

FIGURE 1.

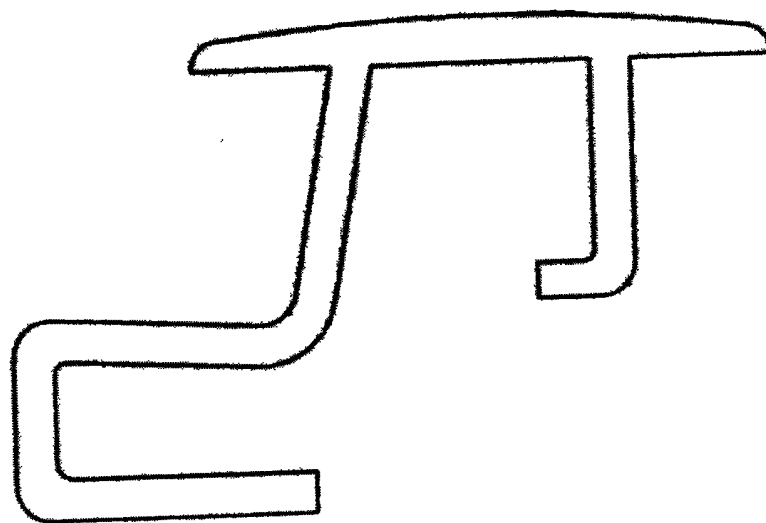


FIGURE 2. Chrome Strip piece.

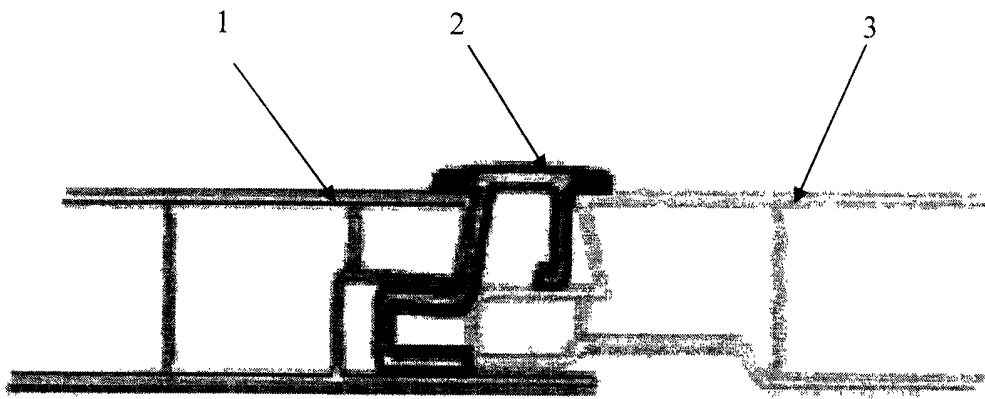


FIGURE 3. With the strip between two wall panels

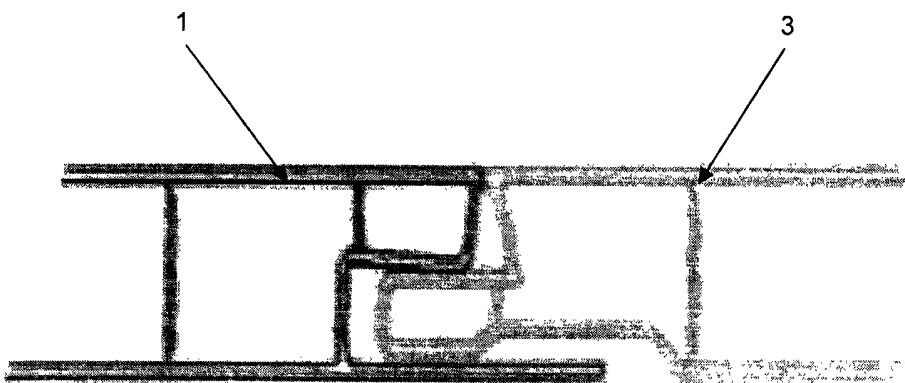


FIGURE 4. Without the strip between the wall panels

Chrome Strip

Background of the invention

This invention relates to a Decorative Trim that is fitted between Decorative PVC Wall Panels

Decorative wall panels are extruded of PVC in the shape of hollow planks with tongue and groove edges on opposing edges enabling them to slot together in a way that can enable the installer to clad out a room (walls and ceilings). Chrome Strips are often sandwiched between the panels at their junctures to improve the perception of these joins and to break up the monotony of the pattern over the wall and/or ceiling. They are mostly silver, but can be any colour (metallic or otherwise).

The 2 key problems often encountered are:

1. They are put on one edge of the panel, but often fall out before the second panel can be slotted into the first panel. This is even more difficult when installing on ceilings which are overhead and where the panels can be much longer and more unwieldy (wall lengths typically 2.7m, ceiling lengths can vary from 4m to 6m and more)
2. Some designs that overcome the problem in point 1. above, need a special design of panel. ie: A stockist would need to stock all its colours of panels in one shape of panel for use without chrome strips and all its colours again in a different shape of panel for use with chrome strips

Statement of Invention

This invention overcomes both these issues by devising of features to make it possible to make what is effectively a 10mm wide panel (very narrow), that has the essential features of a panel (Tongue, Groove and Decorative Surface) while remaining the narrow width required of a Chrome Strip

See Figure 1

The advantages are that the trims are easy and intuitive to install, hold firmly in place both during installation and during the lifetime of that installation as well as can be fitted to standard panels – ie: not require any special adaptation of tongue or groove

Description

Chrome Strips are pieces of PVC that are extruded in any length such as 2.7m or, if used on ceilings, 4-6m.

In Figure 1

- Item 1 is the first panel
- Item 2 is the Chrome Strip
- Item 3 is the second panel

- The chrome strip has a Tongue (Item 4) that is slotted into the first panels Groove (Item 5). Once the first panel is installed (glued, stapled, nailed or however the installers wants) to the wall or ceiling, the Tongue (item 6) of the second panel is then inserted into the groove area (item 7)

- Item 8 forms the decorative surface that is usually covered in a metallic foil, but is sometimes left to expose a pigmented substrate, printed on, varnished or decorated in any way that gives it decorative appeal

- Item 9 – this area is left open to allow for backing wheel to run up against item 8 while pressure is applied to it as it is covered by the metallic foil or decorated in any other way. This is not essential to the invention, but assists production. Figure 2 is without this.

Claims

1. This chrome strip has a unique shape that forms both a Tongue (item 4) and an area that acts as a Groove (item 7) despite the very narrowness of the chrome strip



For Innovation

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Application No: GB0605047.0

Examiner: Eleanor Wade

Claims searched: 1

Date of search: 24 August 2006

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A	-	US6158915 A Kise see figures
A	-	US6230385 A Nelson see figures
A	-	GB2307489 A Peng see figures
A	-	US4555885 A Raymond see figures

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X :

E1D

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC

E04F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI