Nov. 5, 1968 W. C. FREHSE 3,408,772

GASKET FOR A MULTIPLE DOOR CABINET

Filed Nov. 18, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

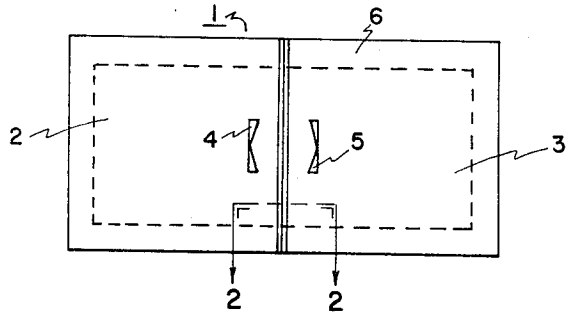



FIG. 1

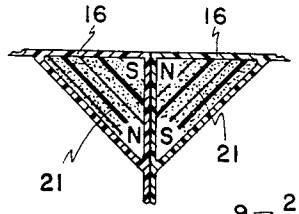



FIG. 4

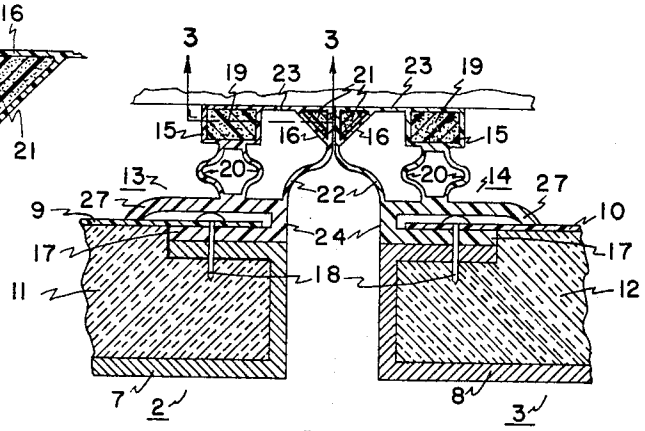



FIG. 2

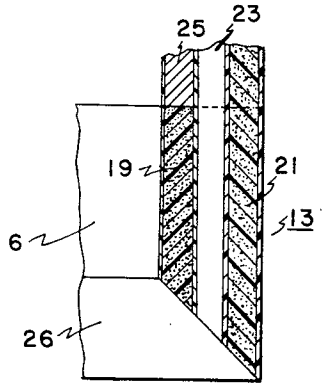



FIG. 3

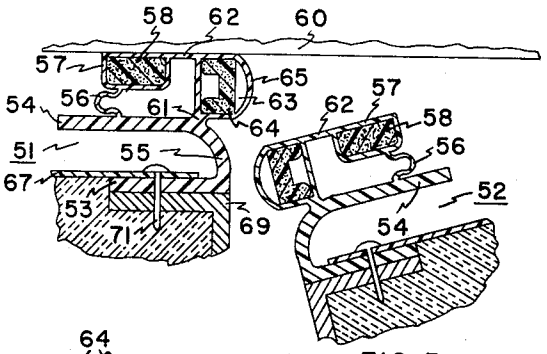



FIG. 5

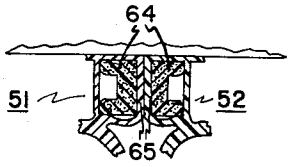



FIG. 6

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Nov. 5, 1968 W. C. FREHSE 3,408,772

