

April 18, 1950

P. F. SIMPSON

2,504,741

TOWEL BAR

Filed Sept. 11, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

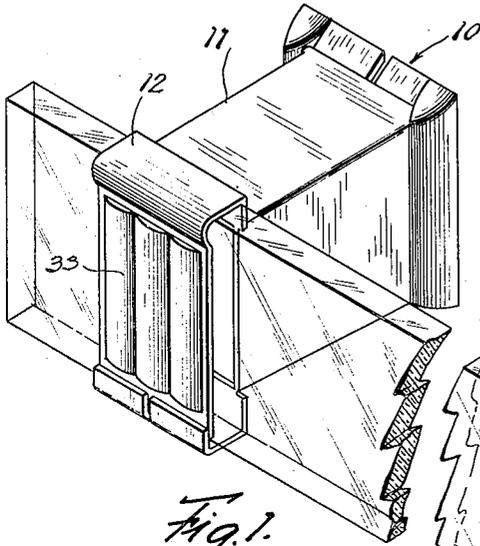


Fig. 1.

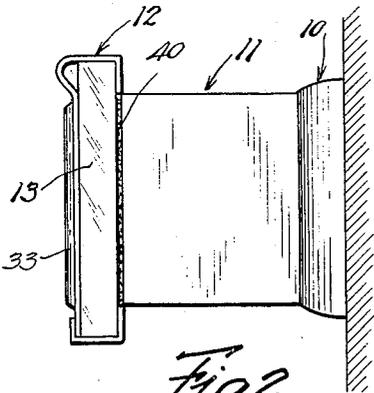
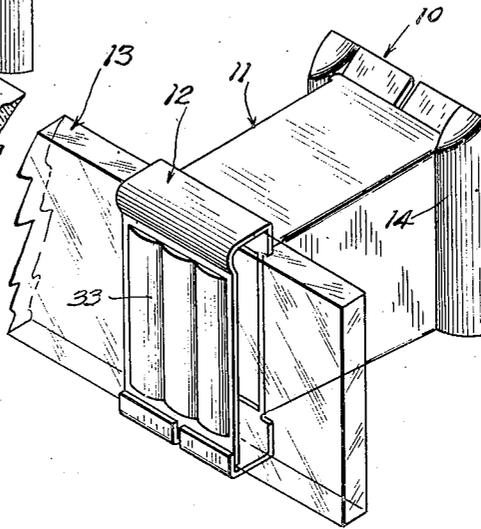


Fig. 2.

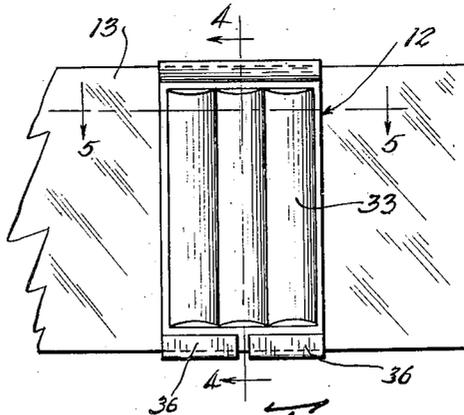


Fig. 3.

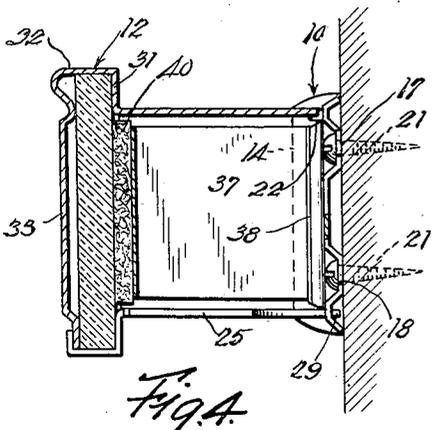


Fig. 4.

Inventor:
Paul F. Simpson.
By: Shies, Olson & Mcklen Brown.
Attys.

