May 11, 1965 S. LAVIANO 3,182,944

ORNAMENTAL LAMP HOLDER

Filed June 19, 1962

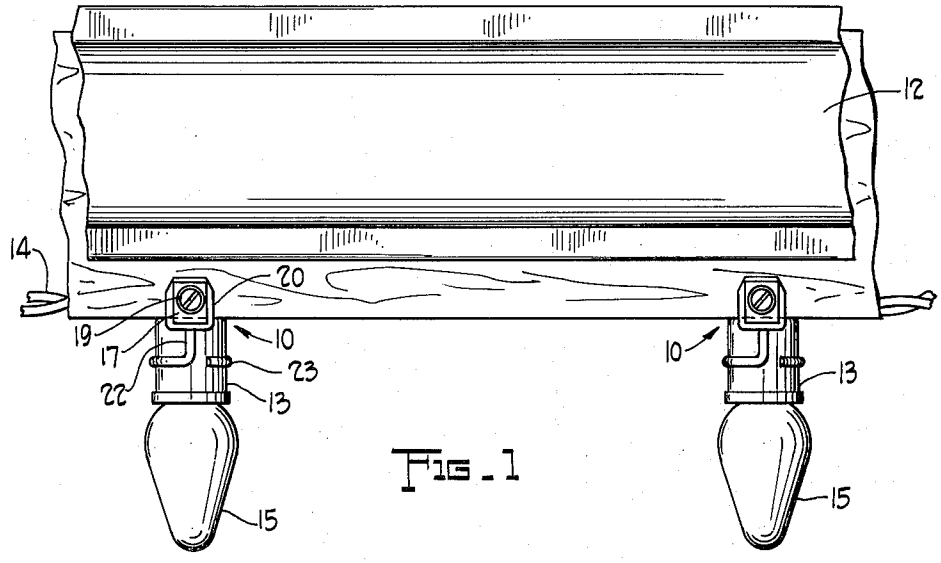


Fig. 1

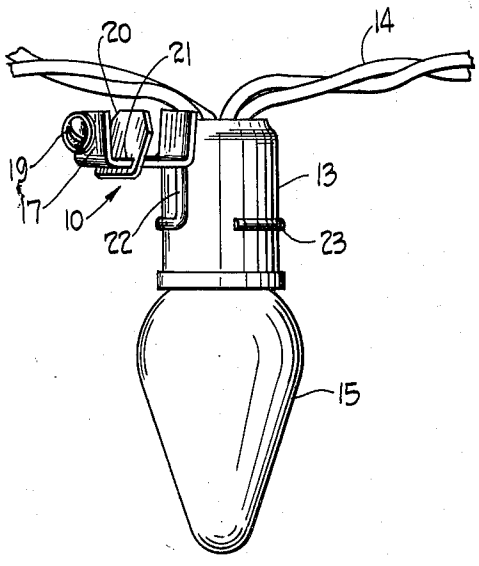


Fig. 2

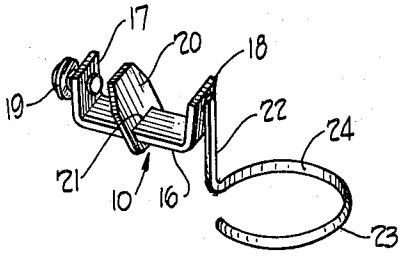


Fig. 3

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ORNAMENTAL LAMP HOLDER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—226)

This invention relates to supports and particularly to a socket support for decorative electric lamps.

Conducive to a better understanding of the invention it may be well to point out that in the decoration and ornamentation of buildings for carnivals and holidays it is common practice to string colored or clear electric light bulbs along the drip-boards of the roof gutters of homes and other structures for the purpose of providing a spectacular and colorful festive display.

However, the manner of securing the lamp sockets to the supporting structure has, at best, been haphazard and unsatisfactory, since such installations are only intended to be temporary and therefore the cost of rigidly mounting the sockets is not justified.

Ordinarily the lamp sockets are strung along a length of electric cable at intervals of one or two feet, and then suspended along the roof gutter drip boards by means of nails or screw eyes driven into the board.

Such mounting does not assure that the socket and lamps will hang straight, for the angle of suspension is dependent upon the tension of the electric cord and its manner of attachment to the nails or screw eyes.

Furthermore, the cord is often visible, creating the impression that it is a make-shift installation.

