United States Patent

Smoot

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[54] STRAP HANDLE ANCHORAGE

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**.....**16/125,** 24/265

[51] **Int. Cl.**.....A 47b 95/02

[58] **Field of Search** ....16/125, 110, 124; 24/265 EC, 24/265 R, 230; 190/57, 58

[56] **References Cited**

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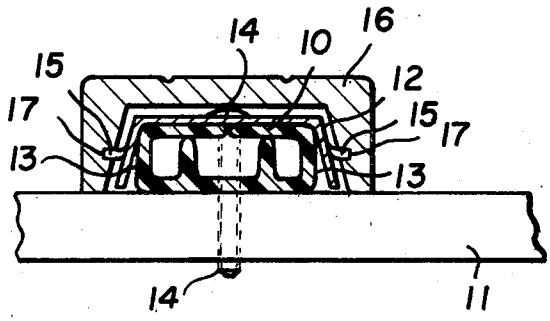
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Assistant Examiner—Doris L. Troutman
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A strap handle is anchored in place by a retainer formed to straddle the end of the handle so that a fastener can be driven through a hole in the retainer and through the end of the handle into a mounting structure. The retainer has fins projecting outward along the edges of the strap handle, and an escutcheon plate shaped to cover the retainer and the end of the handle has internally opening slots to receive and slide over the retainer fins which are shaped to lock in the slots to hold the escutcheon plate in place.

5 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



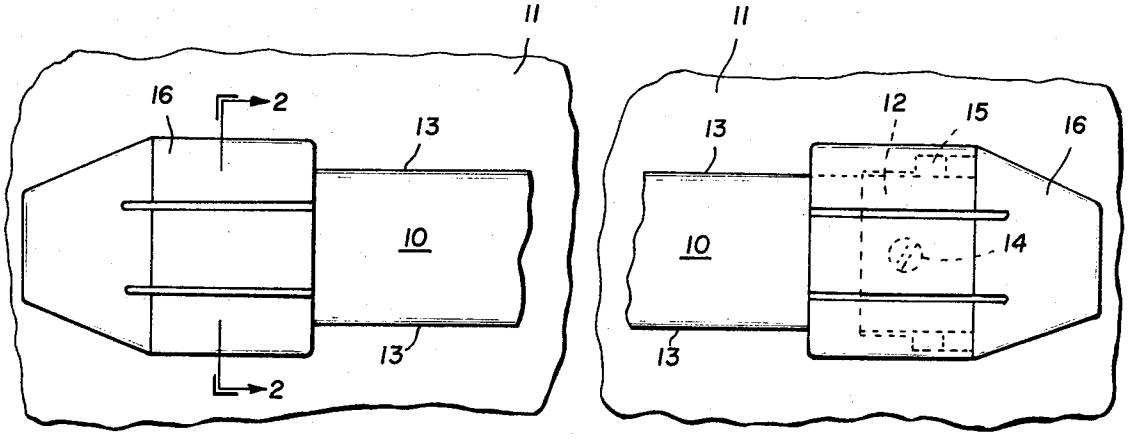


FIG. 1

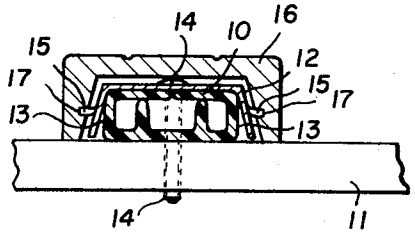


FIG. 2

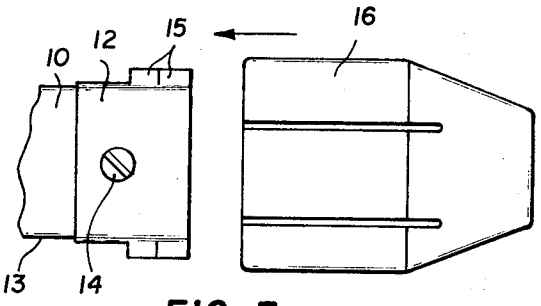


FIG. 3

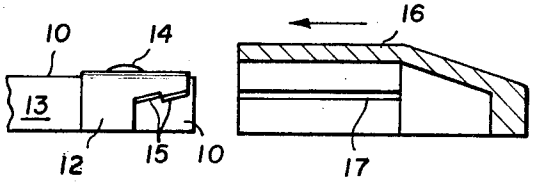


FIG. 4

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STRAP HANDLE ANCHORAGE

THE INVENTIVE IMPROVEMENT

Anchorages for strap handles used for carrying cases, door pulls, etc. have presented problems in the past. They must be strong and secure so as not to break or come loose in use, and they must be attractive in appearance. Also, these requirements must be met with the minimum expense compatible with high quality, and prior art anchorages have varied widely in seeking the optimum solution.

