April 15, 1952

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2,592,766

FOLDER FOR PERFORATED TAPE

Filed Nov. 30 1949

Fig. 1.

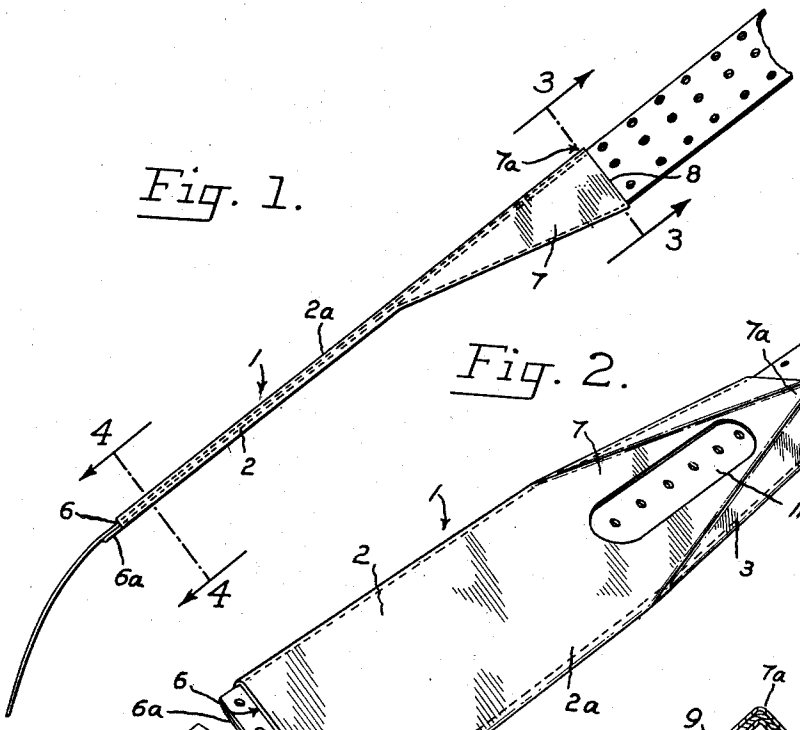


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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Patented Apr. 15, 1952

2,592,766

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOLDER FOR PERFORATED TAPE

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Application November 30, 1949, Serial No. 130,290

3 Claims. (Cl. 270—86)

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My invention is directed to a tool for creasing, forming and applying sealing tape to angular corner joints where edges of wallboard are brought into abutment.

A tool of this character must make a straight, well defined crease exactly at the centerline of the tape so that a smooth corner joint will be formed. Said corner joints may be either inside or outside angles and a tool must form the tape with equal facility in masking said joints. It is common practice thus to sever a length of tape from a roll, find a level surface of sufficient length to fold said length neatly and accurately and then carefully handle said folded strip without bending it and apply it to a selected corner joint. In the abundance of caution said strips are cut overly long and the excess is thrown away. A greater problem is encountered where a corner extends about a curve or arch. Then the folded strip has to be torn transversely at frequent intervals to accommodate the greater sweep of the exterior dimension of the curve or arch to avoid wrinkling or bunching the tape.

I have devised a tool which defines a close-fitting tunnel of sufficient area to encompass closely a tape. Said tunnel gradually and on straight lines merges from a plane to an angle. The body has tearing edges at both the inlet and outlet ends of said tunnel and thus tape from a roll may be fed therethru. The tape will be formed into an angle with a straight well defined crease and the tape may be torn at either end of the tunnel, either straight across or only along one of the angular ends. This may be done by the operator as he is applying it to a corner, or immediately prior thereto, and a neat workmanlike job is assured, quickly, easily and with no waste.

In applying sealing tape an operator's hands get soiled and sticky from adhesive and the tubular form of the tool sheathes the strip of tape to prevent soiling it.

Other and more detailed features of my invention are hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a tool embodying my invention with a length of tape shown therein;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of said tool with a strip of tape accommodated therein, being fed from a supply in roll form;

Fig. 3 is a transverse section thru the tool and tape held therein, said section being taken on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1, where the tape has been creased and folded; and

Fig. 4 is a similar transverse view thru the handle portion of the tool where the tape is yet flat, said section being taken on the line 4—4 in Fig. 1.

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A tool embodying my invention comprises a tubular body which comprises a handle portion 2 and a tape creasing, forming and applying portion 3. Said body is elongated and continuous and is provided with a relatively flat bore running continuously thru said body of the handle portion to and thru the tape creasing, forming and applying portion. As is shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the cross sectional area of said bore exceeds but slightly the cross sectional area of a tape or strip 5 accommodated therein. That is to say, the tape or strip 5 may be slipped endwise thru said bore quite easily, but said strip is held against lateral displacement therein.

The handle portion is flat and the inlet end 6 thereof is provided on a step joint so as to facilitate the initial entry of the tape into said end. That is, the floor of said inlet end projects as at 6a to form a shelf upon which the tape or strip 5 may be initially laid to aid in the threading of said end into the inlet end of the handle. The upper or inner face 2a, as viewed in Fig. 2, of said handle terminates in a prolongation 7 thereof of a triangular contour. Said prolongation coincides at its base with the width of the handle portion and the apex 7a thereof lies at the discharge end 8 of the tool.

Wings 9, 9a are bent downwardly from the prolongation at 45° angles so that they subtend a right angle between them, as is shown in Fig. 3.

Extending across the margins of said wings and extending to the base of the prolongation 7 is a web 10, which extends obliquely to the general plane of the handle portion 2, as is shown in Fig. 1. Said web is stiff and holds the wings 9, 9a in proper relationship against bending or distortion.

