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WIRE COVERING BOOT

Filed Aug. 13, 1958

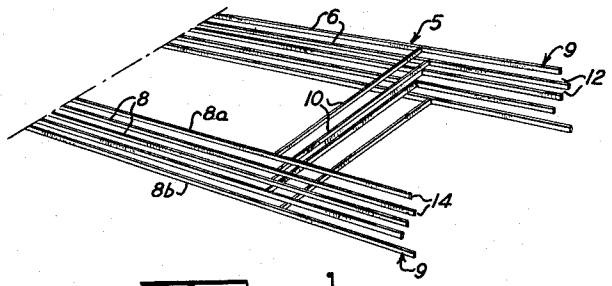


Fig. 1

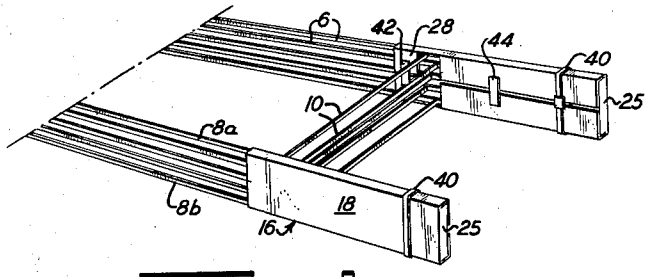


Fig. 2

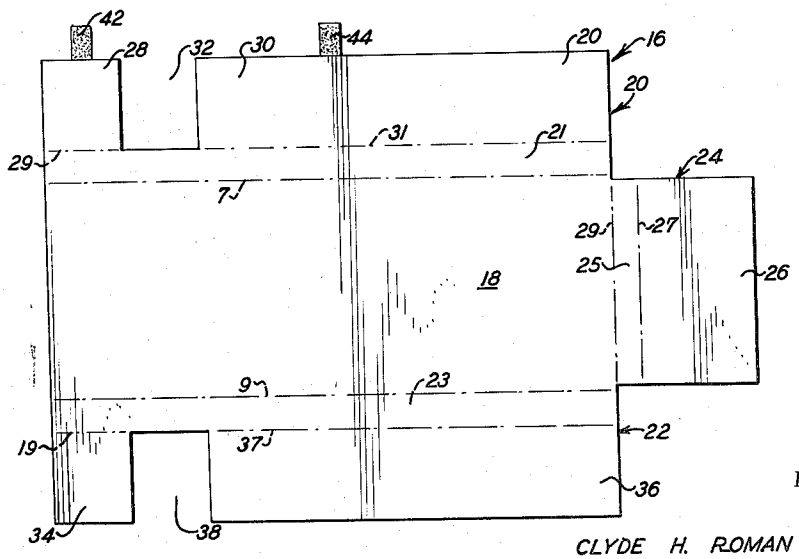


Fig. 3

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WIRE COVERING BOOT

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This invention relates to a boot for enclosing the free ends of a stack of masonry wall reinforcing wires and the like.

There have long been many difficulties in the packing and shipping of reinforcing wire. The main problem consists of protecting persons and things from the jagged and uneven ends of the wire. It is an object of this invention to provide an inexpensive and simple covering for these ends which is easily and quickly applied.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a boot or end covering for a stack of wires which makes the stack easier to handle and will give an attractive appearance to the stack. The boot will also provide a convenient surface for identifying type and make of the wires.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a stack of masonry wall reinforcing wires;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the stack shown in FIG. 1 with the boot attached; and

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the blank which forms the boot.

Referring now to FIG. 1, it can be seen that the masonry wall reinforcing wire **5** to which this invention relates consists of two stringer wires **6** and **8** and a series of cross-members **10**. Only the end section of the reinforcing wire structure is shown. The length and degree of rigidity required in the structure will influence the number of cross-members **10** per length to be used. The conventional manner of shipping such reinforcing structure is forming the units into stacks or bundles and tying them at several places along the stringer members **8** and **16**. The cross-members **10** are aligned as closely as possible for ease of handling. When the reinforcing units are arranged in this manner they form an H-shaped stack at each end. This invention provides a boot for legs **9** of the stack. One boot for each leg is required. Unless the stack is tied right at the end, the stringers will tend to spread as shown at **12**. The lengths of such reinforcing structures are usually uniform, but the cross-members do not stack evenly and this results in jagged and uneven terminal points during bundling after manufacture is indicated at **14**. In FIG. 1, a bundle of five reinforcing structures is shown; whereas, in usual practice, such bundles will consist of many more wire items in each stack. This aggravates the difficulties caused by the uneven stacking position and the spreading tendency. Showing so few units in a bundle in the drawings is to facilitate description only.

