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Power board design to accommodate universal plug types via bridge sheet metal designs

Abstract

Wireless communication devices may include a printed circuit board and a conductive pin structure. The printed circuit board may include a neutral power input and a live power input positioned at a first distance from each other. The conductive pin structure may include a neutral pin and a live pin positioned at a second, different distance from each other. A first sheet metal connector may electrically connect the neutral pin to the neutral power input and a second sheet metal connector may electrically connect the live pin to the live power input. Various other related devices, components, systems, and methods are also disclosed.

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Background/Summary

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a portion of a wireless communication device, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (2) FIGS. 2A-2D are bottom perspective views of example housing covers, including various conductive pin structures, for wireless communication devices, according to various embodiments of the present disclosure.
- (3) FIG. 3A is a top perspective view of a housing cover of a wireless communication device including a first conductive pin structure arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 3B is a cross-sectional perspective view of the housing cover, taken from line 3B-3B in FIG. 3A. FIG. 3C is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors of the housing cover of FIGS. 3A and 3B.
- (4) FIG. 4A is a top perspective view of a power cover of a wireless communication device including a second conductive pin structure arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 4B is a cross-sectional perspective view of the power cover, taken from line 4B-4B in FIG. 4A. FIG. 4C is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors of the power cover of FIGS. 4A and 4B.
- (5) FIG. 5A is a top perspective view of a power cover of a wireless communication device

including a first conductive pin structure arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional perspective view of the power cover, taken from line 5B-5B in FIG. 5A. FIG. 5C is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors of the power cover of FIGS. 5A and 5B.

(6) FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of fabricating a wireless communication device, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

Description

(1) Throughout the drawings, identical reference characters and descriptions indicate similar, but not necessarily identical, elements. While the exemplary embodiments described herein are susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail herein. However, the exemplary embodiments described herein are not intended to be limited to the particular forms disclosed. Rather, the present disclosure covers all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the scope of the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(2) Electrical devices may include integrated plugs for providing electrical power to the functional components of the electrical devices. Many different geographical regions have different standards for plug geometry and configuration. Wireless communication devices may include built-in plugs that are customized for use in these different geographical regions. Internal printed circuit boards and other components may need to be customized for use in each region due to the different standard plug configurations. These customizations can be expensive and burdensome to implement since a variety of printed circuit board layouts and manufacturing runs may be required. Additionally, economies of scale may be reduced, since smaller batches of regional printed circuit boards may be fabricated rather than a single printed circuit board design for many different regions.

(3) The present disclosure provides detailed descriptions of wireless communication devices. As will be explained in greater detail below, embodiments of the present disclosure may include wireless communication devices (e.g., wireless extenders) that may include a printed circuit board, a conductive pin structure, and sheet metal connectors that electrically connect the conductive pin structure to power inputs the printed circuit board. As explained below, the sheet metal connectors may be tailored to connect conductive pin structures of different configurations (e.g., different regional standard configurations) to the printed circuit board. The printed circuit board may have a common configuration regardless of the region, such as a neutral power input and a live power input that are positioned a common distance from each other. Thus, the sheet metal connectors may enable the use of a single printed circuit board design with multiple different conductive pin structures.

(4) Features from any of the embodiments described herein may be used in combination with one another in accordance with the general principles described herein. These and other embodiments, features, and advantages will be more fully understood upon reading the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and claims.

(5) The following will provide, with reference to FIGS. 1-5C, detailed descriptions of various wireless communication devices and components thereof. With reference to FIG. 6, the following will provide detailed descriptions of an example method of fabricating a wireless device.

(6) FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a portion of a wireless communication device **100**, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. The wireless communication device **100** may be a wireless extender, although the present disclosure is not limited to wireless extenders.

(7) The wireless communication device **100** may include a printed circuit board **102**, such as a

power board for providing electrical power to the wireless communication device **100**. The printed circuit board **102** may include components for operation of the wireless communication device **100**, such as a wireless communication element **104** (e.g., a transceiver) configured to transmit and/or receive a wireless signal. Alternatively, the wireless communication element **104** may be located in a different section of the wireless communication device **100**. In either case, electrical power for operation of the wireless communication element **104** may be provided by the printed circuit board **102**.