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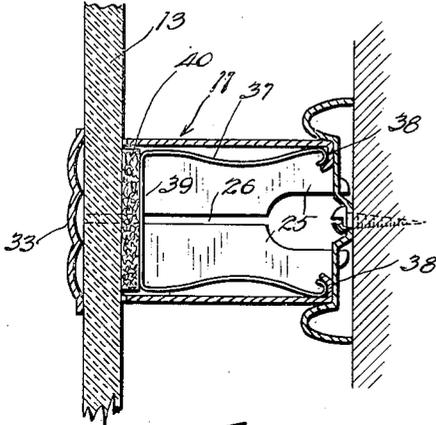


Fig. 5.

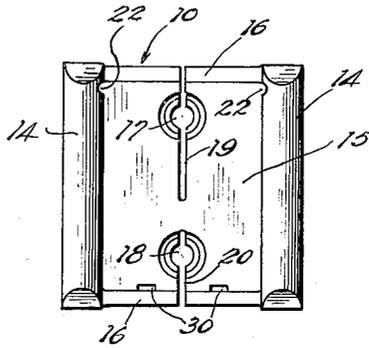


Fig. 6.

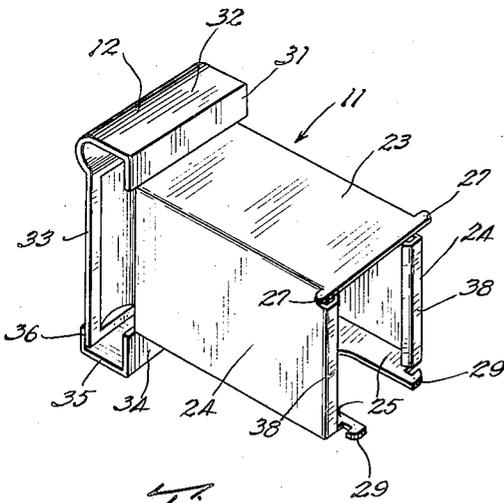


Fig. 7.

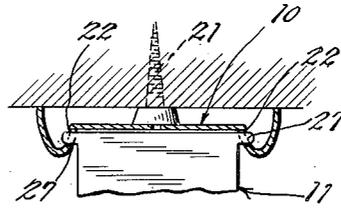


Fig. 8.

Inventor:
Paul F. Simpson:
By: *J. H. Hiss, Clerk* *W. L. H. Brown*
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,504,741

TOWEL BAR

Paul F. Simpson, Washington, Conn., assignor to
The Autoyre Company, Incorporated, Oakville,
Conn., a corporation of Connecticut

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10 Claims. (Cl. 211—123)

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This invention relates to towel bars, more particularly to towel bars adapted to be secured to walls or similar supports by concealed securing means, and the invention has for an object the provision of improved, inexpensive and highly attractive towel bars of this character.

Towel bars have heretofore been proposed in which a cover plate to which the U-shaped bar is welded or similarly fixed is hingedly connected to a base plate having means for securement to a support, the cover plate being shaped to conceal the portion of the base plate containing the securement means after the towel bar has been installed on the wall or support. Such hinged-bracket towel bars heretofore known, however, have employed U-shaped metal bars welded to the hinged cover plates as above indicated, and have been somewhat lacking from an appearance standpoint in that they do not present the substantial massive appearance characteristic of more expensive towel bar constructions, such as built-in or permanently mounted towel bars of either metal, glass or porcelain construction. Furthermore, the hinged type constructions heretofore known have not been adaptable to the use of glass or porcelain bars or rods for supporting the towels, and in various types of towel bars utilizing such glass or porcelain rods difficulties have been encountered in suitably supporting the bar or rod firmly while permitting ready assembly of the bar with its supporting arms during installation of the towel bar. Accordingly, it is a further object of this invention to provide an improved towel bar construction wherein a straight glass bar or rod is firmly held in supporting arms having a massive appearance, which arms are hingedly supported on a base plate and related thereto so as to conceal the screws or other securing means employed in fastening the base plates to a wall or similar support.

