Jan. 5, 1954 S. S. BATTLES 2,665,183

ORNAMENTAL TRIM STRIP FOR CABINET TOPS

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Fig. 1

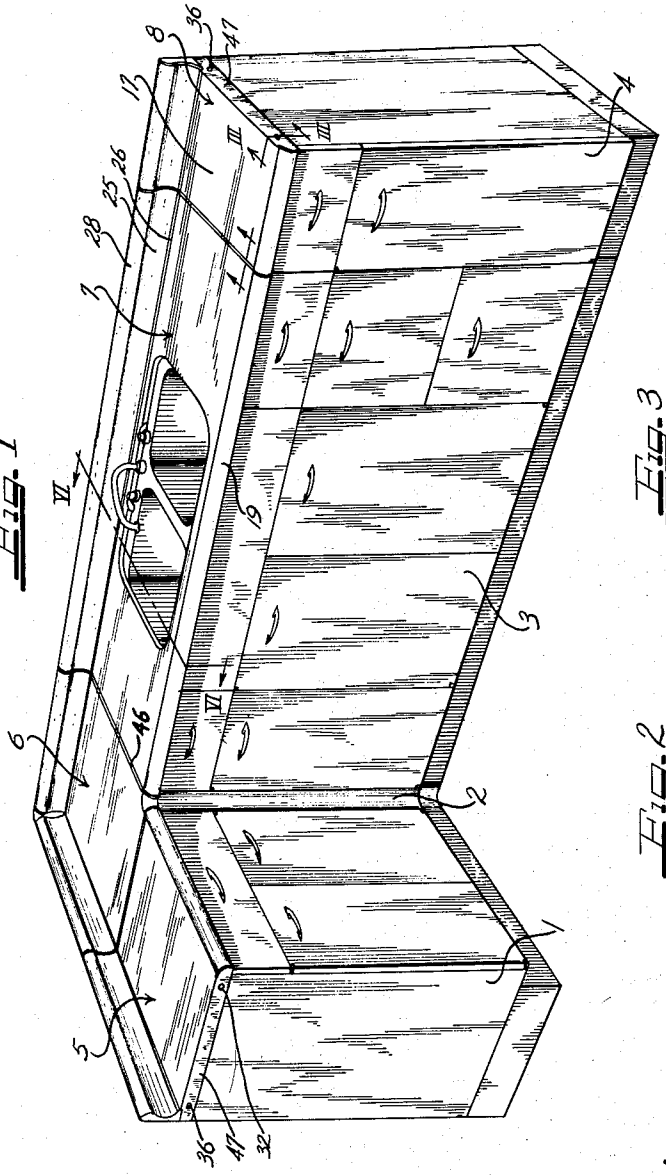


Fig. 3

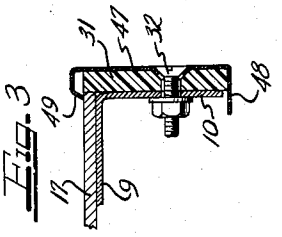
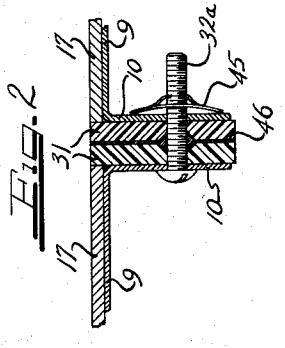