(8) The wireless communication device **100** may also include a housing cover **106** (e.g., a rear housing cover) configured to at least partially support and/or cover the printed circuit board **102**. A conductive pin structure **108**, including at least a neutral pin **110** and a live pin **112** (e.g., for engaging with an electrical outlet), may be coupled to and supported by the housing cover **106**. The conductive pin structure **108** may also include a neutral conductive terminal **114** and a live conductive terminal **116** opposite the neutral pin **110** and live pin **112**, respectively.

(9) The neutral conductive terminal **114** and the live conductive terminal **116** may be shaped and sized to engage with the printed circuit board **102** to provide power to the printed circuit board **102** from the neutral pin **110** and live pin **112**. For example, the printed circuit board **102** may include a neutral power input **118** for engaging with the neutral conductive terminal **114**. The printed circuit board **102** may also include a live power input **120** for engaging with the live conductive terminal **116**.

(10) The neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** of the conductive pin structure **108** may be sized to be positioned within the respective neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102**.

(11) The relative positioning of the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** may coincide with the relative positioning of the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120**. For example, the neutral power input **118** and the live power input **120** may include through-holes that may be positioned at a first distance $D_{sub.1}$ from each other, center-to-center. The neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** may also be positioned at the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ from each other, center-to-center, to fit in the through-holes of the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120**. Additionally, each of the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** may be sized to abut against an inner surface of the through-holes to electrically couple to the printed circuit board **102**. In some embodiments, the through-holes may include a conductive liner or other structure for physically abutting and electrically connecting to the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116**. Optionally, the electrical and/or physical connection between the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** and the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** may be improved by soldering.

(12) In some examples, relational terms, such as “first,” “second,” “top,” “bottom,” “rear,” etc., may be used for clarity and convenience in understanding the disclosure and accompanying drawings and do not connote or depend on any specific preference, orientation, or order, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(13) The neutral pin **110** and live pin **112** may be positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2}$ from each other. For certain conductive pin structures **108**, such as for a standard United States or Japanese electrical plug configuration, the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ may be the same as the first distance $D_{sub.1}$. In other words, the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** may be selected to substantially match the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ of a common distance between the neutral pin **110** and live pin, such as of the standard United States and Japanese electrical plug configuration.

(14) For example, the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ (center-to-center) may be between 0.40 inch and 0.60 inch, such as about 0.5 inch, in a standard United States and Japanese electrical plug configuration. The first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between the neutral power input **118** and live power input

120, and between the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116**, may also be about 0.5 inch (center-to-center).

(15) This configuration may facilitate formation of the conductive pin structure **108** and the engagement of the neutral conductive terminal **114** and live conductive terminal **116** with the printed circuit board **102**. As explained further below, the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ may be kept constant even if the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ changes relative to the first distance $D_{sub.1}$, such as due to regional standard differences. For example, standard Australian, European, and United Kingdom plug configurations may include a neutral pin **110** and live pin **112** positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2}$ that is different from (e.g., greater than) the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ of a standard United States or Japanese plug configuration. However, by keeping the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ substantially constant for different conductive pin structures **108**, the physical layout of the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** in the printed circuit board **102** may be kept constant, reducing a cost and complexity of tailoring wireless communication devices **100** for use in different countries or regions with different standard plug configurations.

(16) As discussed further below with reference to FIGS. 2A-5C, embodiments of the present disclosure include conductive connectors (e.g., bent sheet metal conductive connectors) that may electrically connect the neutral pin **110** of the conductive pin structure **108** to the neutral power input **118** of the printed circuit board **102** and that may electrically connect the live pin **112** of the conductive pin structure **108** to the live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102**. These conductive connectors may be configured for making such an electrical connection for plug configurations with a second distance $D_{sub.2}$ between the neutral pin **110** and live pin **112** that is, in some cases, different than the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120**. In some examples, the conductive connectors of the present disclosure may be relatively inexpensive to fabricate, such as by stamping, laser cutting, or otherwise processing sheet metal into tailored workpieces. Then the workpieces may be bent into a shape for installing in the housing cover **106** to form a conductive path between the printed circuit board **102** and the neutral pin **110** and live pin **112**.