GASKET FOR A MULTIPLE DOOR CABINET

Filed Nov. 18, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

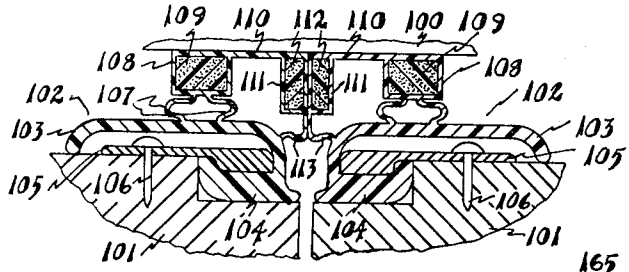



Fig. 7

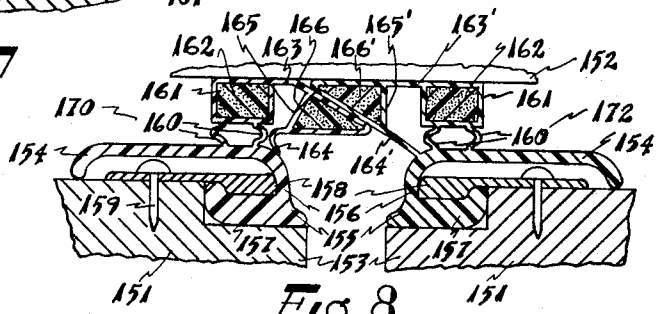



Fig. 8

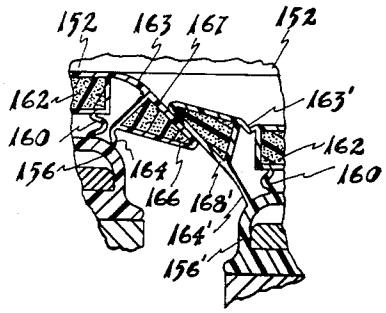



Fig. 9

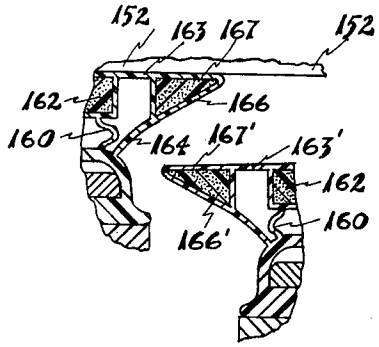



Fig. 10

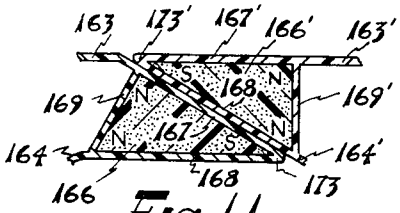



Fig. 11

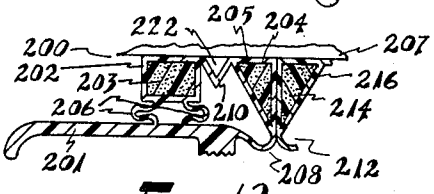



Fig. 12

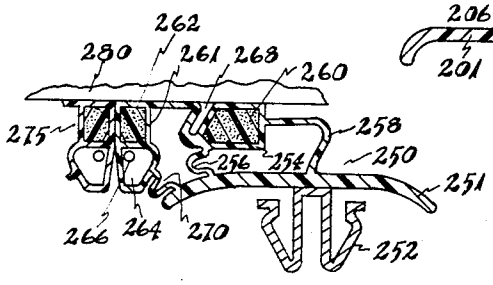



Fig. 13

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3,408,772

# GASKET FOR A MULTIPLE DOOR CABINET

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Continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 464,483, June 16, 1965. This application Nov. 18, 1966, Ser. No. 604,099

7 Claims. (Cl. 49—366)

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to a gasket of the type used on the doors of cabinets, such as refrigerators, and more specifically it relates to a gasket utilizing the forces of magnetic attraction to hold the doors of a cabinet in sealing engagement with the frame of the cabinet and with one another. Yet more particularly this invention relates to a magnetic gasket for a cabinet of the type that utilizes two oppositely swinging doors which, when closed, abut one another in sealing relationship.

This application is a continuation-in-part of an earlier patent application, Ser. No. 464,483 filed by the present inventor on June 16, 1965 now abandoned.

*Background*

In recent years it has become a common practice in the manufacture of enclosures such as refrigerators to utilize the benefits of a permanent magnet to retain the door, coextensive and covering the access opening of the enclosure, in a closed position. In the case of refrigerators, this approach has been necessitated at least in part by the fact that the doors have previously been provided with mechanical latches which could only be opened from the outside of the cabinet. This occasionally resulted in tragedies wherein children became trapped inside the enclosure and were suffocated because of their inability to open the door from within.

Recently a method has been devised for extruding magnetic material into long flexible strips, said strips generally comprising a finely divided magnetizable substance such as barium ferrite dispersed in a suitable resinous binder such as polyvinyl chloride or chlorosulfonate polyethylene. Flexible magnetic strips of this type were adapted for use as door closures by inserting them into appropriate channels of flexible gaskets, which gaskets were then attached to the door and were adapted to contact the metal frame of the cabinet to effect a seal, the magnetic strip being magnetically attracted to said frame.

