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### Device for holding a plurality of ferrules against a respective plurality of receptacles

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#### Abstract

A device for holding a plurality of ferrules securely against a respective plurality of receptacles, which may include: a frame including: a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, a first longitudinal portion projecting from a first edge of the transverse portion and a second longitudinal portion projecting from a second edge of the transverse portion opposite to the first edge of the transverse portion, wherein the first and the second longitudinal portions project from the respective edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is substantially perpendicular to the transverse direction; and a holder coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame, the holder being configured to hold, with respect to the frame, a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction.

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## Background/Summary

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present invention relates to the field of connectors for optical transceivers and, more particularly, to devices for holding ferrules against receptacles.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Typically, a network interface device, e.g., a form-factor pluggable device, includes an optical transceiver disposed on a printed circuit board of the network interface device. The optical transceiver typically includes a plurality of receptacles configured to receive a respective plurality of ferrules carrying a respective plurality of optical cables. In order for the ferrules to be held against the receptacles, glue is typically applied at the interface between the receptacles and the ferrules during the assembly of the network interface device. However, the glue cannot ensure proper position of the ferrules with respect to the receptacles. For example, if one of the ferrules is improperly inserted into the respective receptacle, the glue, after curing and hardening, may hold the ferrule against the receptacle in this improper position and may thus cause improper coupling between the ferrule and the receptacle. Moreover, the glue may shrink during curing and hardening thereof (e.g., due to its shrinkage (e.g., linear shrinkage) properties), thus causing displacement (e.g., displacement of a few microns) and, as a result, improper positioning and coupling of the ferrules with respect to the receptacles. Furthermore, utilization of glue for holding the ferrules against the receptacles may require rework and/or replacement of the ferrules and/or the receptacles, e.g., due to high coupling loss, bending and/or breakage of ferrules and/or receptacles during the assembly process. Also, once the glue is cured, it may be difficult to remove the glue and/or to rework the glued ferrules and receptacles as this rework may cause damage to sensitive components of ferrules and/or receptacles.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(3) Some embodiments of the present invention may provide a device for holding a plurality of ferrules securely against a respective plurality of receptacles, which may include: a frame including: a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, a first longitudinal portion projecting from a first edge of the transverse portion, and a second longitudinal portion projecting from a second edge of the transverse portion opposite to the first edge of the transverse portion, wherein the first and the second longitudinal portions project from the respective edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is substantially perpendicular to the transverse direction; and a holder coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame, the holder being configured to hold, with respect to the frame, a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction.

(4) Some embodiments of the present invention may provide an assembly that may include: a frame including: a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, a first longitudinal portion projecting from a first edge of the transverse portion, and a second longitudinal portion projecting from a second edge of the transverse portion opposite to the first edge of the transverse portion, wherein the first and the second longitudinal portions project from the respective edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is substantially perpendicular to the transverse direction; a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction; a holder coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame and holding the plurality of parallel ferrules with respect to the

frame; and a plurality of spring elements, each spring element pushing a respective one of the plurality of ferrules against the transverse portion in the longitudinal direction.

