April 17, 1962 J. B. BENSON 3,029,560

BUILDING CLIP

Filed Dec. 6, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

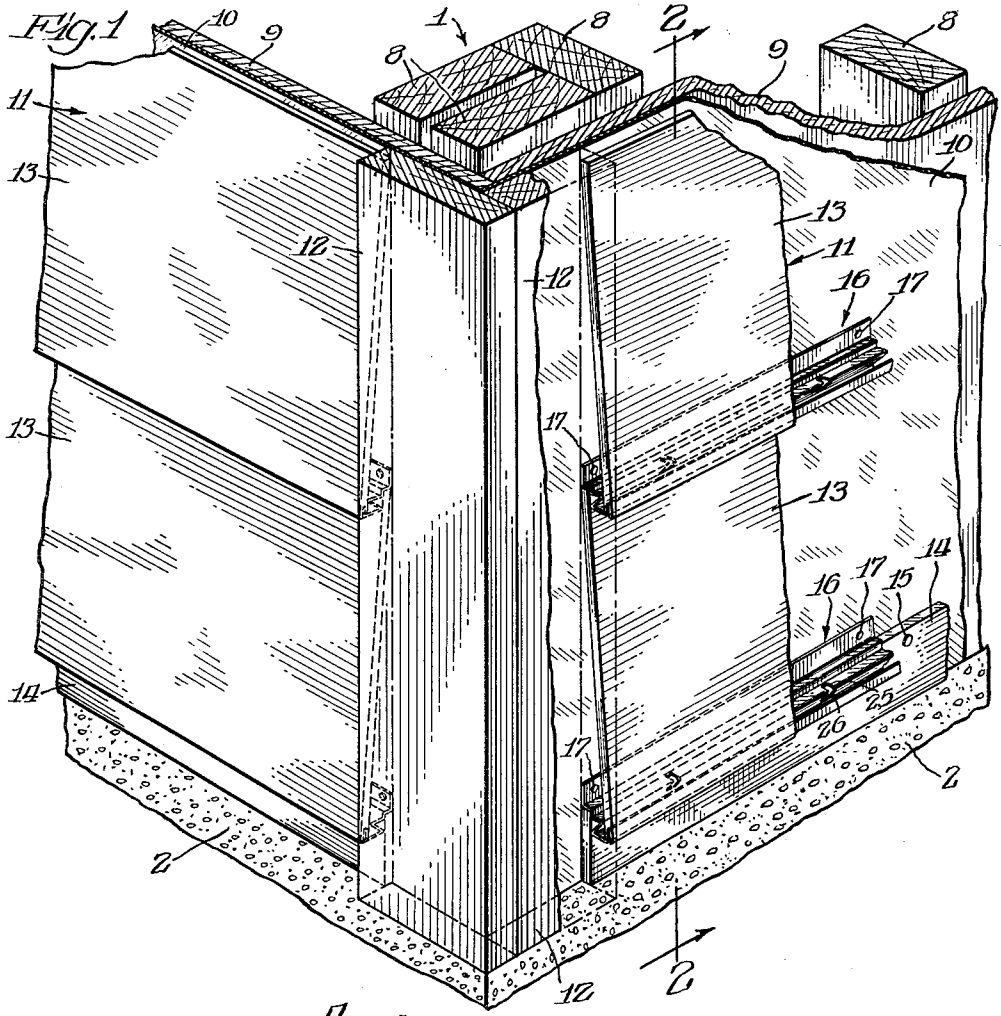


Fig. 3

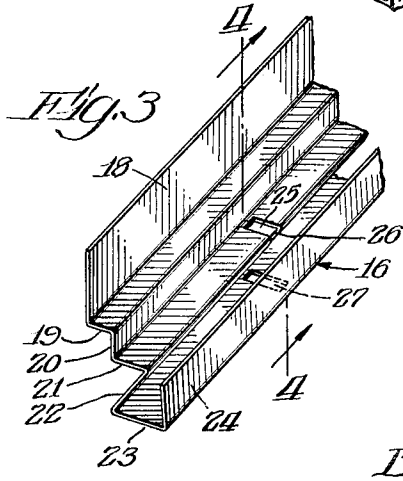
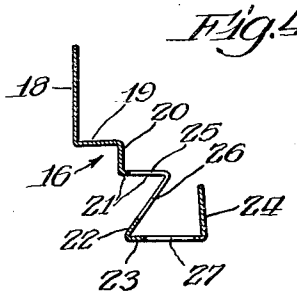