Contemporary cabinet designs have lead to the production of refrigerators and the like having two doors instead of one, these doors generally being hinged at opposite sides of the refrigerator so as to open away from one another. A center mullion consisting of a rigid vertical support normally divides the access opening into two parts. The doors are adapted to close against this mullion.

One object of the present invention is to provide a door gasket which allows for the elimination of the center mullion.

Another object is to provide a magnetic gasket strip for use on a door, such as a refrigerator door, which permits the door to be sealingly engaged with a second door.

Still another object is a door gasket which provides a seal between two doors, adjacent to one another when closed, and which holds one door in the closed position while the other is opened, independently thereof.

A further object of this invention is to provide gasket means for both doors of a refrigerator constructed without the use of a center mullion, said gasket means adapted



to compensate for variations in the dimensional spacing between the two doors.

Yet another object is to provide an elongated flexible elastomeric strip secured to a first door and adapted to effect a seal with the frame of a cabinet and with a corresponding strip on a second door, when both doors are closed, said strip including a first portion for attaching the strip to the first door at the side of the door opposite its hinges, a second portion connected to and spaced apart from said first portion and adapted to be magnetically attracted to the frame of the cabinet when closed, and a third portion adapted to co-act in cooperative relationship with a similar portion of said corresponding strip on the second door to provide a seal between the two doors.

These and other objects will become apparent from the following description, appropriate references being made to the attached drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 represents a frontal plane view of a two-door cabinet, such as a refrigerator, with the doors closed;

FIGURE 2 represents a cross section of the two closed doors, taken along lines 2—2 of FIGURE 1, utilizing a gasket of novel configuration on each door to maintain a continual seal between said doors;

FIGURE 3 shows a cross section taken along lines 3—3 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged view showing the arrangement of the poles of the triangular magnets used in the gaskets of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a cross section showing an alternate embodiment of the novel gasket;

FIGURE 6 is a partial view of the gaskets shown in FIGURE 5 but in abutting relationship, as when the doors are both closed;

FIGURE 7 shows another variation of the gasket, installed on the doors of a cabinet;

FIGURE 8 relates to a further modification wherein the co-acting portions of the respective gaskets overlap one another when the doors are closed;

FIGURE 9 is a partial view of the gaskets shown in FIGURE 8 as one of the doors is being opened and the magnetic strips are about to repel one another;

FIGURE 10 shows the doors opened sufficiently to separate the gaskets;

FIGURE 11 is an enlarged cross section of the overlapping triangular magnets used in the gasket of FIGURE 8 showing the polar arrangement;

FIGURE 12 shows a gasket similar to that of FIGURE 2 and provided with lateral adjustment means; and

FIGURE 13 shows a gasket of the snap-in type and slotted in such a manner so as to allow for dimensional variations of the space between the doors of the refrigerator or other cabinet.

*Summary of the invention*

In general this invention relates to a gasket useful in applications wherein a cabinet, such as a refrigerator cabinet, is provided with two doors which swing open in opposite directions and which when closed having opposing edges which are adjacent to one another. Reference will be made throughout the description to the use of this novel type of gasket in refrigerators, it being understood, however, that the invention is likewise applicable to other types of cabinets provided with two doors which, when closed, have their edges opposite the hinges or pivot points closely adjacent to one another. Each gasket includes a base portion provided with means for securing the gasket to the door and first and second magnetic means normally spaced from said base portion and from one another and adapted respectively to abut the frame of the refrigerator when the door is closed and to

engage a similar gasket on the other door to seal the space therebetween. Preferably, means such as an expansion groove or the like are provided as an integral part of each gasket to compensate for variations in the spacing between the doors of a production line item such as a refrigerator.

