July 17, 1962 R. H. WHYTE 3,044,587

TRIM STRIP ASSEMBLY

Filed April 21, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

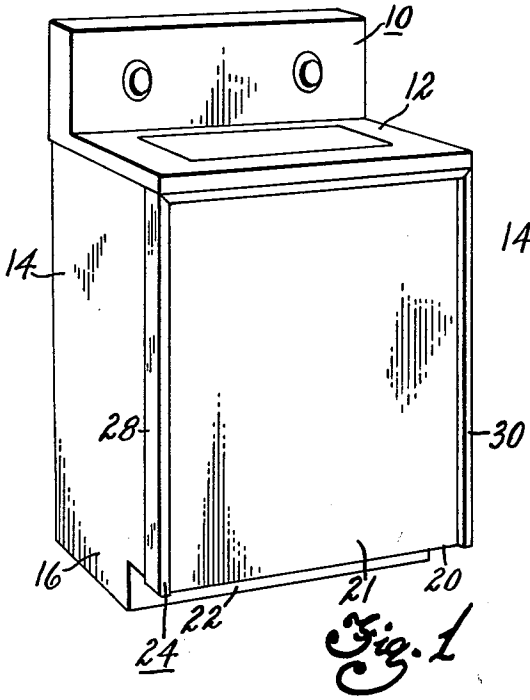


Fig. 1

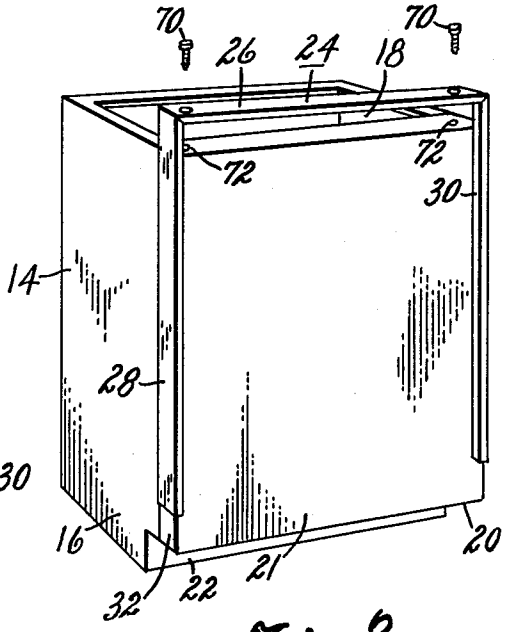


Fig. 2

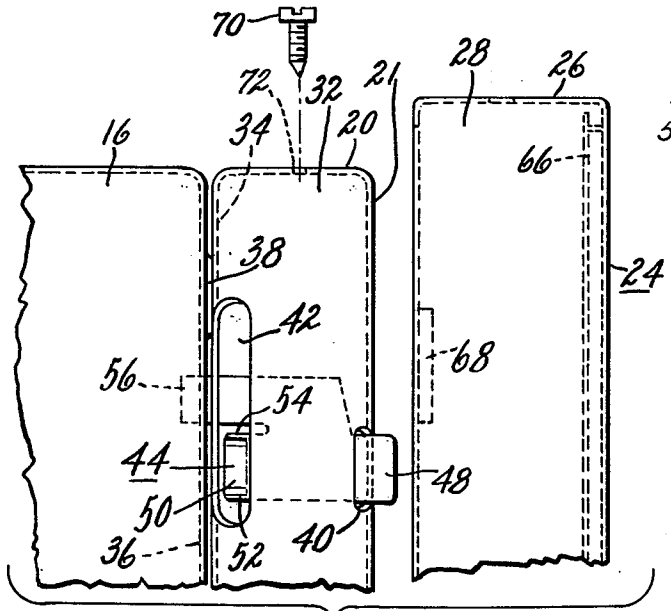


Fig. 3

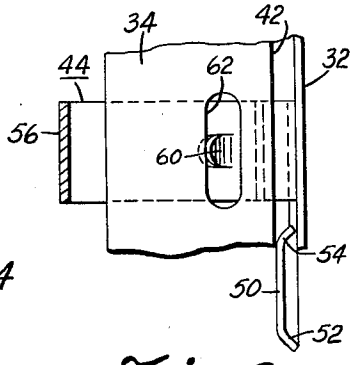


Fig. 9

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TRIM STRIP ASSEMBLY

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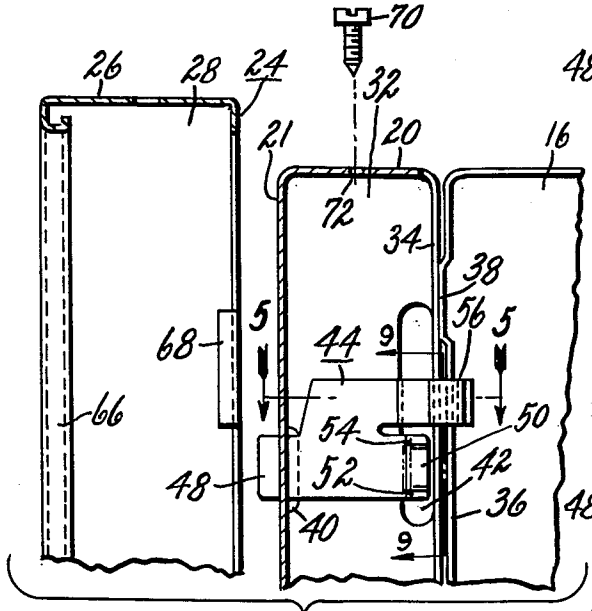


Fig. 4

