

US007046020B2

## (12) United States Patent

#### LaMeres et al.

#### (54) PROBES WITH PERPENDICULARLY DISPOSED SPRING PINS, AND METHODS OF MAKING AND USING SAME

(75) Inventors: Brock J. LaMeres, Colorado Springs,

CO (US); **Brent A. Holcombe**, Colorado Springs, CO (US); **Kenneth Johnson**, Colorado Springs, CO (US)

(73) Assignee: Agilent Technologies, Inc., Palo Alto,

CA (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 10/781,086

(22) Filed: Feb. 17, 2004

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2005/0179454 A1 Aug. 18, 2005

(51) **Int. Cl.** *G01R 31/02* (2006.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ....... 324/754–762, 324/73.1, 158.1; 439/482, 82

See application file for complete search history.

#### (56) References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,232,928 A	*	11/1980	Wickersham 439/42
4,528,500 A	*	7/1985	Lightbody et al 324/537
4,724,377 A	*	2/1988	Maelzer et al 324/149
4,743,839 A	*	5/1988	Rush 324/72.5
4,837,507 A	*	6/1989	Hechtman 324/758

# (10) Patent No.: US 7,046,020 B2 (45) Date of Patent: May 16, 2006

4,912,400 A *	3/1990	Plante 324/754
4,963,822 A *	10/1990	Prokopp 324/758
5,157,325 A *	10/1992	Murphy 324/761
5,172,051 A *	12/1992	Zamborelli 324/72.5
5,223,787 A	6/1993	Smith et al.
5,534,787 A *	7/1996	Levy 324/761
6,046,597 A *	4/2000	Barabi
6,150,830 A *	11/2000	Schmid et al 324/761
6,575,772 B1	6/2003	Soubh et al.
6,822,466 B1*	11/2004	Holcombe et al 324/761
6,867,609 B1*	3/2005	Holcombe et al 324/754

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0513992 A1 \* 6/1992

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Brent A. Holcombe, et al., U.S. Appl. No. 10/373,820, "Connector-Less Probe", 20 pages of specification and eight- (8) sheets of drawings (Fig. 1-7), Filed Feb. 25, 2003.

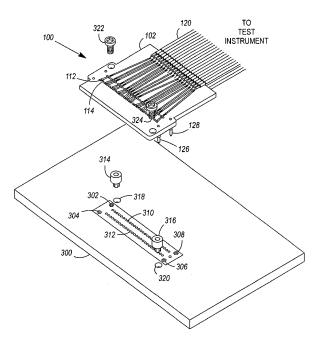
(Continued)

Primary Examiner—Jermele Hollington

#### (57) ABSTRACT

A probe for probing test points on a target board uses a printed circuit board (PCB) having a plurality of signal routes for routing signals to a test instrument. The probe also has a plurality of spring pins for probing the test points on the target board. Each of the spring pins is i) disposed perpendicularly to the PCB, and ii) electrically coupled to at least one signal route of the PCB. By way of example, the spring pins may be fit into holes in the PCB or, alternately, they may be electrically coupled to signal routes of a second PCB that is perpendicularly abutted to the first PCB. Methods for making and using such probes are also disclosed.

#### 16 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



### US 7,046,020 B2

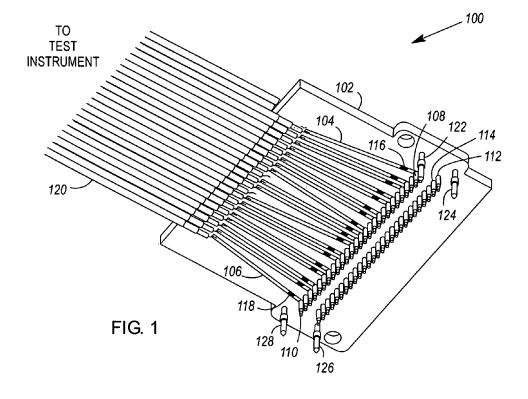
Page 2

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Brent A. Holcombe, et al., U.S. Appl. No. 10/644,365, "Alignment/Retention Device for Connector-Less Probe", 14 pages of specification and five- (5) sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-4C), Filed Aug. 20, 2003.

www.agilent.com, "Soft Touch Connectorless Ligic Analyzer Probes", Agilent models E5387A, E5390A, and E5394A, Jun. 5, 2003, 2 pages.