Fig. 2



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Fig. 4

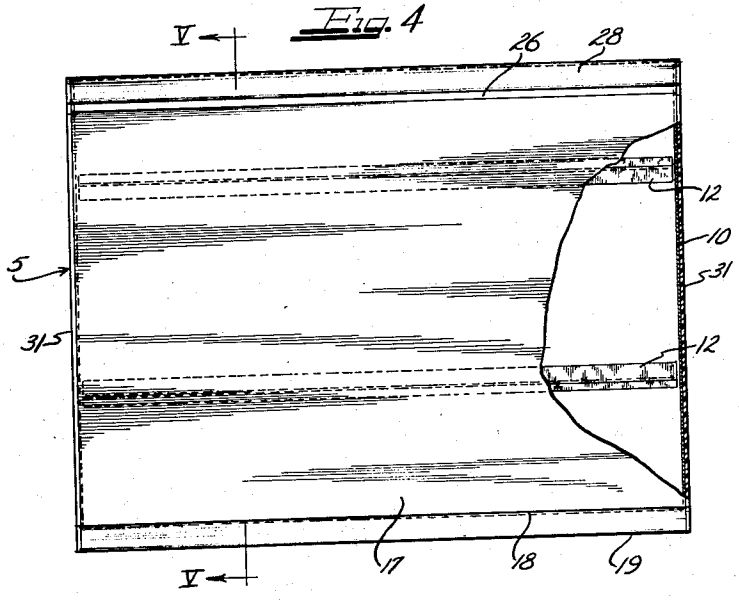
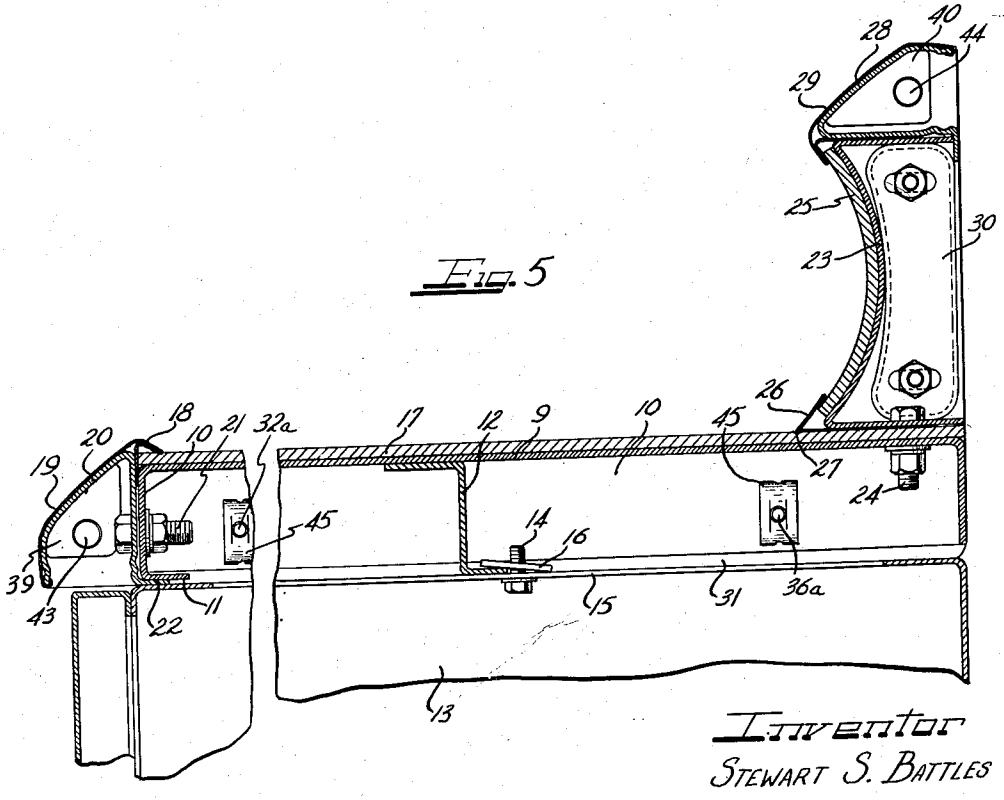


Fig. 5



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ORNAMENTAL TRIM STRIP FOR CABINET TOPS

