Feb. 20, 1951 S. A. FLOWERS 2,542,649

ATTACHABLE OR DETACHABLE TOP FOR FURNITURE

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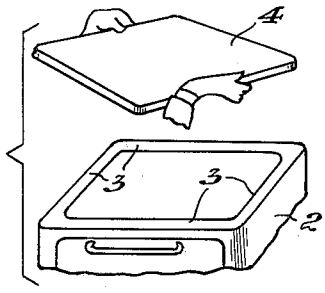


Fig. 1.

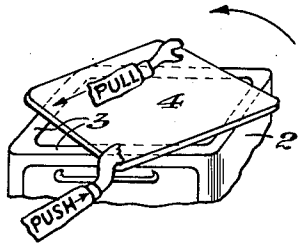


Fig. 2.

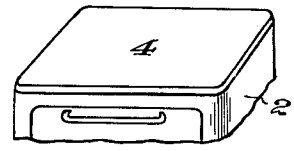


Fig. 3.

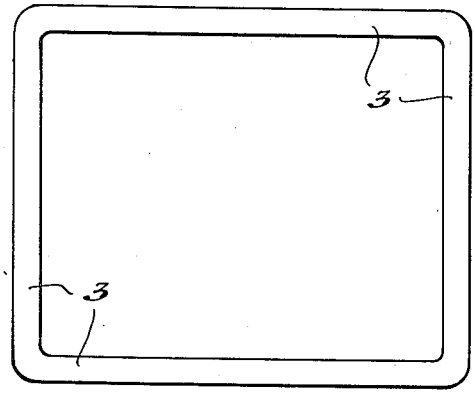
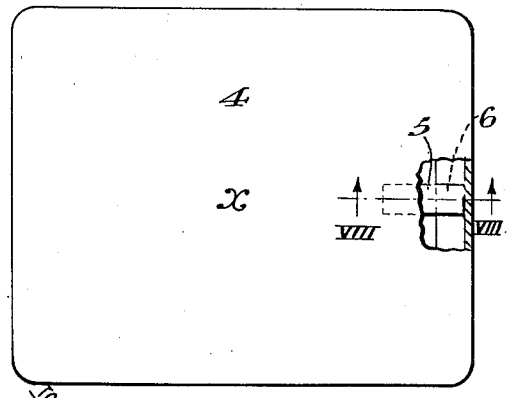


Fig. 5



TO INSTALL OR REMOVE

Fig. 7.

Fig. 4.

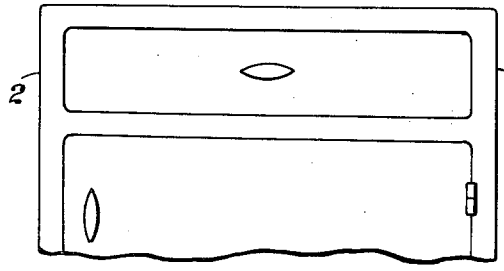
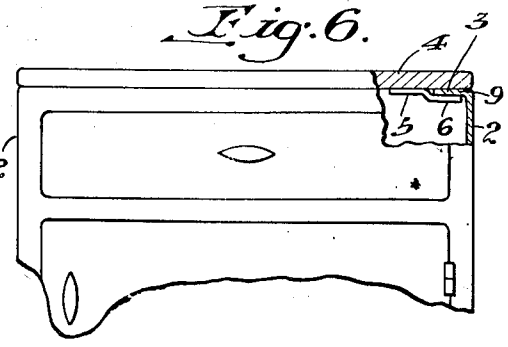


Fig. 6.



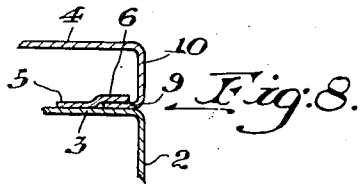


Fig. 8.

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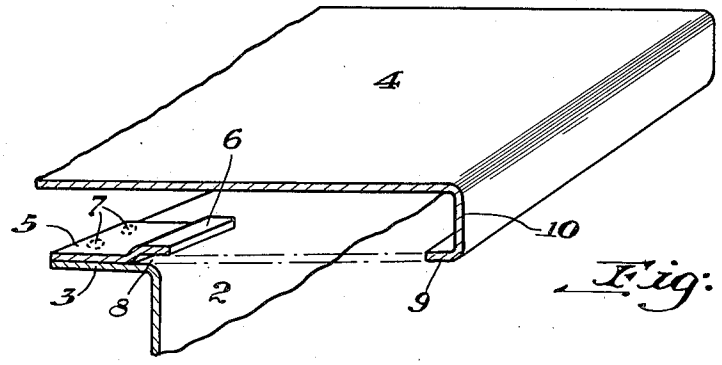
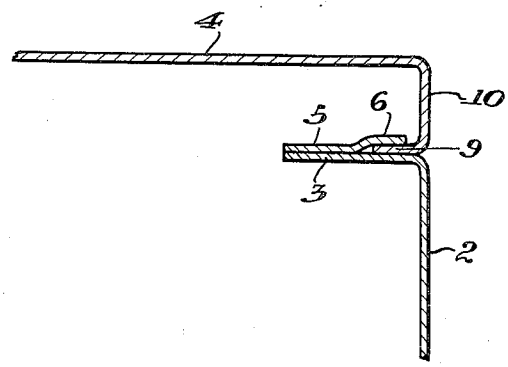


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ATTACHABLE OR DETACHABLE TOP FOR FURNITURE

Stanley A. Flowers, Oakmont, Pa., assignor to Walters Manufacturing Company, Oakmont, Pa., a corporation of Pennsylvania

Application January 10, 1948, Serial No. 1,580

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—55)

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This invention is an improvement in means for applying and securing covering tops, surfaced with or without porcelain or other suitable facing, to cabinet bases, and is a continuation in part of my prior application Ser. No. 725,287, filed January 30, 1947.

