July 20, 1926. 1,592,990

J. G. RAQUETTE ET AL

SUPPORTING MEANS FOR SWITCH BOXES AND THE LIKE

Filed Feb. 21, 1923

Fig. 1

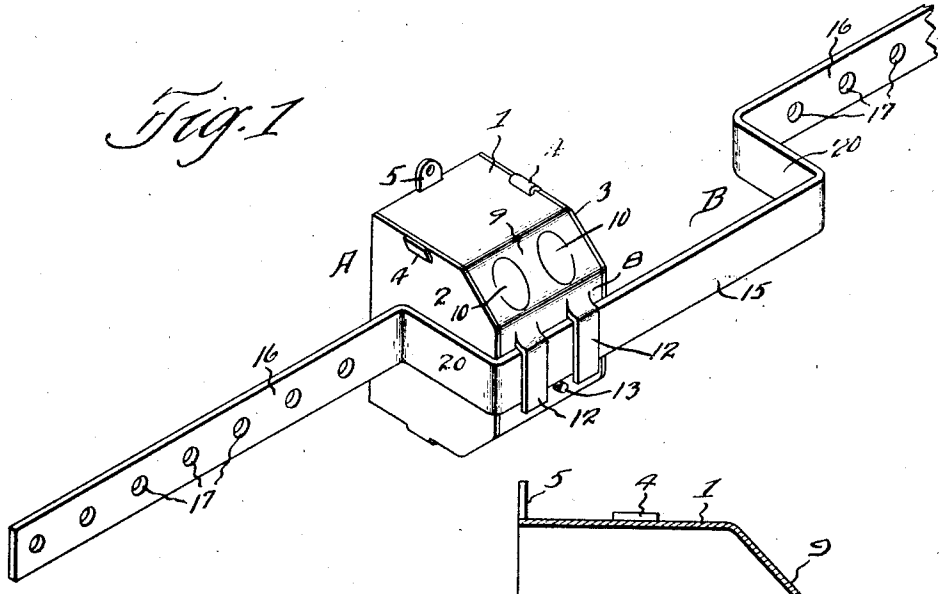
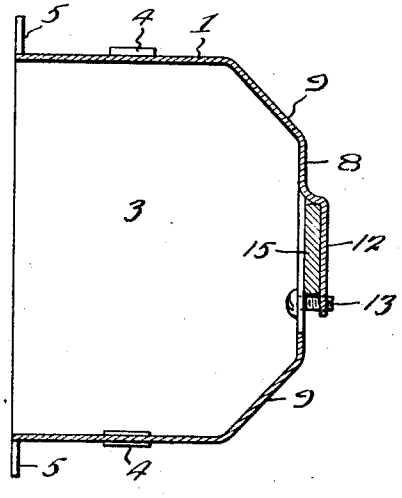


Fig. 2



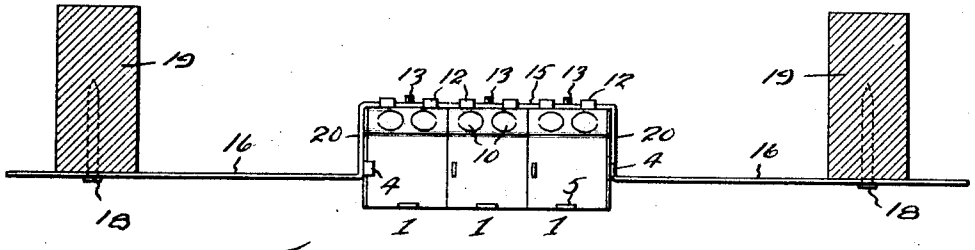


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SUPPORTING MEANS FOR SWITCH BOXES AND THE LIKE.

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This invention relates to improvements in that class of receptacles which are used for housing switches, wall sockets and the like in electrical wiring installations of buildings; and it has to do more particularly with an improved means for supporting and properly positioning such receptacles.

The primary aim of the invention is to provide, in combination, a receptacle of the aforesaid character and a support therefor of such nature as will greatly facilitate the placement of the receptacle and insure its being properly positioned within the wall and effect a considerable saving of time over prevailing methods of installing such receptacles.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in combination, a receptacle and support having cooperating or interengaging parts by means of which the receptacle may be conveniently attached to the support in various adjusted positions with respect thereto, the support having means for readily securing it to variably spaced studding or other structural elements.