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Fig. 6

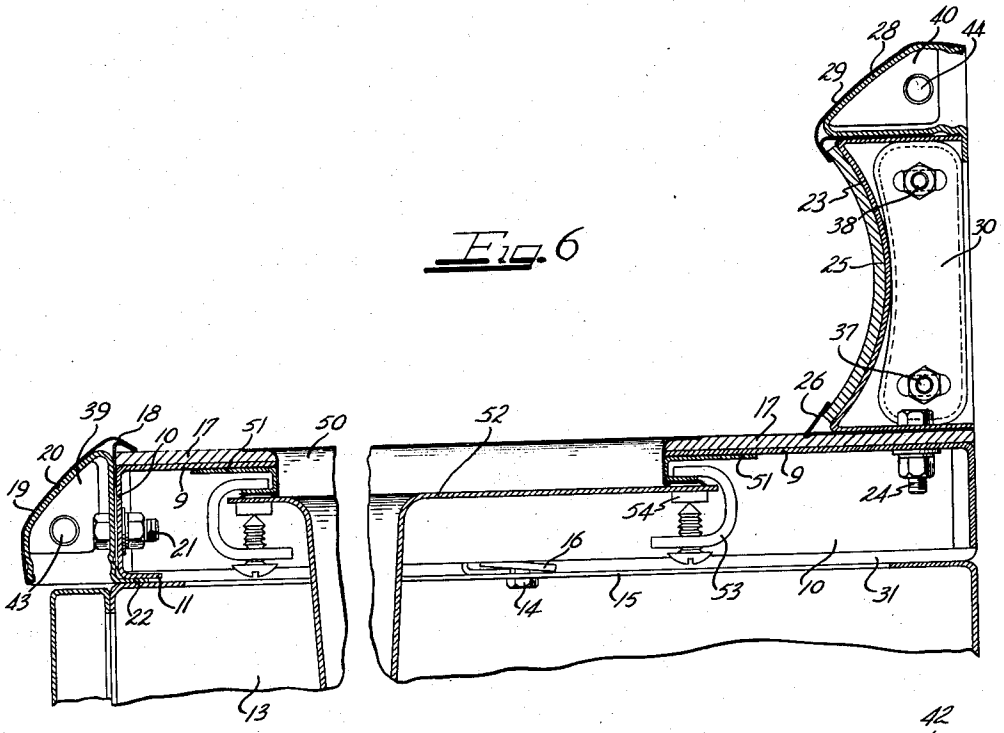


Fig. 7

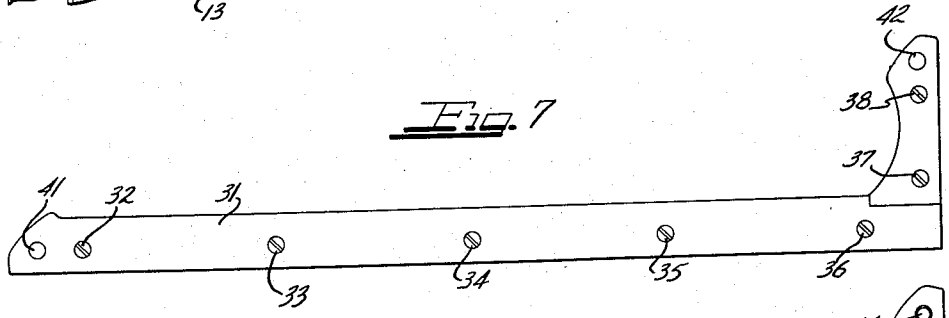
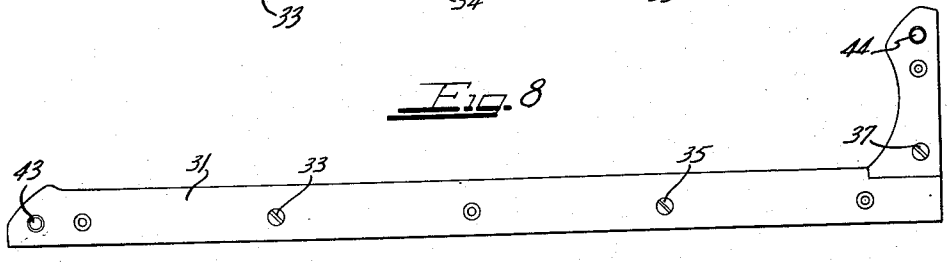


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,665,183

ORNAMENTAL TRIM STRIP FOR CABINET TOPS

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Application January 11, 1949, Serial No. 70,279

1 Claim. (Cl. 311—107)

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This invention relates to improvements in cabinet or counter tops to be used in connection with cabinets containing doors and shelves, drawers, or both, the invention being highly desirable for covering utility cabinets used in kitchens, lunch rooms, and similar places, although the invention may have other uses and purposes as will be apparent to one skilled in the art.

Steel kitchen cabinets and the like have now substantially universally replaced the former type of wooden cabinets. In order to properly merchandise the metal cabinet, it was found necessary to design a line of cabinets that could be fitted into most any type of space available in a kitchen. Accordingly, a line of cabinets were developed with standard sizes that could be fitted into various spaces in increments of three inches. In case a closer fit was desired, a line of filler strips were utilized that could take up shorter spaces than three inches in increments of one inch. Such developments have now been adopted substantially as an industry standard in this particular field.