*Description of the drawings*

Referring to the drawings, FIGURE 1 shows a cabinet **1** which is completely enclosed on all sides except the front wherein an access opening is provided and wherein two doors **2, 3** are arranged to close said opening. The refrigerator is provided with an outer shell, generally of metal, and an inner liner spaced apart from the outer shell, the space between the two generally being filled with a thermal insulation material such as polyurethane foam. The two doors closing off the front access opening are attached to the cabinet by suitable hinges at the sides, or at the top and bottom of the cabinet. Suitable handles **4, 5** on the doors permit each door, independently of the other, to be opened. The doors, when closed, abut against the frame **6** (shown in outline) joining the inner liner of the refrigerator with the outer shell. Generally each door is provided, along the top, bottom, and hinged side thereof, with a soft hollow or cellular gasket adapted to sealingly engage the frame **6** around the refrigerator. Each door is also provided with a novel gasket on its leading edge opposite the hinges, which gasket is adapted to sealingly engage the corresponding gasket on the other door, and also to engage the cabinet frame **6**.

An enlarged partial cross section of the refrigerator cabinet, including one embodiment of the novel gasket of this invention, is shown in FIGURE 2. The doors of the cabinet are composed of an outer shell **7, 8** preferably metal, and an inner liner **9, 10** preferably plastic, fixedly attached thereto by appropriate means. The space between the outer shell and inner liner is filled with a suitable insulating material **11, 12**. Gasket **13** is attached to the left-hand door **2** by suitable means, and in like manner gasket **14** is attached to the righthand door **3**. For simplification, the same numbers will be used to identify the corresponding parts of gaskets **13** and **14**.

This gasket is composed of three basic component parts; a relatively thick but flexible flat base portion **27**, a first, thin, hollow refrigerator engaging portion **15** connected to said base portion by two thin ribs **20**, and a second, thin, hollow portion **16** attached to said first hollow portion by web **23** and to said base portion by web **22**.

Leg **17**, generally parallel to base portion **27** and connected thereto by web **24**, is positioned between the outer shell **7** and the inner liner **9** of the door and is secured thereto by suitable means such as screws **18**. After installation of the gasket, the screws are effectively hidden from view by the overlying base portion **27**.

The hollow refrigerator engaging portion **15** has a rectangular cross section into which are inserted two short strips of flexible magnetic tape **19** separated by a spacer. The tapes are located so as to contact the frame **6** of the refrigerator when the door is closed. The two arcuate supporting ribs **20** permit movement of the refrigerator engaging portion **15** respectively toward and away from the base portion when the door is closed and opened.

The second hollow portion **16** of the gasket is triangular in shape and is adapted to receive a triangular strip of magnetic tape **21** therein. When the doors are closed, the respective triangular portions of the two gaskets are in abutting contact with one another, a tight seal being provided along the entire length of the doors by the mutual attraction of the two magnetic strips.

For added strength, the base portion **27**, the leg **17**, and web **24** of the gaskets are substantially thicker than the hollow channels **15, 16** and the connecting webs **20, 22**. The dimensions can be varied to some extent, however, depending upon the particular design parameters involved.

The relative position and polarity of the triangular magnets, when the doors are closed, are shown in FIGURE 4. From this it can be seen that the mutually adjacent portions of the magnets are of opposite polarity and are therefore attracted to one another. However, as one door is pulled open, the contacting surface of one gasket initially slides over the surface of the other until the similar poles of the two magnets approach and repel one another, whereupon the seal between the doors is broken. Likewise, when one door is being closed, the magnets are initially repelled to prevent one gasket from jamming up against the other, and to reduce the abrasive action of one gasket rubbing against the other until the door is almost completely closed at which point the opposite poles of the magnets will be sufficiently close to one another to be attracted together, thereby sealing the space between the two doors. As shown, the magnets **21** are both right triangular in shape, with their abutting surfaces forming one leg of the triangle along a line which is generally normal to the plane of the door. The other leg is generally flush with the front of the cabinet.

FIGURE 3 shows the lower portion of one of the gaskets of FIGURE 2 spliced to a gasket of the type that is used on the other three sides of the door, referred to as a universal gasket. The gasket **13** is in contact with the frame **6** of the refrigerator cabinet and is held in position thereagainst by the magnetic attraction between the short rectangular magnetic strip **19** and the metal frame. A solid spacer **25** occupies the remainder of the gasket channel serving to maintain the two short magnetic strips **19** in their relative positions at the top and bottom of the gasket and to retain the shape of the channel throughout its length. Separated from the strip **19** by a thin flexible web **23** is the triangular magnetic strip **21** which is attracted to the similarly disposed strip contained in the gasket mounted in the other door as previously explained.

