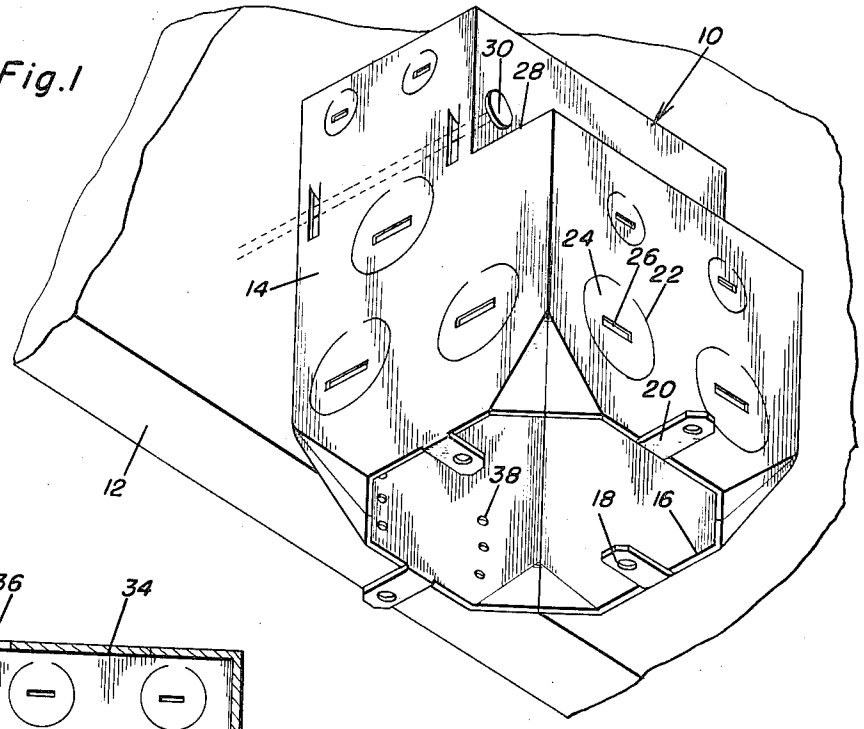
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CEILING OUTLET BOX WITH POSITIONING MEANS

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Fig.1



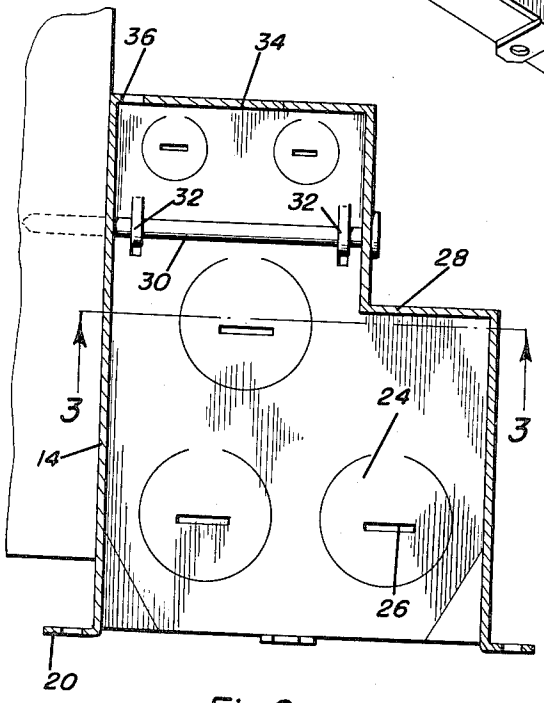
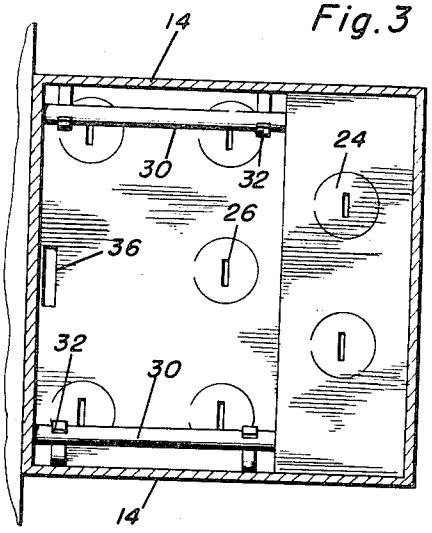