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## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) For a better understanding of embodiments of the invention and in order to show how the same can be carried into effect, reference is made, purely by way of example, to the accompanying drawings in which like numerals designate corresponding elements or sections throughout and in which:
- (2) FIGS. 1A and 1B are 3D diagrams of a device for holding a plurality of ferrules against a respective plurality of receptacles, according to some embodiments of the invention;
- (3) FIG. 1C is a 3D diagram of the device holding the plurality of ferrules, according to some embodiments of the invention;
- (4) FIGS. 1D(i), 1D(ii) and 1D(iii) show 3D illustrations of coupling of the plurality of ferrules to the respective plurality of receptacles using the device, according to some embodiments of the invention;
- (5) FIGS. 2A and 2B are 3D diagrams of a device for holding the plurality of ferrules against the respective plurality of receptacles, wherein the device includes a plurality of longitudinal members for engaging with the receptacles, according to some embodiments of the invention;
- (6) FIG. 2C is a 3D diagram of the device holding the plurality of ferrules, according to some embodiments of the invention;
- (7) FIG. 2D is a 3D diagram of the device holding plurality of ferrules against the respective plurality of receptacles of an optical transmitter, according to some embodiments of the invention and
- (8) FIG. 3 is a schematic view of an electronic device including devices for holding the plurality of ferrules against the respective plurality of receptacles, according to some embodiments of the invention.
- (9) It will be appreciated that, for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements shown in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements may be exaggerated relative to other elements for clarity. Further, where considered appropriate, reference numerals may be repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- (10) In the following description, various aspects of the present invention are described. For purposes of explanation, specific configurations and details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will also be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention can be practiced without the specific details presented herein. Furthermore, well known features may have been omitted or simplified in order to not obscure the present invention. With specific reference to the drawings, it is stressed that the particulars shown are by way of example and for purposes of illustrative discussion of the present invention only and are presented in the cause of providing what is believed to be the most useful and readily understood description of the principles and conceptual aspects of the invention. In this regard, no attempt is made to show structural details of the invention in more detail than is necessary for a fundamental understanding of the invention, the description taken with the drawings making apparent to those skilled in the art how the several forms of the invention can be embodied in practice.
- (11) Before at least one embodiment of the invention is explained in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangement

of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is applicable to other embodiments that can be practiced or carried out in various ways as well as to combinations of the disclosed embodiments. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

(12) Some embodiments of the present invention may provide a device for holding a plurality of ferrules securely against a respective plurality of receptacles. The device may be used in a network interface device such as, for example, a small form factor pluggable device. The device may be used to hold a plurality of ferrules carrying a respective plurality of optical fibers securely against a respective plurality of receptacles of an optical transmitter, for example receptacles of a Transmitter Optical Sub-Assembly (TOSA) or Receiver Optical Sub-Assembly (ROSA) of the optical transmitter. The device may improve coupling of the plurality of ferrules to the respective plurality of receptacles. The device may be used to hold ferrules other than ferrules carrying optical fibers, in components other than optical transmitters and/or in devices other than network interface devices.

(13) The device may include a frame. The frame may include a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, as well as a first longitudinal portion and a second longitudinal portion projecting from opposing edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is substantially perpendicular to the transverse direction. The device may include a holder. The holder may be coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame. The holder may hold, with respect to the frame, a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction. The device may include a plurality of springs. Each of the springs may push a respective one of the plurality of ferrules against the transverse portion of the frame in the longitudinal direction. The frame may engage with the receptacles so as to properly position and hold the frame and the ferrules with respect to the receptacles.

(14) The device may allow easy coupling of the plurality of ferrules to the respective plurality of receptacles. The device may hold the ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other such that, when the device is placed in front of the optical transmitter, each of the ferrules is aligned with the respective receptacle in the optical transmitter. The device may allow simultaneous insertion of all of the ferrules into the receptacles. The device may engage with the receptacles and may ensure proper positioning, coupling and holding of the ferrules with respect to the receptacles. The device may allow easily decoupling and recoupling of the ferrules and the receptacles if maintenance and/or rework and/or replacement of the ferrules and/or of the receptacles is required.

(15) Reference is made to FIGS. 1A and 1B, which are 3D diagrams of a device **100** for holding a plurality of ferrules **90** against a respective plurality of receptacles **80**, according to some embodiments of the invention. FIGS. 1A and 1B show different perspective views of device **100**.

(16) Reference is also made to FIG. 1C, which is a 3D diagram of device **100** holding plurality of ferrules **90**, according to some embodiments of the invention.

(17) Reference is also made to FIGS. 1D(i), 1D(ii) and 1D(iii), which show 3D illustrations of coupling of plurality of ferrules **90** to respective plurality of receptacles **80** using device **100**, according to some embodiments of the invention.

(18) Device **100** may be used in a network interface device, such as, for example, small form factor pluggable device. Device **100** may be used to hold plurality of ferrules **90** carrying a respective plurality of optical fibers securely against respective plurality of receptacles **80** of an optical transmitter **82** (e.g., receptacles of Transmitter Optical Sub-Assembly (TOSA) or Receiver Optical Sub-Assembly (ROSA)). Device **100** may be used to hold ferrules other than ferrules carrying optical fibers, in components other than optical transmitters and/or in devices other than network interface devices.