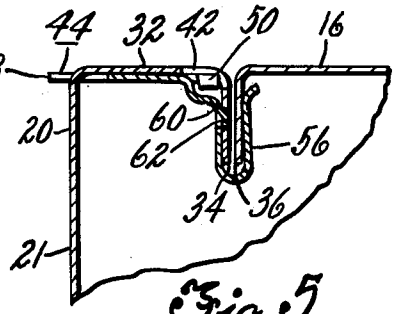


Fig. 5

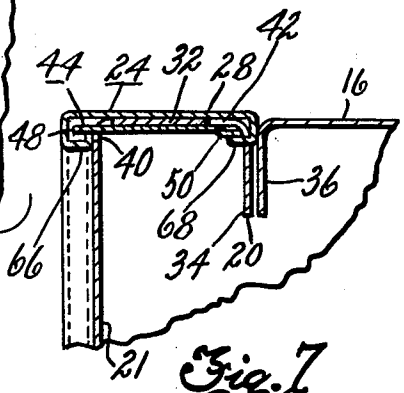


Fig. 7

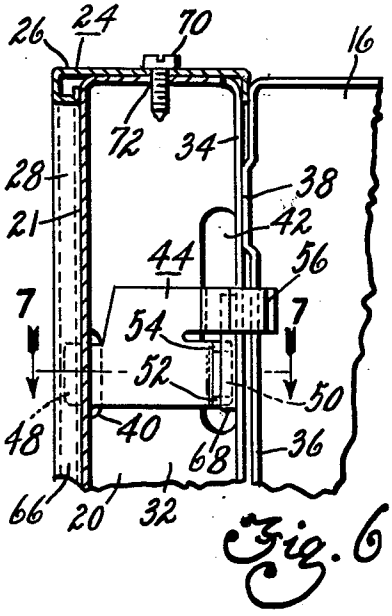


Fig. 6

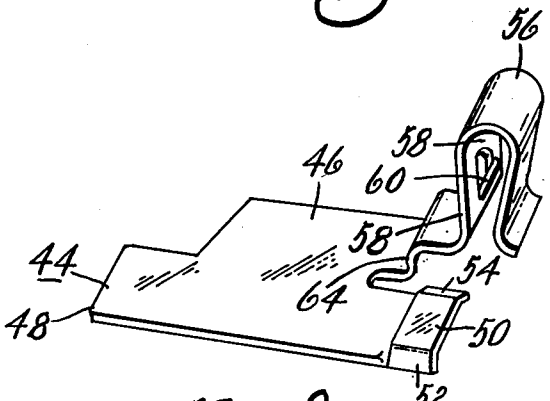


Fig. 8

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TRIM STRIP ASSEMBLY

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Filed Apr. 21, 1960, Ser. No. 23,823
3 Claims. (Cl. 189—88)

This invention relates to a trim strip assembly and more particularly to a fastening arrangement for attaching an edge trim flush to the trimmed panel.

