Feb. 28, 1961 D. O. MALAFOURIS 2,973,176

FIREPLACE SCREEN MOUNTING BRACKET

Filed Jan. 2, 1959

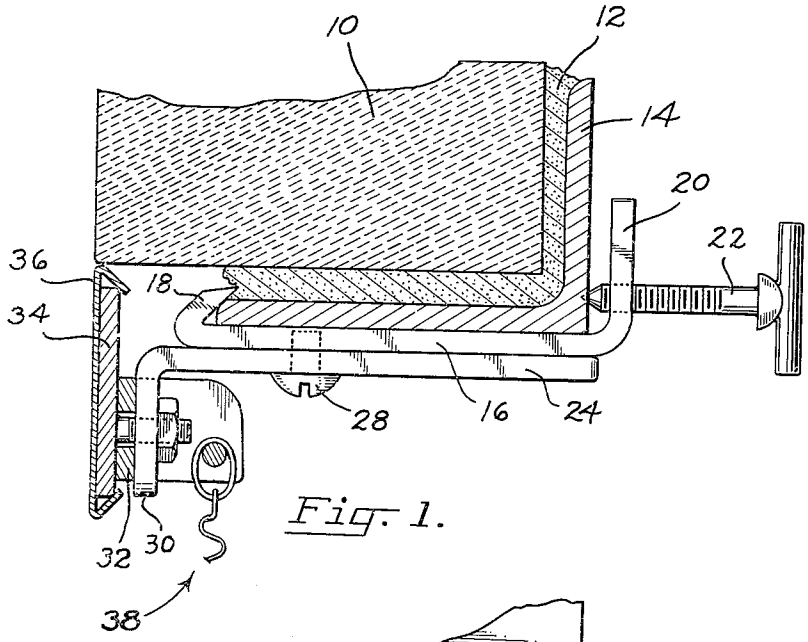


Fig. 1.

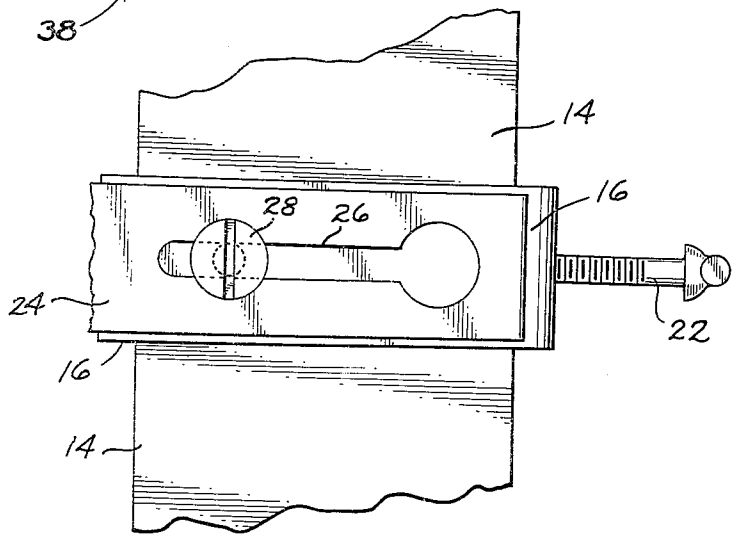


Fig. 2.

Dannie O. Malafouris
INVENTOR.

BY Eugene P. Farley

Atty.

United States Patent Office 2,973,176
Patented Feb. 28, 1961

2,973,176

FIREPLACE SCREEN MOUNTING BRACKET

Dannie O. Malafouris, Portland, Oreg., assignor to Hearth Craft, Inc., Portland, Oreg., a corporation of Oregon

Filed Jan. 2, 1959, Ser. No. 784,532

3 Claims. (Cl. 248—228)

This invention relates to brackets for mounting screens across fireplace openings.

Normally fireplace woven wire screens are mounted by drilling and tapping the lintel and then bolting the screen assembly thereto. This procedure obviously is time consuming and requires special tools. In addition, the screen is not easily adjustable or removable once it has been fixed in position.

Accordingly it is the general object of the present invention to provide a fireplace screen mounting bracket which is universally applicable to fireplaces of diverse opening sizes, which is easily installed without special tools and skills, which is easily adjustable to various positions, which may be installed without defacing the fireplace, and which is easily removable.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view through the lintel of a fireplace illustrating the manner of attachment of the herein described screen mounting bracket; and

Fig. 2 is a plan view, looking upwardly, of the herein described fireplace screen mounting bracket in the position of Fig. 1.

