No. 848,888. PATENTED APR. 2, 1907.

F. W. ERICKSON.

OUTLET BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 29, 1907.

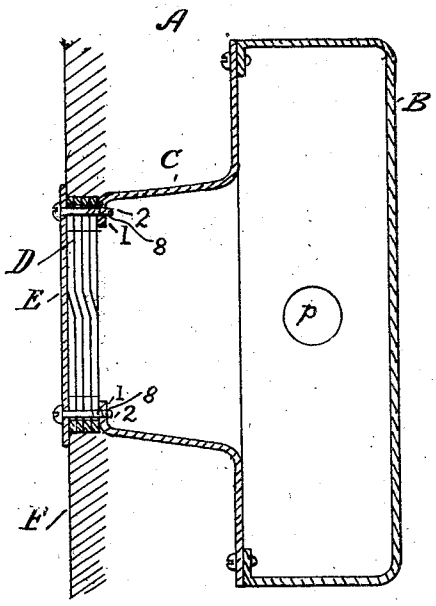
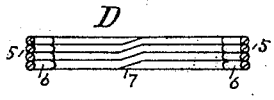


Fig. 1.

Fig. 5.



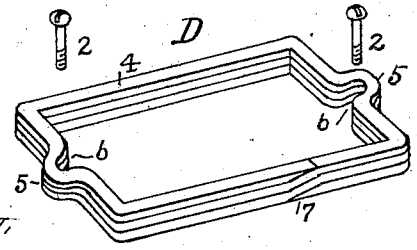
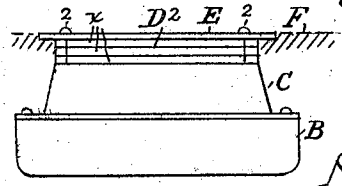


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.



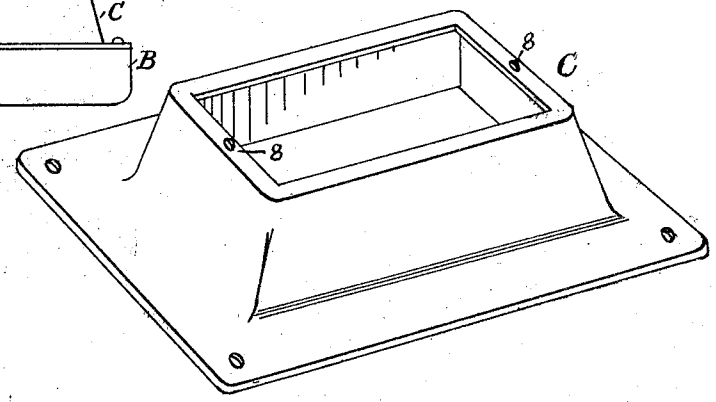


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

George W. Gittens

Paul W. Browley.

Inventor

Frederic W. Erickson

by Goodwillie & Pierce

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERIC WM. ERICKSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

OUTLET-BOX.

No. 848,888. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 2, 1907.

Application filed January 29, 1907. Serial No. 354,607.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERIC WM. ERICKSON, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Outlet-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to outlet-boxes for interior conduits, and has special reference to means for adjusting the outer face of such boxes after they are in position in a wall or partition with the surface of the plastering.

As is well understood, the outlet-boxes and the connecting-conduits are secured in place before the lathing and plastering are laid on, and while allowance is made for the usual thickness of plaster it frequently happens that it is spread in the vicinity of the outlet-box very unevenly, sometimes twice the necessary thickness, thus leaving the outer face of the box quite a distance comparatively from the surface of the plaster. Even under the best conditions when the finished plate is put on the box it is found to stand out from the face of the plaster and look unsightly and form a receptacle for dust, or it may be, after the plate is screwed in place, there will be a space between its rear side and the front of the box, into which plaster is carried by air-currents; and it is to overcome these difficulties that the invention is devised.

Reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of my improved spacing device attached to an outlet-box in position in a wall. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the mode of assembling the parts of the invention. Fig. 3 is a side view of the special device employed, and Fig. 4 is a side view of a modification in place in a wall, and Fig. 5 is a sectional view of another modification.

In Fig. 1, A represents the arrangement as a whole in a wall, in which B is the outlet-box, having holes *p* in its walls for the entrance of conduits, and C is the lid or cover for the box, with an opening at its top of less area than that of the box, all in the usual and common manner of outlet-boxes. Such a box is put in position before the lathing or plastering is put on, and various means are devised to arrange that when the outer cover E is put onto the box it shall bear evenly on the top thereof and also upon the face F of the plaster or wall finish; but in all cases, however careful the workmen may be, there is always some discrepancy, as hereinbefore stated, between the box and the plate.

