

Aug. 21, 1951

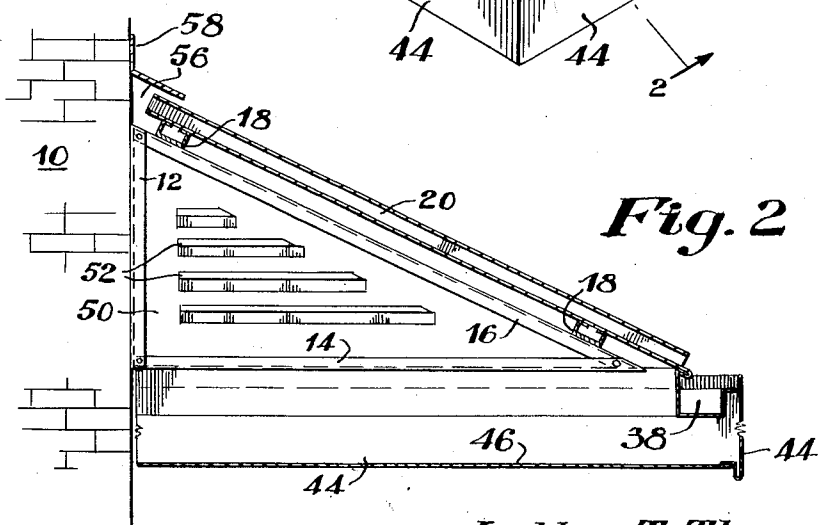
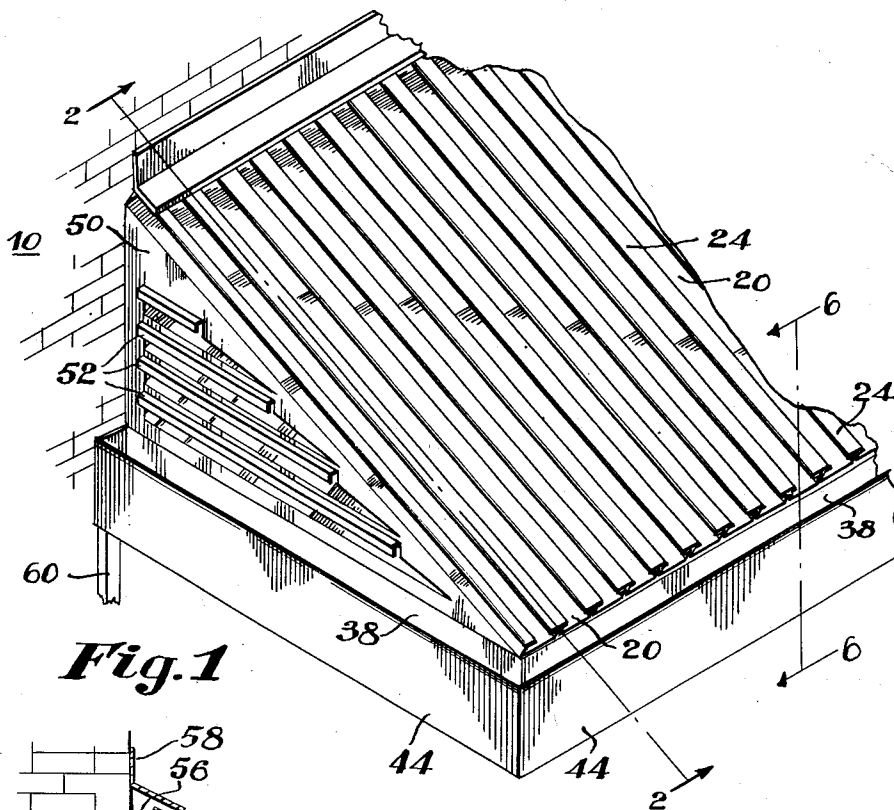
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2,565,282

