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Wire harness and wire harness fixing structure

Abstract

A wire harness **10** that is configured to be attached to a frame **18** disposed under a vehicle seat **12** includes a sheet member **40** attached to the frame **18** and a wire **14** fixed to the sheet member **40**.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

(1) This application is a national phase of PCT application No. PCT/JP2020/039366, filed on 20 Oct. 2020, which claims priority from Japanese patent application No. 2019-201351, filed on 6 Nov. 2019, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(2) The present disclosure relates to a wire harness and a wire harness fixing structure.

BACKGROUND

(3) Conventional wire harnesses that are routed under vehicle seats have, for example, a structure in which a wire covered by a corrugated tube is routed in a routing space provided under a seat, as disclosed in Patent Document 1 below.

PRIOR ART DOCUMENT

Patent Document

(4) Patent Document 1: JP 2010-036667A

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Problems to be Solved

(5) As vehicle seats have become increasingly sophisticated in recent years, the number of devices installed under a vehicle seat has increased, and the routing space for a wire harness has decreased. The increase in the number of devices has also lead to an increase in the number of wires, making the routing process of a wire harness more complicated.

(6) The technology disclosed in the present specification has been made based on the above-described circumstances, and aims to provide a wire harness and a wire harness fixing structure that enable routing in a space-saving manner.

Means to Solve the Problem

(7) A wire harness of the present disclosure is a wire harness configured to be attached to a frame disposed under a vehicle seat, the wire harness including a sheet member attached to the frame and a wire fixed to the sheet member.

Effect of the Invention

(8) According to the present disclosure, the wire harness can be routed in a space-saving manner.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a vehicle seat.

(2) FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the vehicle seat in a state in which some skeletal components of the vehicle seat have been removed.

(3) FIG. 3 is a front perspective view of a skeletal frame to which a wire harness is fixed.

(4) FIG. 4 is a plan view of the skeletal frame to which the wire harness is fixed.

(5) FIG. 5 is a rear perspective view of the skeletal frame to which the wire harness is fixed, as

viewed from below.

(6) FIG. 6 is a front perspective view of the wire harness.

(7) FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of the skeletal frame.

(8) FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating a structure for fixing a sheet member to the skeletal frame using a clip member.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION TO EXECUTE THE INVENTION

Description of Embodiments of Present Disclosure

(9) First, embodiments of the present disclosure will be listed and described. (1) A wire harness of the present disclosure is a wire harness configured to be attached to a frame disposed under a vehicle seat, the wire harness including a sheet member attached to the frame and a wire fixed to the sheet member.

(10) Attaching the sheet member with the wire fixed thereto to the frame disposed under the vehicle seat makes it possible to reduce the routing space, compared with a conventional configuration in which, for example, a corrugated tube into which a wire is inserted is routed under a seat. Thus, the wire harness can be routed in a space-saving manner. In addition, the need to divert the wire harness around devices and the like provided under the seat while routing the wire harness is eliminated, and thus, the routing process of the wire harness can be simplified.

(11) (2) Preferably, the frame includes a pair of sliding portions on which the vehicle seat is mounted and which enable the vehicle seat to slide and a skeletal frame that connects the pair of sliding portions to each other, and the sheet member is attached to the skeletal frame.

(12) A sliding motor for sliding the vehicle seat may be attached to the skeletal frame. Attaching the sheet member with the wire fixed thereto to this skeletal frame makes it possible to increase the area of the sheet member, compared with a case in which a sheet member is fixed to, for example, a side surface or the like of a sliding portion, and thus, more wires can be fixed to the sheet member.

(13) (3) Preferably, the skeletal frame includes a flat surface portion having a planar shape, and the sheet member is attached to the flat surface portion.

(14) Providing the skeletal frame with the flat surface portion to which the sheet member can be attached makes it possible to easily attach the sheet member to the skeletal frame, and thus, the routing process of the wire harness can be simplified even more.

(15) (4) Preferably, a first fixing hole is formed in the sheet member, a second fixing hole is formed at a position in the flat surface portion of the skeletal frame, the position corresponding to the first fixing hole, and a clip member for fixing the sheet member to the skeletal frame is inserted into the first fixing hole and the second fixing hole.

(16) Fixing the sheet member to the flat surface portion of the skeletal frame using the clip member makes it possible to reliably prevent the sheet member from coming loose from the flat surface portion.