(19) Device **100** may include a frame **110**. Frame **110** may include transverse portion **112** arranged

in a transverse direction **102** of device **100**. Frame **110** may also include a first longitudinal portion **114** and a second longitudinal portion **116**, both projecting from transverse portion **112** in a longitudinal direction **104** of device **100** that is perpendicular (or substantially perpendicular) to transverse direction **102** of device **100**. First longitudinal portion **114** may project from a first edge **112a** of transverse portion **112**. Second longitudinal portion **116** may project from a second edge **112c** of transverse portion **112** that is opposite to first edge **112a** of transverse portion **112**. First longitudinal portion **114** and second longitudinal portion **116** may be parallel (or substantially parallel) to each other. Second longitudinal portion **116** may project from transverse portion **112** to a greater distance than first longitudinal portion **114** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Transverse portion **112** of frame **110** may include a plurality of holes **112e** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Holes **112e** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **104**. Each hole **112e** may allow the passage of a cable therethrough for attachment to the respective ferrule **90**. The cables are not shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)** for simplicity. Transverse portion **112**, first longitudinal portion **114** and second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** may be formed integrally from one piece of material (e.g., such as nickel, stainless steel or any other suitable material known in the art).

(20) Device **100** may include a holder **120**. Holder **120** may be coupled between first longitudinal portion **114** and second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Holder **120** may hold, with respect to frame **110**, plurality of ferrules **90** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in transverse direction **102** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Holder **120** may include a first holder member **122** and a second holder member **124** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. **1A** and **1B**). Second holder member **124** may be opposed to first holder member **122** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. **1A** and **1B**). First holder member **122** may include a plurality of concave indents **122a** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. **1A** and **1B**). Concave indents **122a** of first holder member **122** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **102**. Second holder member **124** may include a plurality of concave indents **124a** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. **1A** and **1B**). Concave indents **124a** of second holder member **124** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **102**. Each of concave indents **122a** of first holder member **122** may be opposed to a respective one of concave indents **124a** of second holder member **124** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1C**) so as to hold one of plurality of ferrules **90** therebetween (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1C**). Each pair of opposed concave indents **122a**, **124a** of first holder member **122** and of second holder member **124**, respectively, may be aligned with one of holes **112e** of transverse portion **112** of frame **110** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A** and **1B**). Holder **120** may hold ferrules **90** with respect to frame **110** of device **100** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in transverse direction **102** in a way that aligns each of ferrules **90** with the respective one of receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82** when device **100** is placed in front of optical transmitter **82** (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1D(i)**). Device **100** may thus allow easy and simultaneous coupling of plurality of ferrules **90** to the respective plurality of receptacles **80** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1D(i)**, **1D(ii)** and **1D(iii)**). Holder members **122**, **124** may be formed of, for example, a plastic material such as polyetherimide or any other suitable material known in the art.

(21) Frame **110** may allow a certain measure of movement of holder **120** with respect to frame **110** in longitudinal direction **104**. Allowing the certain measure of movement of holder **120** with respect to frame **110** in longitudinal direction **104** may guarantee the matting between each of ferrules **90** and the respective receptacle, for example due to forces applied on the respective ferrule by a respective spring element **130** (e.g., as described hereinbelow). Frame **110** may prevent holder **120** from moving with respect to frame **110** in transverse direction **102**. For example, each of first longitudinal portion **114** and second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** may include a plurality of grooves **118**, each extending in longitudinal direction **104** (also referred herein as “longitudinal grooves **118**”), and each of first holder member **122** and second holder member **124** may include a

plurality of projections **126**, each engaging with one of longitudinal grooves **118** of first longitudinal portion **114** and second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110**. Longitudinal grooves **118** of frame **110** may allow the certain measure of movement of holder **120** (e.g., holder members **122**, **124**) in longitudinal direction **104** with respect to frame **110** and may prevent holder **120** (e.g., holder members **122**, **124**) from moving in transverse direction **102** with respect to frame **110**.