Fig.2

Fig.3



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Fig. 4

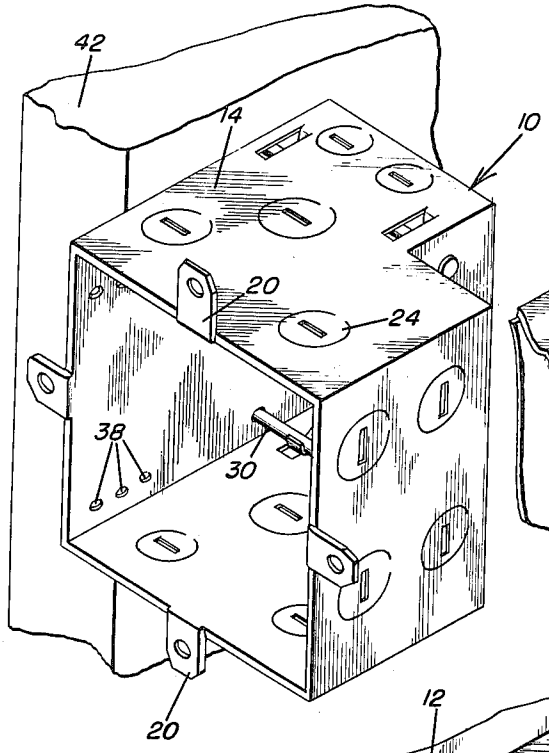


Fig. 6

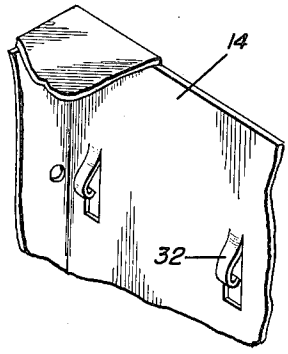
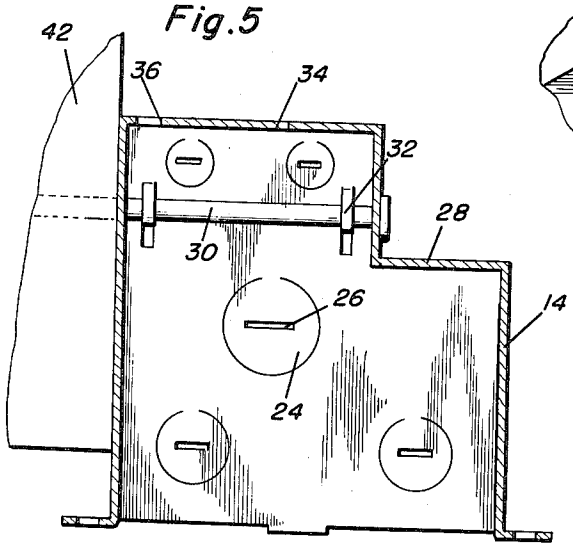


Fig. 5



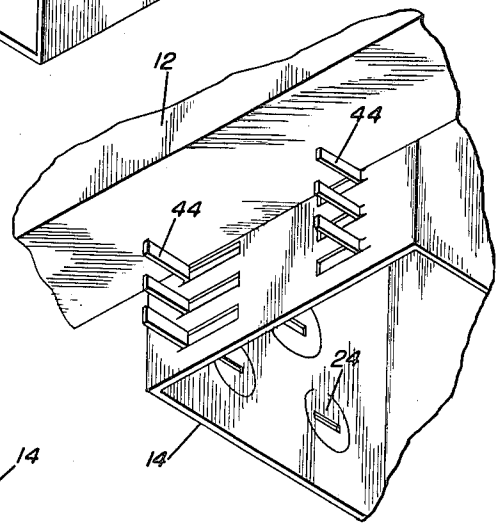


Fig. 7

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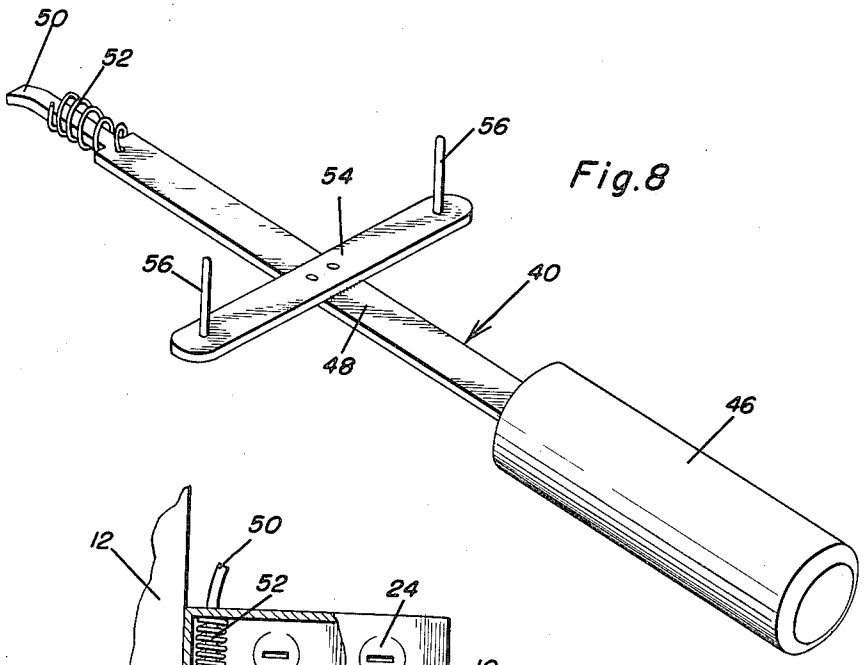