The gasket **13** is cut to length, and is spliced or otherwise connected to a conventional gasket **26**. As shown in FIGURE 3, both gaskets **13** and **26** are cut at a 45° angle and are spliced together. However, the method of cutting the respective angles, and the process of splicing are well-known procedures and constitute no part of the present invention. This gasket **26**, and the corresponding gasket running along the top of the door, generally contain a magnetic strip which is attracted to the frame of the refrigerator thereby forming a seal at the top and bottom. In like manner, the gasket on the hinge side of the door may contain a magnetic strip adapted to engage the frame along that side.

Referring now to FIGURE 5, there is shown one modification of this novel gasket wherein provision is made for slight variations in the spacings between the two doors attached to the cabinet. The numerical designation of the portions of the left-hand gasket **51** will again be applicable to the right-hand gasket **52**. Each gasket has a relatively flat base **54** and a curved portion **55** connecting the base with leg **53**, generally parallel to said base. Spaced apart from the base **54** and attached thereto by a thin flexible web **56** is a first channel **57** in which two spaced-apart flexible magnetic strips **58** are located. These magnetic strips are adapted to be magnetically attracted to the frame **60** of the refrigerator and are held in position within the channel by a suitable nonmagnetic spacer. Connected to the base **54** by a short web **61** and spaced from channel **57** by a relatively thin web **62** is a second channel **63**. Three sides of the channel are straight whereas the fourth side **65** facing the other door is convexly bowed. This bowed portion is adapted to contact a similarly disposed bowed portion of gasket **52**. In channel **63** is a flexible magnetic strip **64** of generally U-shaped configuration, the base of the magnetic strip facing the bowed portion of the channel and the two legs extending away therefrom. The U-shaped magnet requires less material, and is therefore less expensive than an equivalent rectangular magnet of the size ordinarily used in a channel of this size.

When both doors are closed, the respective channels **63** of the two gaskets **51** and **52** are in mutually engaging relationship as shown in FIGURE 6, causing each of the curved portions to be substantially flattened. This brings the magnets **64** close enough to one another so that their mutual magnetic attraction provides a continuous seal along the length of the two gaskets. When one of the doors is open as shown in FIGURE 4, the bowed portion **65** of channel **63** assumes its normal unstressed shape.

Because of the flexibility of the curved portions of the channels **63** and the fact that these channels are larger than the magnetic strips, the distance between the doors can be subject to slight variations without adversely affecting the seal between the gaskets. Accordingly, the magnets **64** can move laterally toward or away from one another within their respective channels to compensate for these variations and to form a continuous contact surface between the gaskets. This permits the mass production of refrigerators and doors wherein there is likely to be variations in the spacings of the doors from one refrigerator to the next.

Referring now to FIGURE 7, there is shown another modification of this invention wherein both of the magnetic strips of each gasket are rectangular in shape. Shown in the figure are two doors **101** and a cabinet frame **100**, a seal being maintained between both doors and the cabinet by gaskets **102**. Each gasket has a relatively thick flat base **103** and an anchor portion **104** whereby the gasket is attached to the door with an appropriate retainer strip **105** and screws **106**. Attached to and spaced from the base **103** by two relatively thin flexible ribs **107** is a channel **108** of rectangular cross section in which is provided two relatively short magnetic strips **109** at the top and bottom thereof, which strips are adapted to hold the door against the frame **100** of the refrigerator cabinet, and which are preferably separated by a suitable non-magnetic spacer.

Another rectangular channel **111** is connected to the first channel by a first flexible rib **110** and to the base **103** by a second flexible rib **113**. A rectangular flexible magnet **112** is disposed within and extends the entire length of said second channel **111**. This magnet is adapted to be attracted to the corresponding magnet in the other door thereby effecting a tight seal when both doors are closed. The poles of the magnets are arranged so that the polarity of the two magnetic strips are opposite to one another at their mutually adjacent points when both of the doors are closed. This provides for the action hereinbefore described wherein opening of one door is initially resisted by the mutual attraction of the two magnets until the magnet disposed in the door being opened moves far enough to reach a point wherein its polarity is the same as that of the portion of the magnet immediately opposite it, whereupon the two gaskets are repelled from the other and the door is opened. Upon closing the door, the same action occurs in reverse, i.e., the magnets are initially repelled from one another, thereby keeping the gaskets apart until the door is almost completely closed whereupon the magnets are attracted to one another. The contact surface between the two gaskets is normally perpendicular to the plane of the two doors.