Ordinarily, as in present practice, such porcelain faced tops are made in several standard sizes, of varying thickness and lateral dimensions, by specialized manufacturers. They are then purchased by the cabinet builder for installation on his cabinets.

The cabinets themselves may be of light economical material, as wood or sheet metal, usually enameled, each preferably having a top closure, in the form of a covering top of wood or of comparatively light sheet metal material, provided with surfacing porcelain, or otherwise as preferred.

Ordinarily, a porcelain faced top is laid upon special board planking, interfitting with the sides, and anchored in position by wood screws or other means connecting the parts together. My construction eliminates all such means.

For illustration, I show a cabinet made of comparatively light sheet metal, providing sides and ends, and a covering flat top, with the usual door and interior fittings, not herein involved.

The top closure comprises, with the main cabinet, a suitable wooden or light sheet metal top framing, together with a plurality of sets of holding clips and flanges. Such sets of clips may be applied on the cabinet upper edges, or on the top itself as preferred, as shall be more fully hereinafter described.

While the invention is not limited to any particular construction or design, one preferred form is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are partial perspective views illustrating progressive stages of placement of the top in position on the cabinet.

Fig. 4 is a front view in elevation, of the upper portion of the cabinet, without the top.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the same.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation view of the cabinet with the top in position.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of Fig. 6, with the top in position, the top being broken away to show one of the holding clips on the cabinet, as when interlocked underneath the flange.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of a modification of the invention.

Fig. 9 is a composite perspective view of the modification of Fig. 8 of the cooperating clip members of the cabinet and top respectively, in spaced apart operative relationship.

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Fig. 10 is a further part sectional view of the modification of Fig. 8 showing the porcelain enameled top, or any top having an under flange in holding connection with the cabinet, by spot welded clips.

The cabinet walls 2 are shown as of sheet metal, terminating at the top in relatively narrow inwardly extending flanges 3.

The removable top comprises a wooden or sheet metal closure 4, of suitable thickness and rigidity for providing a durable and ornamental cover for the cabinet itself, and preferably provided with a porcelain applied facing.

At equally located positions on the bottom surface are secured the stationary holding catches or fasteners, in the form of clips 5. These are made of thin sheet metal, each having a spaced flange 6 and secured to the botton surface of the top of the cabinet.

Each clip 5 is provided, as stated, with an upwardly off-set blade or tongue 6 spaced beyond the lower surface of the top, providing the space 8 for reception of the inner flange 9.

A series of clips 5, as say four, are arranged on the lower surface of the top of the cabinet, and are engageable by the flange 9 of the cabinet. Each of the clip series is spaced equi-distantly around an imaginary true center x, of each such top member.

The locking members or clips 5 are secured on the top 4 in proper positions for clamping engagement, as in Figs. 5 and 7, for connection by continuous flange 9 of the cabinet, upon rotation of the top.

Thus, as in Figs. 1–3, the top is firmly pressed downwardly, and rotated to final holding position, or may be released by reverse rotation.

I show in Figures 8, 9 and 10 a modified construction in which the covering top may be of sheet metal.

In such construction the clips 5 may be reversed in position and secured to the flange 3 of the cabinet by welding or the like.

Initial clearance for the clips 5 is brought about by locating the top diagonally cornerwise, as in Fig. 2.

In such arrangement, the flanges 9 make holding connection with the clips by rotation of the entire cover, in the same manner as illustrated in Figs. 1–3 inclusive. In placement of the cover, as in Figs. 1 and 2, there is ample clearance cornerwise, followed by rotation of the cover, for the connecting elements, to final connected position as in Fig. 3.

It will be understood that the clip members are sufficiently resilient to easily become engaged and disengaged by the partial rotation of the

cover, the weight of which, or manual pressure, is of assistance in both placement and removal.

When in location, the top cover member is of permanent appearance, and its separability and ease of application are of great advantage in manufacture of the two members separately, with a special economy in shipping and final assembly for merchandising.

While a porcelain finishing top surface is an attribute of value and attractiveness, any other surfacing may be utilized, for instance linoleum or other durable substitute.

The construction and use of the improved construction will be readily understood and appreciated by all those familiar with the art, providing as it does for simplicity and economy in manufacture of similar items, and in reducing cost of final assembly.

What I claim is:

A combination sheet metal cabinet and top closure therefor, comprising vertical walls defining a rectangular cabinet, a flange extending horizontally inwardly from the top edge of said cabinet walls and defining a rectangular opening within the outline of said vertical walls, said top closure being of the size and shape of the rectangle defined by said cabinet walls and having a top horizontal surface, a vertical edge portion extending downwardly from said surface and a horizontal lower surface in juxtaposition to said flange, bent metal clips fastened to said horizontal lower surface centrally of the sides and ends of the rectangular top closure, each of said clips, having a portion fastened to said surface and a resilient tongue parallel to and spaced both vertically and horizontally from said portion, the free ends of said tongues extending outwardly of said cabinet and being spaced vertically from said surface an amount slightly less than the thickness of said flange, said tongues extending under said flange and engaged or disengaged therefrom by rotation of said closure about a vertical axis.

STANLEY A. FLOWERS.

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