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LIGHTING FIXTURE

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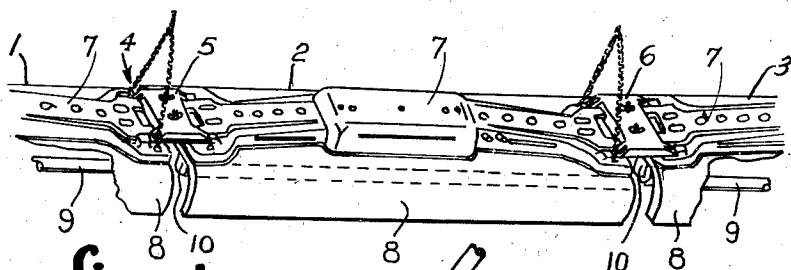


fig. 1

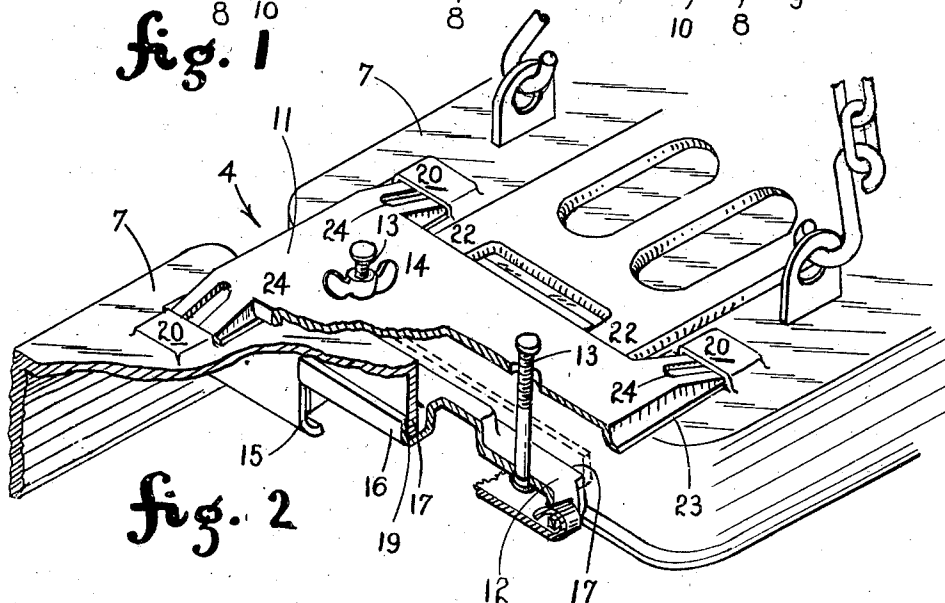


fig. 2

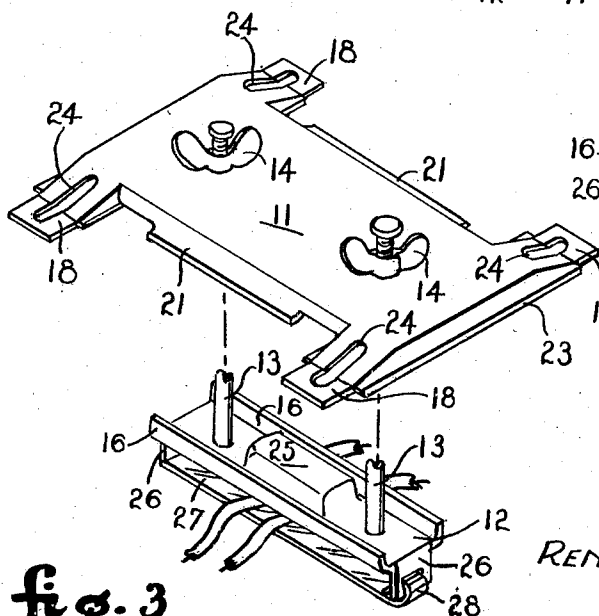


fig. 3

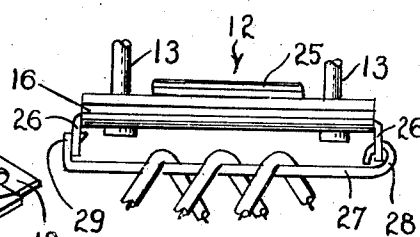


fig. 4

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LIGHTING FIXTURE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 240-78)

This invention relates to fluorescent lighting fixtures and has particular reference to means for securing adjoining fixtures together.

An object of this invention is to provide improved means for mounting a plurality of lighting fixtures together.

Another object is to provide means for joining one fixture to another.

Another object is to provide means for joining a plurality of fixtures in end to end relation.

Further objects, advantages and features will be apparent from the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a joinder embodying this invention;

Figure 2 is an enlargement of the joining unit of Figure 1, broken away to show the details thereof;

Figure 3 is a perspective illustration of the parts of the joining unit of Figures 1 and 2; and

Figure 4 is a side elevation of the lower of two parts in Figure 3.

