TO: USI/Scientific & Technical Information Division  
Attention: Miss Winnie M. Morgan

FROM: GP/Office of Assistant General  
Counsel for Patent Matters

SUBJECT: Announcement of NASA-Owned  
U.S. Patents in STAR

In accordance with the procedures contained in the Code GP  
to Code US1 memorandum on this subject, dated June 8, 1970,  
the attached NASA-owned U.S. patent is being forwarded for  
abstracting and announcement in NASA STAR.

The following information is provided:

U.S. Patent No. : 3,358,264
Corporate Source : California Institute of Technology
Supplementary Corporate Source : Jet Propulsion Laboratory
NASA Patent Case No. : XNP-04732

Gayle Parker
Enclosure:  
Copy of Patent
FIG. 5

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

INVENTOR.

ALBERT G. BREJCHA, JR.

BY SAMUEL LINDENBERG

ABRAMOWITZ AND HUMMEL

ATTORNEYS
The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under a NASA contract and is subject to the provisions of Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, Public Law 85–568 (72 Stat. 435; 42 USC 4257).

This invention relates to connectors and more particularly to connectors for rigid and semirigid coaxial cables. Customarily, coaxial cables, of the type comprising two coaxially disposed thin walled tubular members, are interconnected by means of mating male and female connectors to which the cables are generally soldered, crimped or wedged in order to form the mechanical and electrical connection therewith. Various clamping arrangements have been devised to connect the opposite ends of the outer tubes or conductors, while various fastening devices are used to couple the ends of inner conductors. Generally, these devices include some conducting member which is wedged into the end of the inner conductors and secured in place by means of one or more set screws.

Prior art devices, though adequate for connecting coaxial cables of relatively large diameters in which the outer and inner conductors are thick enough to support the wedging devices and set screws, are quite inadequate for use with small diameter coaxial cables, extensively used in space exploration equipment. Also, the manner in which cables are interconnected by prior art connectors results in electrical characteristics such as high loss, high voltage standing wave ratio, which are often unsatisfactory in highly accurate applications such as space exploration. In addition, since in such latter mentioned applications, the number of coaxial cable connections is quite large, it is desirable that any two cable ends could be connected without regard to the type of connector coupled to each end. Such a capability is not realizable when connectors of different sexes, i.e., male or female, are used since only connectors of opposite sexes can be interconnected. Thus, the flexibility of freely intercoupling different cable ends is limited.

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide a new coaxial cable connector which is not limited by the limitation of prior art connectors.

Another object is to provide a new connector for interconnecting opposite ends of coaxial cables with a minimum of losses and voltage standing wave ratio.

A further object is the provision of a novel, small connector for interconnecting opposite ends of relatively small diameter cables comprising rigid or semirigid coaxially disposed tubular electrical conductors.

Still another object is to provide a small sexless connector whereby any two opposite ends of coaxial cables in a system are conveniently intercoupled irrespective of the connector portion coupled to either end.

Still a further object is the provision of a coaxial cable connector including members mating the cross-sectional configuration of the coaxially disposed tubular conductors to attain electrical characteristics of low loss low voltage standing wave ratios, in addition to strong mechanical intercoupling.

These and other objects are achieved by providing a connector comprising a pair of flanged shells, each threadably mounted on the outer conductor at the end of one of the cables to be connected. Preferably, a sealant is used to fill the space between the threads so that each shell is integrally connected to the outer conductor. The shells have milled sides or faces in a direction perpendicular to their longitudinal axes, so that the opposite faces can be brought into mating contact, thus providing electrical and mechanical continuity for the outer conductors.

A bullet-like member is insertable into the opposite end of the inner conductors of the two cables to provide electrical continuity therefor. The shells are identical and the bullet-like member is symmetrical so that the connector may be thought of as sexless. The connector also includes a set of clamping means which are releasably couplable to the two shells. The clamping means are used to interconnect the opposite ends of the cables by urging the shell flanges towards one another. The coupling means may be rigidly fastened to one another by means of exterior fastening screws, or by being threaded into one another. An alignment ring may also be used to insure the alignment of the outer and inner conductors of the opposite ends of the cables when the cables are interconnected.