(22) Device **100** may include a plurality of spring elements **130**. Each of spring elements **130** may, for example, include a spring (e.g., coil spring; as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Spring elements **130** may include components other than coil springs. For example, spring elements **130** may include foil springs, arc springs, leaf springs, balance springs or any other suitable spring elements known in the art. Each of spring elements **130** may push a respective one of plurality of ferrules **90** against transverse portion **112** of frame **110** in longitudinal direction **104** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**). Each of spring elements **130** may be aligned with one of holes **112e** of transverse portion **112** of frame **110** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**).

(23) Device **100** may include a locking member **140**. Locking member **140** may engage with receptacles **80** and with second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** to lock frame **110** with respect to receptacles **80** and optical transmitter **82**. For example, locking member **140** may include a base portion **142** and a plurality of projections **144** projecting from base portion **142** and being distanced from each other in transverse direction **102** along base portion **142**. Locking member **140** may engage with receptacles **80** by holding each of receptacles **80** between two adjacent projections **144** of locking member **140** (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1D(iii)**). Locking member **140** may engage with frame **110** by engaging projections **140** with a transverse groove **119** (e.g., groove extending in transverse direction **102**) formed through second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**).

(24) When engaged with receptacles **80**, device **100** may ensure proper positioning and coupling of ferrules **90** with respect to receptacles **80**. For example, the length of second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110**, the position of transverse groove **119** with respect to second longitudinal portion **116** of frame **110** and/or any other suitable dimensions of any other suitable components of device **100** may be determined based on known dimensions of ferrules **90** and receptacles **80** in order to ensure proper positioning and coupling of ferrules **90** with respect to receptacles **80**.

(25) While in the example of FIGS. **1A**, **1B**, **1C** and **1D(i)**-**1D(iii)**, device **100** holds four ferrules **90**, it is noted that device **100** may hold any number of ferrules **90** (e.g., two, three or five and more ferrules **90**).

(26) Reference is made to FIGS. **2A** and **2B**, which are 3D diagrams of a device **200** for holding plurality of ferrules **90** against respective plurality of receptacles **80**, wherein device **200** includes a plurality of longitudinal members **214a**, **216a** for engaging with receptacles **80**, according to some embodiments of the invention. FIGS. **2A** and **2B** show different perspective views of device **200**.

(27) Reference is also made to FIG. **2C**, which is a 3D diagram of device **200** holding plurality of ferrules **90**, according to some embodiments of the invention.

(28) Reference is also made to FIG. **2D**, which is a 3D diagram of device **200** holding plurality of ferrules **90** against respective plurality of receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82**, according to some embodiments of the invention.

(29) Device **200** may be used in a network interface device, such as, for example, small form factor pluggable device. Device **200** may be used to hold plurality of ferrules **90** carrying a respective plurality of optical fibers securely against respective plurality of receptacles **80** of an optical transmitter **82** (e.g., receptacles of TOSA or ROSA). Device **200** may be used to hold ferrules other than ferrules carrying optical fibers, in components other than optical transmitters and/or in devices other than network interface devices.

(30) Device **200** may include a frame **210**. Frame **210** may include transverse portion **212** arranged in a transverse direction **202** of device **200**. Frame **210** may include a first longitudinal portion **214**

and a second longitudinal portion **216**, both projecting from transverse portion **212** in a longitudinal direction **204** of device **200** that is substantially perpendicular (or substantially perpendicular) to transverse direction **202** of device **200**. First longitudinal portion **214** may project from a first edge **212a** of transverse portion **212**. Second longitudinal portion **216** may project from a second edge **212c** of transverse portion **212** that is opposite to first edge **212a** of transverse portion **212**. Transverse portion **212**, first longitudinal portion **214** and second longitudinal portion **216** of frame **210** may be formed integrally from one piece of material.

(31) Transverse portion **212** of frame **210** may include a plurality of holes **212e** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2D). Holes **212e** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **204**. Each hole **212e** may allow the passage of a cable therethrough for attachment to the respective ferrule **90**. The cables are not shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D for simplicity.