(17) For purposes of describing and defining the present disclosure, it is noted that relative terms, such as “about,” “substantially,” and the like, may be utilized herein to represent an inherent degree of uncertainty that may be attributed to any quantitative comparison, value, measurement, or other representation. These terms can also be utilized herein to represent the degree by which a quantitative representation may vary from a stated reference without resulting in a change in the basic function of the subject matter at issue.

(18) FIGS. 2A-2D are bottom perspective views of example housing covers **200A-200D**, including various conductive pin structures **208A-208D**, for wireless communication devices, according to various embodiments of the present disclosure.

(19) FIG. 2A illustrates a housing cover **200A** including a conductive pin structure **208A** for use in the United States or Japan. For example, a neutral pin **210A** and a live pin **212B** of the conductive pin structure **208A** may be positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2A}$ (center-to-center) from each other that is substantially the same as the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between a neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** (see FIG. 1).

(20) FIG. 2B illustrates a housing cover **200B** including a conductive pin structure **208B** for use in Australia. For example, a neutral pin **210B** and a live pin **212B** of the conductive pin structure **208B** may be positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2B}$ (center-to-center) from each other that is different from (e.g., greater than) the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between a neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** (see FIG. 1). In addition, the position and angle of the neutral pin **210B** and live pin **212B** for use in Australia relative to the housing cover **200B** may be different from the relative position and angle of the conductive pin structure **208A** for use in the United States and Japan. Additionally, the conductive pin structure **208B** for use in Australia may include a ground pin **222B**.

(21) FIG. 2C illustrates a housing cover **200C** including a conductive pin structure **208C** for use in the European Union. For example, a neutral pin **210C** and a live pin **212C** of the conductive pin structure **208C** may be positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2C}$ (center-to-center) from each other that is different from (e.g., greater than) the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between a neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** (see FIG. 1). In addition, the position of the neutral pin **210C** and live pin **212C** for use in the European Union relative to the housing cover **200C** may be different from the relative position of the conductive pin structure **208A** for use in the United States and Japan. Additionally, the shape of the neutral pin **210C** and live pin **212C** for use in the European Union may be different from the shape of the neutral pin **210A** and live pin **212A** for use in the United States and Japan.

(22) FIG. 2D illustrates a housing cover **200D** including a conductive pin structure **208D** for use in the United Kingdom. For example, a neutral pin **210D** and a live pin **212D** of the conductive pin structure **208D** may be positioned at a second distance $D_{sub.2D}$ (center-to-center) from each other that is different from (e.g., greater than) the first distance $D_{sub.1}$ between a neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** (see FIG. 1). In addition, the position of the neutral pin **210D** and live pin **212D** for use in the United Kingdom relative to the housing cover **200D** may be different from the relative position of the conductive pin structure **208A** for use in the United States and Japan. Additionally, the shape of the neutral pin **210D** and live pin **212D** for use in the United Kingdom may be different from the shape of the neutral pin **210A** and live pin **212A** for use in the United States and Japan. The conductive pin structure **208D** for use in the United Kingdom may also include a ground pin **222D**.

(23) Accordingly, wireless communication devices of the present disclosure may include housing covers **206A-208D** with different respective conductive pin structures **208A-208D** tailored for use in different geographical regions. The four configurations for four respective geographical regions illustrated in FIGS. 2A-2D are shown by way of example and not limitation. Additional example housing covers of the present disclosure may be fabricated with other conductive pin structure configurations for use in other geographical regions having various standard plug configurations. Any of these different housing cover configurations may be used with a common printed circuit board layout design, which may have a neutral power input and live power input positioned in a common location and at a common distance from each other.

(24) FIG. 3A is a top perspective view of a housing cover **306** of a wireless communication device **300** including a first conductive pin structure **308** arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 3B is a cross-sectional perspective view of the housing cover **306**, taken from line 3B-3B in FIG. 3A. FIG. 3C is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** of the housing cover **306** of FIGS. 3A and 3B.