The novel features that are considered characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself both as to its organization and method of operation, as well as additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the present invention;
FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the invention;
FIGURE 3 is a front view of cable shells, utilized in the embodiment shown in FIGURE 2;
FIGURE 4 is an isometric view of an alignment ring diagrammed in FIGURE 2;
FIGURE 5 is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a bullet-like member, forming part of some of the embodiments of the present invention;
FIGURES 6 and 7 are perspective and cross-sectional views respectively of another embodiment of the present invention; and
FIGURES 8 and 9 are exploded perspective and front views respectively of an embodiment of the invention, utilizing releasably fastenable fastening shells.

Attention is now directed to FIGURE 1 which is a cross-sectional view of a connector mating embodiment of the novel connector of the present invention. Therein, reference numerals 10, 20 designate adjacent ends of two coaxial cable sections which are to be interconnected. Each section consists of a respective tubular outer conductor 10a, 20a, a respective, coaxially disposed, inner tubular conductor 10b, 20b. The inner and outer conductors of each cable section are held in concentric, spaced relation, throughout their lengths by suitable rods or beads of insulation, generally designated by numeral 15. The outer conductors 10a and 20a are threaded about their exterior surfaces adjacent the section ends, to enable respective cylindrical shells 30 and 32 to be threadably coupled thereto. Shells 30 and 32 have respective flanges 30a and 32a disposed adjacent the cable ends.

The inner diameter of the shells is controlled with respect to the outer diameter of outer conductors 10a and 20a so that the shells may be securely threaded thereon without materially affecting the physical characteristics of the outer conductors. Thereafter, each cable end with the shell mounted thereon is milled to provide a mating surface, in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the outer conductor. The two surfaces may be brought into mating contact so that the outer
conductors 10a and 20a are substantially aligned with one another, to form a substantially continuous outer conductor. In FIGURE 1 the milled faces of shells 30 and 32 are designated by reference numerals 30b and 32b, respectively.

The two shells (30 and 32) may be brought into contact by means of a fastening assembly, comprising flanges 34 and 35 and a plurality of screws 36 and fastening nuts 37. The screws 36 are insertable through openings in the flanges 34 and 35. By tightening the ends of the screws by means of nuts 37, the two flanges are urged towards one another, forcing shoulders 30a and 32a toward one another which in turn urge shells 30 and 32 into contact. Thus, by tightening nuts 37, the flanges 34 and 35 are urged together in physical mechanical contact, providing mechanical as well as electrical continuity between the outer conductors 10a and 20a and inner conductors 10b and 20b, respectively.

The electrical and mechanical continuity between the inner conductors may further be improved by providing a bullet-like member 40 which, prior to connecting the two cable ends, is insertable into the inner conductors of the two adjacent cable ends. As seen from FIGURE 1, in one embodiment of the invention, the bullet-like member 40 defines a plurality of longitudinal slots 40a, on opposite ends thereof, to further enhance the mechanical coupling of the ends to the respective inner conductor ends. The bullet-like member may also include a central portion 40b of a diameter slightly greater than the inside diameter of the inner conductor, but smaller than the outer diameter thereof. The portion 40b is set in counter-bored portions of the inner conductor to enhance the electrical and mechanical coupling between the ends thereof. An alignment ring 45 may also be included in the connector, with the ring being placed between the outer surfaces of shoulders 30a and 32a to further enhance the alignment of the shells 30 and 32 which in turn enhances the alignment of the two cable ends 10 and 20 when the two are interconnected.

As seen from FIGURE 1, when the two cable ends (10 and 20) are interconnected, the ends thereof are in mating contact, preventing any atmosphere from being entrapped therebetween. This characteristic is most significant in certain applications, since it prevents the discharge of secondary emission in the gap which may result in short circuiting or breakdown of the coaxial cable. To strengthen connector-cable attachment, a sealant 18, such as epoxy, is used in the space between the threads on the outer surface of the outer conductors 10a and 20a and the threads along the inner faces of shells 30 and 32, respectively.