In carrying out the invention in one form a towel bar is provided comprising a base member having means for securement to a support and a hollow arm shaped to conceal the portion of the base member containing the securement means when the rear end edges of the arm about the front face of the base member, and means are provided for hingedly securing one rear end edge of the arm to the base member for swinging movement from its concealing position to a po-

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sition wherein the securement means are exposed, the front end of the arm being shaped to receive in supporting relation a transversely extending towel-receiving bar. More specifically, the hollow arm is of substantially rectangular cross-section and is provided at its forward end with an opening for receiving a flat glass bar of greater height than width, and resilient means are provided within the hollow arms for engaging the glass bar in clamping relation, the resilient means including a nonmetallic friction pad adapted to be pressed into engagement with one surface of the glass bar.

For a more complete understanding of the invention, reference should now be had to the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a towel bar embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the towel bar shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary front elevational view of one end of the towel bar shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an elevational sectional view taken substantially along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken substantially along the line 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a front elevational view of the base member forming a part of the towel bar shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of one of the arms employed in the towel bar of Fig. 1 looking toward the rear end of the arm; and

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary detail view showing the hinged connection of the arm to the base member.

Referring now to the drawings, the invention is shown as embodied in a towel bar comprising a pair of base members 10 for supporting substantially rectangular forwardly extending hollow arms 11, each of which is provided at its forward end with an open-sided housing 12 adapted to receive a straight flat bar 13 which is preferably formed of glass but may of course be formed of any suitable material. Inasmuch as the base members 10 and the arms 11 at the opposite ends of the towel-receiving rod 13 are identical in construction, only one such structure will be described in detail.

As shown best in Fig. 6, the base member 10 is shaped to provide a pair of vertically extending embossments or beads 14 at the opposite edges

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thereof and a central portion 15 of the base member 10 is provided at its top and bottom edges with rearwardly sloping flanges 16, the rear edges of which are flush with the rear edges of the beads 14. The central portion 15 is likewise provided with suitable apertures 17 and 18 intersected by suitable slots 19 and 20, respectively, the apertures 17 and 18 being countersunk, as shown best in Figs. 4 and 8, for receiving the heads of suitable supporting screws 21. Each of the bead portions 14 is provided at its inner edge adjacent the upper end thereof with an aperture 22, which apertures cooperate with suitable hinge pins to be hereinafter described for hingedly connecting the hollow arm 11 to the base member 10.

As shown best in Fig. 7 the hollow arm 11 is formed from a single sheet of metal and is shaped to provide a substantially rectangular structure including a top wall 23 and depending side walls 24, the bottom wall of the arm comprising in-turned flanges 25, the inner edges of which terminate short of each other to provide a longitudinally extending slot 26 (Fig. 5). At its rear end edge the top wall 23 of the arm 11 is provided with a pair of outwardly extending ears or pins 27 adapted to be received in the apertures 22 of the base member 10, as shown best in Fig. 8 so as to hingedly support the arm 11 on the base member 10, the slots 19 and 20 providing suitable resilience of the base member to permit ready assembly of the hinged connection. Each of the flanges 25 forming the bottom wall of the hollow arm 11 is provided with a latch portion 29, which latch portions are adapted to extend into suitable apertures 30 in the base member 10 so as firmly to latch the arm in the position shown best in Fig. 1, wherein both the hinged connection and the latch connection together with the screw heads are substantially concealed from view, the rear end edges of the arm 11 in this position abutting the front face of the base plate 10.

Referring again particularly to Fig. 7, the top wall 23 of the arm 11 is provided with a continuation which is shaped to provide an upwardly extending flange 31, a forwardly extending portion 32 and a downwardly extending wall 33, while the bottom flanges 25 of the arm 11 are each provided with a downwardly-extending flange 34, a forwardly extending flange 35 and upwardly extending ears 36 which overlap the wall 33 and may be suitably secured thereto. The portions 31-36, inclusive, when the arm is assembled thus provide the open-sided housing 12 adapted to receive a towel bar 13, as shown in Fig. 1, the open sides of the bar-receiving housing in effect constituting apertures in the side walls of the arm 11 adjacent the front end thereof.

