterised in that the edge (21) of the projection (19) which leads as the housing members (1 and 2) are screwthreaded together is shaped to enable the projection (19) to pass the hole (20), and the opposite edge (22) of the projection (19) is steeper and adapted to engage the wall of the hole (20) to prevent unintentional unscrewing of the housing members (1 and 2).

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3. Verbinder nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kontaktabschnitt (12) jedes Anschlusses (11) die Gestalt eines rohrförmigen Sockels mit offener Naht aufweist, und daß die Naht von einem Paar von entgegengesetzten, axial versetzten Laschen (13) begrenzt wird.

4. Verbinder nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eines (1) der



Gehäuseelemente einen Innengewindeabschnitt (3) und das andere (2) der Gehäuseelemente einen Außengewindeabschnitt (7) aufweist, der zur Zusammenpassung mit dem Gewindeabschnitt (3) des einen Gehäuseelements (1) ausgebildet ist, daß das Gewinde auf dem Außengewindeabschnitt (7) des anderen Gehäuseelements (2) mit einem Vorsprung (19) geformt ist, und der Gewindeabschnitt (3) des einen Gehäuseelements (1) mit einem Loch (20) geformt ist, das zur Aufnahme des Vorsprungs (19) positioniert ist, wenn die Gehäuseelemente (1 und 2) miteinander verschraubt sind.

5. Verbinder nach Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kante (21) des Vorsprungs (19), die beim Zusammenschrauben der Gehäuseelemente (1 und 2) voreilt, derart gestaltet ist, daß der Vorsprung (19) am Loch (2) vorbeitreten kann, und daß die entgegengesetzte Kante (22) des Vorsprungs (19) steiler und dazu ausgebildet ist, mit der Wand des Loches (20) in Eingriff zu treten, um eine unbeabsichtigte Auseinanderschraubung der Gehäuseelemente (1 und 2) zu verhindern.

#### Revendications

1. Connecteur de fusible à cartouche électrique comprenant deux éléments cylindriques (1, 2) de boîtier conçus pour être vissés l'un à l'autre afin de contenir un fusible à cartouche (100), et deux bornes électriques (11) ayant chacune une partie de contact pour établir une connexion électrique sur une extrémité correspondante d'un fusible à cartouche et une partie (14) de connexion à un conducteur destinée à une connexion sur un conducteur, chaque borne étant disposée dans l'un, correspondant, des éléments de boîtier, caractérisé en ce que la partie (14) de connexion à un conducteur de chaque borne (11) comprend une partie tubulaire dont la paroi présente une fente (15) s'étendant axialement à la partie tubulaire (14), la fente (15) ayant une extrémité ouverte

(16) adjacente à la partie de contact (12) de la borne (11) et une extrémité opposée fermée (17), et en ce que chaque borne (11) comporte une patte (18) faisant saillie de l'extrémité libre de la partie (14) de connexion à un conducteur et destinée à entrer en contact avec la paroi extrême adjacente (5 ou 9) de l'élément associé (1 ou 2) de boîtier afin d'espacer de la paroi extrême (5 ou 9) l'extrémité libre de la partie (14) de connexion à un conducteur.

2. Connecteur selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que la patte (18) de chaque borne (11) est incurvée lorsqu'elle est vue en coupe transversale.

3. Connecteur selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que la partie de contact (12) de chaque borne (11) est sous la forme d'une douille tubulaire à joint ouvert, le joint étant défini par deux pattes opposées (13), décalées axialement.

4. Connecteur selon la revendication 1, la revendication 2 ou la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que l'un (1) des éléments de boîtier comporte une partie (3) filetée intérieurement, et l'autre (2) des éléments de boîtier comporte une partie (7) filetée extérieurement et destinée à s'accoupler avec la partie filetée (3) de l'élément (1) de boîtier, le filetage de la partie (7) filetée extérieurement de l'autre élément (2) de boîtier étant formé avec une saillie (19), et la partie filetée (3) de l'élément (1) de boîtier étant formée avec un trou (20) disposé de manière à recevoir la saillie (19) lorsque les éléments (1 et 2) de boîtier sont vissés l'un à l'autre.

5. Connecteur selon la revendication 4, caractérisé en ce que le bord (21) de la saillie (19) qui est orienté vers l'avant lorsque les éléments (1 et 2) de boîtier sont vissés l'un à l'autre est configuré pour permettre à la saillie (19) de franchir le trou (20), et le bord opposé (22) de la saillie (19) est plus raide et destiné à s'enclencher avec la paroi du trou (20) pour empêcher tout dévissage involontaire des éléments (1 et 2) de boîtier.



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