(32) First longitudinal portion **214** may include a plurality of longitudinal members **214a** distanced from each other in transverse direction **202**. Second longitudinal portion **216** may include a plurality of longitudinal members **216a** distanced from each other in transverse direction **202**. Each of the longitudinal members **214a** of first longitudinal portion **214** may be opposed to a respective one of longitudinal members **216a** of second longitudinal portion **216**. Free ends **214aa** of longitudinal members **214a** of first longitudinal portion **214** and free ends **216aa** of longitudinal members **216a** of second longitudinal portion **216** of frame **210** may be curved inwardly so as to engage with receptacles **80** and hold frame **210** with respect to receptacles **80** and optical transmitter **82** (e.g., as shown in FIG. 2D).

(33) Device **200** may include a holder **220**. Holder **220** may be coupled between longitudinal members **214a** of first longitudinal portion **214** and longitudinal members **216a** of second longitudinal portion **216** of frame **210** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D). Holder **220** may hold, with respect to frame **210**, plurality of ferrules **90** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in transverse direction **202** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2C and 2D). Holder **220** may include a first holder member **222** and a second holder member **224** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. 2A and 2B). Second holder member **224** may be opposed to first holder member **222** (e.g., as indicated in FIGS. 2A and 2B). First holder member **222** may include a plurality of concave indents **222a** (e.g., as indicated in FIG. 2A). Concave indents **222a** of first holder member **222** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **202**. Second holder member **224** may include a plurality of concave indents **224a** (e.g., as indicated in FIG. 2A). Concave indents **224a** of second holder member **224** may be distanced from each other in transverse direction **202**. Each of concave indents **222a** of first holder member **222** may be opposed to a respective one of concave indents **224a** of second holder member **224** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C) so as to hold one of plurality of ferrules **90** therebetween (e.g., as shown in FIG. 2C). Each pair of opposed concave indents **222a**, **224a** of first holder member **222** and second holder member **224**, respectively, may be aligned with one of holes **212e** of transverse portion **212** of frame **210** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B). Holder **220** may hold ferrules **90** with respect to frame **210** of device **200** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in transverse direction **202** in a way that aligns each of ferrules **90** with the respective one of receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82** when device **100** is placed in front of optical transmitter **82** (e.g., as described hereinabove). Device **200** may thus allow easy and simultaneous coupling of plurality of ferrules **90** to the respective plurality of receptacles **80** (e.g., as described hereinabove).

(34) Frame **210** may prevent (or substantially prevent) movement of holder **220** (e.g., holder members **222**, **224**) with respect to frame **210** in transverse direction **202** and longitudinal direction **204**. For example, each of holder members **222**, **224** may include a plurality of projections **226**, wherein each of projections **226** may engage with a respective one of grooves **218** formed on longitudinal members **214a**, **216a** of longitudinal portions **214**, **216** of frame **210** (e.g., as indicated in FIG. 2A). Each of longitudinal members **214a**, **216a** of longitudinal portions **214**, **216** of frame



**210** may include a projection **219** that may engage with a respective one of a plurality of grooves **228** formed on holder members **222**, **224** (e.g., as indicated in FIG. 2A).

(35) Device **200** may include a plurality of spring elements **230**. Each of spring elements **230** may, for example, include a spring (e.g., coil spring; as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D) or any other suitable spring element known in the art. Each of spring elements **230** may push a respective one of plurality of ferrules **90** against transverse portion **212** of frame **210** in longitudinal direction **204** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2C and 2D). Each of spring elements **230** may be aligned with one of holes **212e** of transverse portion **212** of frame **210** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2D).

(36) When engaged with receptacles **80**, device **200** may ensure proper positioning and coupling of ferrules **90** with respect to receptacles **80**. For example, the length of longitudinal members **214a**, **216a** of longitudinal portions **214**, **216** of frame **210** and/or any other suitable dimensions of any other suitable components of device **200** may be determined based on known dimensions of ferrules **90** and receptacles **80** to ensure proper positioning and coupling of ferrules **90** being held by device **200** with respect to receptacles **80**.

(37) While in the example of FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D, device **200** holds four ferrules **90**, it is noted that device **200** may hold any number of ferrules **90** (e.g., two, three or five and more ferrules **90**).