Fig. 4



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BUILDING CLIP

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Fig. 2

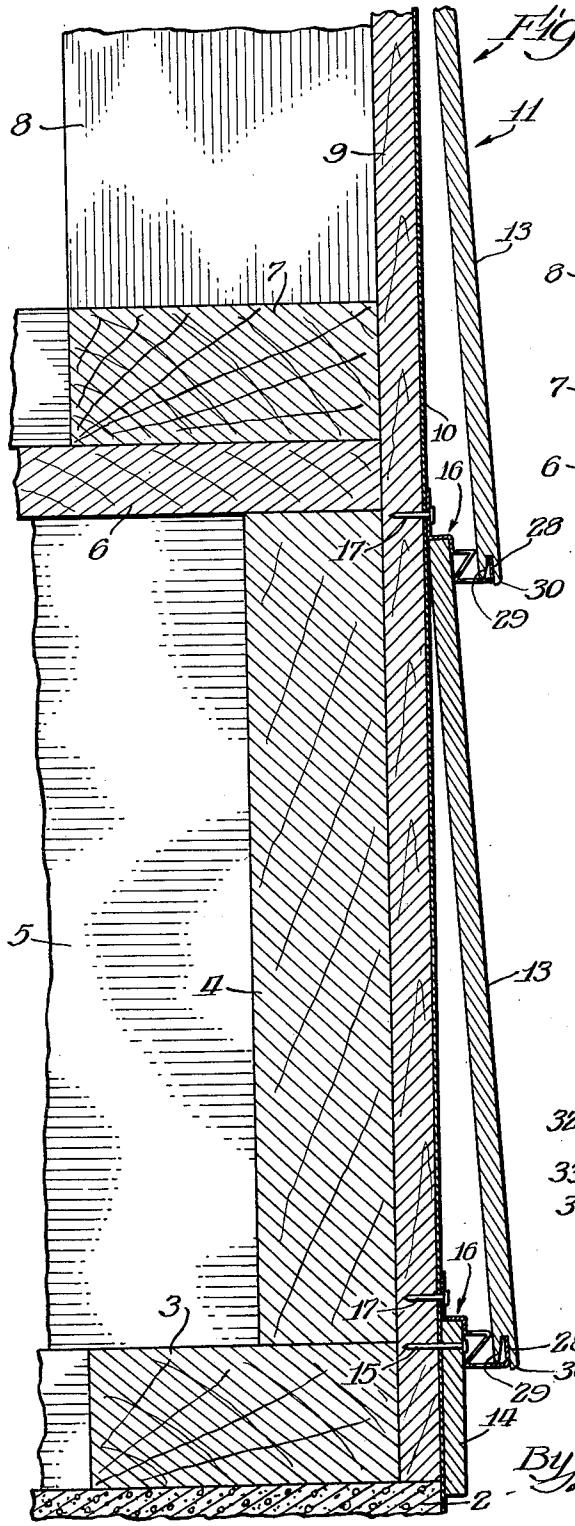


Fig. 5

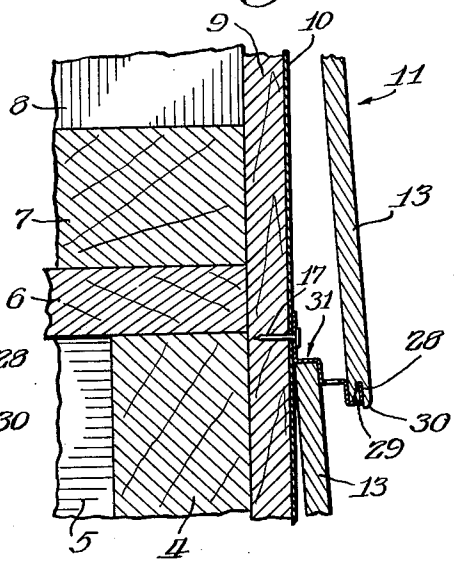
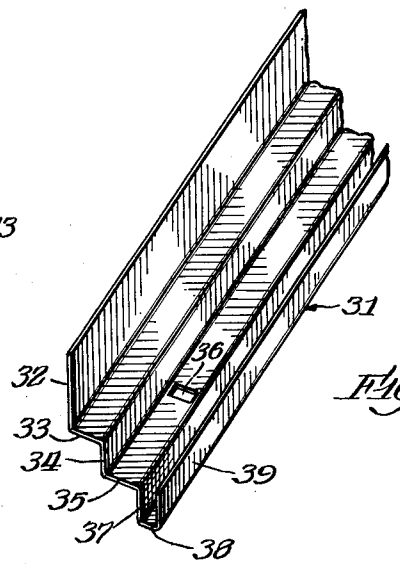