However, extreme difficulty was experienced in providing tops for the cabinets, it being understood that such tops must function as service tables, and therefore have durability as well as a pleasing appearance, and must be readily and easily maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Heretofore, it has been the practice to use separate tops on each cabinet, thereby leaving undesirable crevices and cracks between adjacent counter tops, in which crevices and cracks food, dirt, and insects could collect, while the cracks permitted the running through of both hot and cold liquids to the ultimate injury of the cabinet itself in a location extremely difficult to repair. Even though counter tops with multiples of three inches, etc., covering several cabinets were utilized, such crevices and cracks still resulted. Further, owing to variations in floor level, such tops were in most cases uneven as to the overall assembly so as to interfere objectionably with the sliding of dishes, utensils, and the like, over the cabinet tops, and the cracks between adjacent tops would frequently catch dishes and cutlery to an objectionable extent. The only other alternative a customer had was to have a custom counter top built to order, a procedure not possible in mass production, and one that was extremely and nearly always prohibitively expensive. The difficulties mentioned above were greatly increased when cabinet additions were made from time to time to a kitchen.

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Also it may be mentioned that difficulty was heretofore experienced by virtue of water and other liquids running or dripping off the ends of the counter tops.

With the foregoing in mind, it is an important object of the instant invention to provide a cabinet or counter top that may be joined to an adjacent similar top in a manner to effect a positive liquid-tight seal therebetween with the elimination of all cracks or crevices.

Also an object of this invention is the provision of a cabinet or counter top which may be connected to a similar adjacent top in a smooth, even manner so that both tops will be at the same level after connection, regardless of variations in floor level.

It is also an important object of this invention to provide a cabinet or counter top so constructed that it may be associated with similarly constructed tops in a manner to maintain a complete level and smooth surface for the entire assembly, with no cracks or crevices between adjacent tops, and with the entire structure giving both the appearance and functioning the same as one complete integral top over the entire cabinet assembly.

It is also a feature of this invention to provide a cabinet or counter top, that may readily and easily be attached to a cabinet, and connected with an adjacent top, the tops coming in various sizes, whereby a complete kitchen cabinet assembly including tops may be put together from sections manufactured in mass production with a resultant built-to-order appearance and extreme economy.

Also an object of this invention is the provision of a cabinet or counter top provided with an end trim especially designed to prevent the running off or dripping of liquid from the top.

Still another feature of the invention is the provision of a cabinet or counter top equipped with end trim members of such character as to be readily removable so that the top may be joined with another similar top after removal of the respective end trim members to provide a smooth even connection therebetween.

A further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a cabinet or counter top having depending flanges at the ends thereof by means of which the top may be bolted to an adjacent top, and a waterproof seal provided between the adjacent tops to maintain a constant level, and eliminate all cracks and crevices at the joints.

While some of the more salient features, characteristics and advantages of the instant inven-

tion have been above pointed out, others will become apparent from the following disclosures, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a pictorial view of a kitchen cabinet assembly equipped with counter top members embodying improvements of the instant invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view, with parts shown in elevation, taken through a joint between adjacent counter tops as indicated by the line II—II of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 3 is also a fragmentary enlarged vertical sectional view through the end portion of a counter top taken as indicated by line III—III of Fig. 1;

Figure 4 is a top plan view, with parts broken away and parts shown in section, of one of the counter tops seen in Fig. 1;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view, with parts in elevation, taken substantially as indicated by line V—V of Fig. 4, and in addition illustrating the connection of a top to a cabinet;

Figure 6 is a view similar in character to Fig. 5 but illustrating a section through a cabinet top in which a sink is mounted, and taken substantially as indicated by the line VI—VI of Fig. 1;

Figure 7 is an end view of a cabinet top as it comes from the manufacturer, and with the trim strip removed; and

Figure 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7 but showing the counter top end ready for connection to an adjacent counter top end.