(17) (5) Preferably, the wire includes a fixed portion that is fixed to the sheet member and a separated portion that is spaced apart from the sheet member and a distal end of which is connected to a connector, and an exterior member for protecting the separated portion is attached to the separated portion.

(18) Providing the separated portion makes it possible to connect a device that is arranged in a position spaced apart from the sheet member to the wire. Also, attaching the exterior member to the separated portion makes it possible to protect the separated portion when a device or the like that may come into contact with the separated portion is provided in the surrounding region of the separated portion.

(19) (7) The present disclosure may also relate to a wire harness fixing structure including the wire harness according to any one of the clauses (1) to (5) above and a frame disposed under a vehicle seat.

Details of Embodiments of Present Disclosure

(20) Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present disclosure will be described. The present disclosure

is not limited to the following examples, but rather is indicated by the scope of the claims, and is intended to include all modifications within the meaning and scope equivalent to the claims.

Embodiment

(21) A wire harness **10** of the present disclosure will be described with reference to FIGS. **1** to **8**. The wire harness **10** is connected to devices and the like related to a vehicle seat **12** (for example, a sliding motor **38**, as well as a seat heater, a blower, a seat memory ECU, a reclining motor, an operating switch, and the like, which are not shown). In the following description, the direction X in FIG. **1** is defined as rightward in the left-right direction, the direction Y as forward in the front-rear direction, and the direction Z as upward in the vertical direction.

(22) [Wire Harness **10**]

(23) As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the wire harness **10** includes a plurality of wires **14**, a plurality of connectors **16**, and a wire harness fixing structure **20** that is fixed to a frame **18** disposed under the vehicle seat **12**. Note that, in the present disclosure, a cushion part of the vehicle seat **12** is not shown, and only a skeletal part of the vehicle seat **12** is shown.

(24) [Frame **18**, Rail Portions **22**, Sliding Portions **24**, and Skeletal Frame **26**]

(25) As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the frame **18** is constituted by metal members, and includes a pair of rail portions **22**, a pair of sliding portions **24**, and a skeletal frame **26**.

(26) As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the pair of rail portions **22** extend in the front-rear direction and are spaced apart from each other in the left-right direction. The pair of sliding portions **24** are respectively attached to the pair of rail portions **22**. The sliding portions **24** have a rectangular tube shape elongated in the front-rear direction, and can slide on the corresponding rail portions **22** in the front-rear direction. The vehicle seat **12** is fixed to upper surfaces of the sliding portions **24**. Therefore, the vehicle seat **12** can slide in the front-rear direction.

(27) As shown in FIG. **2**, the skeletal frame **26** extends in the left-right direction and connects the pair of sliding portions **24** to each other. As shown in FIGS. **3** to **5** and **7**, the skeletal frame **26** includes a first flat surface portion **30** (an example of a flat surface portion), a second flat surface portion **32** (another example of the flat surface portion), and a motor accommodating portion **34**.

(28) [First Flat Surface Portion **30** and Second Flat Surface Portion **32**]

(29) As shown in FIG. **3**, the first flat surface portion **30** has a flat plate-like shape elongated in the left-right direction, and, as shown in FIG. **2**, left and right end portions of the first flat surface portion **30** are connected to the left and right sliding portions **24**, respectively. Thus, the skeletal frame **26** is configured to be displaced in the front-rear direction as the vehicle seat **12** slides.

(30) As shown in FIG. **3**, the second flat surface portion **32** has a flat plate-like shape that is parallel to the first flat surface portion **30**, and is connected to the first flat surface portion **30** via a sloping surface portion **36** that slopes downward. The motor accommodating portion **34** is shaped so as to be depressed downward from the first flat surface portion **30**. The sliding motor **38** for sliding the vehicle seat **12** is accommodated in the motor accommodating portion **34**.

(31) As shown in FIGS. **5** and **7**, a plurality of second fixing holes **42** for fixing a sheet member **40**, which will be described later, to the skeletal frame **26** are formed in the first flat surface portion **30** and the second flat surface portion **32**, of the skeletal frame **26**.

(32) [Wire Harness Fixing Structure **20** and Sheet Member **40**]

(33) As shown in FIG. **3**, the wire harness fixing structure **20** includes the sheet member **40**. The sheet member **40** is made of a nonwoven fabric. The plurality of wires **14** are partly welded ultrasonically to a surface side of the sheet member **40** and fixed to the sheet member **40**.