The fireplace screen mounting bracket of my invention is adapted for installation in a fireplace opening, the upper surface of which is defined in the usual manner by bricks **10**, mortar **12** and lintel **14**, all of which are horizontally disposed at the top of the opening as viewed in the drawings.

At spaced intervals along its length the lintel bar supports the herein described brackets, the intervals being determined by such factors as the width of the fireplace opening, the weight of the screen to be mounted, and the like. In the usual installation but two brackets are required.

Each bracket includes a grip bar **16**, the forward end **18** of which is reversely bent and preferably formed with a knife edge so that it will penetrate plaster **12**. The rear end **20** of the grip bar may be bent upwardly substantially at right angles to the length of the bar. It is provided with a tapped opening into which thumb screw **22** is threaded. Thus by placing the grip bar in the position indicated in Fig. 1 with the reversely bent end **18** receiving the forward edge of the forwardly extending portion of the lintel and screw **22** bearing against the upwardly extending rear face thereof, the bar may be anchored securely in any desired position.

Supported by grip bar **16** and relatively movable with respect thereto in a longitudinal direction, is a bracket bar **24**. Although various means may be employed for securing the bracket bar to the grip bar, it is preferred to provide the former with a longitudinal slot **26** which registers with a tapped recess or opening transversely through the grip bar. A screw **28** then may be employed to fix the bracket bar in any desired position of longitudinal adjustment as required to extend or retract the fireplace screen relative to the front face of the fireplace, which front face is shown in Fig. 1 to be the left hand side of the bricks **10**.

The outer end of bracket bar **24** may be provided with a downwardly extending segment **30** to which the screen assembly may be attached. The latter assembly may include for example a base or stiffening member **32** to which vertical plates **34** are welded or otherwise affixed at spaced intervals. The decorative brass headplate **36** of the screen assembly then may be attached to plate **34** by crimping the edges around the plate or in other suitable manner. A woven wire screen **38** depends from the supporting members in the indicated manner and the entire assembly then is bolted to segment **30** of the bracket bar by means of bolts **40**.

Thus by the present invention I have provided a fireplace screen mounting bracket which is easily installed without the use of special tools or skills in fireplace openings of any of the usual dimensions without defacing the fireplace. The screen may be easily adjusted either sideways or inwardly or outwardly as required to fit the opening. Then when desired it can be removed completely merely by releasing thumb screws **22**.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herein shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A bracket for suspending screen structures from fireplace lintels having a forwardly extending portion and an upwardly extending rear face, the bracket comprising a grip bar having on one end a reversely bent segment dimensioned to grip the forward edge of the lintel and on the other end an angularly bent segment adapted to overlie the rear face of the lintel, means for securing the bent segment to the rear face of the lintel providing with the forward edge grip opposite end suspended mountings for the bracket, a bracket bar underlying the grip bar, means for releasably securing the bracket bar to the grip bar while permitting relative movement thereof in a longitudinal direction for extending and retracting the bracket bar relative to the front face of the fireplace, and means on the outer end of the bracket bar for suspending a fireplace screen therefrom.

2. The bracket of claim 1 wherein the reversely bent segment of the grip bar is provided with a knife edge adapted to penetrate mortar surrounding the lintel.

3. For use with a fireplace having a front opening defined by a horizontal upper edge and a supporting lintel having a forwardly projecting portion extending along the horizontal upper edge and an upwardly extending rear face extending along a rear surface of the fireplace structure defining the said upper edge: a bracket for suspending a fireplace screen structure from the lintel comprising a grip bar having a horizontal portion lying along the lower surface of the lintel, a reversely bent end segment on the grip bar adapted to overlap and grip the front edge of the forwardly projecting portion of the lintel, an angularly bent segment on the opposite end of the grip bar adapted to overlie the rear face of the lintel, adjustable take-up means on the angularly bent segment adapted to secure the latter on the rear face of the lintel as well as to urge the reversely bent end segment into overlapping gripping relation with the front edge of the forwardly projecting portion of the lintel, thereby providing opposite end suspended mountings for the bracket, a bracket bar underlying the grip bar, means for securing the bracket bar to the grip bar for movement thereof for extending and retracting the bracket bar relative to the front face of the fireplace, and means on

the outer end of the bracket bar for suspending a fireplace screen therefrom.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

875,403	Adams	Dec. 31, 1907
1,288,945	Lovekin	Dec. 24, 1918
1,369,747	Jordan	Feb. 22, 1921
1,397,456	Robinson	Nov. 15, 1921
1,522,412	Bordignone	Jan. 6, 1925
1,569,708	Burns	Jan. 12, 1926
2,518,005	Gustafson	Aug. 8, 1950
2,888,226	Andriot	May 26, 1959