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tors. Also, there are many possible variations in the materials and configurations. These modifications and/or combinations fall within the art to which this invention relates and are intended to be within the scope of the claims, which follow. It is noted, as is conventional, the use of a singular element in a claim is intended to cover one or more of such an element.

What is claimed is:

1. A patch panel assembly for use with a data network, the patch panel assembly comprising:

a primary circuit board, the primary circuit board including first and second opposing surfaces and a plurality of first connectors disposed on the first surface thereof, each first connector projecting away from the primary circuit board first surface to define an open space adjacent the first connectors and adjacent the primary circuit board first surface;

a secondary circuit board, the secondary circuit board including first and second opposing surfaces and being disposed in the open space adjacent the first connectors and spaced away from the primary circuit board, the primary and secondary circuit boards defining portions of a hollow nest therebetween;

a plurality of integrated circuit members, each integrated circuit member being disposed in the hollow nest on at least one of the primary and secondary circuit boards; and

at least one second connector for connecting the patch panel assembly to a network component.

2. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, wherein each integrated circuit member is disposed on the primary circuit board first surface and the secondary circuit board second surface.

3. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, wherein the hollow nest is disposed beneath the first connectors, which are arranged in side-by-side order on the primary circuit board to cooperatively define a portion of the hollow nest.

4. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, wherein: the first connectors include jacks, the jacks being arranged in a array on the primary circuit board first surface, each jack including a receptacle opening disposed therein for receiving a plug connector; and

the patch panel assembly further comprises a face plate, the face plate being disposed in confronting relationship to the receptacle openings and the secondary circuit board, and including a plurality of first openings disposed therein, the first openings being aligned with the receptacle openings.

5. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, further comprising a cover, the cover partially enclosing the first connectors and at least one of the primary and secondary circuit boards.

6. The patch panel assembly of claim 5, wherein the cover includes front and rear cover members that cooperatively enclose the primary and secondary circuit boards.

7. The patch panel assembly of claim 5, further comprising a carrier member, the carrier member including a base plate, extending rearwardly of and transversely to the primary and secondary circuit boards, and arm members for engaging the cover.

8. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, wherein: the first connectors include a plurality of jacks, the jacks being arranged in a linear array on the primary circuit board, each jack including a receptacle opening disposed therein for receiving a plug connector; and the patch panel assembly further comprises a cover member, the cover member including a plurality of openings disposed therein for at least partially receiving portions of each jack.

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9. The patch panel assembly of claim 4, wherein: the secondary circuit board further includes a plurality of visual indicators disposed thereon; and the face plate further includes a plurality of second openings aligned with the visual indicators.

10. The patch panel assembly of claim 1, wherein the second connector is disposed on the secondary circuit board and extends through the hollow nest and through the primary circuit board.

11. The patch panel assembly of claim 10, wherein the primary circuit board further includes a notch formed therein, aligned with the second connector, the second connector extending through the notch.

12. The patch panel assembly of claim 11, wherein each first connectors connector includes a receptacle opening facing a first direction, and each second connector includes a mating face facing a second direction, the second direction being opposite the first direction.

13. A patch panel assembly for operatively interconnecting a plurality of work area outlets on a data network to at least one network component, the patch panel assembly comprising:

a face panel, the face panel including a plurality of openings disposed therein, the openings defining connection ports for inserting plug connectors therein and being operatively associated with a plurality of visual indicators for selectively indicating at least one connection port on the face panel;

a primary circuit board, the primary circuit board including first and second opposing surfaces and a plurality of first connectors supported thereby, the first connectors having including receptacle openings disposed therein, the first connector receptacle openings being adapted to receive the plug connectors the first connectors being arranged on the primary circuit board first surface in alignment with the face panel openings, the first connectors further including connector housing portions projecting away from the primary circuit board first surface to define an open space adjacent the first connectors and adjacent the primary circuit board first surface;

a secondary circuit board, the secondary circuit board including first and second opposing surfaces, the secondary circuit board being smaller than the primary circuit board, disposed in the open space adjacent to the first connectors, and spaced away from the primary circuit board such that the secondary circuit board second surface confronts the primary circuit board first surface to define a hollow, protective nest therebetween and underneath the first connector housings;

a plurality of integrated circuits, each integrated circuit being disposed within the hollow nest on at least one of the primary circuit board first and the secondary circuit board second surfaces;

a cover for at least partially enclosing the primary and secondary circuit boards; and

a second connector for connecting the patch panel assembly to a network component when the patch panel assembly is connected to a data network.

14. The patch panel assembly of claim 13, wherein the primary and secondary circuit boards are generally parallel to each other.

15. The patch panel assembly of claim 14, wherein the cover includes first and second cover portions, the cover portions partially holding the primary and secondary circuit boards together and being respectively arranged proximate the secondary circuit board first surface and the primary circuit board second surface.