The invention involves a recognition of the requirements for strap hanger anchorages and proposes a simpler, and better anchorage that performs as desired, is attractive in appearance, and is more efficient and economical in using less expensive parts and saving on installation costs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventive strap handle anchorage uses a retainer formed to straddle the side edges of the strap handle at its end region, and the retainer has a hole arranged over the strap handle. A fastener is driven through the hole, through the strap handle, and into a mounting structure. The retainer has fins projecting outward along the side edges of the strap handle, and an escutcheon plate shaped to cover the retainer and the end of the strap has internally opening slots to receive and slide over the fins of the retainer. The fins are shaped to lock in the slots to hold the escutcheon plate in place.

DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the inventive strap hanger anchorage;

FIG. 2 is a cross-section of the anchorage of FIG. 1 taken along the lines 2 — 2 thereof;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the anchorage of FIG. 1 in partial assembly; and

FIG. 4 is a partly cross-sectioned, elevational view of the anchorage of FIG. 3 in partial assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Strap handle **10** is anchored to a mounting structure **11** such as a carrying case or automobile door. Handle **10** is then used for gripping, lifting, pulling, etc. and must be securely anchored in place. This is accomplished by a retainer **12** that straddles the side edges **13** of handle **10** at the end region of handle **10** and has a hole arranged over handle **10** to receive a screw fastener **14** driven through the hole, through handle **10** and into mounting structure **11**. Fastener **14** is preferably a self-tapping screw that secures retainer **12** and handle **10** securely to mounting structure **11**. A rivet or other fastener is also acceptable, but screw **14** is preferred for ease and efficiency in its capacity to be driven directly through handle **10** and into mounting structure **11**.

Retainer **12** is preferably stamped of sheet metal in the channel shape illustrated in the drawings and is formed to have fins **15** projecting outward along edges **13** of handle **10**. Fins **15** are preferably made slightly oblique to the top plane of retainer **12** as best shown in FIG. **4**.

An escutcheon plate **16** is formed with a hollow interior shaped to cover retainer **12** and the end of handle **10**. Escutcheon plate **16** is preferably molded of synthetic resin material and is arranged to slide over and cover retainer **12** to present an attractive external appearance. Escutcheon plate **16** has a pair of internally opening slots **17** running longitudinally in alignment with retainer fins **15** so that escutcheon plate **16** can slide endwise over retainer **12** with fins **15** entering slots **17**. The oblique angle of fins **15** causes them to bite into the edges of slots **17** to resist removal of escutcheon plate **16**. This holds escutcheon plate **16** securely in place without any additional fasteners or installation operations.

The inventive anchorage affords economical and efficient installation of strap handle **10** be merely cutting off the desired length of handle **10** from a supply roll, pressing retainers **12** over the ends of handle **10**, driving screws **14** through retainers **12**, handle **10**, and mounting structure **11**, and then merely sliding escutcheon plates **16** over the ends of handle **10** and retainers **12**. This is far simpler and cheaper than prior art methods, and saves in both materials and installation time. Retainers **12** and escutcheons **16** are identical for each end of strap **10**, and strap **10** can be supplied in indefinite lengths that are cut to the approximate desired size at the installation point, thus eliminating problems of part numbers and inventory during assembly.

Persons wishing to practice the invention should remember that other embodiments and variations can be adapted to particular circumstances. Even though one point of view is necessarily chosen in describing and defining the invention, this should not inhibit broader or related embodiments going beyond the semantic orientation of this application but falling within the spirit of the invention. For example, those skilled in the art will appreciate the economy and functionality of the inventive anchorage, and will understand how to apply it to various strap handles.

I claim:

1. A strap handle anchorage comprising:

a. a retainer formed to straddle the side edges of said strap handle over the end region of said strap handle;

b. said retainer having a hole arranged over said strap handle;

c. a fastener driven through said hole and through said strap handle and into a mounting structure for said strap handle;

d. said retainer having fins projecting outward along said edges of said strap handle;

e. an escutcheon plate shaped to cover said retainer and said end region of said strap handle;

f. said escutcheon plate having internally opening slots to receive and slide over said fins of said retainer; and

g. said fins being shaped to lock in said slots to hold said escutcheon plate in place over said retainer.

2. The anchorage of claim **1** wherein said retainer is formed of stamped sheet metal.

3. The anchorage of claim **1** wherein said fastener is a self-tapping screw.

4. The anchorage of claim **1** wherein said escutcheon plate is formed of molded resin material.

5. The anchorage of claim **1** wherein said fins have oblique edges that move into said slots and bite into

said escutcheon plate to resist removal of said escutcheon plate from said retainer.

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