(34) As shown in FIG. **3**, the sheet member **40** is stuck and fixed onto the skeletal frame **26** over the first flat surface portion **30**, the second flat surface portion **32**, and the sloping surface portion **36**. Here, the sheet member **40** is attached to the skeletal frame **26** using double-sided adhesive tape.

(35) As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, a plurality of first fixing holes **44** are formed in the sheet member **40**. Each of the first fixing holes **44** in the sheet member **40** is provided at a position that

corresponds to a respective second fixing hole **42** in the skeletal frame **26** when the sheet member **40** is attached to the skeletal frame **26**.

(36) [Clip Members **46**]

(37) As shown in FIG. **8**, a clip member **46** is inserted, from above, into the second fixing hole **42** of the skeletal frame **26** and the first fixing hole **44** of the sheet member **40**. Thus, the sheet member **40** can be reliably fixed to the skeletal frame **26**. Note that, although FIG. **8** shows a state in which a clip member **46** is inserted into a single first fixing hole **44** and a single second fixing hole **42**, clip members **46** are also inserted into the other first fixing holes **44** and second fixing holes **42**.

(38) [Connectors **16**, On-Frame Connectors **16A**, and Separated Connectors **16B**]

(39) As shown in FIG. **3**, the plurality of connectors **16** include on-frame connectors **16A** that are arranged on the skeletal frame **26** while facing the skeletal frame **26** and separated connectors **16B** that are arranged in positions spaced apart from the skeletal frame **26**. Terminals, which are not shown, are accommodated inside the on-frame connectors **16A** and the separated connectors **16B**, and ends of the wires **14** are connected to the terminals accommodated in the connectors **16**.

(40) As shown in FIG. **3**, three on-frame connectors **16A** are arranged on the first flat surface portion **30** of the skeletal frame **26**, and two on-frame connectors **16A** are arranged on the second flat surface portion **32**.

(41) W to W (Wire-to-Wire) connectors (not shown) of a vehicle body-side harness are connected to a first on-frame connector **16A1** and a second on-frame connector **16A2** that are arranged on the second flat surface portion **32**, of the on-frame connectors **16A**. Also, a W to W (Wire-to-Wire) connector of a vehicle body-side harness is connected to a third on-frame connector **16A3** that is arranged on a front end portion of the first flat surface portion **30**, of the on-frame connectors **16A**.

(42) As shown in FIG. **3**, a W to W connector of a wire harness (seat-back-side harness) that is routed in a rear portion of the vehicle seat **12** is connected to an on-frame connector **16A4** that is arranged on a rear end portion of the first flat surface portion **30**, of the on-frame connectors **16A**. Also, a connector (not shown) for an operating switch of the vehicle seat **12** is connected to a fifth on-frame connector **16A5** that is arranged on a front end portion of the first flat surface portion **30**.

(43) As shown in FIG. **3**, the plurality of separated connectors **16B** are connected to devices that are arranged in positions spaced apart from the skeletal frame **26**, via separated portions **14B** of the wires **14**, which will be described later.

(44) Of the separated connectors **16B**, a pair of left and right first separated connectors **16B1** that are located forward of the skeletal frame **26** are connected to a seat memory ECU (Electronic Control Unit), which is not shown.

(45) Of the separated connectors **16B**, a second separated connector **16B2** that is located rearward of the skeletal frame **26** is connected to a unit (not shown) for controlling a seat heater or the like.

(46) Of the separated connectors **16B**, a third separated connector **16B3** that is located above the skeletal frame **26** is connected to the sliding motor **38**. Note that, in FIG. **3**, the third separated connector **16B3** is not connected to the sliding motor **38**.

(47) [Wires **14**, Fixed Portions **14A**, and Separated Portions **14B**]

(48) As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, the plurality of wires **14** have fixed portions **14A** that are fused and fixed to the sheet member **40**, and separated portions **14B** that are spaced apart from the sheet member **40** and connected to the separated connectors **16B**.

(49) As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, for each wire bundle that is connected to corresponding connectors **16**, the fixed portions **14A** are arranged side by side on the sheet member **40** and fixed to the sheet member **40**. The separated portions **14B** include a pair of first separated portions **14B1**, a second separated portion **14B2**, and a third separated portion **14B3**.