Fig. 6



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3,029,560
BUILDING CLIP

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2 Claims. (Cl. 50—215)

The present invention relates generally to building clips and more particularly to a building clip for supporting and positioning building facing material such as clapboards, shingles, and the like.

In forming the siding or roof of a building, the facing material is generally arranged in overlapping courses one above the other over the sheathing of the building. Although various forms of building clips have been suggested and used for supporting and positioning the facing in such building structures, none has proven entirely satisfactory.

The main objects of the present invention are to provide an improved building clip which is free of the disadvantages of the prior art building clips; to provide a building clip which is engageable with the lower edges of an overlying facing, and, when so engaged, has a section which reinforces the inner surface of the overlying facing adjacent its lower edge so as to prevent the splitting or breaking of the facing; to provide a building clip for facings which will permit wide exposure of the facings without the necessity of face nailing; to provide a building clip which will position the facings so that a deep shadow line is visible below each course of facings; to provide a building clip which will permit moisture to escape from behind the facings; to provide a building clip which will permit fast and even positioning of the facings; to provide a building clip which is engageable with the upper ends of an underlying course of facings and the lower ends of an overlying course of facings; and to provide such a building clip which is simple in construction, economical to fabricate, and efficient for its intended use.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of one corner of a building in which building clips embodying the present invention have been used, with portions broken away so as to more clearly show certain details of the construction;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a partial, enlarged perspective view of the building clip employed in the siding shown in FIGURES 1 and 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a partial sectional view similar to FIGURE 2 of the wall structure of a building in which a modified form of building clip embodying the present invention has been used; and

FIGURE 6 is a partial, enlarged perspective view of the building clip employed in FIGURE 5.

Building clips formed in accordance with the present invention may be used in the construction of buildings for supporting and positioning clapboards or shingles in either the siding or roofing of the buildings. Since the manner in which the building clips are used is the same, regardless of whether the building clips are used in forming the siding or the roofing, they have been illustrated by way of example in the drawings only in connection with the siding of a building.

Referring to FIGURES 1 and 2 of the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a building, the interior of which is constructed in a generally conventional manner. The building 1 includes a foundation wall 2 along the upper

surface of which are attached sills 3. Headers 4 and joists 5 are attached to the sills 3 and support a sub-floor 6. Floor plates 7 are attached to the outer margins of the sub-floor 6 for supporting studs 8. The outer portions of the exterior walls of the building 1 include sheathing 9 which is attached to the studs 8 and other internal structural members, insulating sheathing paper 10 which is attached to the exterior surface of the sheathing 9, exterior lap siding 11, and corner boards 12.

The lap siding 11 comprises facing strips 13, such as shingles or clapboards, and a relatively narrow starting strip 14 secured to the lower edge of the sheathing by nails 15. The nails 15 are positioned adjacent the upper edge of the starting strips 14 and are concealed by overlying portions of the siding structure.

Building clips 16 are positioned with their upper ends in engagement with the starting strips 14 and are secured to the sheathing by nails 17. The lower end portions of the building clips 16 extend below the upper edge of the starting strips 14 and engage the lower edges of a lowermost course of facing strips 13, thereby locating the lower ends of these facing strips in overlapping relation to the upper ends of the starting strips 14. The facing strips 13 are canted so that their upper ends rest against the sheathing paper 10. The upper ends of all of the facing strips are secured in position by the clips 16. The lower end portions of the building clips 16 engage and support the lower edges of an overlying course of facing strips 13. This sequence of alternating building clips and facing strips is repeated for the entire height of the siding. In this siding structure, there are no exterior nails which mar the appearance of the siding. The corner boards 12 abut the side edges of the facing strips to give a finished appearance to the corners of the building and to prevent wind, rain, and snow from getting behind the facing.

