March 1, 1960 W. A. TROTT 2,927,198

ILLUMINATED BATHROOM FIXTURE

Filed Sept. 18, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

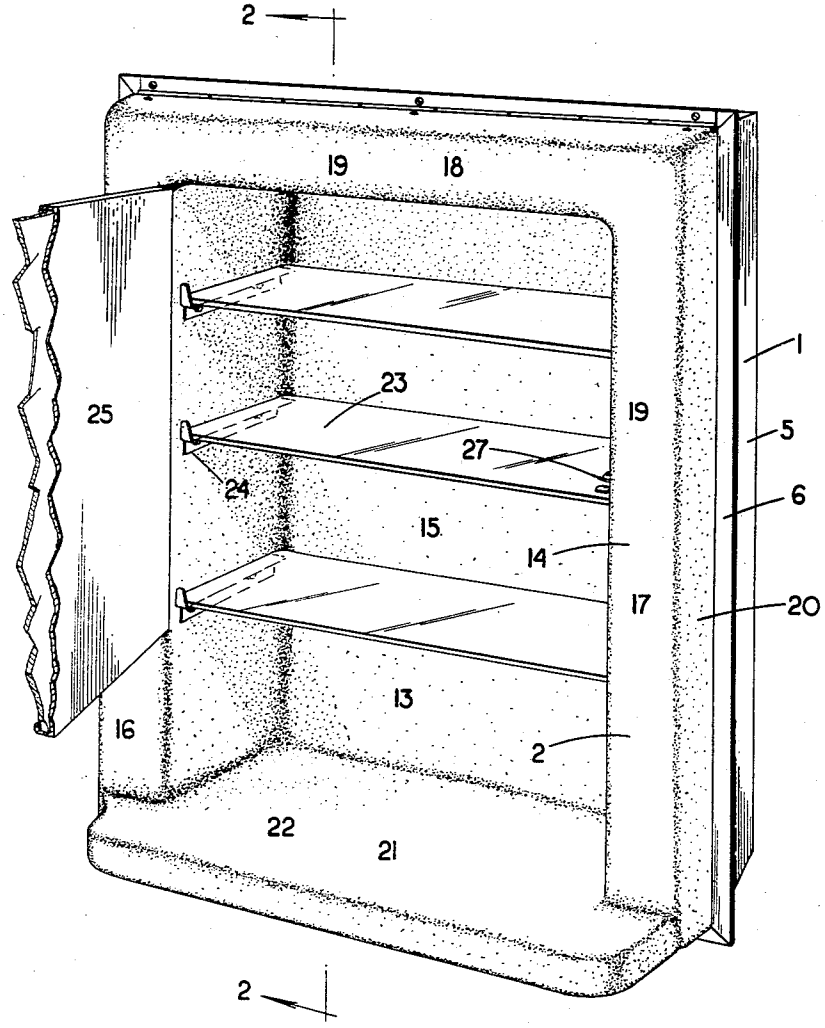


FIG 1

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Fig 2

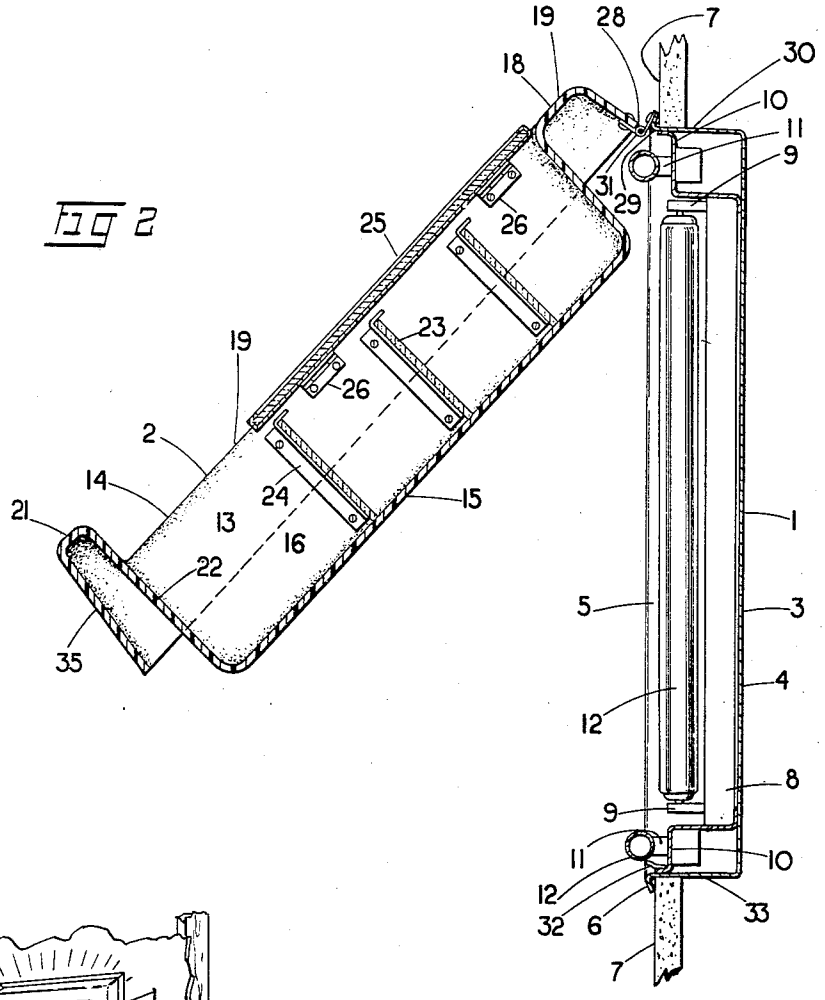
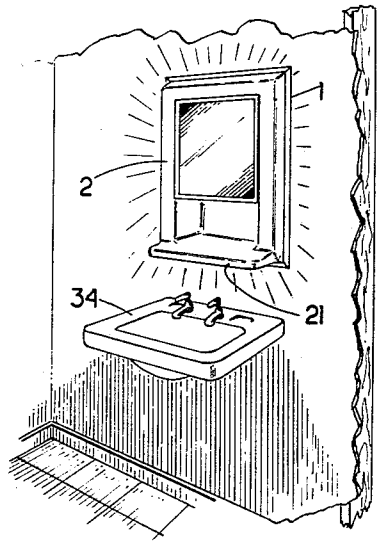


Fig 3



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United States Patent Office

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ILLUMINATED BATHROOM FIXTURE

William A. Trott, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Application September 18, 1957, Serial No. 684,765

4 Claims. (Cl. 240—4.1)

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in wall fixtures, particularly fixtures adapted to be used in bathrooms and the like and to be situated above washbasins, the principal object and essence of my invention being to provide a device of the character herewithin described which is in the form of an internally illuminated cabinet manufactured of a translucent plastic such as acrylic or Plexiglas, incorporating a mirror and an outwardly projecting shelf also adapted to be illuminated internally which in turn illuminates the general area therebelow.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described in which the shelf area of the cabinet is completely illuminated internally by the surrounding translucent frame or carcass.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described in which the plastic carcass can be swung clear of the rear frame portion upon hinges for ready access to the illuminating elements.

Yet another object of my invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described which is particularly suitable for use within present day bathrooms and the like inasmuch as it is adapted to be recessed within the area normally provided for conventional medicine cabinets.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described in which the entire carcass is manufactured of translucent plastic all of which permits light to be diffused softly therethrough with a halving effect due to its projecting slightly from the associated wall, and also permits the mirror portion thereof to be surrounded by a frame of light while illuminating the same.

With the foregoing objects in view, and such other objects and advantages as will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention relates as this specification proceeds, my invention consists essentially in the arrangement and construction of parts all as hereinafter more particularly described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective representation of my bathroom wall fixture with cabinet door shown fragmented.