Another modification is shown in FIGURES 8, 9, 10, and 11 wherein the mutually engaging magnetic strips of the respective gaskets overlap one another when both doors are closed. Like numbers are again used in the diagrams to represent similar parts of both baskets, with the exception that the over-lapping portions of the right-hand gasket **172** are given a prime designation to differentiate them from the corresponding portions of the left-hand gasket **170**. Referring now to FIGURE 8, there is shown two doors **151** in a closed position against the frame **152** of a refrigerator cabinet or the like. The edges **153** of the doors define a space therebetween. Mounted on the left-hand door is a gasket **170**, and mounted on the right-hand door is a similar gasket **172**. Each gasket is provided with a relatively flat thick base **154** and an anchor portion **155** attached to the base by an intermediate rib **156**. The anchor portion is adapted to fit in a recess **157** in the door and is held in place by a rigid sealing strip **158** secured to the door by screws **159**. Spaced apart from the base **154** and connected thereto by two relatively thin arcuate ribs **160** is a channel **161** of rectangular cross section. Flexible magnets **162** are inserted at the top and bottom of this channel, which magnets are adapted to engage the frame **152** of the refrigerator against which the door closes. Non-magnetic spacer inserts are placed between the two relatively short magentic strips within the channel to maintain the spacing between the two.

A right triangular channel **165**, **165'** is connected to the rectangular channel **161** by a thin flexible rib **163**, **163'** and is attached to the base **154** by a second rib **164**, **164'**. Disposed within, and extending the full length of, each triangular channel is a triangular magnetic strip **166**, **166'**.

FIGURE 11 is an enlarged view of a portion of FIGURE 8 showing the salient features of the triangular channels and magnets **166**, **166'** disposed therein. Each channel comprises a right triangle having a long leg **167**, **167'**, a short leg **169**, **169'**, and a hypotenuse **168**, **168'**. Each of the triangular magnets **166**, **166'** is magnetized so that the two edges of the short leg **169**, **169'** are of similar polarity (N) whereas the apex **173**, **173'** formed by the intersection between the long leg and hypotenuse has a polarity (S) which is opposite to that of the aforementioned two edges. Regardless of the sequence used to open and close the doors, the apex **173**, **173'** of the triangular magnets will always assume a position near, and be attracted to, the short leg **169**, **169'** of the other magnet.

As represented in FIGURES 8 and 11, both doors are shown in the closed position, with the left-hand door having been closed subsequent to the right-hand door. The long leg **167'** of the right-hand gasket is positioned flush with the frame of the refrigerator cabinet, and is substantially co-planar with the web **163'** and one side of channel **162**. From the apex **173'**, the hypotenuse **168'** and web **164'** extend diagonally toward the base **154** of the gasket and intersect it in the region of the intermediate rib **156**.

The long leg **167** of gasket **170** is disposed alongside of the hypotenuse **168'** of gasket **172** and is held thereto by the mutual attraction of the two triangular magnets **166**, **166'**. Webs **163** and **164** are folded slightly as a result of the channel **165** being bent out of its normal position.

If the left-hand door is opened, the triangular magnets are pulled apart from one another in normal fashion. If the right-hand door, however, is first opened, the side **168'** of the gasket **172** engaging the corresponding side **167** of the other gasket **170** slides, as shown in FIGURE 9, until the two apexes **173**, **173'**, having the same polarity, are sufficiently close to repel one another and to break the seal. Thereafter, the webs **163**, **164** supporting the channel **165** will straighten out causing the triangular portion of the left-hand gasket to assume its normal position as shown in FIGURE 10. Upon closing the right-hand door **151**, the respective positions of the triangular magnets will then be reversed from that shown in FIGURE 8. Thus it can be seen that either door may be opened independently of the other, but when both doors are closed, an effective seal is provided by the combined effect of the overlapping of the triangular channels and the mutual attraction of the magnets contained therein.

Although the overlapping portions of the respective gaskets are shown in FIGURES 8 through 11 as being triangular in cross section, it should be understood that they may assume other shapes as well. Their shape will generally determine how they are to be positioned so as to overlap and be magnetically attracted to one another.