(50) The pair of first separated portions **14B1** extend from a front edge of the first flat surface portion **30** of the skeletal frame **26** toward the pair of first separated connectors **16B1**, and their ends are connected to the terminals (not shown) accommodated in the pair of first separated

connectors **16B1**.

(51) The second separated portion **14B2** extends from a rear edge of the first flat surface portion **30** of the skeletal frame **26** toward the second separated connector **16B2**, and its end is connected to the terminal (not shown) accommodated in the second separated connector **16B2**.

(52) The third separated portion **14B3** extends upward from the rear edge of the first flat surface portion **30** of the skeletal frame **26**, and its end is connected to the terminal (not shown) accommodated in the third separated connector **16B3**.

(53) As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, exterior members **48** are attached to the respective separated portions **14B** (the first separated portions **14B1**, the second separated portion **14B2**, and the third separated portion **14B3**). The exterior members **48** are made of a nonwoven fabric as is the case with the sheet member **40**, and are fixed in a state in which they are wrapped around the respective separated portions **14B** so as to cover outer circumferences thereof.

(54) In a state (state shown in FIG. **3**) in which the sheet member **40** with the wires **14** fused thereto is attached to the skeletal frame **26**, another sheet member (not shown) is stuck to the skeletal frame **26** from above so as to cover the wires **14**. As a result, the wires **14** fused to the flat surface portions **30** and **32** can no longer be seen from the outside, and the wires **14** can be protected.

Effects of Embodiment

(55) The wire harness **10** of the present embodiment is a wire harness **10** configured to be attached to a frame **18** disposed under a vehicle seat **12**, and includes a sheet member **40** attached to the frame **18** and a wire **14** fixed to the sheet member **40**.

(56) According to the present embodiment, attaching the sheet member **40** with the wire **14** fixed thereto to the frame **18** disposed under the vehicle seat **12** makes it possible to reduce the routing space, compared with a conventional configuration in which, for example, a corrugated tube into which a wire is inserted is routed under a seat. Thus, the wire harness **10** can be routed in a space-saving manner. In addition, the need to divert the wire harness **10** around the devices provided under the seat while routing the wire harness **10** is eliminated, and thus, the routing process of the wire harness **10** can be simplified.

(57) Furthermore, the frame **18** includes a pair of sliding portions **24** on which the vehicle seat **12** is mounted and which enable the vehicle seat **12** to slide and a skeletal frame **26** that connects the pair of sliding portions **24** to each other, and the sheet member **40** is attached to the skeletal frame **26**.

(58) A sliding motor **38** for sliding the vehicle seat **12** may be attached to the skeletal frame **26**. Attaching the sheet member **40** with the wire **14** fixed thereto to this skeletal frame **26** makes it possible to increase the area of the sheet member **40**, compared with a case in which a sheet member is fixed to, for example, a side surface or the like of a sliding portion, and thus, more wires **14** can be fixed to the sheet member **40**. In addition, since a large current is required in order to slide the vehicle seat **12**, the present embodiment is particularly effective in that it enables more wires **14** to be fixed to the sheet member **40**.

(59) Furthermore, the skeletal frame **26** includes flat surface portions **30** and **32** having a planar shape, and the sheet member **40** is attached to the flat surface portions **30** and **32**.

(60) Providing the skeletal frame **26** with the flat surface portions **30** and **32** to which the sheet member **40** can be attached makes it possible to easily attach the sheet member **40** to the skeletal frame **26** by performing the operation of laying down and spreading out the sheet member **40** on the flat surface portions **30** and **32**, and thus, the routing process of the wire harness **10** can be simplified even more.

(61) Furthermore, first fixing holes **44** are formed in the sheet member **40**, second fixing holes **42** are formed at positions in the flat surface portions **30** and **32** of the skeletal frame **26**, the positions corresponding to the respective first fixing holes **44**, and clip members **46** for fixing the sheet member **40** to the skeletal frame **26** are inserted into the first fixing holes **44** and the second fixing holes **42**.

(62) Fixing the sheet member **40** to the flat surface portions **30** and **32** of the skeletal frame **26**

using the clip members **46** makes it possible to reliably prevent the sheet member **40** from coming loose from the flat surface portions **30** and **32**.