Figure 2 is a vertical section substantially along the lines 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a synoptic perspective representation of my fixture in situ over a bathroom washbasin.

In the drawings like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

Conventional bathroom medicine cabinets usually consist of a chest recessed into the wall and situated above the wash-basin, the door of the cabinet being faced with mirror glass. However, the problem of illuminating this mirror is not well handled in most present day bathrooms. The practice usually consists either of placing a strip-light or lights above or at the sides of the mirror, or alternatively supplying a source of illumination more or less remote from the cabinet.

The strip-light method of illumination, if not shaded, causes considerable glare both directly and via the mirrored reflection thereof. If shaded to avoid this glare, then the illumination is sufficient only to illuminate the mirror itself and not the surrounding area.

The present device overcomes these disadvantages inasmuch as the entire framework of the cabinet is formed of translucent plastic illuminated internally. This not only provides a frame of softly diffused light around and servicing the mirror, but also illuminates the interior of the cabinet and the wash-bowl area therebelow.

Proceeding therefore to describe my invention in detail, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings in which is illustrated the device consisting of two main portions, a posterior wall-mounting portion collectively designated **1** and a formed anterior translucent plastic carcass collectively designated **2**, said carcass being hingedly connected to the portion **1** as will hereinafter be described.

The wall-mounting portion **1** consists of a shallow hollow metal boxing **3** having a rear wall **4** and surrounding side walls **5**. These side walls terminate in out-turned flanges **6** which operate to locate the boxing within the wall opening bounded by wall surfaces **7** so that when the portion **1** is in position, it is recessed within the said wall surface as shown in Figure 2.

Illuminating element support brackets **8** extend down the sides of wall-mounting portion **1** adjacent to and parallel with side-walls **5**, said brackets carrying conventional fluorescent lamp holders **9** upon each end thereof. Horizontal face-brackets **10** are situated so as to span the side walls **5** of the wall-portion **1** and parallel thereto, these carrying lamp holders **11**. From the foregoing it will be appreciated that when the horizontal and vertical fluorescent lamps **12** are secured between their holders, all four sides of my wall-mounting portion carry longitudinal light sources. The carcass, collectively designated **2** is formed from a one-piece pressing of translucent plastic, preferably white, or creamy white so that light passing therethrough from the aforementioned fluorescent lamps **12** casts a soft, pleasant radiance from which glare spots are eliminated. It will be appreciated however that with modern bathroom designs, various colored tints may be used in the manufacture of this carcass, should it be desired, for instance, that the fixture blend with a specific decor.

The perimeter of carcass **2** is similar to that of the portion **1**, and is internally cavitated, thereby providing a central recess **13** and an outwardly projecting three-sided frame **14**, the upper part of the central recess **13** functioning as a cabinet as will hereinafter be described. Recess **13** includes the rear panel or wall **15** which is substantially rectangular, and side walls **16** and **17** extending therefrom. The side walls **16** and **17** constitute the vertical sides (or jambs) of recess **13**. The inner surfaces thereof diverge slightly outwards from the edges of rear panel **15**. Wall (or lintel) **18** is co-planar upon the facing surface **19** with the corresponding facing surfaces of jambs **16** and **17** as clearly illustrated. In-turned perimetrical flanks **20** surrounding the three upper sides of my carcass diverge slightly from the facing surfaces aforesaid.

Also formed integrally with the carcass is an outwardly projecting blistered sill **21** formed at the lower end of the carcass and extending substantially across the width thereof. Reference to Figure 2 will show that the upper surface **22** of this sill, which is hollow, is coterminous and integral with panel **15**.

The upper or cabinet portion of recess **13** is provided with a plurality of glass shelves **23** spanning the sides thereof. These are supported by brackets **24** secured to the aforesaid inner surfaces of sides **16** and **17**.