(38) Some embodiments of the present invention may provide an assembly including plurality of ferrules **90** and a device (e.g., such as device **100** or device **200** as described herein) holding the plurality of ferrules **90** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction of the device (e.g., as shown in FIG. 1C and FIG. 2C).

(39) Reference is made to FIG. 3, which is a schematic view of an electronic device **300** including devices **100**, **200** for holding plurality of ferrules **90** against respective plurality of receptacles **80**, according to some embodiments of the invention.

(40) Some embodiments of the present invention may provide an electronic device **300**, such as network interface device (e.g., small form factor pluggable device). Electronic device **300** may include a shell **310**, printed circuit board (PCB) **320**, optical transmitter **82** disposed on PCB **320** and including a plurality of receptacles **80**. Electronic device **300** may include one or more devices (e.g., such as device **100** or device **200** described herein) for holding a plurality of ferrules against the respective plurality of receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **80**. In the example of FIG. 3, electronic device **300** includes device **100** that holds four ferrules **90** against respective four receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82** and device **200** that holds another four ferrules **90** against respective another four receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82**. In some embodiments, electronic device **300** may include only one type of devices for holding a plurality of ferrules against the respective plurality of receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82** (e.g., devices **100** or devices **200**). In some embodiments, electronic device **300** may include one device (e.g., devices **100** or devices **200**) for holding all ferrules **90** against all receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82**. In various embodiments, electronic device **300** may include more than two devices (e.g., of one or both types described herein) for holding ferrules **90** against receptacles **80** of optical transmitter **82**. Any other suitable configurations are possible.

(41) Disclosed devices **100**, **200** may allow easy coupling of the plurality of ferrules **90** to the respective plurality of receptacles **80**. Devices **100**, **200** may hold ferrules **90** arranged longitudinally parallel to each other such that, when devices **100**, **200** are placed in front of optical transmitter **82**, each of ferrules **90** is aligned with respective receptacle **80** in optical transmitter **82**. Devices **100**, **200** may allow simultaneous insertion of all of ferrules **90** into receptacles **80**. Devices **100**, **200** may engage with receptacles **80** and may ensure proper positioning, coupling and holding of ferrules **90** with respect to receptacles **80**. Devices **100**, **200** may allow easily decoupling and recoupling of ferrules **90** and receptacles **80** if maintenance and/or rework and/or replacement of ferrules **90** and/or receptacles **80** is required.

(42) In the above description, an embodiment is an example or implementation of the invention.

The various appearances of “one embodiment”, “an embodiment”, “certain embodiments” or “some embodiments” do not necessarily all refer to the same embodiments. Although various features of the invention can be described in the context of a single embodiment, the features can also be provided separately or in any suitable combination. Conversely, although the invention can be described herein in the context of separate embodiments for clarity, the invention can also be implemented in a single embodiment. Certain embodiments of the invention can include features from different embodiments disclosed above, and certain embodiments can incorporate elements from other embodiments disclosed above. The disclosure of elements of the invention in the context of a specific embodiment is not to be taken as limiting their use in the specific embodiment alone. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention can be carried out or practiced in various ways and that the invention can be implemented in certain embodiments other than the ones outlined in the description above.

(43) Although embodiments of the invention are not limited in this regard, the terms “plurality” and “a plurality” as used herein can include, for example, “multiple” or “two or more”. The terms “plurality” or “a plurality” can be used throughout the specification to describe two or more components, devices, elements, units, parameters, or the like. The term set when used herein can include one or more items.

(44) The invention is not limited to those diagrams or to the corresponding descriptions. For example, flow need not move through each illustrated box or state, or in exactly the same order as illustrated and described. Meanings of technical and scientific terms used herein are to be commonly understood as by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention belongs, unless otherwise defined. While the invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention, but rather as exemplifications of some of the preferred embodiments. Other possible variations, modifications, and applications are also within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should not be limited by what has thus far been described, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