As shown on the drawings:

In Fig. 1 illustrated embodiments of the instant invention are shown as forming a composite part of a kitchen cabinet assembly of a substantially modified L shape. The cabinet assembly includes a side cabinet 1, a corner filler 2, a sink cabinet 3, and an end cabinet 4, each of which is equipped with a counter top embodying principles of the invention, and these tops are indicated in general by numerals 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively. Cabinets and tops of different sizes were selected intentionally to indicate the versatility of the instant invention by showing how counter tops of various sizes may be joined together to provide a smooth, continuous one-piece top effect. Outside of a difference in size, and the fact that the sink top is especially constructed to support a sink in an intermediate position, the counter tops 5, 6, 7 and 8 are all of the same general construction so that they might readily be connected with adjacent counter tops.

In Figs. 4 and 5 I have illustrated by way of example the counter top generally indicated by numeral 5 in Fig. 1. From this showing it will be seen that the counter top includes a flat metallic base 9 having a depending flange 10 entirely therearound, which flange is turned inwardly as at 11 at the front edge. Welded or equivalently secured to the underside of the base 9 are a plurality of spaced parallel Z-bars 12. With the aid of these bars the top may be readily attached to a cabinet indicated at 13 by placing the bolt 14 through the cabinet flange 15 and also through a tapped plate 16 which engages over the lower flange of the adjacent Z-bar as clearly seen in Fig. 5. Thus, no matching of bolt holes need be performed in order to secure the top to the cabinets, it being a simple expedient to lay a tapped plate over each Z-bar flange. Such operation, of course, is performed at both ends of the cabinet.

Over the upper surface of the base 9 a sheet of

decorative material is laid, such as linoleum 17, which may be any desired color. This is preferably firmly cemented to the base 9. The linoleum is additionally held down along the forward edge by an upwardly extending and reversely bent portion 18 of a decorative trim strip 19 carried by a trim supporting channel 20 secured to the forward flange 10 of the base 9 by a series of bolts 21 or in an equivalent manner. The trim supporting channel has an inwardly extending bottom flange 22 underlying the corresponding portion 11 of the flange 10 so as to effect a positive seal between the top and cabinet at the forward side. Obviously, the trim strip 19 may be of any desired material, but is preferably of stainless steel or chrome plated metal as are all exposed metallic parts of the top construction.

The trim strip 19 has a hooked edge 58 engaged over the free edge of the supporting channel and from thence follows the contour of the channel to the elevated portion 18. From the elevated portion, the strip is bent downward to engage the linoleum 17 at a point 59. The strip is folded back on itself at this point and lies along the under side to reinforce the strip. A downwardly extending flange 60 is bent from the reinforcing part of the strip, and extends between the channel 20 and the flange 10 and is held thereby.

The elevated portion 18 of the trim strip performs a triple function, namely adding to the overall decorative appearance of the top, holding the forward edge of the linoleum, and preventing liquids from running or dripping off the forward side of the top.

At the rear side thereof, the top is provided with a backsplash comprising a channel member 23 having an arcuate forward portion and secured to the base 9 by means of a series of bolts 24 extending through the linoleum 17. A strip of linoleum 25 is cemented to the arcuate portion of the channel 23 so as to harmonize in appearance with all the cabinet assembly as well as many appliances used. Over the lower end of the linoleum a cove trim strip 26 is provided which extends under the channel member so as to be securely held in position, and the forward portion of this cove strip is reversely bent and slightly downwardly turned as indicated at 27 to effect a tight engagement with the linoleum 17. At the top thereof the backsplash is provided with a supporting channel 28 covered by a top trim 29 which is also reversely bent in its forward portion so as to overlie the upper edge of the linoleum 25 and thus complete an attractive assembly. The construction of this trim strip 29 is, in all respects, similar to that of the prior described front strip 19.

Flanged end supports 30 are provided at each end of the channel 23, and elsewhere if deemed desirable, and as will more fully appear hereinafter these end supports aid in joining one top to an adjacent top.

At each end of each top section a plastic strip 31 is provided. These plastic strips are identical in construction, except for the fact the left side strip is complementary to the right side strip. In Fig. 7 I have shown one of these strips in full elevation as mounted on the edge of a top, and the strip is held in position by a series of bolts 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 engaged through the adjacent flange 10 of the top section, and a pair of bolts 37 and 38 engaged through the adjacent end member of the backsplash. As seen best in Fig. 2, the plastic strip 31 is of a size as to be flush with the linoleum 17 at its top edge, and

preferably extends slightly below the adjacent flange 10 of the top base 9. This plastic strip is also preferably of substantially the same color as the linoleum.

