

Re: 1/4 inch socket, back nuts (black plastic)

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- *From:* "Ron(UK)" <ron@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Eeyore wrote:

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very serious comment. Any ideas how to make a totally
RELIABLE jack socket ?
(especially the make-break contacts ?

At one time there was a manufacturer who actually put proper point
contacts on their sockets, I don't recall the maker now, possibly Cliff
products.

Yes, I may even still have some of those kicking around. Yes, they are Cliff I
think. Don't know what the material was but it looked sort of 'welded' onto the
blade and had a matt finish. As long as I do have some I could have it analysed
and they'll be old enough to know what the reliability is like with zero service
use in about 30 years.

Hah, and Re-an also gold-plated their blades for a while too.

But the blades were thin and easily bent upwards losing contact pressure with the plug, I think those were the
ones similar to the Cliff's but with a proper metal nut.

There was once a make of socket with a stack of point blades
on top similar to the old GPO relay layout, they were reliable
Of course the American style 'skeleton' type have pretty reliable
contacts – until the blade brakes off.

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Didn't telephone jacks use rhodium or some such plating ? I dare say WEEE would have fits at such ideas.

Whatever you design, it will be manufactured at the minimum cost, so negating the reliability you designed in in the first place ;)

Ah, well if I manage to wangle my way into this possibility (mention nothing to no-one btw !), I may be the one taking those decisions at least at a senior tech level.

Whenever I replace a switched socket, I add a glob of lube from my sevisol pen to the mating faces, that usually does the trick for years unless the socket is abused or some clown blasts WD40 into it.

Yeah, but it's crap to have to do that innit – know what I mean ?

Well, you shouldn't have to do it, but then again, you shouldn't have to replace a jack socket after 12 months cos it's a crappy design.

Remember the old Bulgin skeleton ones? Now they were reliable – providing you used Bulgin's funny plugs.

Ron(UK)

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