Fig.8

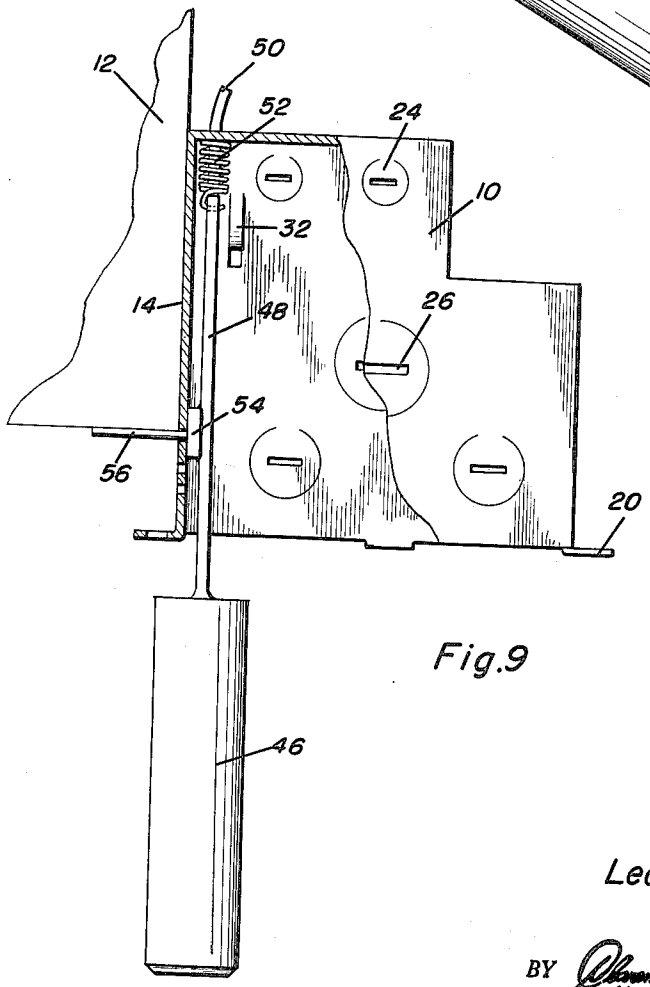


Fig.9

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2,730,261

CEILING OUTLET BOX WITH POSITIONING MEANS

Leo H. Tutt, Topeka, Kans.

Application December 17, 1953, Serial No. 398,671

4 Claims. (Cl. 220—3.7)

This invention relates to a ceiling outlet box and an installation tool and more specifically provides a novel construction in the outlet box for easier mounting and a tool for determining the position of the outlet box in relation to the supporting member.

An object of this invention is to provide an outlet box and installation tool therefor including novel structure of the box, improved mounting means and means for determining the relationship between the open end of the receptacle and the supporting member.

A further object of this invention is to provide a ceiling outlet box and an installation tool which is simple in construction, easy to install, well adapted for its purposes and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the ceiling outlet box of this invention secured to an overhead supporting member;

Figure 2 is a transverse, vertical section taken substantially along the center line of the construction of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a top plan section taken substantially along section line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing the relationship of the outlet box and fastening element;

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing a wall mounted outlet box similar in construction to the ceiling box of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a top plan section taken substantially along the center line of the construction of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a detailed perspective showing the struck out portions for holding the fastening means in correct position;

Figure 7 is a detailed perspective view showing means for spacing the open end of the receptacle in spaced relation to the front surface of the support;

Figure 8 is a detailed perspective of the installation tool of this invention; and

Figure 9 is a top plan view with portions thereof in section showing the construction of Figure 4 and utilizing the installation tool for spacing the forward end or open end of the receptacle forwardly of the front surface of the supporting member.