A further object is to provide, in a combination of the aforesaid nature, a support which will accommodate one or more receptacles, thus making it suitable for an installation involving either a single receptacle or what is known as a "gang" receptacle, the latter being made up of two or more units.

A still further object is to provide, in a combination of the character above set forth, a support which may be applied directly to the studding or other structural elements and which is so designed and proportioned that the open front or face of each receptacle supported thereby is in the plane of the outer surface of the wall.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a receptacle of practically standard construction modified in a simple and inexpensive manner to be suited to the purpose in view; and to provide in combination therewith a simple and cheap support which will serve to rigidly sustain the receptacle in proper position.

The foregoing objects, with others hereinafter appearing, are attained in the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and while we shall proceed to describe the present embodiment in detail, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the structural features thereof further than is required by the terms of the appended claims as interpreted in the light of the prior art.

In the drawing, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a receptacle and support constructed in accordance with our invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the receptacle and support; and Fig. 3 shows in plan a "gang" receptacle sustained by the support from studding or other structural elements.

The receptacle, generally, is designated A and the support B. The receptacle, so far as its main elements or constituents are concerned, may be of any approved type and comprises a body portion 1 and side walls 2 and 3, the side walls and body portion having interengaging parts 4 by means of which the walls are removably attached to the body portion. This is in accordance with the usual practice. The front of the receptacle is open, and ears 5 extend from the front edges of the top and bottom of the body portion 1 flush with the open front of the receptacle. These ears have threaded apertures for the reception of screws for screwing the usual face plate to the receptacle. The top and bottom of the body portion are joined to the rear wall 8 by diagonal walls 9 having the customary "knock-outs" 10 which, when removed, provide openings for the insertion of the conduits through which the electrical wires are led into the receptacle.

In the present embodiment, tongues 12 are struck from and are offset rearwardly with respect to the rear wall 8, and their depending portions are substantially parallel to said wall. The spacing of said depending portions from the rear wall is substantially equal to the thickness of the bar from which the support B is formed, so that by engaging the tongues over the bar and pressing the receptacle downwardly until the rearwardly directed portions of the tongues rest upon said bar, the receptacle will be held quite firmly in place. A screw 13 is threaded through the rear wall 8 between the free ends of tongues 12 and at a point where it will come immediately below the support B. Thus the screw constitutes a lock for preventing the upward withdrawal of the receptacle from the bar. However, by retracting the screw until its end lies flush with the

outer surface of the rear wall 8, the receptacle may be readily removed from the bar by lifting it the required distance to disengage the tongues 12.

It will be observed that the support B is made up of a central offset portion 15, in the form of a yoke, and from the opposite ends of which attaching portions 16 extend. The portions 16 are provided with holes 17 for the acommodation of nails 18 or other securing means by which the support may be attached to the structural elements or studding 19. Preferably, the support is sufficiently long to reach between structural elements or studding of maximum spacing; and the holes 17 are close enough together to assure one or more of them at each end of the support registering with structural elements spaced at any lesser distance apart within a reasonable range. By making the support of the aforesaid length and providing an ample number of holes at each end, the support is susceptible to a liberal range of lateral adjustment when used in connection with structural elements or studding of standard spacing. The end branches 20 of the central yoke-like portion 15 of the support are spaced apart a distance sufficient to accommodate between them a given number portions 1, with a side wall applied to each end of the assembly. According to the present illustration, the support will accommodate a "gang" of three units. When a lesser number than that required to fill the space between the branches 20 is employed, the unit or units may be shifted to any desired position along the portion 15 of the support, affording adjustment in addition to that previously mentioned wherein the support itself is shifted endwise.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:

1. In combination, a receptacle of the character set forth, and a supporting bar, the receptacle having tongues struck from its rear wall and offset rearwardly with respect thereto and substantially parallel therewith for lateral engagement over said bar, and a member projected through the rear wall of the receptacle and arranged to cooperate with the edge of the bar opposite that over which said tongues are disposed thereby to prevent the withdrawal of the receptacle from the bar.

2. In combination, a supporting bar, and a receptacle of the character set forth having laterally spaced tongues struck from its rear wall and offset rearwardly with respect thereto and parallel therewith, said tongues being adapted to be engaged over the supporting bar, and a screw threaded through the rear wall of the box between the free ends of said tongues and arranged to engage the bar and prevent the removal of the receptacle therefrom.

In testimony whereof, we hereunto affix our signatures.

JOSEPH G. RAQUETTE.
JOSEPH MORGENSTERN.