(25) By way of illustration, the first conductive pin structure **308** may have a standard Australian plug configuration, like the configuration shown in FIG. 2B. The first conductive pin structure **308** may include a neutral pin **310** and a live pin **312**, which may be insert-molded to the housing cover **306** as illustrated in FIG. 3B. In additional examples, the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312** may be secured to the housing cover **306** in other ways, such as with a fastener (e.g., a clip, a pin, a bolt, etc.), an adhesive, and/or the like.

(26) A first sheet metal connector **330** may be coupled to an internal end portion of the neutral pin **310** and a second sheet metal connector **332** may be coupled to an internal end portion of the live pin **312**. The first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may be shaped and positioned to connect the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312** to a respective neutral power input and live power input of a printed circuit board (e.g., the neutral power input **118** and live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** of FIG. 1). Thus, the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may act as bridges to respectively electrically connect the neutral pin to the neutral power input of the printed circuit board and the live pin to the live power input of the printed circuit board.

(27) The first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may include a first hemmed end **334** for

engagement with the neutral and live power inputs of the printed circuit board. The first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may also include a second end **336** including a connection feature coupled to the respective neutral pin **310** and live pin **312**. As illustrated in FIGS. **3A-3C**, the connection feature of the second end **336** may include a clamp bend for clamping over the internal end portions of the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312**. Optionally, the connection between the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** and the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312** may be further improved by soldering, welding, applying a conductive adhesive, and/or securing with a fastener (e.g., a blot, screw, pin, clip, etc.).

(28) The first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may each be formed of a single, unitary bent sheet metal element. In some examples, this configuration may reduce a material and manufacturing cost of the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** compared to other configurations.

(29) As shown in FIGS. **3A** and **3B**, the housing cover **306** may include a support structure **338** for supporting and positioning the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332**. The support structures **338** may include channels within which the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may be positioned. The first hemmed ends **334** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may be held at a first distance $D_{sub.1}$ (center-to-center) from each other, which may coincide with a distance between the neutral power input and live power input of a corresponding printed circuit board, as described above with reference to FIG. **1**. The second ends **336** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may be held at a second distance $D_{sub.2}$ (center-to-center) from each other, which may correspond to a distance between the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312** of the conductive pin structure **308**. The second distance $D_{sub.2}$ may be different from the first distance $D_{sub.1}$. Thus, the shape and bends of the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may be configured to extend from the second ends **336** engaging the neutral pin **310** and live pin **312** at the second distance $D_{sub.2}$ to the first ends **334** engaging the neutral power input and live power input of a printed circuit board at the first distance $D_{sub.1}$.

(30) The first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** may also include engagement features **340** (FIG. **3C**) for engaging with the support structure **338** of the housing cover **306**. For example, the engagement features **340** may include notches, tabs, extensions, curves, holes, corners, and/or the like. The support structure **338** may include complementary features, such as slots, extensions, tabs, notches, etc., to facilitate coupling the first and second sheet metal connectors **330**, **332** to the support structure **338**.

(31) FIG. **4A** is a top perspective view of a housing cover **406** of a wireless communication device **400** including a second conductive pin structure **408** arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. **4B** is a cross-sectional perspective view of the housing cover **406**, taken from line **4B-4B** in FIG. **4A**. FIG. **4C** is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** of the housing cover **406** of FIGS. **4A** and **4B**.

(32) In some respects, the wireless communication device **400** and components thereof as shown in FIGS. **4A-4C** may be similar to the wireless communication device **300** of FIGS. **3A-3C**. For example, the wireless communication device may include the housing cover **406** to which the second conductive pin structure **408** may be coupled. A first sheet metal connector **430** may electrically connect a neutral pin **410** of the second conductive pin structure **408** to a neutral power input of a printed circuit board (e.g., the neutral power input **118** of the printed circuit board **102** of FIG. **1**). A second sheet metal connector **432** may electrically connect a live pin **412** of the second conductive pin structure **408** to a live power input of the printed circuit board (e.g., the live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** of FIG. **1**).