In the manufacture of domestic appliances, the attaching of trim to the appliance cabinets is a tedious and exacting job. Especially is this so when the trim is applied flush to the edge of a panel in order to give the appliance a square look. It is desirable that the trim be attached to the cabinet by invisible means and that the trim be removable easily for servicing. It is to these ends that the present invention is directed.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a flush mounted trim strip for an appliance cabinet.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a trim strip which is attachable by invisible means.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a unitary trim strip for a cabinet which is removable from the outside of the cabinet.

A more particular object of this invention is the provision of a trim strip fastener having a resilient loop for attaching the fastener to an appliance cabinet and legs projecting externally of said cabinet for receiving retaining flanges of a trim strip.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein preferred embodiments of the present invention are clearly shown.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a laundry appliance provided with the trim strip of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the trim strip prior to its being lockingly positioned on the cabinet.

FIGURE 3 is an exploded view of a cabinet trim strip fastening assembly from the outside of the cabinet.

FIGURE 4 is a similar exploded view of the trim strip fastening assembly from the inside of the cabinet.

FIGURE 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is a sectional view of the parts in assembled relationship viewed from the inside of the cabinet.

FIGURE 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7—7 in FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 8 is a perspective view of the fastener clip.

FIGURE 9 is a sectional view partly in elevation taken along line 9—9 in FIGURE 4.

In accordance with this invention and with reference to FIGURE 1, a clothes washer **10** is shown having a top and control housing portion **12** and a cabinet portion **14**. The cabinet portion of the appliance is made up of side walls or panels **16** and **18** and a front panel **20** set out from the appliance to form a toe space **22**. The front panel **20** is formed with a front wall **21** having integral side portions **32**. In order to give the appliance a square look appearance a trim strip, shown generally at **24**, is used to circumscribe the top and sides of the front panel **20**.

The trim strip **24** is of integral inverted U-shaped design and is comprised of a top portion **26** and side portions **28** and **30** which closely hug the side portions **32** of the front panel **20**.

Further details of the cabinet **14** are shown in FIGURE 4. In this illustration the front panel **20** has an inturned ported flange **34** in juxtaposition to a similarly inwardly

directed flange **36** on the side wall **16**. These juxtaposed flanges **34**, **36** may be welded, as at **38**, to correctly assemble the front and side portions of the cabinet **14**. At the juncture of the front wall **21** with the side portions **32** of the front panel an aperture **40** is formed for the purposes of receiving means for attaching the front side of the trim strip **24**, as will be described more fully hereinafter. Opposite from the aperture **40** is a relatively larger or elongated aperture **42** at the juncture of the front panel wall portions **32** and flange **34** for receiving means for attaching the rear side of the trim strip **24**. The apertures **40** and **42** are used in conjunction with the attaching means embodied on a trim strip fastener or clip, shown generally at **44**.

With reference to FIGURE 8, the trim strip clip or fastener **44** is comprised of a base portion **46** having a trim strip front side attachment leg **48** extending in one direction and a trim strip rear side fastening leg **50** extending in the opposite direction. Cam surfaces **52** and **54** are bent or formed into the leg **50** to facilitate relative movement between clip **44** and trim strip **24** in the application and removal of the trim strip from the front panel **20** of the appliance. Further, the fastener **44** includes a looped portion **56** on the inner edge **58** of which is a lanced out tab **60** for locking the clip **44** to the juxtaposed flanges **34** and **36**, as seen in FIGURE 5. Note that the tab **60** extends into an aperture or flange port **62** in the ported flange **34**. This substantially locks the clip **44** to the assembled cabinet. Note also that the clip **44** is of integral or unitary design, the leg **58** of the loop **56** merging into the base portion **46** of the clip through a step **64** to provide clearance for the trim strip **24**, as will be described more fully hereinafter.

As best seen in FIGURE 7, the trim strip **24** is provided with a turned over or reversely bent front bead or flange **66** along the entire front edge of the trim strip and a relatively short reversely bent rear retaining flange **68**. In general, the front bead or retaining flange **66** engages the clip leg **48** while the rear retaining flange **68** engages the clip leg **50** for holding the trim strip **24** to the side wall **32** of the front panel **20**. Note also, as best seen in FIGURE 4, that the front retaining flange **66** extends the entire length of the trim strip whereas the rear retaining flange **68** is relatively short. It is the retaining flange **68** which fits within the elongated opening **42** during assembly of the trim strip to the front panel **20**, as will be described next following.