The manner of supporting them will be dependent upon their position as well as the amount and direction of flexural movement which is necessary to permit either door to be opened and closed as desired. Accordingly, the number, position, and thickness of the webs supporting each of the overlapping portions and connecting it to the other parts of the gasket are parameters which can be varied without deviation from the scope of the invention.

Referring now to FIGURE 12, there is shown a gasket **200** similar to that described in FIGURE 2 including a base portion **201**, a first magnet-receiving channel **202** with a magnet strip **203** disposed therein, and a second channel **204** with a triangular magnetic strip **205** therein. This gasket is preferably attached to the door in the same manner as that previously described for the other embodiments of this invention. It is adapted to abut the frame **207** of a cabinet and to contact an identical gasket **212** disposed on the other door. This second gasket **212** is provided with a triangular magnetic strip **214** in a channel **216** adapted to be magnetically attracted to the corresponding strip in the first gasket **200**.

The first channel **202** is connected to the base portion **201** by a pair of thin flexible ribs **206**, and the second channel **204** is attached by web **208** to said base portion. A generally V-shaped web **210** interconnects said first and second channels forming a longitudinally extending groove **222**. This groove permits movement of the first and second magnet containing channels toward or away from one another to compensate for normal variations in the dimensions of the refrigerator or other cabinet. By the use of an expansion groove such as that shown in FIGURE 12 (it being realized that there is a corresponding groove in the gasket mounted on the other door), the gaskets will cooperate to seal the space between the doors irrespective of the distance between the doors and the variations in said distance from one unit to the next.

The gasket shown in FIGURE 13 differs from those previously described in the respect that it is adapted to be snapped into place within a suitable channel formed in the frame of the door. This gasket **250** contains a base portion **251** to which is adhesively attached a retainer tab **252**. This retainer tab is preferably composed of a relatively rigid material, and can be adhered to the softer portion of the gasket by use of a suitable adhesive, but is preferably produced as an integral part of the gasket by a process known as dual durometer extrusion. A first channel **254** is connected to the base portion by a pair of ribs **256**, **258**, a magnetic strip **260** being disposed in this channel. A second magnetic strip **262** is disposed within channel **261** and is adapted to be attracted to a similar magnetic strip mounted within a similar channel of the comparable gasket **275** attached to the other door. A conduit **264** is positioned contiguous to and immediately below channel **261** and is adapted to receive an electrical heater wire **266**. A heater wire of this type is commonly used with refrigerator gaskets to prevent the formation of condensate around the edge of the refrigerator door. A slot **268**, formed between the two magnetic strips **260** and **262**, and a second slot **270** intermediate the conduit **264** and base portion **251** serve to permit the portion of the gasket containing the second magnetic strip **262** to move toward or away from the first strip **260** to allow for variations in the spacing between the refrigerator doors. The use of two slots **268**, **270** rather than one as in FIGURE 12 insures a parallel movement of the magnetic strip **262** toward or away from the magnetic strip **260**. It is understood, of course, that the gasket **275** on the other door is preferably similar in construction to gasket **250**. They are both adapted to contact the frame **280** of the refrigerator or other cabinet when the doors are closed.

The majority of sealing gaskets presently being used are made of plasticized polyvinylchloride. This material has been found to be suitable for gaskets because of its low cost, the fact that it can be easily colored and pigmented, and its ability to be extruded in intricate shapes and thin cross sections. However, other pliable elastomeric materials such as copolymers of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate, polyethylene and polyurethane as well as other extrudable or moldable materials can be used in producing the gaskets of this invention. In addition to these elastomers, various synthetic rubbers may be used; however, they suffer the shortcoming that they normally tend to be too elastic and resilient for gasket applications.

A permanent flexible magnet of the type shown and described in U.S. 2,959,832 to Max Baermann has been found to be eminently suitable in practicing the teachings of this invention. In producing such a magnet, a finely divided permanent magnetizable material such as iron-barium-oxide or bismuth manganese is thoroughly mixed with a non-magnetic flexible binder, the weight ratio of magnetic material to non-magnetic material being as high as 9 to 1. This uniform mixture can be readily extruded into strips of infinite length, having a cross-sectional dimension of, for example, 4-millimeters by 8 millimeters. After extruding, the strip is cooled and is then passed through a magnetizing device preferably of the capacitor-discharge type whereupon the strip is magnetized. The poles of the magnetizing device can be arranged in any suitable manner so as to provide the magnetic strip with pole characteristics suitable for the teachings of the present invention.