The building clips 16 are preferably constructed from elongated strips of corrosion-resistant sheet metal, such as aluminum or stainless steel, by suitable stamping and bending operations. Sufficiently rigid building clips for the purposes of the present invention may be made from relatively thin sheet metal. It should be understood, however, that suitable building clips may also be made out of material such as plastic by suitable molding operations.

The clip 16 may be divided for purposes of convenience and analysis into three sections: an upper stepped attaching and engaging section, an intermediate transverse bracing or reinforcing section, and a lower channel-shaped positioning and supporting section. The upper stepped attaching and engaging section includes an upstanding portion 18 which is adapted to lie against and be attached to the surface to be covered, a generally transversely disposed shelf portion 19 and a downwardly disposed portion 20 adapted to embrace and clamp the upper edge of an underlying facing strip. The intermediate transverse reinforcing section of each clip consists of a generally transversely disposed spacer portion 21 extending outwardly from the lower edge of the downwardly disposed portion 20 a suitable distance so that its outer edge will engage the inner face of an overlying facing strip 13. The lower channel-shaped positioning and supporting section includes an inner inclined leg portion 22 extending downwardly and rearwardly from the outer edge of the spacer portion 21 to the plane of the downwardly extending portion 20. A base portion 23 extends outwardly from the lower edge of the leg portion 22 in a plane parallel to the intermediate spacer portion 21 and its outer edge is bent upwardly to form an outer leg portion 24 extending in a direction generally parallel to the downwardly disposed portion 20 to a height slightly below the plane of the intermediate transverse spacer portion 21.

The building clip 16 may be attached to an underlying surface, such as the sheathing of a building, by driving

the nails 17 through the upstanding portion 18. In general, the sheet material from which the building clip is formed is sufficiently soft so that nails may be driven there through without the necessity of first providing suitable holes in the upstanding portion 18. However, holes (not shown) may be provided and in certain cases, such as when the building clip is formed of relatively strong sheet material or plastic, such holes are necessary.

To provide means for draining the moisture which may accumulate behind the facing, the building clip portions 21, 22, and 23 are provided with aligned drain openings 25, 26, and 27, respectively. The drain openings also provide means whereby air may enter and circulate behind the facing. The drain openings 25, 26, and 27 may be formed in the sheet metal strip from which the building clip is formed before the shaping of the strip by a suitable stamping operation. The building clip may be made of any desired length with drain openings suitably positioned at spaced intervals therealong. If desired, the building clip may be made of relatively long length and cut into the desired length when put into use.

The facing strips 13 which are used with the building clips of the present invention may be formed of any suitable material. The lower edge of each facing strip is recessed to provide a groove 28 extending the full length thereof for receiving the upstanding leg portion 24 of the clip 16. The inner wall of the groove 28 is preferably bevelled as shown at 29 to facilitate entry of the leg portion 24 into the groove. The outer wall 30 of the groove projects downwardly below the base portion 23 of the clip 16 so as to conceal the clip from view.

To apply the building clip 16 in the construction of a siding such as is illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2, starting strips 14 are first nailed in position adjacent the lower end of the sheathing 9. Suitable care should be taken to position the starting strips horizontally along a straight line. When this is done, the various courses of facing strips will be automatically aligned in a horizontal direction by the use of the building clips 16. The building clips 16 are positioned along the upper ends of the starting strips 14 with their engaging portions 19 and 20 embracing the upper edges of the starting strips. The building clips 16 are then permanently attached to the sheathing by driving the nails 17 through the upstanding portions 18 of the clips.

The lower edges of the lowermost facing strips 13 are then mounted on the outer leg portions 24 of the attached building clips 16 in the manner shown in FIGURE 2. As previously mentioned, the intermediate portions 21 of the clips are suitably dimensioned so that when the facing strips 13 are interengaged with the clips, the outer edges of the intermediate portions 21 will engage the inner faces of the facing strips adjacent the lower edges thereof. Other building clips 16 are then supported on the upper ends of the interengaged facing strips 13 with their upper engaging portions 19 and 20 embracing the upper edges of the interengaged strips. These building clips are then attached to the sheathing by driving nails 17 through their upstanding portions 18. This last operation locks the lower course of shingles in position. The lower edge of the next course of facing strips is then mounted on the building clips and the process is repeated until the facing is completed.

