

NASA TECH BRIEF



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An Electrical Connector Pin Protector

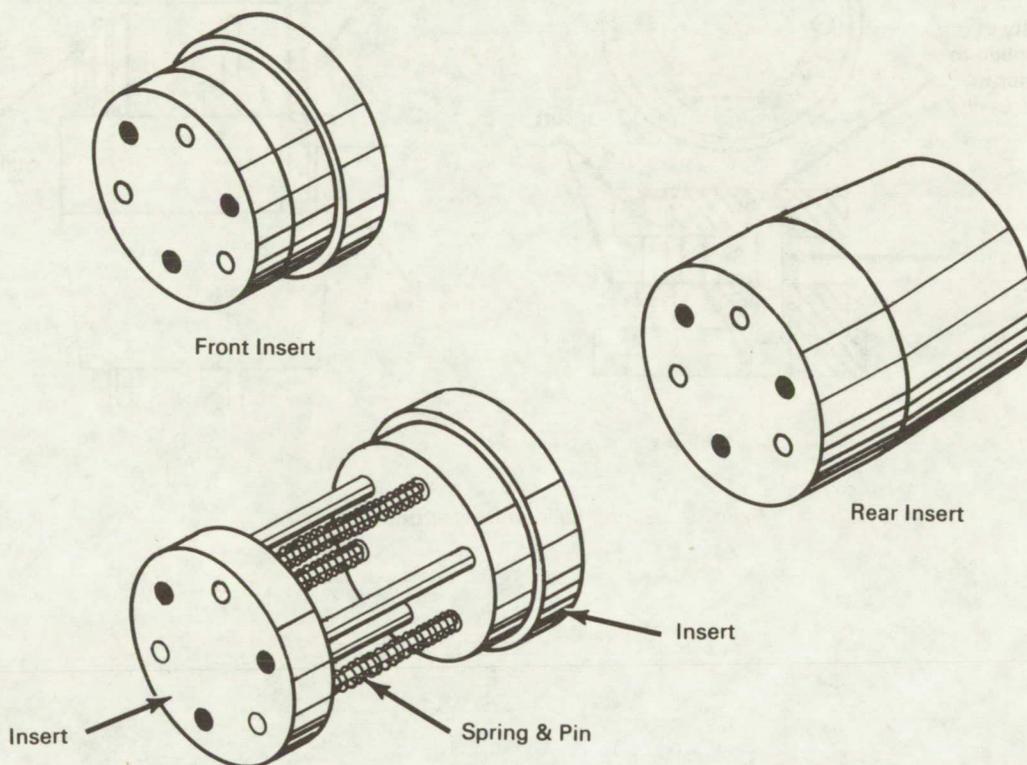


Figure 1. Front Insert Cut In Half

The problem:

To modify existing electrical connectors in order to eliminate the bending of contact pins due to improper mating.

The solution:

Provide protection for the pins in the connector by use of a spring loaded insert.

How it's done:

As shown in Figure 1, the front insert is cut in half and three retaining pins are installed in alternate holes connecting the two halves. Figure 2-A illustrates the arrangement. Three springs and three spring retaining pins are then inserted in alternate holes (Figure 2-B), and the two halves reconnected.

The spring loaded device protects the pins from being bent due to improper mating, or probing pins

(continued overleaf)

with a screwdriver. When assembling the parts of the connector, finger pressure should be maintained on the insert.

Notes:

1. This innovation may be of interest to manufacturers and users of electrical connectors.

2. This Tech Brief is complete in itself. No additional information is available.

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.
 Source: George R. Mitchell, Robert B. McQuillen of North American Rockwell Corporation under contract to Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC-15660)

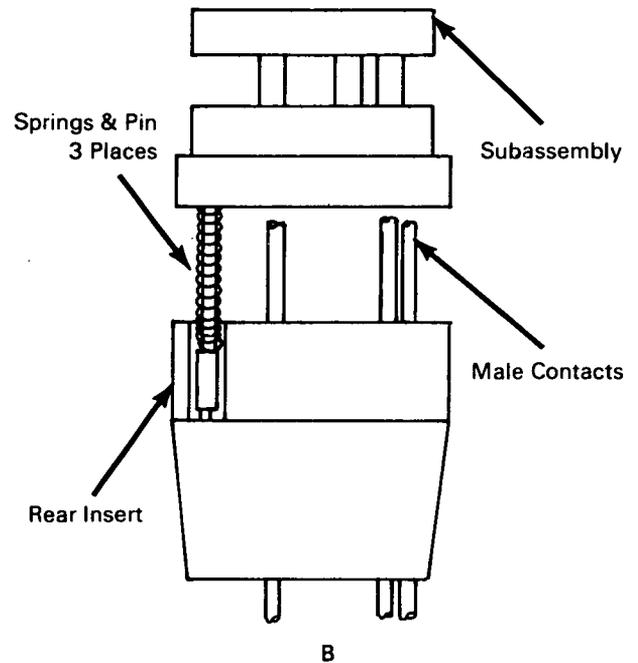
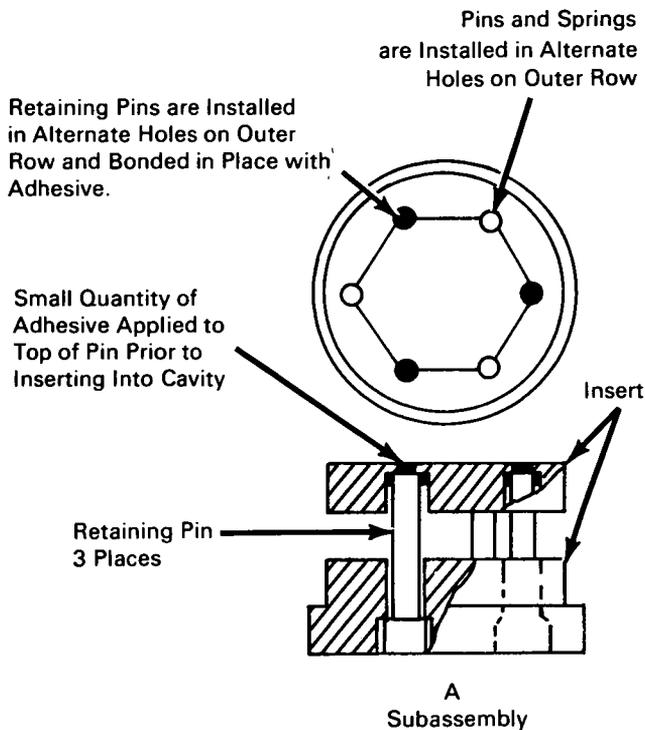


Figure 2. Spring Loaded Device Reconnected