M. GUETT.

INSULATING COVER FOR ELECTRIC SWITCHES.

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981,553.

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Fig. 1.

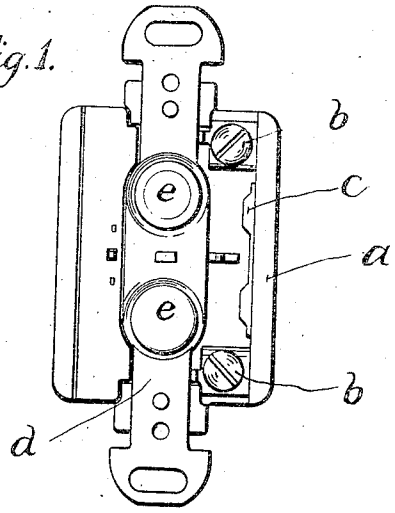


Fig. 3.

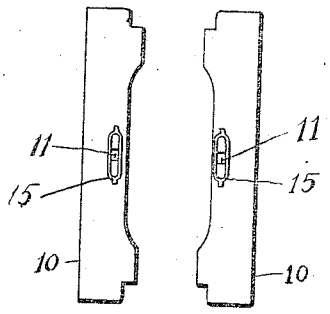


Fig 4.

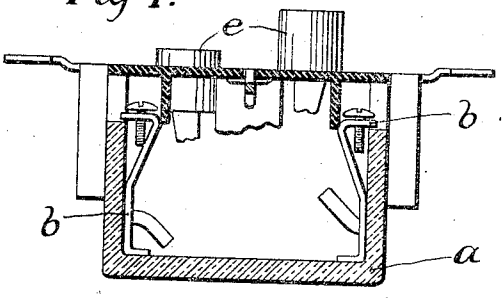
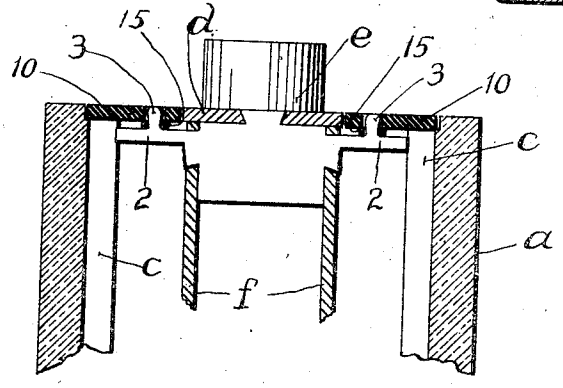


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INSULATING-COVER FOR ELECTRIC SWITCHES.

981,553. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Jan. 10, 1911.**

Application filed March 24, 1910. Serial No. 551,343.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MONROE GUETT, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Insulating-Covers for Electric Switches, of which the following is a specification.

In various forms of electric switch construction the movable switch mechanism is located in a receptacle supported by a top-plate which rests on and is secured to the end walls of the receptacle.

This invention relates particularly to an insulating cover to fill the space between said top-plate and the side walls of the receptacle and more particularly to the manner of mounting or securing in place these insulating cover pieces.

One embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a switch and its receptacle showing one of the insulating cover pieces in place. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view on enlarged scale of part of the receptacle, showing the insulating cover pieces in place. Fig. 3 is a detail view showing the under side of the insulating cover pieces. Fig. 4 is a view in longitudinal section illustrating a modification.

Referring to the drawings *a* is the receptacle made usually from porcelain or like material and in which are mounted stationary contacts (not shown) which are connected with binding posts indicated at *b b*. Ledges *c* project from the side walls of the receptacle and are adapted to support the outer edge of the insulating cover pieces, these ledges terminating below the upper face of the receptacle so that when the cover pieces are in place they will be flush with the face of the receptacle, as indicated in Fig. 2.

d is the top-plate from which the switch mechanism is supported; it rests on the end walls of the receptacle and is secured thereto. This top-plate has apertures for the push-buttons *e*. Depending from the top-plate are the frame-plates *f* between which the movable parts of the switch mechanism (not shown) are mounted. Secured to the top-plate and extending laterally from each side thereof are the bracket-arms 2—2 having upstanding pins 3—3, the ends of which are slightly enlarged.

10—10 are the insulating cover pieces of a size and shape to fit between the top-plate and the side walls of the receptacle and extending from one end of the receptacle to the other. These cover pieces are apertured to fit over the pins 3—3 and the sides of the apertures are reinforced by strips of spring material secured at their ends to the cover pieces and spaced apart so that they will not slide over the enlarged ends of the pins 3—3 without springing apart slightly. These strips of spring material form the securing means for holding the insulating cover pieces in place and as illustrated take the form of an elongated loop 15 the ends of which are secured to the cover pieces.

The advantage of this construction is that the switch can be completely installed and wired and the insulating cover pieces then placed in position, covering the entire face of the receptacle including the binding post *b b*. This is made possible by reason of the fact that the cover pieces do not interlock or project under the top-plate; they can be readily put in place and removed and form an effective closure for the receptacle thoroughly protecting the electrical mechanism contained therein.

By reference to Fig. 4 it will be noted that the end walls of the receptacle opposite the binding posts are cut down below the face of the receptacle so that when a switch is installed in the side wall in the position shown in Fig. 1 it will be possible for dirt and other materials to drop into the receptacle through the openings under the cover pieces. To guard against this I have provided flanges depending from the under side of the cover pieces at each end and lying against the binding posts as shown in Fig. 4.

I claim:—

1. The combination in an electric switch with the receptacle and top-plate supported from opposite walls thereof, laterally extending brackets carried by said top-plate, insulating cover pieces filling the spaces between said top-plate and the side walls of said receptacle, and means for removably securing said insulating cover pieces to said brackets.

2. The combination in an electric switch

with the receptacle and a top-plate, of a bracket projecting laterally from each side of said top-plate, a closure member on each side of said top-plate and filling a space between the same and the walls of said receptacle, and means for removably securing said closures to said brackets.

3. In an electric switch the combination with a receptacle and top-plate, brackets extending laterally from said top-plate, pins upstanding from said brackets and having enlarged heads, closures filling the spaces between said top-plate and the side walls of said receptacle, and means carried by said closures adapted to yieldingly embrace said pins beneath the enlarged heads.

4. In an electric switch the combination with a receptacle and top-plate, of brackets extending laterally from both sides of said top-plate, an upstanding pin on each bracket, closures filling the spaces between said top-plate and the side walls of said receptacle apertured to receive said pins, and means for removably securing said closures in place.

5. In an electric switch the combination with a receptacle and top-plate, of brackets extending laterally from both sides of said top-plate, upstanding pins on said brackets having enlarged heads, closures filling the spaces between said top-plate and the side walls of said receptacle, apertures through said closures to receive said pins, and a pair of spring-arms located on opposite sides of said apertures and adapted to spring over the enlarged ends of said pins, for the purposes specified.

6. In an electric switch the combination with a receptacle and top-plate, of brackets extending laterally from both sides of said top-plate, pins upstanding from said brackets and having enlarged heads, closures filling the spaces between said top-plate and the side walls of said receptacle, apertures through said closures to receive said pins, an elongated loop secured to the under side of said closures, the side arms of said loop adapted to spring over the enlarged ends of said pins and interlock therewith.

7. In an electric switch the combination with a receptacle and top-plate, of closures adapted to fill the spaces between said top-plate and the walls of said receptacle, said top-plate and closures covering the entire face of said receptacle from end to end thereof, means for removably securing said closures in place, and flanges depending from the under sides of said closures near each end thereof.

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