It should become apparent from FIGURE 1 and the foregoing description that by using the connector of the present invention, the outer and inner conductors, as well as the insulating material therebetween, are brought into substantially perfect mating contact, forming a substantially continuous coaxial cable, thereby maintaining all its electrical and mechanical characteristics, without disruption. From the foregoing, it should further be appreciated that since the shells 30 and 32 are identical and symmetrical, the connector may be thought of as sexless, since any two connector ends, having shells like shells 30 and 32 mounted thereon, may be interconnected.

The connector of the present invention has been found to be most advantageous in interconnecting rigid or semirigid coaxial cables of relatively small diameter such as cables having an outer conductor with an outer diameter of approximately one-half inch. By using threading to make it easier to get to the outer conductors, the continuity of the outer conductor is preserved and is not deformed or cramped which is the case when prior art connectors are coupled to such relatively small diameter cables.

In another embodiment of the present invention, diagrammed in FIG. 2, in which elements performing similar functions are designated by like numerals, shells 30 and 32 define respective apertures about their end faces 30b and 32b of diameters substantially equal to the outer diameter of the outer conductors 10a and 20a. Thus, when the two shells are urged together, by means of any coupling arrangement, such as hereinbefore described, the outer conductors, instead of being in physical contact with one another as in the embodiment of FIGURE 1, are provided with mechanical and electrical continuity through the lip-like portions 30c and 32c of shells 30 and 32, respectively. That is, in their connected relationship, the outer conductors 10a and 20a are spaced from one another by a distance substantially equal to the combined thickness of lips 30c and 32c. Thus, a space is created between the two conductor ends.

To provide electrical and mechanical continuity for the inner conductors 10b and 20b, the bullet-like member 40 is preferably provided with a ridged portion 40c of an outer diameter substantially equal to the outer diameter of the inner conductors 10b and 20b. Consequently, electrical, as well as mechanical continuity for the inner conductors about their entire cross-sectional surface is provided. In another embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURE 3, to which reference is made herein. The function of these slots is to provide escape paths for any gas entrapped in the space between the interconnected conductor cable ends. An alignment ring 47 placed between shoulders 30a and 32a of the two shells may define a centrally machined channel 52 as shown in FIGURE 4. A plurality of apertures 53 radially extend from the channel to the ring outer surface, so that any gas passing through slots 51 may pass therethrough and channel 52 and therefrom through the apertures to the outside atmosphere. Thus, the effect of changes in atmospheric conditions on any gases entrapped in the space between the interconnected cable ends is minimized by providing a path for the gas to escape therethrough. After placing the ring 47 between flanges 30a and 32a, the shells 30 and 32 may be urged towards one another to provide the electrical and mechanical continuity of the inner and outer conductors of the two cable ends, by means of the fastening arrangement herebefore described, which includes flanges 34 and 35 and the plurality of screws and nuts 36 and 37 respectively, or by means of other arrangements of fewer parts to be described hereafter.

From the foregoing description, it should thus be appreciated that whereas in the embodiment of the present invention diagrammed in FIGURE 1, the two cable ends are connected by means of mating faces 30b and 32b which, as previously explained, are carefully machined to provide substantially perfect mating therebetween, in the embodiment of the invention diagrammed in FIGURE 2, the cable ends may be connected with a space produced therebetween. In one arrangement, the space is filled with a sealant material (15x). Lips 30c and 32c provide electrical and mechanical continuity for the outer conductors 10a and 20a and the ridge portion 40c of bullet-like member 40 provides continuity for the inner conductors 10b and 20b. From actual reduction to practice, it has been found that the arrangement of FIGURE 2, even though the two cable ends are not abutted against one another, provides similar satisfactory characteristics to the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1, without the need for careful machining of each cable end after its respective shell is mounted thereon.