In the mounting of fluorescent lighting fixtures in position of use, it is desirable in many instances to arrange them in close end to end alignment, so that the effect is comparable to that of having a single long fixture.

This invention provides a bracket assembly unit for joining the adjacent ends of such fixtures. It provides proper alignment and rigidity to the fixture mountings, and makes it possible to distribute the fixture supports with regard to the fixture group as a whole rather than simply with regard to a single fixture. Thus, for example, a single support may be used for both of the adjoining ends of adjacent fixtures.

As in Figure 1, fixtures 1, 2, and 3 are joined in end to end relation by bracket assemblies, as at 4. A single support 5 may be used to support the adjacent ends of the fixtures 1 and 2, or a similar support 6 for the adjacent ends of fixtures 2 and 3. The bracket assemblies 4 effectively unite the fixtures 1, 2, and 3 to form a continuous and unitary assembly.

The fixtures comprise housings 7, reflectors 8, and fluorescent lamps 9 supported by lamp sockets 10.

A bracket assembly 4 is shown in separated parts in Figure 3, and in operative relation with a pair of lighting fixtures, in Figure 2. The action of the bracket assemblies is applied directly and exclusively to the housings 7 of the fixtures. The bracket assembly comprises an upper plate 11 and a lower plate 12, held together by bolts 13 with

wing nuts 14 threaded thereon. The bracket assembly has two main holding functions with respect to the fixture housings 7. One is a positive anchoring of the housings against separation movement in the direction of their longitudinal axes, as accomplished by the lower plate 12; and the other is a clamping action in which portions of the housings 7 are held, above and below, between the upper and lower plates 11 and 12.

For the accomplishment of the first of the above holding functions, the housings are provided with end openings 15, and the lower plate 12 is provided with upwardly extending edge flanges 16 which are inserted through the housing end openings 15 and engage the inner end surfaces 17 of the housings 7 as shown in Figure 2.

For the accomplishment of the second of the above functions, the upper plate 11 is dimensioned to overlie the opening between the adjoining fixtures and to overlap so as to engage the tops of the fixtures. The plate 11 is provided with leg extensions 18 in further engagement of the tops of the fixtures. In furtherance of this function the fixtures are engaged from below in their end openings 15 by the lower plate 11 as at 19. With the wing nuts 14 tightened on the bolts 13, the fixtures are tightly clamped between the upper and lower plates 11 and 12.

The joined fixtures are held against relative lateral movement with respect to each other in part by the fact that the lower plate 12 has its flanges 16 extending the full lateral length of the housing end openings 15, as shown in Figure 2. Further provision against such relative lateral movement of the housings and also against relative twisting in a horizontal plane, is embodied in the strap members 20 which may be formed by knocking up portions of the tops of the housings, and in which the ends of the plate leg extensions 18 are received in close fitting relation. In addition, the upper plate 11 is provided with central flanges 21 which lie between the raised portions 22 of the fixture housing top as a further aid in holding the bracket assembly and the fixture housings held thereby, in proper position.

A degree of resiliency is afforded the bracket assembly through the formation of the upper plate 11 with its central portion raised above the level of its fixture contacting edges 23. This arrangement also provides an increased strength factor. Openings 24 are formed in the upper plate leg extensions 18 to provide access to the portion of the fixture housing top immediately therebeneath. This is to admit a screw driver or

other tool to screws, bolts or other holding means for the fixture lamp sockets 10 which are preferably located just beneath the leg extensions 18.

The leg extensions 18 each start from the raised central portion of the upper plate 11, taper downward, and then are flattened out to provide an end surface area for contact with the tops of the fixture housings.

The lower plate 12 is provided with a central raised portion 25 which has the double function of giving added strength to the plate and acting as an inner stop and guide for the fixture housing end portions held by the flanges 16 of the lower plate 12.

The lower plate 12 is further provided with depending ends 26 as supports for a flat flexible cross bar 27. The bar 27 is hinged to one of the depending ends 26 as at 28, and may be snapped in or out of an opening in the other of the depending ends 26 through the resiliency of the bar and the bevel formation as at 29 on the end of the bar.

The purpose of this arrangement is to provide a support for the fixture wires in going between fixtures to power the circuits thereof. These wires may thus be carried along above the reflectors and within the fixture housings with efficient

support between fixtures. To insert or remove such wires the cross bar 27 is snapped down about its hinge as at 28, and thereafter snapped up into place again.

As may be seen in Figure 2, the bolts 13 are headed at both ends, with the wing nuts thus permanently assembled thereon. This provides a clamping unit, comprising upper and lower plates, which may be loosened, but which will not come completely apart.

The spacing between adjacent reflectors achieved by my invention is helpful in allowing ventilation to carry away heat produced by the lamps, which have a definite temperature for maximum efficiency.

What I claim is:

In a fluorescent lighting fixture assembly, readily mountable and demountable joining means for securing one fixture to another in end to end relation; said joining means comprising a top plate having legs extending therefrom to engage said fixtures, a bottom plate mounted at least in part between the ends of said fixtures, and means for joining said top and bottom plates, to lock said fixtures therebetween.

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