\* cited by examiner



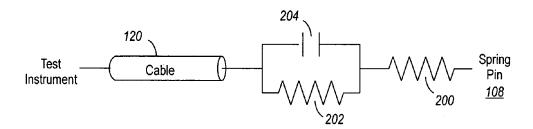
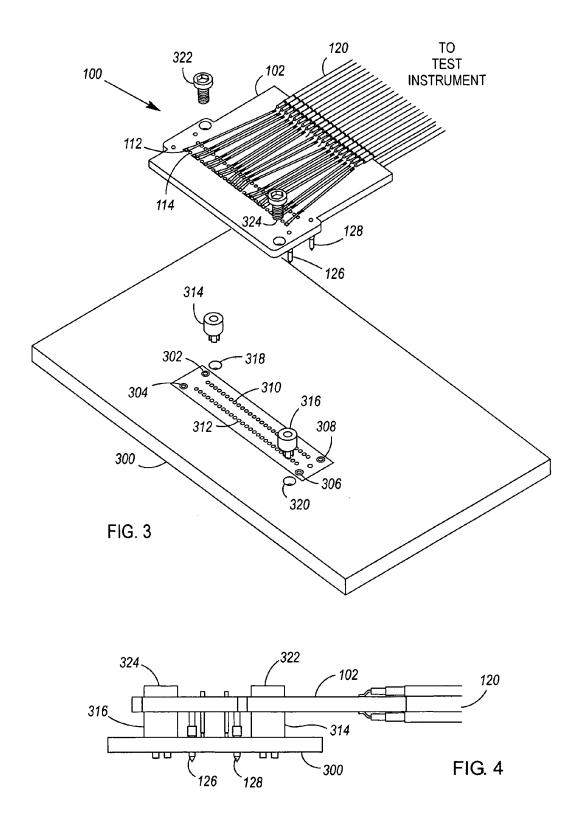
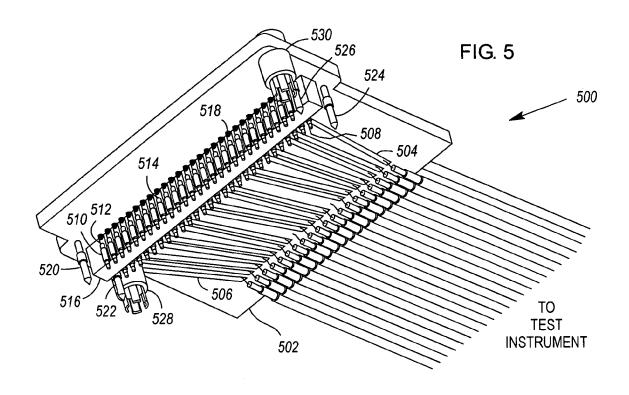
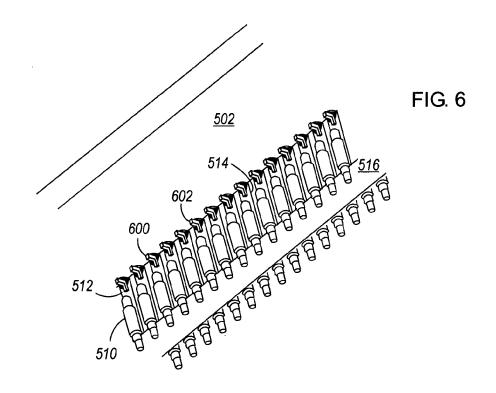
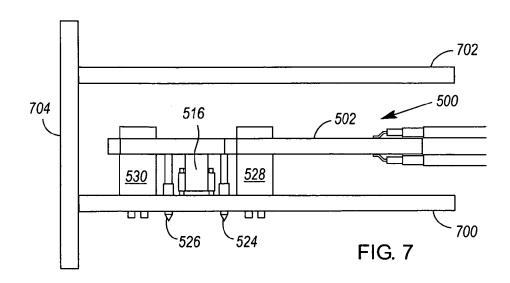


FIG. 2









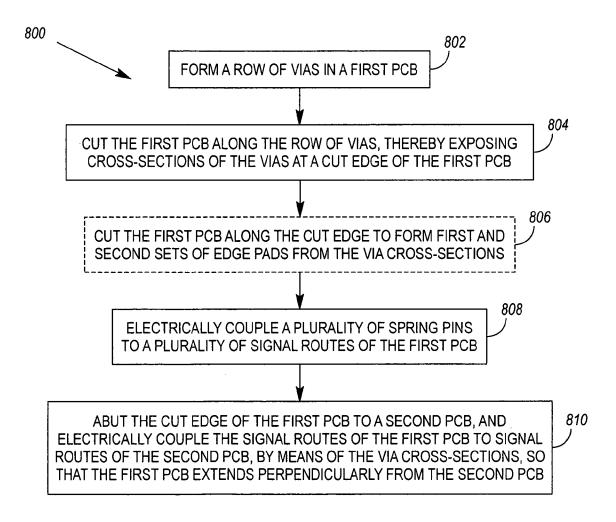


FIG. 8