The primary object of this invention, therefore, is to provide an ornamental lamp holder that will anchor the lamp socket firmly to the drip board, perpendicular thereto, and secure against tilting by the wind or the tension of the electric which serves it.

Another object is to provide such a holder that can be readily mounted and dismantled while at the same time giving the visual effect of permanency.

A further object is to provide a lamp holder of the type stated, for use with a drip-board, that will hide the service cable behind the board while holding the supported socket and lamp in clear view.

Still other objects are to provide a lamp holder, as defined, that is simple in structure, economical to manufacture, and easy to use.

These, and other objects of the invention, will become apparent from a reading of the following specification and claim, together with the accompanying drawing, wherein like parts are referred to and indicated by like reference numerals, and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of a section of roof gutter and drip board, showing two of the ornamental lamp holders that are the subject of this invention, mounted thereon;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the unmounted lamp holder, showing an electric socket and bulb, retained therein; and

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the unit as it appears unmounted and without its held socket and lamp.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, there are seen in FIGURE 1, thereof, two of the ornamental lamp holder (broadly indicated by reference numeral **10**) that are the subject of this invention, as they appear mounted on the drip-board **11** of a house gutter **12**.

Each holder **10** has a socket, including an electric lamp **15**, retained therein.

It will be noted that the sockets **13** and lamps **15** are precisely spaced in a dependent position exactly perpendicular to the lower edge of the drip-board **11**.

Each holder **10**, as is seen most clearly in FIGURE 3, comprises a substantially U-shaped rigid sheet metal frame having a corrosion resistant coating.

The frame has an elongated base **16** terminating in opposed, flat and parallel, upstanding end portions, or jaws, **17** and **18** adapted to receive the edge of the drip-board **11** therebetween.

A dependent wire bracket **22** is mounted on the first end portion **18**, in a plane perpendicular to the frame base **16**, and terminates in a resilient split ring **23**, in a plane at right angles thereto, spaced downwardly of and parallel to the plane of the base **16**, and adapted to receive and snugly encircle an electric lamp socket **13**, as seen in FIGURE 2.

The inner face **24** of the ring **23** is flat, so as to provide a wide bearing surface against the retained socket **13**, thereby preventing and overcoming any tendency of the socket to tilt away from the vertical axis of the ring **23**.

Reference numeral **20** indicates an upstanding flat pressure plate, slidably mounted on the base **16** through a slot **21**, and freely movable between the two end portions **17** and **18** thereof.

A clamping screw **19** is threadedly mounted through the second end portion **17**, with its end adapted to engage the pressure plate **20**, and operable thereagainst to urge the plate **20** toward the bracket end, or jaw **18**.

In use in connection with a string of ornamental electric lamps **15**, each socket **13** thereof is mounted through the bracket ring **23** of a holder **10**, with the socket **13** faced downward, or away from the base **16**, as seen in FIGURE 2.

Each holder **10** is then positioned against the lower edge of the drip-board **11**, with the board nested between the pressure plate **20** and the jaw **18**, and with the clamp screw **19** faced toward the viewer, as seen in FIGURE 1.

The holder is anchored in place by rotating the screw **19** against the plate **20**, which in turn is urged against the drip-board edge nested between the plate **20** and the base jaw **18**, thereby firmly gripping the board **11** between the plate **20** and the jaw **18**.

With the holder **10** so mounted, the electric cable **14** is hidden behind the drip-board **11** with the socket **13** and lamp **15** in full view, in a dependent position, perpendicular to the edge of the drip-board **11**.

While the device has been described in association with a house gutter drip-board, it is to be understood that it may be used to mount electric lamp sockets along the edge of any structural element whose edge may be fitted between the frame jaws **17** and **18**.

It will now be clear that there is provided a device which accomplishes the objectives heretofore set forth.

While the invention has been disclosed in its preferred form, it is to be understood that the specific embodiment thereof described and illustrated herein is not to be considered in a limited sense, as there may be other forms or modifications of the invention which should also be construed to come within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

In an assembly for mounting an electric lamp socket on

the edge of a house drip board, or the like; a substantially U-shaped sheet metal strip, adapted to fit around the edge of the aforesaid drip board; a unitary, resilient, half-round wire, split ring having an upstanding terminal arm, normal to its circular plane, mounted on one leg of the U-shaped strip in a dependent position and adapted to receive and snugly encircle an electric lamp socket in a dependent position; and a threaded screw mounted through the other leg of the U-shaped strap, operable to move toward the first leg and against the aforesaid drip board positioned therebetween.

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