## Claims

1. A device for holding a plurality of ferrules securely against a respective plurality of receptacles, the device comprising: a frame comprising: a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, and a first longitudinal portion projecting from a first edge of the transverse portion and a second longitudinal portion projecting from a second edge of the transverse portion opposite to the first edge of the transverse portion, wherein the first and the second longitudinal portions project from the respective edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is perpendicular to the transverse direction; and a holder coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame, the holder being configured to hold, with respect to the frame, a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction; wherein the frame allows a certain measure of movement of the holder with respect to the frame in the longitudinal direction upon coupling of the holder within the frame.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the holder comprises: a first holder member and a second holder member opposed to the first holder member, wherein each of the first and second holder members comprises a plurality of respective concave indents that are distanced from each other in the transverse direction; and wherein each of the concave indents of the first holder member is opposed to a respective one of the concave indents of the second holder member so as to hold one of the plurality of ferrules therebetween.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the frame is configured to prevent the holder from moving in the transverse direction with respect to the frame.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second longitudinal portions comprises a

plurality of longitudinal grooves, and wherein the holder comprises a plurality of projections each configured to engage with a respective one of the longitudinal grooves of the first and second longitudinal portions.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the longitudinal grooves allow a certain measure of movement of the holder in the longitudinal direction with respect to the frame and prevent the holder from moving in the transverse direction with respect to the frame.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the second longitudinal portion projects from the transverse portion to a greater distance than the first longitudinal portion.

7. The device of claim 6, further comprising a locking member configured to engage with the receptacles and with the second longitudinal portion of the frame so as to lock the frame with respect to the receptacles.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second longitudinal portions comprises a plurality of longitudinal members distanced from each other in the transverse direction, and wherein each of the longitudinal members of the first longitudinal portion is opposed to a respective one of the longitudinal members of the second longitudinal portion.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein free ends of the longitudinal members of the first and second longitudinal portions are curved inwardly so as to engage with the receptacles and hold the frame with respect to the receptacles.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the transverse portion comprises a plurality of holes distanced from each other in the transverse direction, each hole being configured to allow the passage of a cable therethrough for attachment to a respective ferrule.

11. The device of claim 1, comprising a plurality of spring elements, each spring element being configured to push a respective one of the plurality of ferrules against the transverse portion in the longitudinal direction.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the transverse portion, the first longitudinal portion and the second longitudinal portion of the frame are formed integrally from one piece of material.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of ferrules is disposed between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame when held by the holder.

14. An assembly comprising: a frame comprising: a transverse portion arranged in a transverse direction, and a first longitudinal portion projecting from a first edge of the transverse portion and a second longitudinal portion projecting from a second edge of the transverse portion opposite to the first edge of the transverse portion, wherein the first and the second longitudinal portions project from the respective edges of the transverse portion in a longitudinal direction that is substantially perpendicular to the transverse direction; a plurality of ferrules arranged longitudinally parallel to each other and being distanced from each other in the transverse direction; a holder coupled between the first and second longitudinal portions of the frame and holding the plurality of parallel ferrules with respect to the frame; and a plurality of spring elements disposed between the transverse portion of the frame and the holder to push the holder and the plurality of ferrules against the transverse portion in the longitudinal direction.

15. The assembly of claim 14, wherein the frame is configured to allow a certain measure of movement of the holder with respect to the frame in the longitudinal direction and to prevent the holder from moving with respect to the frame in the transverse direction.

16. The assembly of claim 14, wherein the second longitudinal portion projects from the transverse portion to a greater distance than the first longitudinal portion, and wherein the device further comprises a locking member configured to engage with the receptacles and with the second longitudinal portion of the frame so as to lock the frame with respect to the receptacles.

17. The assembly of claim 14, wherein each of the first and second longitudinal portions comprises a plurality of longitudinal members distanced from each other in the transverse direction, wherein each of the longitudinal members of the first longitudinal portion is opposed to a respective one of the longitudinal members of the second longitudinal portion, and wherein each of the ferrules is

disposed between the respective opposing longitudinal members of the first and second longitudinal portions.

18. The assembly of claim 17, wherein free ends of the longitudinal members of the first and second longitudinal portions are curved inwardly so as to engage with the receptacles and hold the frame with respect to the receptacles.

19. The assembly of claim 14, wherein the transverse portion of the frame comprises a plurality of holes distanced from each other in the transverse direction, each hole being configured to allow the passage of a cable therethrough for attachment to a respective ferrule.

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