The flexible magnetic strip is cut into finite lengths and is inserted into the appropriate channels of the gasket. In the case of the magnetic strips adapted to contact the flanges of the refrigerator cabinet, a suitable inexpensive non-magnetic spacer is used intermediate the ends of the gasket to reduce the overall cost of the assembly.

A common problem with refrigerator gaskets, particularly around the freezer compartment, has been the tendency for condensation to collect and freeze on the exposed surface of the gasket. Various methods have been devised to overcome this problem, including the use of heater wires within the gasket near the exposed surface thereof to maintain the proper temperature and to prevent the accumulation of moisture. It should be understood that any of these various methods can be used with the gaskets of the present invention without affecting the inventive merits thereof.

Various modifications can be made in the design of the gaskets as well as the shape and arrangement of the different portions thereof without departing from the novel aspects of this invention. For example, the size and shape of the various magnets as well as their physical properties, such as coercivity and polarity, can be varied. Also, the size, flexibility, and number of the webs used to connect the various parts of the gasket to one another can be altered. Furthermore, the invention can be used with self-locking gaskets, snap-in gaskets, etc. As stated before, the contemplated use of these novel gaskets is not limited to refrigerators, but covers other applications wherein two doors are used to close off the access opening of a cabinet, container, or room.

The foregoing discussion has served to point out the essence of the invention, as well as the preferred manner in which it is to be carried out. However, other modifications and variations can be made without departing from the scope of the invention which is limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

**1.** In a cabinet construction including two hinged doors adapted to sealingly engage one another and the cabinet when closed and to open in opposite directions from one another, the opening to said cabinet having no center mullion, an elongated flexible elastomeric sealing gasket adapted to be attached to each door to cooperatively engage a similar strip on the other door comprising:

(a) a relatively thick base portion including means for attaching the gasket to the door,

(b) a first channel held in spaced-apart relationship from said base portion by relatively thin web means,

(c) a short flexible permanent magnetic strip disposed within said channel at least at the top and the bottom of the door where the door contacts the frame of the cabinet,

(d) a second channel connected to said base portion and spaced from, said first channel by relatively thin web means, said second channel extending, in respect to the base portion and the first channel, in the direction of the other door and being adapted to contact a similarly positioned channel comprising a portion of the gasket on said other door, and

(e) a flexible magnetic strip substantially coextensive in length with and disposed within said second channel and adapted to be magnetically attracted to and form a seal with a similar strip disposed within the corresponding channel of said other gasket.

2. The gasket of claim **1** wherein said second channel and the corresponding magnetic strip are triangular in cross section.

3. The gasket according to claim **2** wherein one leg of the triangle thus formed is perpendicular to the plane of the door and is adapted to be adjacent to and magnetically attractable to a similarly disposed leg of the magnetic strip comprising a portion of the gasket on the other door.

4. The gasket of claim **2** wherein said second channel and magnetic strip are adapted to overlap the similarly disposed channel and strip on the other door, and to be magnetically attracted thereto.

5. A gasket of the type adapted to be mounted along the leading edge of a door for a cabinet and to seal against a similar gasket disposed on a second door wherein said doors are hinged so as to pivotally open away from one another, said gasket composed of:

(a) a base portion including means for mounting the gasket on the door, and

(b) a pair of channels connected to said base portion,



(1) The first channel spaced from said base portion, adapted to engage the frame of the cabinet when the door is closed and containing magnetic means in at least the frame engaging portions, and

(2) a second channel joined to but spaced from said first channel and containing a length of flexible magnetic material adapted to be magnetically attracted to a similar length disposed within the corresponding channel of the other gasket.

6. The gasket according to claim **5** wherein the first channel is connected to each of the base portion and the second channel by at least one thin flexible web.

7. A gasket according to claim **6** wherein the thin flexible web interconnecting said first channel and said second channel forms an expansion groove, said groove permitting lateral movement of said second channel away from said first channel and into magnetically attractable contact with the corresponding channel of the similar gasket mounted on the other door when said doors are closed, said groove further permitting variations in the spacing between said first and second channels to accommodate slight differences that might exist in the spacing between the doors of one cabinet and the next.

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