AWNING, MARQUEE, OR THE LIKE

Filed Sept. 22, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

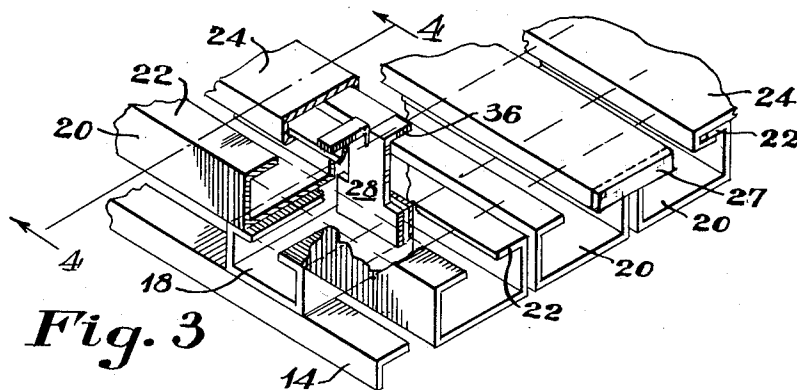


Fig. 3

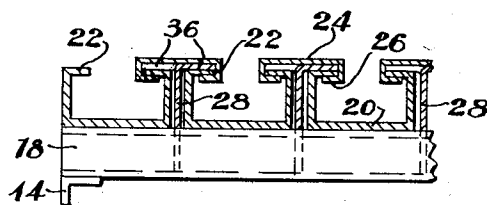


Fig. 4

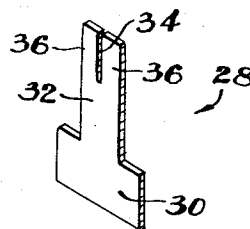


Fig. 5

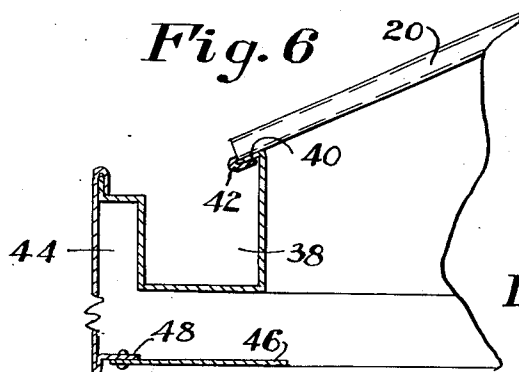


Fig. 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,565,282

AWNING, MARQUEE, OR THE LIKE

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Application September 22, 1947, Serial No. 775,471

3 Claims. (Cl. 20-575)

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This invention relates to building structures, particularly to an improved construction of an awning or marquee of the type generally used to protect windows or doorways from excessive sun, rain or other elements.

It is a principal object of the invention to provide an all metal structure of the above type, which is composed of a plurality of standardized units capable of assembly to yield a marquee or awning structure of any desired dimensions. Another object of the invention is to provide such a structure which is light in weight, yet is exceedingly strong and durable, and, therefore, has a long useful life, without any maintenance expense.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character with ventilating means which will prevent the segregation of heated air and will obviate any condensation and consequent drippage. An ancillary object is to provide a structure of this character with an integral gutter arrangement about its external sides in order to carry off rain water or the like.

Still another object is to provide a rigid structure of this character in which the main panel forming elements are assembled in such a way as to allow for normal thermal contraction and expansion without producing any distortion or fracture of the parts. An additional and very important object is to provide a structure which can be assembled into a functionally integral unit by the use of only simple hand tools, and whose parts have a substantial salvage value.

The above and other objects and advantages of my invention will best be understood by referring to the following detailed specification of a preferred embodiment thereof, and to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary isometric view of the improved marquee or awning,

Fig. 2 is a sectional view thereof taken on line 2-2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary isometric view of a portion of the structure, parts being broken away,

Fig. 4 is a partial sectional view taken on line 4-4 of Fig. 3,

Fig. 5 is an enlarged isometric view of a locking key used in the invention, and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional view of a portion of the structure, taken approximately along line 6-6 of Fig. 1.

Referring now to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, numeral 10 designates a vertical building wall or the like upon which is secured my improved awning or marquee, usually of course in position

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above a door or window opening in such wall. The marquee or awning structure is supported mainly upon a support frame comprising as best shown in Fig. 2 a vertical rod or bar 12, preferably formed of angle iron and adapted to be bolted or otherwise secured to wall 10, and outwardly extending angle iron members 14 and 16, the former lying approximately horizontally and forming together with the inclined bar 16 and bar 12 a rigid triangular support. It will be understood that these bar frames are duplicated at the opposite end of the awning structure, and that additional such supports may be provided in spaced positions along the length of the awning.

Extending lengthwise of the awning, and resting upon the inclined bar members 16, are two or more channel members 18 of square C cross section. Lying upon and supported by these channels 18, which act as stringers, are a plurality of spaced upwardly open metallic channels or panel-forming members 20. As best shown in Figs. 3 and 4, panel-forming members 20 are provided with intumed flanges 22, and the adjacent side walls of adjacent panel members are secured in fixed relation to one another by engagement of their respective flanges with a drive strip 24 whose intumed edges 26 pass beneath flanges 22. Moreover, each drive strip may have its central portion extended sufficiently to be folded down over the ends of flanges 22, as indicated at 27 in Fig. 3, to waterproof the ends of the panel strips. Prior to the application of the drive strips to the assembly, however, there are inserted in stringer channels 18 a series of locking keys 28 of the form shown in Fig. 5 as comprising a "head" portion 30, a shank portion 32 containing a slot 34 which divides the extremity of the key into a pair of bendable tabs or fingers 36. These keys are located along channels 18, by sliding their head into the channels, in such order that a key 28 lies between each pair of adjacent panel members 20, along the length of each of the stringer channels 18. Tabs or fingers 36 are then bent down respectively in opposite directions so that one such tab lies upon the top flange of each of the adjacent panel members 20.