The apex 7a of the prolongation lies on the longitudinal centerline of said tubular body, also lying upon said centerline is a slot 11, as shown in Fig. 2. Said slot extends along the major portion of the length of said prolongation and serves as an aperture thru which the operator may feed thru said body. That is to say, the tape used for sealing joints is quite stiff and may be pushed thru the tubular body thru the inlet end 6 to a point where it is visible thru the slot 11. At this point it commences to be formed and creased and greater force must be supplied to push it thru the tape creasing, forming and applying portion of said body. The slot permits the operator to feed the tape thru this portion of the body until

it emerges from the discharge end 8 with a sharply defined crease formed along its longitudinal centerline. The discharge end is angular as is shown in Fig. 3, and closely encompasses the tape. The straight lines upon which the tape creasing, forming and applying portion is bent and a slight narrowing of the overall width of the latter portion, as viewed in Fig. 2, causes the tape to be crowded inwardly to aid in the formation of said sharp crease.

A supply of tape 5 is preferably maintained in the form of a roll 5*a*, as is shown in Fig. 2, and the outer wrap thereof is fitted into the tool embodying my invention. When a proper length is fitted into said tool, it may be torn off along the relatively sharp edge of the end 6*a*, or it may be torn off along the sharp edge at the discharge end 8, depending upon circumstances.

In Fig. 2 I have illustrated a partial tearing of the tape as where the tape is to be used along a curved corner as in an arch. The edges extend at right angles to the longitudinal dimension of the body and thus tears along said edges are normal to the longitudinal dimension of the tape 5.

Said tape is preferably applied to adjacent or abutting edges of wall panels by appropriate adhesive. The placing and joining of said panels produce dust and thus it is desirable that the tape, particularly at the point of application, be handled cleanly so as not to soil the tape. This end result is attained, when my improved tool is used, because said tool is substantially imperforate and sheathes the tape at the point of application. The tape thus formed and creased may be applied to an inner or outer corner, and it may be stuck at one end and drawn along said corner joint by the tool. The length of the tape may be computed and it be torn by said tool. If the tape is applied along a curved angle of an arch, for example, a slight twist of the tool about this longitudinal centerline while the tape is held in place will produce tears along one of the webs to permit the torn tape to be applied smoothly about said corner without folding or bunching. This is permitted because the tape is held tightly at the point of application within the tubular body and particularly at the discharge end 8 thereof.

Although my invention is shown in connection with perforated tape and said tape is usually used for sealing joints, it is not limited thereto. The tape is usually supplied in rolls and thus a large supply may be maintained immediately adjacent the inlet edge of the tool and no difficulty is encountered in supplying said tape quickly, neatly and smoothly to the joint to be sealed.

I claim:

1. A taping tool comprising a tubular body, one end defining a handle portion and the other a tape creasing, forming and applying portion, said tubular body having a continuous bore closely encompassing a strip of sealing tape thruout the entire length of said body, said handle portion being flat and the other portion merging on straight lines to an angular discharge end, said end in elevation defining a right angle triangle with the apex thereof lying on the centerline of said body, and a stiff web joining the margins of the creasing, forming and applying portion, and constituting the base of the angular discharge end, said web subtending an oblique angle with the handle portion, one wall of said tubular body defining a part of said creasing, forming and applying portion extending as a prolongation of the handle portion and in the same plane as the latter, and said wall being of triangular contour, its base coinciding with and being of the same width as the handle portion and the apex thereof lying in the same transverse plane as that occupied by the discharge end.

2. A taping tool comprising a tubular body, one end defining a handle portion and the other a tape creasing, forming and applying portion, said tubular body having a continuous bore closely encompassing a strip of sealing tape thruout the entire length of said body, said handle portion being flat and the other portion merging on straight lines to an angular discharge end, said end in elevation defining a right angle triangle with the apex thereof lying on the centerline of said body, and a stiff web joining the margins of the creasing, forming and applying portion, and constituting the base of the angular discharge end, said web subtending an oblique angle with the handle portion, one wall of said tubular body defining a part of said creasing, forming and applying portion extending as a prolongation of the handle portion and in the same plane as the latter, said wall being of triangular contour, its base coinciding with and being of the same width as the handle portion and the apex thereof lying in the same transverse plane as that occupied by the discharge end, and a slot arranged centrally of said wall for feeding sealing tape through said body.

3. A taping tool comprising a tubular body, one end defining a handle portion and the other a tape creasing, forming and applying portion, said tubular body having a continuous bore closely encompassing a strip of sealing tape thruout the entire length of said body, said handle portion being flat and the other portion merging on straight lines to an angular discharge end, said end in elevation defining a right angle triangle with the apex thereof lying on the centerline of said body, and a stiff web joining the margins of the creasing, forming and applying portion, and constituting the base of the angular discharge end, said web subtending an oblique angle with the handle portion, one wall of said tubular body defining a part of said creasing, forming and applying portion extending as a prolongation of the handle portion and in the same plane as the latter, said wall being of triangular contour, its base coinciding with and being of the same width as the handle portion and the apex thereof lying in the same transverse plane as that occupied by the discharge end, a slot arranged centrally of said wall for feeding sealing tape through said body, and an inlet end for said tool for receiving a strip of sealing tape, said inlet end being of stepped form, defining a guide for aiding the insertion of a strip of sealing tape therein and a square tearing edge for severing a strip when a proper length of tape has been fed therethru.

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