In order firmly to hold the towel bar 13 in proper relation to the arm 11 to restrain longitudinal movement of the bar 13 in the open-sided housing 12, resilient means are provided within the hollow arm 11 which resilient means comprise a U-shaped spring member 37 the side arms of which are curved as shown and the free ends of which engage suitable inwardly extending flanges 38 formed on the rear end edges of the side walls 24. A yoke portion 39 of the U-shaped spring 37 bears against a pressure plate or pad 40 which is preferably formed of some resilient material such as molded plastic for example, the front face of the pad 40 bearing against the glass bar 13 so as to press the bar firmly into engagement with the front wall 33 of the housing 12.

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In order to install the improved towel bar in proper position on a wall or similar support, the bar 13 may be assembled in the housings 12 of the two arms 11 and the assembled bar and arms aligned properly on the wall so as to insure a horizontal position of the bar 13. The respective arms 11 may then be unlatched from their base plates 10 by pressing inwardly at the rear ends of the side walls, the slot 26 in the bottom wall providing sufficient resilience to permit the latch members 29 to move inwardly to a position in which they may be freely moved out of the slots 30. The two arms and the bar 13 may then be swung upwardly about the hinged connections of the arms and suitable locating marks may be made on the wall or supporting surface through the screw holes 17 and 18. The proper location of the base members 10 having thus been established, the bar 13 may be disassembled from the arms and each of the arms 11 with its base member 10 may be secured to the wall or support by the screws 21, the arms 11 thereafter being swung to their horizontally latched position, whereupon the glass bar 13 may be inserted into the respective housings 12 where it will be firmly retained by the pressure of the friction pads 40 under the force exerted by the springs 37. It will be observed that the spring members 37 are so disposed within the arms 11 as to be retained therein even though the arms are swung upwardly from the latched positions shown in Fig. 1 for the purpose of securing the towel bar to the wall.

Although the invention is not limited thereto it is particularly adapted for towel bar construction utilizing flat glass bars or rods of the type shown wherein the towel-receiving bar or rod is of considerably greater height than width, this particular type of bar having the advantage of more securely holding the towel or similar article than a round or square bar due to the extent of contact of the towel with the bar, and having the further advantage that when removal of a towel from the bar is desired the back of the user's hand may be slid along the broad face of the bar 13 so as to grasp only the front fold of the towel and avoid the difficulties sometimes encountered with a small diameter bar when the user, being in a hurry, may grasp both folds of the towel and thus prevent removal from the bar until after the grip of the user on the towel has been changed.

While I have shown a particular embodiment of my invention, it will be understood, of course, that I do not wish to be limited thereto since many modifications may be made, and I, therefore, contemplate by the appended claims to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having means for securement to a support, a hollow arm having a rear end portion shaped to conceal the portion of said base containing said securement means when the rear end edges of said arm abut the front face of said base, means for hingedly securing one rear end edge of said arm to said base for swinging movement from said abutting position to a position wherein said securement means are exposed, said arm having apertures in opposed side walls thereof, a towel-receiving bar extending through said apertures, a pressure pad disposed within said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means urging said pressure pad against

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the portion of said bar extending through said arm for resiliently clamping said bar.

2. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having means for securement to a support, a hollow arm having a rear end portion shaped to conceal the portion of said base containing said securement means when the rear end edges of said arm abut the front face of said base, means for hingedly securing one rear end edge of said arm to said base for swinging movement from said abutting position to a position wherein said securement means are exposed, said arm having a front wall and having apertures in the side walls thereof immediately adjacent said front wall, a towel-receiving bar extending through said apertures, a pressure pad disposed within said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means urging said pressure pad toward said front wall frictionally to engage and clamp said bar.

3. In a towel bar, a hollow supporting arm, means for securing the rear end of said arm to a support, said arm having a front wall and having apertures in the side walls immediately adjacent said front wall, a towel-receiving bar extending through said apertures, a pad disposed within said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means urging said pad against the portion of said bar extending through said arm to clamp said bar between said pad and said front wall.