At this stage of the assembly, drive strips 24 are forced along the adjacent top flanges of the panel members 20, and hence around and about the bent-down tabs or fingers 36 of the keys 28, providing a smooth and neat appearance of the awning structure, as well as preventing dislodgement of the keys 28, and securing the panel members into an integrated roof structure. It will be understood that the thicknesses of the parts are

necessarily exaggerated in the drawings, for clarity of illustration, and that all of the parts 18, 20, 24 and 28 are preferably formed of sheet metal, for example of gauges of iron, aluminum or the like ordinarily used for roofing work, so that the presence of the bent down fingers 36 of keys 28 does not interfere with the application of the drive strips, the latter merely yielding sufficiently to accommodate this additional thickness, without actually distorting the material.

Returning now to Figs. 1 and 2, a gutter structure 38 surrounds the three sides of the awning or marquee, and is conveniently supported along the front edge by engagement of a flange 40 on its inner wall (see especially the enlarged view of Fig. 6) by reversely turned tabs 42 each comprising a continuation of the bottom surface of one of the panel forming strips or channels 20. The lateral or side portions of the gutter may be supported directly from horizontal frame support pieces 14 as by bolting or equivalent fastening means.

In order to provide a neat and finished appearance to the awning or marquee, as well as to provide a surface for embellishment by a sign, street number or the like, a skirt 44 surrounds the lower edge of the marquee, and preferably (as shown in Figs. 2 and 6) is secured to the gutter portion by having its upper edge folded over the front wall of said gutter. A ceiling panel 46 may be provided within the skirt 44, as by being bolted, riveted or otherwise fastened to an intumed flange 48 of the skirt 44.

Side panels such as panel 50 (Fig. 1) may be secured to the angle irons 12, 14, and 16 to provide additional protection against sun and rain, and these are desirably provided with louvres each comprising a slot protected by an overhanging out-struck portion 52 of the panel. In order to obtain maximum ventilation and to prevent condensation, it is desirable that panel members 20 stop somewhat short of the wall 10 at their upper ends, as indicated at 56 in Fig. 2 (approximately one inch is a desirable gap at this point), and a protective flashing 58 may be secured to the wall to cover this gap and prevent the entry of rain. A usual form of downspout 60 may be connected with gutter 38 to carry off rain collected thereby.

It will be noted that the use of locking keys to secure the panel members 20 in place on their stringers 18, and the use of drive strips 24 to secure adjacent panel members to one another, not only facilitate assembly of the awning or marquee with a minimum amount of labor, but enable a structure of any desired length to be fabricated quickly without the formation of specially designed and intricate parts, since stringers 18 may readily be cut to the required lengths and a desired number of panels 20 secured thereto rapidly and without requiring welding or special

tools. Moreover, the parts and components are largely salvageable, which contributes further to reduced cost in adding to or modifying existing awning or marquee arrangements. Stringer channels 18 may obviously be bolted or otherwise fastened to angle irons 16 to provide rigidity and permanence at a minimum cost.

All of the component parts of this structure can be readily fabricated with usual sheet-metal tools and techniques, and the resulting structure besides being neat in appearance, is well ventilated, light in weight and of a minimum cost both as to installation and maintenance.

While I have shown a preferred embodiment of the invention having specific details of construction and arrangement, it will be understood that numerous changes in such details may be made by those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit of my invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an awning structure a C-shaped channel member, a plurality of similar members overlying said first member with their closed sides in contact with the open side of said first member, a series of T-shaped keys having their heads engaged in the channel of said first named member and having their shanks projecting through the open face, each key lying between and abutting a pair of said second named members, each key having bendable portions overlying the adjacent upper faces of each pair of said second named members and C-shaped driving strips embracing adjacent flanges of each pair of said secondary members and overlying the bendable portions of said keys.

2. In an awning structure as set forth in claim 1, at least two of said first named members spaced and mutually parallel and being joined at their extremities to a pair of supporting members underlying said first named members.

3. In an awning structure according to claim 1 having one end of each drive strip folded over the extremities of the channel flanges embraced thereby.

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