(33) The first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may include a first hemmed end **434** for engagement with the neutral and live power inputs of the printed circuit board and a second end **436** including a connection feature coupled to the respective neutral pin **410** and live pin **412**. For example, the connection feature of the second end **436** may include a clamp bend in the first and

second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432**.

(34) The housing cover **406** may include a support structure **438** for supporting and positioning the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432**. The support structures **438** may include channels within which the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may be positioned. The first hemmed ends **434** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may be held at a first distance D.sub.1 (center-to-center) from each other and the second ends **436** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may be held at a second distance D.sub.2 (center-to-center) from each other. The second distance D.sub.2, may correspond to a distance between the neutral pin **410** and live pin **412**. The second distance D.sub.2 may be different from the first distance D.sub.1. Thus, the shape and bends of the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may be configured to extend from the second ends **436** engaging the neutral pin **410** and live pin **412** at the second distance D.sub.2 to the first ends **434** engaging the neutral power input and live power input of a printed circuit board at the first distance D.sub.1.

(35) Engagement features **440** (FIG. 4C) of the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may be shaped and positioned for engaging with the support structure **438** of the housing cover **406**. The support structure **438** may include complementary features to facilitate coupling the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** to the support structure **438**.

(36) By way of illustration, the second conductive pin structure **408** may have a standard European Union plug configuration, like the configuration shown in FIG. 2C.

(37) As illustrated in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the neutral pin **410** and the live pin **412** of the conductive pin structure **408** may be coupled to the housing cover **406** with a fastener **442**, such as a bolt, pin, clip, or the like.

(38) As illustrated in FIG. 4C, in some examples the first and second sheet metal connectors **430**, **432** may each include a relief bend **444**, which may facilitate adjusting the position of the second ends **436** to engage with the internal ends of the respective neutral pin **410** and live pin **412** during assembly.

(39) FIG. 5A is a top perspective view of a housing cover **506** of a wireless communication device **500** including a third conductive pin structure **508** arrangement, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional perspective view of the housing cover **506**, taken from line 5B-5B in FIG. 5A. FIG. 5C is a perspective view of sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** of the housing cover **506** of FIGS. 5A and 5B.

(40) In some respects, the wireless communication device **500** and components thereof as shown in FIGS. 5A-5C may be similar to the wireless communication devices **300**, **400** of FIGS. 3A-3C and FIGS. 4A-4C. For example, the wireless communication device may include the housing cover **506** to which the second conductive pin structure **508** may be coupled (e.g., via insert molding). A first sheet metal connector **530** may electrically connect a neutral pin **510** of the second conductive pin structure **508** to a neutral power input of a printed circuit board (e.g., the neutral power input **118** of the printed circuit board **102** of FIG. 1). A second sheet metal connector **532** may electrically connect a live pin **512** of the second conductive pin structure **508** to a live power input of the printed circuit board (e.g., the live power input **120** of the printed circuit board **102** of FIG. 1).

(41) The first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may include a first hemmed end **534** for engagement with the neutral and live power inputs of the printed circuit board and a second end **536** including a connection feature coupled to the respective neutral pin **510** and live pin **512**. For example, the connection feature of the second end **536** may include a hole **546** in the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532**, which may be secured to the respective neutral pin **510** and live pin **512**, such as via a riveted connection.

(42) The housing cover **506** may include a support structure **538** for supporting and positioning the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532**. The support structures **538** may include channels within which the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may be positioned. The first hemmed ends **534** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may be held at a first

distance D.sub.1 (center-to-center) from each other and the second ends **436** of the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may be held at a second distance D.sub.2 (center-to-center) from each other. The second distance D.sub.2, may correspond to a distance between the neutral pin **510** and live pin **512**. The second distance D.sub.2 may be different from the first distance D.sub.1. Thus, the shape and bends of the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may be configured to extend from the second ends **536** engaging the neutral pin **510** and live pin **512** at the second distance D.sub.2 to the first ends **534** engaging the neutral power input and live power input of a printed circuit board at the first distance D.sub.1.