As seen from both FIGURES 1 and 2, the bullet-like member 40 is preferably inserted in counter-bored portions
of the ends of inner conductors 10b and 20b, respectively. The counter-boring has been found necessary in order to
insure the proper seating of the member 40 in the inner conductors. In another embodiment of the invention, the need for counter-boring the inner conductors is eliminated by utilizing a bullet-like member shown in FIGURE 5 to which reference is made herein. The member is gener-
ally designated by reference numeral 60. The bullet-like member is shown inserted in the inner conductors 10b and 20b re-
spectively.

As seen from FIGURE 5, the member 60 comprises two end portions 60a, each insertable in another of the inner conductors of the two cable ends. Each end portion may define a plurality of slots 60b to provide suf-
ficient resiliency for the ends to be properly mechanically coupled to the inner surface of the inner conductors. The member also includes a pair of discs 60c and 60d, each having an outer diameter equal to the outer diameter of the inner conductors. The two discs are placed about the center of the bullet-like member 60 with spring biasing means 60e placed therebetween. When the member 60 is utilized as part of the coaxial cable connector, the ends thereof are inserted into the inner conductors of the two cable ends to be connected and the two discs are placed in the place therebetween, with each disc being biased by means of biasing means 60e to in a sense seal the end of another of the inner conductors. For example, as seen in FIGURE 5, disc 60c is seated so as to seal the end of inner conductor 20b, while disc 60d is biased by means of biasing means 60e to seal the end of inner conductor 10b. Thus proper termination of the inner conductors is accomplished without the need for counter-boring the conductor’s ends as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2. Prefer-
ably, the bullet-like member 60 may be manufactured from a resilient material such as beryllium copper, with one of the discs, such as 60d, forming an integral part thereof. The other disc 60d may be manufactured out of another material such as aluminum to prevent gouging or scraping when the bullet-like member is utilized as part of a coaxial cable connector.

In some applications, it is important that the fastening arrangement, used to unite the two cable ends, comprise a minimum number of components. This is necessary in order to minimize the danger that any of these com-
ponents may get lost or fall into adjacent or located equip-
ment, resulting in damaging effects. Thus, in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, another fas-
tening arrangement is provided shown in perspective view in FIGURE 6 and in cross-sectional view in FIGURE 7, to which reference is made herein. Briefly, the fastening arrangement 70 comprises two semi-circular ring mem-
ers 71 and 72 hinged at one end by means of a hinge pin 73. The other ends of members 71 and 72 are coupled by means of a screw 74 connected to member 71 and threadable into a threaded opening 75 of the member 72. The ring members 71 and 72 also define opposite end faces 76 and 77 which as shown from FIGURE 6, and in particular from FIGURE 7, have interior wedged-shaped sides.

When using the fastening arrangement 70, the flanges or shoulders of the shells mounted on the cable ends are in a wedge-shaped, so that as the upper ring member 71 is placed on top of ring member 72 and screw 74 tightened around it into the threaded opening 75, the wedge-shaped interior sides of faces 76 and 77 draw the shell shoulders and thereby the shells themselves toward one another, pro-
viding mechanical coupling between the two cable ends. As seen in FIGURE 7, shells 80 and 82, threaded on outer conductors 10a and 20a, respectively, include wedge-shaped shoulders 80a and 80b, so that the wedged-shaped inner sides of faces 76 and 77 urge the two shells and thereby the two end cables threaded thereon to be mechanically securely coupled to one another.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the fastening arrangement comprises a pair of fastening shells each releasably fastenable to the shell threaded onto the outer conductor of another end cable. The pair of fastening shells are threadably coupled to another, so that as the two fastening shells are drawn towards one another, the shells threaded onto the outer conductor are similarly drawn in the same direction, providing the mechanical and electrical continuity between the two end cables thereto. Hereafter, in order to more clearly distinguish between the shells threaded onto the outer conductors of the end cables and the shells used for fastening the two cables together, the latter mentioned shells will be referred to as the inner and outer fastening shells, while those members, such as 30 and 32 in FIGURES 1 and 2, and 80 and 82 in FIGURES 6 and 7, threaded onto the outer conductors, will be referred to as the cable shells.