4. In a towel bar, a hollow sheet metal arm of substantially rectangular cross section, means for securing one end of said arm to a support, means at the opposite end of said arm forming an open-sided housing, a towel-receiving bar extending through said open-sided housing for support thereby, a pad of non-metallic material having a shape corresponding to the cross section of said arm and disposed in said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means in said arm urging said pad toward said housing to engage the portion of said bar in said housing frictionally to clamp said bar therein.

5. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having means for securement to a support, a hollow sheet metal arm of substantially rectangular cross section, means along one rear end edge of said arm for hingedly connecting said arm to said base member with the rear end edges of said arm abutting said base member, whereby said arm encompasses the portion of said base member including said securement means and conceals said securement means, said hinge means permitting swinging movement of said arm to a position exposing said securement means, means adjacent the rear end edge of said arm opposite said one rear end edge for latching said arm in said abutting position, and means at the front end of said arm for supporting a towel-receiving bar.

6. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having means for securement to a support, a hollow sheet metal arm of substantially rectangular cross section providing top and bottom walls, means for hingedly connecting said arm to said base member with the rear end edges of said arm abutting said base member, whereby said arm encompasses the portion of said base member including said securement means and conceals said securement means, said hinge means permitting swinging movement of said arm to a position exposing said securement means, the top and bottom walls of said arm including continuations formed to provide an open-sided housing with a front wall at the front end of

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said arm, a towel-receiving bar extending through said housing, and resilient means including a friction pad in said arm engaging said bar to press said bar into frictional engagement with the front wall of said housing.

7. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having means for securement to a support, a hollow sheet metal arm of substantially rectangular cross section, means for hingedly connecting said arm to said base member with the rear end edges of said arm abutting said base member, whereby said arm encompasses the portion of said base member including said securement means and conceals said securement means, said hinge means permitting swinging movement of said arm to a position exposing said securement means, the top and bottom walls of said arm including continuations formed to provide an open-sided housing at the front end of said arm, a towel-receiving bar extending through said housing, a non-metallic pad having substantially the contour of said cross section disposed in said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means for urging said pad toward said housing to engage said bar and frictionally clamp said bar in said housing.

8. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having a central portion including means for securement to a support, said base member having bead portions extending vertically along the opposite edges of said central portion, a hollow arm of substantially rectangular cross section adapted to nest between said bead portions with its rear end edges abutting said central portion whereby said arm conceals said securement means, said bead portions having apertures therein adjacent the upper ends thereof, hinge pins extending from said arm and engageable in said apertures hingedly to support said arm for swinging movement from said concealing position to a position exposing said securement means, said arm having a transverse opening therethrough adjacent the front end thereof, a towel bar extending through said opening, and resilient means within said arm for engaging said bar frictionally to restrain said bar against movement relative to said arm.

9. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having a central portion including means for securement to a support, said base member having bead portions extending vertically along the opposite edges of said central portion, a hollow arm of substantially rectangular cross section adapted to nest between said bead portions with its rear end edges abutting said central portion whereby said arm conceals said securement means, means hingedly connecting said arm to said base member for swinging movement from said concealing position to a position in which said securement means are exposed, said hollow arm having its forward end shaped to provide an open-sided housing of greater height than said arm, a glass bar adapted to extend through said housing for support thereby in an edgewise position, a friction pad disposed in said arm for movement longitudinally thereof, and resilient means in said arm for urging said pad toward said housing to engage said glass bar and frictionally clamp said bar against movement relative to said arm.

10. In a towel bar, the combination of a base member having a central portion including means for securement to a support, said base member having a pair of spaced raised portions on opposite sides of said central portion and said raised portions having apertures therein, a hollow arm

portion having its rear end edges abutting said central portion whereby said arm conceals said securement means, one of said rear end edges extending in a substantially straight line between said apertures, hinge pins extending from said arm adjacent said one rear edge and engageable in said apertures hingedly to support said arm for swinging movement from said concealing position to a position exposing said securement means, said arm having an opening in a front end thereof, and a towel bar extending through said opening.

PAUL F. SIMPSON.

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