(63) Furthermore, the wire **14** includes a fixed portion **14A** that is fixed to the sheet member **40**, a separated portion **14B** that is spaced apart from the sheet member **40** and a distal end of which is connected to a connector, and an exterior member **48** for protecting the separated portion **14B** is attached to the separated portion **14B**.

(64) Providing the separated portion **14B** makes it possible to connect a device or the like that is arranged in a position spaced apart from the sheet member **40** to the wire **14**. Also, attaching the exterior member **48** to the separated portion **14B** makes it possible to protect the separated portion **14B** when a device or the like that may come into contact with the separated portion **14B** is provided in the surrounding region of the separated portion **14B**.

(65) Furthermore, a wire harness fixing structure **20** includes the wire harness **10** and the frame **18** that is disposed under the vehicle seat **12**.

Other Embodiments

(66) The present disclosure is not limited to the embodiment described above and in the drawings, and for example, embodiments such as the following are also included in the technical scope of the technology disclosed in the present specification. (1) In the foregoing embodiment, a configuration has been described in which the sheet member **40** is made of a nonwoven fabric. However, the present disclosure is not limited to this configuration. For example, the sheet member may be made of a woven fabric, or a synthetic resin processed into a sheet shape. (2) In the foregoing embodiment, a configuration has been described in which the sheet member **40** is fixed to the skeletal frame **26** by inserting the clip members **46** into the first fixing holes **44** and the second fixing holes **42**. However, the present disclosure is not limited to this configuration. For example, a configuration may also be adopted in which the clip members are spring clips, and the sheet member is fixed to the skeletal frame by the spring clips sandwiching the sheet member and the skeletal frame. (3) In the foregoing embodiment, a configuration has been described in which the exterior member **48** of the separated portion **14B** is made of a nonwoven fabric as is the case with the sheet member **40**. However, the present disclosure is not limited to this configuration. A configuration may also be adopted in which another type of exterior member, such as a corrugated tube, is used as the exterior member. In addition, if no object that may come into contact with the separated portion is located in the surrounding region of the path of the separated portion, a configuration may be adopted in which no exterior member is attached to the separated portion. (4) In the foregoing embodiment, a configuration has been described in which the wire **14** is fixed to the sheet member **40** through ultrasonic welding. However, the present disclosure is not limited to this configuration. For example, a configuration may also be adopted in which the wire is fixed to the sheet member via an adhesive.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

(67) **10** Wire harness **12** Vehicle seat **14** Wire **14A** Fixed portion **14B** Separated portion **14B1** First separated portion **14B2** Second separated portion **14B3** Third separated portion **16** Connector **16A** On-frame connector **16A1** First on-frame connector **16A2** Second on-frame connector **16A3** Third on-frame connector **16A4** Fourth on-frame connector **16A5** Fifth on-frame connector **16B** Separated connector **16B1** First separated connector **16B2** Second separated connector **16B3** Third separated connector **18** Frame **20** Wire harness fixing structure **22** Rail portion **24** Sliding portion **26** Skeletal frame **30** First flat surface portion (Flat surface portion) **32** Second flat surface portion (Flat surface portion) **34** Motor accommodating portion **36** Sloping surface portion **38** Sliding motor **40** Sheet member **42** Second fixing hole **44** First fixing hole **46** Clip member **48** Exterior member

Claims

1. A wire harness fixing structure comprising: a pair of sliding portions on which a vehicle seat may be mounted and which enable the vehicle seat to slide; a skeletal frame including a flat surface portion having a planar shape, the flat surface portion connecting the pair of sliding portions to each other; a sheet member attached to the flat surface portion of the skeletal frame; and a wire connected to the sheet member, wherein; the sheet member is disposed so as to fit within an outer peripheral edge of the skeletal frame in a plan view; a first fixing hole is formed in the sheet member; a second fixing hole is formed at a position in the flat surface portion of the skeletal frame, the position corresponding to the first fixing hole; and a clip member for fixing the sheet member to the skeletal frame is inserted into the first fixing hole and the second fixing hole.
 2. The wire harness fixing structure according to claim 1, wherein the wire includes a fixed portion that is fixed to the sheet member and a separated portion that is spaced apart from the sheet member and a distal end of which is connected to a connector, and an exterior member for protecting the separated portion is attached to the separated portion.
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