Attention is now directed to FIGURES 8 and 9 which are useful in explaining the novel cable connector of the present invention, utilizing releasably fastenable fastening shells. In accordance with the teachings of the present invention; cable shells 90 and ends 92 are provided with internal threads, so as to threadably engage the threaded outer conductors 94 and 95, respectively, of end cables 96 and 97. As seen from FIGURE 8, each end of the fastening shell 110, designated by numeral 98, which extend in a longitudinal di-
rection from a contact end 99 toward an annularly dis-
posed channel 100 located adjacent the other end of the cable shell end 92. A plurality of locking channels, gener-
ally designated by numeral 102, are annularly disposed between channels 98.

A pair of fastening shells 110 and 112 are provided, each defining a plurality of locking fingers 113 located near one end thereof. The number of locking fingers is equal to the number of channels 98. The fastening shells are so machined that the fingers are insertable into channels 98 and switchable by means of channel 100 into the locking channels 102 so that the fastening shells become releasably locked onto the cable shells. For example, fasten-
ing shell 112 is mounted onto the cable shell end 92 by sliding the fastening shell over the cable shell until the fingers 113 are in the channel 100. Then, after the fastening shell is rotated slightly about the cable shell unti-
l fingers 113 are located adjacent locking channels 102 by pulling the fastening shell forward so that each finger is located in another locking channel, the fastening shell becomes locked over the cable shell.

As may be seen from FIGURE 8, the fastening shell 112 has threads 115 about its exterior surface, near the end opposite the end where the locking fingers are located. On the other hand, fastening shell 110 has a ring 116 mounted thereon. The ring is threaded about its interior surface. The ring is mechanically secured to the fastening shell by means of a retaining ring 117. The two fastening shells (110 and 112) may be mechanically coupled to one another by the threads 115 being threaded about the interior surface of the ring 116, thereby mechanically coupling the two fastening shells to one another. The two fastening shells are thus used to mechanically couple the cable shells 90 and 92 to one another and thereby provide mechanical and electrical coupling between cables 96 and 97.

It should be appreciated that although the fastening shells 110 and 112 are coupled to one another by means of shell 112 being threaded into ring 116 of shell 110, the connector nevertheless should be the same since the cable shells 90 and 92 are identical. In practice, when two cable ends are to be connected, and fastening shells of the same type, such as for example fastening shell 112, are mounted thereon, all that is necessary to provide mechanical and electrical coupling between the two end cables, is to releasably unfasten one of the fastening shells and replace it with a shell of the type designated by numeral 116, so that the two fastening shells may be connected to one another. As seen from FIGURES 8 and 9, protective flexible O-rings 120 may be inserted into
channels 100 of the two fastening shells, to prevent the
fastening shells from accidentally sliding over the outer
collectors of the two end cables. The ring 120 further
protects the ends of the cable shells by providing a flex-
ible covering therefor. The latter described fastening ar-
rangement, including the fastening shells 110 and 112,
has been found to be very advantageous, since these
shells are releasably locked onto the cable shells, which
are threaded onto the cable ends, so that when any two
end cables are disconnected, there are no loose parts of
the fastening arrangement which may get lost or fall into
adjoining locations.