The spacing device D, constituting an article of manufacture devised by me, is made from a ribbon of metal of small cross-section, preferably having some resiliency, conformed in plan to the shape of outlet-boxes, one design, bent into the rectangular form shown in Fig. 2, with outward projections 5 at each end having reëntering loops 6 on the opposite sides of the projections, and the device consists of a plurality of helices or layers 4, parallel with each other and in the same plane for the most part of their length; but at a common place 7 each layer rises up onto the next higher plane, so that the opposite ends of the ribbon meet at the common place 7 and terminate or taper to an edge smooth with the upper and lower surfaces of the outside layers.

After a wall is finished about an inclosed box and it is desired to place the outer or finish plate E in position measurement is made from the face of the box-outlet C to the outer face of the wall F, and a device D of thickness denoted by said measurement is placed upon the part C and the lid E placed over the device. Then the screws 2 2 are passed through the holes in the lid of the proper size and distance apart as prearranged, through the loops 6 6 of the device into the holes 8 8 in the rim of the part C, and firmly screwed home. It will be seen that the screws and the loops hold the device laterally, as well as secure it to the box and lid.

As an article of manufacture the device D may be made with a differing number of layers 4 or of any number determined by experience as nearest the ordinary space from the box to the wall-face found to exist in practice. I have found three or four—say three—layers to be a convenient number, and then if the measured distance is less than that of said number one layer is easily cut off at the point 7 by a pair of ordinary pliers, as the ribbon is made quite thin, those in the drawings being somewhat exaggerated in thickness for the sake of clearness. In practice it is found that a workman finds himself in possession of several of these devices after a time in which one or more layers have been removed, and so is enabled to fit any space readily.

I prefer to make the layers slightly sepa-

rated from each other, not appreciably, but yet a slight space between each, and as the metal constituting the same is preferably resilient a very tight joint can be made when the plate E is put in position, as the screws will bring the plate and the layers close to each other, and the resiliency of the layers resisting the close pressure brings an added strain upon the screw-heads and prevents them from a tendency to retreat and loosen.

By the formation of the layers with the loops 6 I provide a socket for the screw-body without boring holes through the layers, and thus provide an inexpensive and very convenient construction.

In the modification shown in Fig. 4, while each layer 4 has the same configuration in plan as in the previous figures, each layer is entirely separate from the other, and one can be readily added to another or taken therefrom.

Fig. 5 represents a sectional view through the projections 5 and loops 6 of a modification made from wire coiled as a collar or spacer in the plan represented in the other figures, and when thus coiled it may be dipped in solder or other soft molten metal and "galvanized," as such a process is termed. The metal in cooling forms a thin film over the coils and joins one to another. Any layer may be detached by cutting it away at the point 7 by cutting-pliers.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination with an outlet-box and its cover or lid of a spacing device interposed between the box and cover consisting of two or more layers of metal of small cross-section having projections on opposite sides and internal loops, with screws joining the cover to the box whose bodies extend through said loops.

2. The combination with an outlet-box and its cover or lid, of a spacing device interposed between the box and cover consisting of two or more layers in one piece of thin metal ribbon having projections on opposite sides and internal loops, with screws joining the cover to the box whose bodies extend through said loops.

3. The combination with an outlet-box and its cover or lid, of a spacing device interposed between the box and the cover consisting of two or more layers in one piece occupying different planes of thin resilient metal ribbon rectangular in plan having projections on opposite sides and internal loops, with screws joining the cover to the box whose bodies extend through said loops.

4. As an article of manufacture, a spacing device composed of thin ribbon metal in one piece occupying different planes having projections on opposite sides with loops in the rear of said projections.

5. As an article of manufacture, a spacing device composed of a strip or ribbon of thin resilient metal built up in two or more planes rectangular in plan having projections on opposite sides and loops in the rear of said projections, each plane being slightly separated from the other.

6. As an article of manufacture for outlet-boxes a collar or spacing device composed of metal of small cross-section in one piece occupying different planes conformed in plan to the opening of an outlet-box.

7. As an article of manufacture for outlet-boxes a collar or spacing device composed of metal of small cross-section in one piece occupying different planes conformed in plan to the opening of an outlet-box the coils made homogeneous by being dipped in molten soft metal.

8. As an article of manufacture for outlet-boxes a collar or spacing device composed of metal of small cross-section in one piece occupying different planes conformed in plan to the opening of an outlet-box the configuration of the same adapted to assist in steadying the same laterally when upon said box.

9. The combination with an outlet-box an extension or spacing device consisting of laminations of suitable material substantially of the shape of the box-opening, with means for adapting the thickness of the laminations to coincide with the face of the wall, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 26th day of January, 1907.

FREDERIC WM. ERICKSON.

Witnesses:

J. M. WATTERS,

HARRIET LEVI.