It is apparent from the foregoing that the building clips 16 space the lower edge of each course of facing strips outwardly from the upper edge of the next lower course of strips. The building clips 16 are proportioned so that the outward spacing of the lower edges of the facings will be such as to produce the desired shadow lines below each course of facings.

If desired, the building clip 16 may be formed without the upper upstanding portion 18. In this case, the building clip would be secured to the sheathing by driving the nails 17 through the upper engaging portion 20 and underlying facing and into the sheathing 9. When the building clip is made in this manner, it is preferred to extend the height of the engaging portion 20 so that the nails 17 may be driven therethrough at a point spaced from the upper edge of the underlying facing, thereby avoiding the risk of splitting the facing.

Another form of building clip 31 embodying the present invention is illustrated in FIGURES 5 and 6. The upper engaging and attaching section and intermediate reinforcing section of this building clip are similar to those of the previously described building clip 16. However, the lower channel-shaped section of this building clip differs somewhat from that of the previously described building clip 16. The upper attaching and engaging section of the building clip 31 includes the portions 32, 33, and 34 which may be identical with the previously described portions 18, 19, and 20. The intermediate reinforcing section includes a transversely disposed portion 35, which may be identical with the transversely disposed portion 21 of the building clip 16. The portion 35 may include spaced drain openings 36, as illustrated in FIGURE 6. The lower channel-shaped section of the building clip 31 is U-shaped in transverse cross-section and includes an inner leg portion 37 extending downwardly from the outer edge of the intermediate transverse portion 35, a base portion 38 which extends transversely from the lower edge of the leg portion 37, and an outer leg portion 39 which extends upwardly from the outer edge of the base portion 38 in a direction parallel to the inner leg portion 37 and terminating at a height slightly below the plane of the portion 35. The dimension of the base portion 38 of the clip 31 is such that when the outer leg portion 39 of the building clip extends into the slot 28 of a facing strip, the inner face of the strip will engage the inner leg portion 37.

The building clip 31 is generally used in the construction of siding or roofing in the same manner as has been previously described in connection with the building clip 16. In certain cases, the building clips 31 may be made without the upstanding portions 32 and, in such cases, the attaching nails would be driven through the engaging portions 34.

The above described building clips provide a satisfactory support for the overlying facing strips with which they are interengaged because of the reinforcement which is given to the inner faces of the facings adjacent their lower edges by the intermediate reinforcing sections of the building clips. Without adequate support at this point, the facings would be subject to splitting when pressure was applied. A siding or roofing can be quickly and evenly erected with the described building clips with a minimum of effort.

It is clear that various modifications may be made in the described building clips without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the following claims:

I claim:

1. A building clip for use in arranging a plurality of facing strips in overlapping courses one above the other over a flat supporting surface, wherein each of the facing strips has a longitudinally extending slot along the lower edge thereof, said building clip comprising an upper stepped section having portions extending forwardly and downwardly, an intermediate section extending forwardly from the lower edge of the downwardly extending portion of said stepped section, and a lower channel-shaped section, said channel-shaped section including an inner leg portion extending rearwardly and downwardly from the outer edge of said intermediate section, the lower edge of said inner leg portion being approximately in the plane of the downwardly extending portion of the upper stepped section, a base portion extending outwardly from the lower edge of said inner leg portion, and an outer leg portion of said channel-shaped section extending upwardly from the outer edge of said base portion, and said outer

leg portion adapted to extend within the slot along the lower edge of said facing strip.

2. A building clip for use in supporting a plurality of facing strips in overlapping courses over a flat supporting surface, said clip comprising an upper stepped section including a generally transversely disposed shelf portion, an upstanding portion extending from one edge of said shelf portion and a depending portion extending from the other edge of said shelf portion, an intermediate section extending forwardly from the lower edge of said depending portion of said stepped section, and a lower, generally channel-shaped section, said channel-shaped section including an inner leg portion extending downwardly and rearwardly from the forward edge of said intermediate section with the lower edge of said inner leg portion being generally in the plane of said depending portion of said upper stepped section, a base portion extending forwardly from the lower edge of said inner leg portion, and an outer leg portion of said channel-shaped section extending upwardly from the forward edge of said base portion.

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