There has accordingly been shown and described herein
several embodiments of a novel coaxial cable connector,
finding particular utility in interconnecting adjacent en-
d points or pairs of small rigid or semirigid coaxial cables. It
is appreciated that those familiar with the art may make
modifications in the arrangements as shown without de-
parting from the true spirit of the invention. Therefore,
all such modifications and/or equivalents are deemed to
fall within the scope of the invention as claimed in the
appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A coupling assembly for uniting two sections of a coaxial
transmission line having adjacent threaded ends to be
connected, said transmission line having an outer tubu-
lar conductor and an inner tubular conductor concentric
with said outer conductor, the assembly comprising:
a pair of cylindrical shells each having an opening along
the longitudinal axis thereof, the interior surfaces
of said openings being threaded, each shell being thread-
able on the outer conductor of a section of said line
about the end thereof;
means for sealing the space between the outer conductor
of each section and the shell threaded thereon;
means for urging said pair of shells into abutting con-
tact to electrically couple the outer conductors of the
two transmission line sections; and
a member insertable in the inner conductors of each of
said line sections about said adjacent ends for elec-
trically coupling the ends of said inner conductors,
said member comprising a solid tubular rod of elec-
trically conducting material for frictionally engaging
the inner surfaces of the inner conductors adjacent
said ends to be connected.

2. A coupling assembly for uniting two sections of a coaxial
transmission line having adjacent ends to be con-
ected, said transmission line having an outer tubular con-
ductor and an inner tubular conductor concentric with said
outer conductor, the assembly comprising:
a pair of cylindrical shells each threadably coupled to
another section about the outer conductor thereof
by threads on the interior surface of an opening de-
finied by said shell along its longitudinal axis;
a substantially solid cylindrical electrically conducting
member having longitudinal slots along at least a por-
tion of its length for frictionally engaging at least the
inner conductor of one of said sections about the in-
er surface thereof, the diameter of said solid mem-
ber being not greater than the inner diameter of said
inner conductor; and
outer means for mechanically coupling said shells to one
another to provide electrical contact between the out-
er conductors of said section, with the solid member
frictionally coupled to said inner conductors provid-
ing electrical contact therebetween.

3. The assembly defined in claim 2 wherein each shell
includes a ring-like flange radially extending from the pe-
riphery thereof adjacent the end threaded on the end
of said section;
an alignment ring;
clamping means for urging said shells towards one an-
other by clamping said ring-like flanges with said
alignment ring therebetween, whereby the inner and
outer conductors of one transmission line section are
substantially in contact with the respective conduc-
tors of the other section; and
the inner conductor of each section being counter-bored
to form an opening of an enlarged diameter in be-
 tween the inner and outer diameters of said inner
conductor, said member having a central section of a
diameter equal to said enlarged diameter, whereby
the opposite ends of said member are inserted in the
inner conductors and frictionally engaged thereto
about the surface of its inner diameter, and the cen-
tral portion of said member is in contact with said
inner conductors at the surfaces of the counter-bored
portions thereof.

4. The coupling assembly defined in claim 2 wherein
each of said shells has one machined end substantially
perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereof, defining a
lip-like end portion with an opening there through having a
diameter not greater than the inner diameter of said outer
conductor, whereby said machined surfaces are in physical
abutting contact when said shells are mechanically coupled
by said outer means, with the lip-like end portions being
disposed between the outer conductors to provide elec-
trical and mechanical continuity therebetween.

5. The coupling assembly defined in claim 4 wherein
said member includes a pair of electrically conducting
rings disposed about the central portion of the periphery
thereof, and electrically conducting spring means for spring
biasing said rings from their other position whereby
said in physical contact with the inner conductor of another
of said sections to seal the end thereof, when the pair of
shells are coupled to one another by said outer means.

6. The coupling assembly defined in claim 5 wherein
each shell includes a ring-like flange having a first side
adjacent to said machined end and parallelly disposed with
respect thereto and a second wedged side, and wherein
said outer means comprise two semicircular clamps piv-
olarily coupled at one peripheral end thereof and clamp-
able at the other end and having wedge circumferential
shoulders, said clamps being placeable over said ring-like
flanges for wedgeably urging the flanges of said two shells
towards one another, when said semicircular clamps are
clamped at said other ends thereof, said assembly fur-
ther including an alignment ring disposed between the
first sides of said ring-like flanges when the shells thereof
are urged into abutting contact.