A substantially rectangular mirror **25** is hingedly se-

cured at points **26** to the angle between side wall **16** of recess **13** to function as a door enclosing the cabinet part thereof. A conventional catch **27** holds the door in the closed postion.

Door **25** is anteriorly faced with mirror glass so that when the same is closed, a substantially rectangular mirror surface is provided, surrounded by the aforementioned outwardly projecting frame **14**.

The carcass is hingedly secured at the posterior upper edge **28** to the anterior edge **29** of upper side **30** (of my wall mounting portion **1**) by means of a piano hinge **31** so that the entire carcass can be swung outwardly and upwardly from portion **1** in order to gain access to the fluorescent lamps **12** therebehind. Any conventional means such as spring clip **32** may be provided adjacent or attached to side **33** of the portion **1** so as to maintain the carcass in closed postion under normal circumstances.

It will be observed that the brackets **8** and **10** carrying fluorescent lamp **12** are so formed that the lamps are advanced with respect to the plane of rear wall **4**. Also that when the carcass is in the closed position, these lamps are located within the internal cavities of the outwardly projecting frame and sill of the carcass so that they diffuse light on all four exterior sides of the carcass as well as upon its facing surfaces and inner surfaces (bounding recess **13**).

Thus due to the translucent nature of the plastic from which the carcass is formed, my mirror is marginally illuminated. Due to the fact that the carcass projects beyond wall surface **7**, it will be obvious that the surrounding wall area is also illuminated.

Of great importance too, is the illuminating function of sill **21**, which, it will be observed, overlies washbasin **34**. Inasmuch as this sill is hollow and projects outwardly beyond the plane of the facing surfaces of my surrounding jambs and lintel, and that the lower fluorescent lamp **12** is situated within the confines of the sill, a considerable quantum of light passes downwardly through its lower surface **35** to illuminate washbasin **34**. In this way my invention eliminates the need for other lamps specifically for this purpose.

In light of the foregoing, I hereby summarize the inventive concept of my invention for reader-convenience in the interpretation of the following claims, as broadly residing in the combination of the aforesaid posterior wall mounting portion **1**, a translucent plastic carcass **2** anteriorly positioned with respect to the wall portion so as to overlie the same, preferably in hinged attachment thereto, such carcass constituting a pressing whereby it is surface-formed in the manner hereafter progressively

defined in the appended claims, and preferably so as to delineate a central recess **13** (in which shelves **23** may if desired be placed), an internally (or posteriorly) cavitated, outwardly projecting three-sided frame **14** surrounding recess **3**, and (again preferably though not essentially) an outwardly projecting sill **21**, a mirrored door **25** hingedly overlying recess **13**, and illuminating means such as elements or lamps **12** enclosed between wall mounting and carcass, preferably substantially within the confines of frame **14**.

Since various modifications can be made in my invention as hereinabove described, and many apparently widely different embodiments of same made within the spirit and scope of the claims without departing from such spirit and scope, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. As an article of manufacture, an internally illumined wall-fixture embodying in combination a posterior wall-mounting portion, a surface-formed translucent plastic carcass overlying said wall-mounting portion, said carcass being characterized by the provision of a central recess functioning as a vertically disposed cabinet, an internally cavitated, outwardly projecting frame surrounding said recess and at least two elongated and parallel illuminating elements enclosed between said wall-mounting portion and said carcass and on either side of said recess, said elements also lying parallel with said frame and at least within the produced confines thereof.

2. The article of manufacture according to claim 1 which includes a vertically disposed and exteriorly reflecting mirror overlying said recess, said mirror functioning as a door hinged upon one vertical side thereof to enclose said cabinet.

3. The article of manufacture according to claim 1 in which said carcass is hingedly connected to said wall-mounting portion.

4. The article of manufacture according to claim 1 in which said carcass includes an outwardly projecting blistered sill at the base of said recess capable of illuminating the area therebelow.

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