

A. H. KLING.
ELECTRIC SWITCH AND OUTLET BOX.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 16, 1908.

935,915.

Patented Oct. 5, 1909.

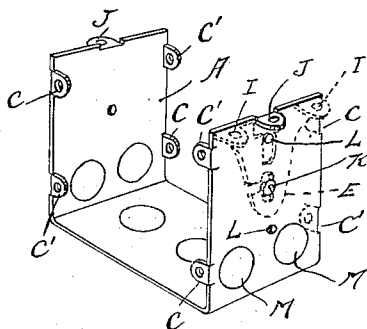


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

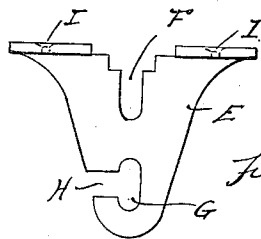
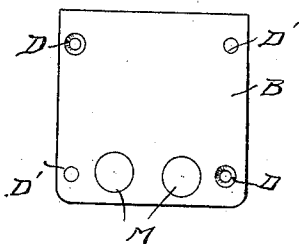
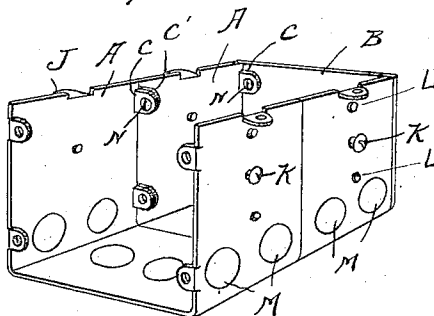


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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Alpha H. Kling Inventor
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALPHA H. KLING, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

ELECTRIC SWITCH AND OUTLET BOX.

935,915.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 5, 1909.

Application filed April 16, 1908. Serial No. 427,514.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALPHA H. KLING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric Switch and Outlet Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to electric switch and outlet boxes to be used both for old and new wiring, and has for its object to obtain a suitable box which can be extended to accommodate any variable number of switches, fuse blocks, or other appliances. It is my purpose to provide such extensible box by building up from, and by use of a single unit. I am aware that heretofore this object has been attained by the use of the original or unit member, together with auxiliary, or spacer members. This necessitates the carrying in stock of a larger number of pieces, involving a greater expenditure of money and also of time in the construction of the boxes.

It is the further object of my invention to provide a box which can easily be adjusted for different kinds of work which necessitate the box being placed at a greater or less distance in the wall.

These objects I attain by the mechanism and construction hereinafter specifically described, and shown in the annexed drawings which constitute a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of my units, showing the ears for attaching either the end plates or other units. Fig. 2 is a view of one of my interchangeable end plates. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a box built up of two similar units, showing the means of uniting the same and of securing the end plate. Fig. 4 is one view of my adjustable lug for attaching the box to the wall or other surface.

Similar letters refer to like parts throughout the drawing.

A is a U-shaped unit of sheet metal, or other similar material, which constitutes the bottom and sides of a completed box. This member is provided at the edges of the side pieces with the ears C and C' at right angles to said sides. The ears marked C diagonally opposite from each other have threaded eyes for the reception of screws N, while the remaining ears C' are provided with slightly larger and plain openings. The upper edge of the U-shaped member A is provided with

the lugs J as a means of securing within the box the switches, fuse blocks, or other appliances. The sides and also the bottom of the unit A are provided with the plugged openings M, which are preferably made by stamping out a circular or other shaped piece of metal and then swaging the same in the opening, so as to be removed by the workman as desired. This can readily be accomplished by a slight blow with a hammer.

Adjustably attached to the sides of the unit A are the lugs E. These consist of a main flattened portion, which fits against the sides of the unit, and the flanges or ears I at the upper end. The flattened portion of the lug is also provided with the slots F, G and H. These lugs are fastened to the unit by means of the screw K. Attached to the outer surface of the unit A are the two elevations L, which are preferably made by stamping out a portion of the sheet metal from which the unit is made. When the lug E is in its upper position the screw K is in the lower slot G and the upper lug or elevation L serves as a guide for the upper slot F. When it is desired to place the lug E farther down upon the unit, the screw K is placed in the upper slot while the lower slot registers with and is guided by the lower elevation L. The purpose of the slot H at right angles to and opening into the lower slot G is to enable the lug E to be shifted from the one position to another without entirely removing the screw K.

If a single unit box is desired, two similar end plates B are attached to the unit A by means of screws through the holes D and into the threaded ears C. At the points D' of the end plates are the slight elevations on the interior surface which register with the openings in the ears C'. It will be observed that a completed box, exclusive of the attaching lugs, has but two different members.

Where a box of greater length than a single unit is desired, two or more U-shaped members A are placed contiguous so that the threaded ears C upon one member will register with the plain ears C' of the adjacent member. These members are then attached by means of screws. If desired, rivets or any other means of securing may be employed without departing from the intended scope of my invention. When a box of the desired length has been built up

by attaching together two or more members, the two end plates are secured in position as above described. In a multiple box as many of the lugs E may be employed as desired. The end plates B are also provided with one or more knock out plugs as it is often desirable of admitting conduits and the like from different directions.

The unit A may be constructed in a different shape from the one shown and described, and there may also be a greater or less number of the ears C and C'. The ears by which the units are attached together may if desired all be made plain and secured by means of riveting. Other methods of joining these units may also be employed. Any number of lugs J and also of the adjustable lugs E may be employed as desired. These may also be secured to the end plates as well as to the sides of the unit.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In an electric switch and outlet box, the combination with two or more similar units, of ears extending inwardly at right angles to the sides of said units and integral therewith, of screws or other suitable means for securing together said ears, of

interchangeable end plates, said end plates and units having knock out plugs, of two or more adjustable lugs secured to the sides of the box and ear members upon the upper edge of the sides, substantially as described.

2. In an electric switch and outlet box, a multiple box consisting of the combination of two or more duplicate units having ears projecting inwardly at right angles from the edge of said units said ears being provided with openings therethrough, of screws or other suitable means for fastening together the units through the openings in said ears, of interchangeable end plates attachable to the open end of the multiple box by screws or similar means, said end plates and the U-shaped units having knock out plugs, of two or more adjustable lugs secured to the side of the box and outwardly projecting ear members upon the upper edge of the sides, substantially as described.

In witness whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALPHA H. KLING.

Witnesses

DAVID N. HARPER,
EDITH C. THOMPSON.