Referring now specifically to the drawings and especially Figures 1–3, it will be seen that the numeral **10** generally designates the ceiling outlet box of this invention for attachment to an overhead support **12** such as a ceiling joist or the like. The ceiling outlet box **10** includes a plurality of side walls **14** and open end portions **16** having inwardly extending lugs **18** on opposite edges and outwardly extending lugs **20** on opposite edges for securing the light fixture or the light thereto. The side walls **14** are provided with a plurality of openings **22** having removable plugs **24** therein which are provided with a

centrally located slot **26** for receiving a screw driver or the like for prying out of the plug **24** thereby permitting the electrical conductor to be inserted into the interior of the outlet box **10** in a manner well known in the electrical installation process. The side walls **14** are provided with a cut-out or recessed portion indicated by the numeral **28** thereby forming a portion of reduced area and this portion receives a pair of fasteners **30** in the nature of nails which pass through suitable apertures in the side walls **14** and are retained in position by struck out lugs **32** which surround a portion of the periphery of the nail fasteners **30**. The receptacle **10** includes a closed rear wall **34** having a slot **36** therein adjacent the side wall **14** which is mounted alongside the supporting joist **12**. The same side wall which is adjacent the joist **12** is provided with vertically spaced apertures **38** adjacent the open end thereof for receiving a tool **40** as illustrated in Figures 8 and 9.

The construction as illustrated in Figures 4–6 is substantially the same as that indicated in the Figures 1–3 with the exception that the receptacle or outlet box **10** is mounted on a vertical joist **42** and the open end of the receptacle **10** is mounted in a vertical plane. Further, it will be seen that the receptacle **10** is provided with four outwardly projecting lugs **20**. As shown in Figure 7, the side walls **14** of the receptacle **10** adjacent the joist **12** may be provided with vertically spaced bendable lugs **44** which may engage the outer surface of the support **12** thereby spacing the outer end of the receptacle **10** in relation to the support **12**.

As specifically illustrated in Figures 8 and 9, the receptacle **10** is positioned on the joist **12** or **42** by use of the tool **40**. The tool **40** includes a handle portion **46**, an elongated shank **48** and a reduced end portion **50**. The reduced end portion **50** has a compression coil spring **52** secured thereto for purposes described hereinafter. Adjacent the mid-point of the elongated shank **48** is a transverse bar **54** having laterally extending pointed pegs **56** thereon and located at remote ends thereof. The pegs **56** are so positioned to be received in the apertures **38** and the reduced end portion **50** is received in the slot **36**. The compression spring **52** permits the pegs **56** to be inserted in the vertically spaced pairs of apertures **38** and retains therein frictionally during the installation of the recptacle or outlet box **10** by driving the nail fasteners **30** into the joist **12** by suitable impact instruments such as a hammer. It will be understood that the device of this invention permits the rapid installation of outlet boxes **10** in correct relation to the supporting joists **12** or **42** in a most expeditious manner. This also permits the open end of the outlet boxes to be correctly positioned forwardly of the supporting joists wherein various widths of wall board, plaster boards or plaster may be accommodated with the resultant fixture or switch being substantially flush with the wall or ceiling as desired in housing construction. Obviously, the various elements of this invention may be constructed of readily obtainable materials and the particular novel construction of the reduced area indicated by the numeral **28** permits the installation of the outlet boxes of a larger size thereby permitting more electrical conduit to be connected in the outlet box and still remain within the electrical and building codes as set forth by various housing groups and planning commissions.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may

be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. An outlet box comprising a receptacle having side walls, a closed end and an open end, one of said side walls having a recessed portion forming a reduced area, means for determining the position of the receptacle, and means projecting through said reduced area and engaging a support for mounting said receptacle, said receptacle being provided with a plurality of openings having removable closures therein, and said mounting means includes an elongated fastener, said side walls having struck-out bendable lugs engaging the fastener for guiding and frictionally retaining the fastener in position for engagement with the support.

2. An outlet box comprising a receptacle having side walls, a closed end and an open end, one of said side walls having a recessed portion forming a reduced area, means for determining the position of the receptacle, and means projecting through said reduced area and engaging a support for mounting said receptacle, said positioning means including a projecting portion for engaging the front of a support, said projecting portion being associated with said receptacle in selective adjustably spaced relation to said open end whereby the distance from the open end of the recetpacle to the front of a support may be gauged.

3. The structure as defined in claim 2 wherein said projecting portion includes a plurality of spaced bendable lugs for engaging the front of the support.

4. A ceiling outlet box comprising a receptacle having side walls, a closed end and an open end, one of said side walls having a recessed portion forming a reduced area, means for determining the position of the receptacle, and means projecting through said reduced area and engaging a support for mounting said receptacle, said positioning means including a projecting portion for engaging the front of a support, said projecting portion being associated with said receptacle in selective adjustably spaced relation to said open end whereby the distance from the open end of the receptacle to the front of a support may be gauged, the juncture of the side walls being inwardly tapered at the open end for permitting attachment of various sizes of fittings.

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