Referring now to FIG. 3, the numeral **16** indicates a generally rectangular cardboard blank to which this invention is directed. The blank consists principally of a main panel **18**, extension members **20** and **22** extending from the longitudinal edges of the main panel, and extension **24** extending from one end edge of said main panel.

Extension **24** consists of end wall **25** and flap **26**. Extension **20** consists of side wall **21** which extends along one entire longitudinal edge **7** of the main panel, and spaced flaps **28** and **30**. The remaining extension **22** consists of side wall **23** which extends along the remaining longitudinal edge **9** of the main panel, and spaced flaps **34** and **36**. Flap **28** is connected to side wall **21** at **29** and flap **30** is connected to side wall **21** at **31**. The placement of these flaps defines a gap **32**. On extension **22**, the flap **34** is connected to side wall **23** at **19**, and flap **36** is connected at **37**. The placement of these flaps defines a gap **38** which is opposite gap **32** in extension **20**.

Referring now to FIG. 2, it can be seen that main panel **18** is placed against an exterior side of the bundle **6** and arranged so that end wall **25** is adjacent the longest end of stringers **8**. Flap **26** is then folded over the ends of stringers **8** and will lie parallel to main panel **18** on an interior side of the stack. This results in side wall **25** covering the stringer ends. Side wall **21** is placed adjacent to top stringer **8***a* and side wall **22** will be adjacent to bottom stringer **8***b*. Flaps **28** and **30** are then folded over the interior side of said stack and will lie parallel to panel **18**. Flaps **34** and **36** are folded over bottom stringer **8***b* and will lie on the interior side of the stack and parallel to panel **18**. This results in side wall **21** lying adjacent to and covering an end portion of stringer **8***a*, and side wall **23** lying adjacent to and covering an end portion of stringer **8***b*.

As best seen in FIG. 2, cross-members **10** will fall between flaps **28—30** and **34—36** which define gaps **32** and **38**. The flaps **28** and **34** then lock the boot onto the stack, and prevent it from being pulled off the end. Flaps **30** and **36** prevent the boot from slipping in the other direction.

It can be seen that flaps **28**, **30**, **34** and **36** are approximately one-half the width of panel **18**. Side walls **21**, **23** and **25** are approximately the width of stringers **8**. End flap **26** can be of any convenient length which will enable it to stay in place when flaps **30** and **36** are folded over said end flap. It normally is of a length greater than the differences in length expected in the stringers, however.

The boot is preferably made of a one-piece blank of corrugated cardboard or fiberboard or the like. The points of juncture **7**, **29**, **31**, **33**, **35**, **9**, **25** and **37** between the major elements of the boot are pre-creased during manufacture for ease of application in the field.

Flaps **30** and **36** can be held firmly against the interior of the stack by a variety of means. As indicated at **40**, they can be held by conventional wire straps. When flaps **30** and **36** are held firmly in place, the natural tendency of the corrugated cardboard not to bend will ordinarily be enough to prevent flaps **28** and **34** from leaving their positions on the interior side of the stack.

Another feature which may be added to the invention are adhesive strips **42** and **44**. These strips may be added to flaps **28** and **30** during manufacture and moistened and fastened to flaps **34** and **36** after the boot has been applied to the stringer ends.

In a general manner, while there has been disclosed in the above description, what is deemed to be the most practical and efficient embodiment of the invention, it should be well understood that the invention is not limited to such embodiment as there might be changes made in the arrangement, disposition and form of the parts without departing from the principle of the present invention as comprehended within the scope of the accompanying claims.

I claim.

1. A boot adapted to enclose the ends of an H-shaped stack of masonry wall reinforcing wire of the type having two stringer members connected by cross-members therebetween, said stack having a first height, said boot comprising in combination, a longitudinally shaped main panel adapted to be placed against an exterior side of said stack and having a width approximately the same as said stack height, a first side member extending from one longitudinal end of said main panel and adapted to cover the ends of said stringer members, a flap attached

to said first side member and adapted to cover a portion of an interior vertical side of said stack, a pair of second side members extending from the lateral edges of said main panel and of a width approximately equal to the diameter of said wires and adapted to cover the top and bottom stringer members of said stack, a pair of spaced flap members extending respectively from said second side members and each pair having a gap intermediate their ends, said pair of flaps adapted to fold over an interior side of said stack and spaced so that said cross-members will be in said gap, whereby said boot may be made self-secured to said stack.

2. The boot as defined in claim 1 wherein said pair of flaps have a length less than one-half of said stack height.

3. The boot as defined in claim 1, wherein means are provided to fasten said pairs of spaced flat members to each other.

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