To assemble the trim strip **24** to the front panel **20** of the cabinet **14**, the trim strip is placed in the position shown in FIGURE 2. By slightly warping or twisting the depending legs **28**, **30** of the trim strip, the front retaining flange **66** of each leg may be slipped over the clip **48**. As the trim strip is allowed to straighten, the relatively short rear retaining flange **68** will pivotally move into the slot **42** above the rear retaining leg **50** of the clip so that the trim strip assumes the position shown in FIGURE 2. Then the entire trim strip **24** is slid or pushed downwardly so that the small flange **68** interlocks behind the retaining leg **50**, thereby locking the trim strip to the front panel **20**. It is at this time that the cam surfaces **52** and **54** are utilized in camming the flange **68** in an easy manner onto the leg **50** of the clip. Note that the slight raised portion terminating the clip leg **50** will bias inwardly the trim strip flange **68**, thereby snugly to retain the trim strip in an antirattle manner. Lastly, a fastening means, such as a screw **70**, is inserted through the top wall **26** of the trim strip and into an aperture **72** in the top flange of the front panel **20**. Then the top control housing portion **12** is secured to the cabinet **14** to effect the assembled appliance shown in FIGURE 1. It should be noted that the trim strip **24** may be easily removed from the cabinet **14** simply by reversing the

aforementioned steps. This removal may be accomplished without reaching on the inside of the cabinet **14**.

It should now be seen that an improved trim strip assembly has been provided for a cabinet which enhances the square look appearance of the appliance as well as effects a simplified but positive locking action of the trim strip with the cabinet. It is contemplated that three clips **44** will be used to retain each leg **28** and **30** of the trim strip. In this case it should be understood that a separate pair of apertures such as **40**, **42** will be required for each clip used and that the trim strip will need a rear retaining flange such as **68** for each clip used. However, it is within the purview of this invention to use any suitable number of these clips depending on the length of the trim strip to be applied.

While the embodiments of the present invention as herein disclosed, constitute preferred forms, it is to be understood that other forms might be adopted.

What is claimed is as follows:

1. In combination with a panel having a front wall, a side wall and a ported flange, said panel having a relatively long aperture at the juncture of said side wall with said flange and a relatively short aperture at the juncture of said front wall with said side wall, a trim strip in juxtaposition to said side wall and having a relatively long retaining flange adjacent said relatively short aperture and a relatively short retaining flange adjacent said relatively long aperture, and a unitary trim strip fastener having a base portion and a fastener attachment portion, said attachment portion having a loop for grippingly engaging said panel flange and a lanced out tab cooperating with said flange port to lock said fastener to said panel flange, and said base portion having a first trim strip retaining leg extending through said relatively short aperture into retaining engagement with said relatively long retaining flange and a second trim strip retaining leg extending through said relatively long aperture into retaining engagement with said relatively short retaining flange.

2. In combination with a panel having a front wall, a side wall and a flange, said panel having a first aperture at the juncture of said side wall with said flange and a second aperture at the juncture of said front wall with said side wall, a trim strip in juxtaposition to said side wall and having a relatively long retaining flange adjacent said second aperture and a relatively short retaining flange adjacent said first aperture, and a unitary trim strip fastener having a base portion and a fastener attachment portion, said attachment portion having a loop for grippingly engaging said panel flange to retain said fastener to said panel flange, and said base portion having a first trim strip retaining leg extending through said second aperture into retaining engagement with said relatively long retaining flange and a second trim strip retaining leg offset from said base portion and extending through said first aperture into retaining and biasing engagement with said relatively short retaining flange.

3. In combination with a cabinet panel having a front wall, a top wall, a pair of side walls and a ported flange, said panel having a relatively long aperture at the juncture of at least one of said side walls with said flange and a relatively short aperture at the juncture of said front wall with at least one of said side walls, an inverted U-shaped trim strip in juxtaposition to said side walls and said top wall and having an exposed peripherally arranged relatively long retaining flange abutting said front wall adjacent said relatively short aperture and a concealed relatively short retaining flange adjacent said relatively long aperture, a unitary trim strip fastener having a base portion and a fastener attachment portion, said attachment portion having a loop for grippingly engaging said panel flange and a lanced out tab cooperating with said flange port to lock said fastener to said panel flange, and said base portion having a first trim strip retaining leg extending through said relatively short aperture into retaining engagement with said relatively long retaining flange and a second trim strip retaining leg extending through said relatively long aperture into retaining engagement with said relatively short retaining flange, and means for securing said trim strip to said top wall.

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