7. The coupling assembly defined in claim 5 wherein
each shell defines a first plurality of longitudinal slots
equally circumferentially spaced about the exterior sur-
face thereof and a second plurality of locking slots, and
first and second ring-like threadably lockable fastening
shells, each defining a central opening having a diameter
equal to the outer diameter of either of said shells and a
plurality of locking fingers equal in number to said plu-
rality of longitudinal slots and similarly, equally cir-
mumferentially spaced about the interior surface of said
central opening, whereby either said first or said second
members are insertable through said longitudinal slots
over either shell and lockable thereon with said fingers in
said locking slots, with said machined ends of said shells
being urged into abutting contact when said first and sec-
ond members are threadably locked into one another.

8. The coupling assembly defined in claim 7 wherein
said first ring-like threadably lockable member is thread-
 ed about a portion of the outer surface thereof adjacent
one end, said locking fingers being disposed about the
opposite end thereof, and said second member defines
said central opening about a portion of its length adja-
cent one end wherein said fingers are disposed and de-
fining a larger internally thread ed opening of a diameter
related to the diameter of the outer surface of said first
member, said first member being threadable by means of
the exterior threads thereof into the larger internally
threaded opening of said second member.

9. An assembly for coupling two sections of a coaxial
 cable having adjacent ends to be connected, each section
having an outer tubular conductor, and an inner tubular conductor concentric with said outer conductor and insulatably disposed therefrom, the assembly comprising:

a pair of substantially cylindrical cable shells of electrically conducting material, each defining an opening with an interior surface about the longitudinal axis thereof, first and second end faces, each shell being threaded about the interior surface of said opening near said first end face, and defining a channel in its outer surface about the circumference thereof near said second end face, each shell further defining a first plurality of longitudinal slots in its outer surface extending from said first end face to said channel equidistantly disposed about the circumference, and a second plurality of locking slots extending from said channel towards said first end face, equidistantly disposed about the circumference, whereby each locking slot is disposed between another pair of adjacent longitudinal slots, each cable shell being threadable on the outer conductor of another of said cable sections;

a bullet-like member of electrically conducting material having at least first and second ends insertable in the inner conductors of said two sections; and

first and second fastening shells, each comprising a hollow cylinder with a plurality of finger-like members circumferentially disposed at a first end thereof, whereby each of said fastening shells is insertable over another of said cable shells, with the fingers thereof inserted through said longitudinal slots and said fastening shell being releasably lockable over its respective cable shell when said fingers are in said locking slots, said first and second fastening shells further including means for releasably coupling one to the other, whereby said cable shells and the cable sections threaded thereto are urged into electrical and mechanical contact.

10. The assembly defined in claim 9 wherein said first fastening shell further includes threads on the outer surface thereof near a second end opposite said first end and said second fastening shell further comprises an internally threaded ring coupled adjacent its second end opposite said first end, whereby said first and second fastening shells are coupled to one another by threading the second end of said first fastening shell into the internally threaded ring of said second fastening shell, and sealant means for sealing the space between each cable section and the cable shell threaded thereon.

11. The assembly defined in claim 10 wherein said bullet-like member further includes a pair of discs vertically positioned, with respect to its longitudinal axis at the center thereof and means for biasing said discs with respect to one another, whereby each disc substantially seals the end of the inner conductor of another of said cable sections when said two sections are coupled to one another and insulating means disposed between the inner and outer conductors of said cable sections for substantially filling the space between said sections when said sections are coupled to one another.

12. The assembly defined in claim 10 wherein said bullet-like member further includes a pair of discs vertically positioned, with respect to its longitudinal axis at the center thereof and means for biasing said discs with respect to one another, whereby each disc substantially seals the end of the inner conductor of another of said cable sections when said two sections are coupled to one another, and a plurality of slots defined in the first end face of each of said cable shells for providing an air path between the space between the two intercoupled cable sections and the exterior of said assembly.

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MARVIN A. CHAMPION, Primary Examiner.

J. R. MOSES, Assistant Examiner.