(43) Engagement features **540** (FIG. 5C) of the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** may be shaped and positioned for engaging with the support structure **538** of the housing cover **506**. The support structure **538** may include complementary features to facilitate coupling the first and second sheet metal connectors **530**, **532** to the support structure **538**.

(44) By way of illustration, the second conductive pin structure **508** may have a standard United Kingdom plug configuration, like the configuration shown in FIG. 2D.

(45) FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a method **600** of fabricating a wireless communication device, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. At operation **610**, a conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and a live pin may be coupled to a housing cover. Operation **610** may be performed in a variety of ways. For example, the neutral pin and live pin may be insert molded, bolted, riveted, adhered, or otherwise secured to the housing cover.

(46) At operation **620**, a first sheet metal connector may be electrically connected to the neutral pin. Operation **620** may be performed in a variety of ways. For example, the first sheet metal connector may be bolted, adhered, welded, soldered, pinned, and/or riveted to an internal end of the neutral pin. In some embodiments, an end portion of the first sheet metal connector may be bent into a clamp shape to physically and electrically couple to the internal end of the neutral pin.

(47) At operation **630**, a second sheet metal connector may be electrically connected to the live pin. Operation **630** may be performed in a variety of ways. For example, the second sheet metal connector may be clamped, bolted, adhered, welded, soldered, pinned, and/or riveted to an internal end of the live pin. In some embodiments, an end portion of the second sheet metal connector may exhibit a clamp shape to physically and electrically couple to the internal end of the live pin. In this case, the first sheet metal connector may clamp the neutral pin and the second sheet metal connector may clamp the live pin.

(48) In some examples, operations **620** and **630** may be simultaneously performed.

(49) At operation **640**, the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector may be connected to, respectively, a neutral power input and a live power input of a printed circuit board (e.g., a power board). Operation **640** may be performed in a variety of ways. For example, an end portion (e.g., a hemmed end portion) of the first and second sheet metal connectors may be inserted within a respective neutral through hole and live through hole of the printed circuit board. The neutral power input and a live power input may be separated from each other a first distance. In some embodiments, the neutral pin and the live pin of the conductive pin structure may be separated from each other a second, different (e.g., greater) distance.

(50) Accordingly, the present disclosure includes wireless communication devices, components thereof, and related methods that may improve existing wireless communication devices. For example, the wireless communication devices of the present disclosure may include printed circuit boards that have a neutral power input and live power input that are positioned a common distance from each other (e.g., about 0.5 inch). These printed circuit boards may be used in various countries and regions with different standard plug configurations by providing a housing cover adapted for the different standard plug configurations. Bent sheet metal connectors may be used for electrical routing from the different standard plug configurations to the neutral power input and live power input of the printed circuit board. This configuration may enable the use of the same or similar printed circuit boards in the various different countries and regions at a low cost.

(51) The following example embodiments are also included in the present disclosure.

(52) Example 1: A wireless communication device, which may include: a printed circuit board having a neutral power input and a live power input, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input; a conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and a live pin, the neutral pin positioned at a second, different distance from the live pin; a first sheet metal connector electrically connecting the neutral pin to the neutral power input; and a second sheet metal connector electrically connecting the live pin to the live power input.

(53) Example 2: The wireless communication device of Example 1, wherein: the first sheet metal connector comprises a first single, unitary bent sheet metal element; and the second sheet metal connector comprises a second single, unitary bent sheet metal element.

(54) Example 3: The wireless communication device of Example 1 or Example 2, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

(55) Example 4: The wireless communication device of any of Examples 1 through 3, wherein the first distance is between 0.40 inch and 0.60 inch.

(56) Example 5: The wireless communication device of Example 4, wherein the first distance is about 0.5 inch.

(57) Example 6: The wireless communication device of any of Examples 1 through 5, wherein each of the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector comprises: a first hemmed end for coupling to the respective neutral power input or live power input; and a second end comprising a connection feature for coupling to the respective neutral pin or live pin.

(58) Example 7: The wireless communication device of Example 6, wherein the connection feature comprises at least one of: a hole; or a clamp bend.

(59) Example 8: The wireless communication device of Example 6 or Example 7, wherein the connection feature is secured to the respective neutral pin or live pin with a solder, a weld, a conductive adhesive, or a fastener.

(60) Example 9: The wireless communication device of any of Examples 1 through 8, wherein the conductive pin structure exhibits one of: a standard Australian plug configuration; a standard European plug configuration; or a standard United Kingdom plug configuration.

(61) Example 10: The wireless communication device of any of Examples 1 through 9, further comprising a housing cover configured to at least partially support the printed circuit board, wherein the conductive pin structure is coupled to the housing cover.

(62) Example 11: The wireless communication device of Example 10, wherein the conductive pin structure is insert molded to the housing cover.

(63) Example 12: The wireless communication device of Example 10 or Example 11, wherein the conductive pin structure is fixed to the housing cover with a fastener.

(64) Example 13: The wireless communication device of any of Examples 1 through 12, wherein the conductive pin structure further comprises a ground pin.

(65) Example 14: A wireless communication device, which may include: a wireless communication element configured to at least one of transmit or receive a wireless signal; a printed circuit board having a neutral power input and a live power input, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input; a housing cover configured to at least partially support the printed circuit board; a conductive pin structure coupled to the housing cover, the conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and a live pin, the neutral pin positioned at a second, greater distance from the live pin; a first bent sheet metal connector electrically connecting the neutral pin to the neutral power input; and a second bent sheet metal connector electrically connecting the live pin to the live power input.

(66) Example 15: The wireless communication of any of Example 14, wherein each of the first bent sheet metal connector and the second bent sheet metal connector comprises: a first hemmed end for coupling to the respective neutral power input or live power input; and a second end comprising a

connection feature for coupling to the respective neutral pin or live pin.

(67) Example 16: The wireless communication of Example 15, wherein the first distance is about 0.5 inch.

(68) Example 17: A method of fabricating a wireless communication device, which may include: coupling a conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and live pin to a housing cover; electrically connecting a first sheet metal connector to the neutral pin; electrically connecting a second sheet metal connector to the live pin; and electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector respectively to a neutral power input and a live power input of a printed circuit board, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input, wherein the neutral pin is positioned a second, different distance from the live pin.

(69) Example 18: The method of Example 17, wherein coupling the conductive pin structure to the housing cover comprises coupling, to the housing cover, a conductive pin structure exhibiting one of: a standard Australian plug configuration; a standard European plug configuration; or a standard United Kingdom plug configuration.

(70) Example 19: The method of Example 17 or Example 18, wherein: electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector to the neutral pin comprises clamping the neutral pin with the first sheet metal connector; and electrically connecting the second sheet metal connector to the live pin comprises clamping the live pin with the second sheet metal connector.

(71) Example 20: The method of any of Examples 17 through 19, wherein electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector respectively to the neutral power input and the live power input of the printed circuit board comprises: inserting a first hemmed end of the first sheet metal connector into a neutral through hole; and inserting a second hemmed end of the second sheet metal connector into a live through hole.

(72) While the foregoing disclosure sets forth various embodiments using specific block diagrams, flowcharts, and examples, each block diagram component, flowchart step, operation, and/or component described and/or illustrated herein may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, using a wide range of hardware, software, or firmware (or any combination thereof) configurations. In addition, any disclosure of components contained within other components should be considered example in nature since many other architectures can be implemented to achieve the same functionality.

(73) The process parameters and sequence of the steps described and/or illustrated herein are given by way of example only and can be varied as desired. For example, while the steps illustrated and/or described herein may be shown or discussed in a particular order, these steps do not necessarily need to be performed in the order illustrated or discussed. The various example methods described and/or illustrated herein may also omit one or more of the steps described or illustrated herein or include additional steps in addition to those disclosed.

(74) The preceding description has been provided to enable others skilled in the art to best utilize various aspects of the example embodiments disclosed herein. This example description is not intended to be exhaustive or to be limited to any precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the instant disclosure. The embodiments disclosed herein should be considered in all respects illustrative and not restrictive. Reference should be made to the appended claims and their equivalents in determining the scope of the instant disclosure.

(75) Unless otherwise noted, the terms “connected to” and “coupled to” (and their derivatives), as used in the specification and claims, are to be construed as permitting both direct and indirect (i.e., via other elements or components) connection. In addition, the terms “a” or “an,” as used in the specification and claims, are to be construed as meaning “at least one of.” Finally, for ease of use, the terms “including” and “having” (and their derivatives), as used in the specification and claims, are interchangeable with and have the same meaning as the word “comprising.”

Claims

1. A wireless communication device, comprising: a printed circuit board having a neutral power input and a live power input, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input; a conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and a live pin, the neutral pin positioned at a second, different distance from the live pin; a first sheet metal connector electrically connecting the neutral pin to the neutral power input; and a second sheet metal connector electrically connecting the live pin to the live power input.
2. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein: the first sheet metal connector comprises a first single, unitary bent sheet metal element; and the second sheet metal connector comprises a second single, unitary bent sheet metal element.
3. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.
4. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the first distance is between 0.40 inch and 0.60 inch.
5. The wireless communication device of claim 4, wherein the first distance is about 0.5 inch.
6. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein each of the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector comprises: a first hemmed end for coupling to the respective neutral power input or live power input; and a second end comprising a connection feature for coupling to the respective neutral pin or live pin.
7. The wireless communication device of claim 6, wherein the connection feature comprises at least one of: a hole; or a clamp bend.
8. The wireless communication device of claim 6, wherein the connection feature is secured to the respective neutral pin or live pin with a solder, a weld, a conductive adhesive, or a fastener.
9. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the conductive pin structure exhibits one of: a standard Australian plug configuration; a standard European plug configuration; or a standard United Kingdom plug configuration.
10. The wireless communication device of claim 1, further comprising a housing cover configured to at least partially support the printed circuit board, wherein the conductive pin structure is coupled to the housing cover.
11. The wireless communication device of claim 10, wherein the conductive pin structure is insert molded to the housing cover.
12. The wireless communication device of claim 10, wherein the conductive pin structure is fixed to the housing cover with a fastener.
13. The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the conductive pin structure further comprises a ground pin.
14. A wireless communication device, comprising: a wireless communication element configured to at least one of transmit or receive a wireless signal; a printed circuit board having a neutral power input and a live power input, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input; a housing cover configured to at least partially support the printed circuit board; a conductive pin structure coupled to the housing cover, the conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and a live pin, the neutral pin positioned at a second, greater distance from the live pin; a first bent sheet metal connector electrically connecting the neutral pin to the neutral power input; and a second bent sheet metal connector electrically connecting the live pin to the live power input.
15. The wireless communication device of claim 14, wherein each of the first bent sheet metal connector and the second bent sheet metal connector comprises: a first hemmed end for coupling to the respective neutral power input or live power input; and a second end comprising a connection feature for coupling to the respective neutral pin or live pin.

16. The wireless communication device of claim 15, wherein the first distance is about 0.5 inch.

17. A method of fabricating a wireless communication device, the method comprising: coupling a conductive pin structure including at least a neutral pin and live pin to a housing cover; electrically connecting a first sheet metal connector to the neutral pin; electrically connecting a second sheet metal connector to the live pin; and electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector respectively to a neutral power input and a live power input of a printed circuit board, the neutral power input positioned in the printed circuit board at a first distance from the live power input, wherein the neutral pin is positioned a second, different distance from the live pin.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein coupling the conductive pin structure to the housing cover comprises coupling, to the housing cover, a conductive pin structure exhibiting one of: a standard Australian plug configuration; a standard European plug configuration; or a standard United Kingdom plug configuration.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein: electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector to the neutral pin comprises clamping the neutral pin with the first sheet metal connector; and electrically connecting the second sheet metal connector to the live pin comprises clamping the live pin with the second sheet metal connector.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein electrically connecting the first sheet metal connector and the second sheet metal connector respectively to the neutral power input and the live power input of the printed circuit board comprises: inserting a first hemmed end of the first sheet metal connector into a neutral through hole; and inserting a second hemmed end of the second sheet metal connector into a live through hole.