At each end thereof, the plastic strip is internally reinforced with a pad as indicated at 39 and 40 in Figs. 5 and 6. These reinforced portions are reduced in thickness both inside and outside to provide a knockout disk 41 and 42 at the respective ends of the strip, which knockout disks are easily removed with the aid of a knife blade or other suitable implement. As stated above, the plastic strip 31 is normally of the appearance seen in Fig. 7 when the particular top section leaves the manufacturer. All of the bolts 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 are held in place with the usual polygonal nut.

When it is desired to join two sections together as indicated in Fig. 2, the knockout disks 41 and 42 are removed, and bolts 32, 34 and 36 and 38 are preferably removed from each of the plastic strips. Dowel pins 43 and 44, which may be relatively short metallic pins, are inserted in the openings left by the removal of the knockout disks. These dowel pins project through both adjacent top sections and thus the sections are maintained in exact alignment with each other until bolted together. In Fig. 8 I have illustrated one of the plastic strips ready for joining with an adjacent plastic strip, and it will be seen that the dowel pins 43 and 44 have been inserted, while bolts 32, 34 and 36 and 38 have been removed. As to bolt 38, it is not necessary to remove this bolt all of the time but just when desired in the event there is some unevenness in the floor and it is desired to have additional support.

With reference now to Fig. 2, it will be seen that longer bolts may be substituted for those removed, and in this view a bolt 32*a* has been inserted in lieu of the removed bolt 32, and may readily be held in position by a suitable speed nut 45, thus locking the two adjacent top sections firmly together.

Just prior to the insertion of the bolts joining the two sections together, a waterproof seal in the form of a mastic may be squeezed from a tube or otherwise applied to the confronting faces of the adjacent plastic members. This mastic is indicated at 46 in Fig. 2 and effectively eliminates any cracks between the joined sections. Preferably the mastic is of the same color as the plastic strips and linoleum, and when applied is left a little high in the joint. The high portion, after setting, may be removed by the application of naphtha, kerosene, or some equivalent solvent which does not affect the linoleum, so that the resultant joint is absolutely tight and smooth, giving the appearance and function of a completely smooth integral top regardless of how many sections are actually connected.

At the ends of the cabinet assembly, each top is provided with a trim strip 47 preferably of stainless steel This trim strip is preferably attached by the removal and replacement of bolts 32 and 36 as seen in Figs. 1 and 3. With reference more particularly to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the trim strip has a laterally extending bottom flange 48 underlying the adjacent plastic strip 31, and an upstanding channel-like top terminating in an inwardly downwardly inclined lip 49. The strip is so constructed that it must be snapped into position over the plastic strip 31 by first applying the lip 49 to the linoleum, and then snapping the flange 48 underneath the lower

edge of the plastic strip, thus placing a resilient tension on the strip and causing the lip 49 to bite into the linoleum to effect a liquid tight seal. The upstanding upper edge of the trim strip 47 also prevents liquids from running or dripping off the end of the counter top.

In Fig. 6 I have illustrated the top construction wherein a sink is employed. All of the general features of the construction previously described are here present, with the exception of the opening cut in the middle of the counter top, around which opening a channel-like trim strip 50 preferably of stainless steel or similar decorative substance is provided. This trim strip as seen at the top is embedded so as to be flush with the upper surface of the linoleum. Inside the trim strip and entirely around the opening channel members 51 are provided and may be spot welded or equivalently secured to the underside of the top base 9. A sink 52 having an outwardly extending flange therearound may be positioned beneath the inwardly turned flanges of the trim elements 50 and held in position by means of a series of C clamps 53, with the bolt thereof engaging a pad 54 underneath the sink flange, and the upper arm of the clamp engaging the supporting channel 51. Thus the sink is maintained rigidly in position, amply supported, and the surface of the top adjacent the sink opening is even and smooth entirely therearound.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that I have provided cabinet or counter top construction wherein various top sections of various sizes may be readily and easily joined together in a manner to leave the composite whole with the appearance and function of a single one-piece custom built top over the entire cabinet assembly. The present invention may be readily and economically manufactured, and sold ready for installation. It will be understood that, if so desired, a single top covering a pair of cabinets may be utilized when desired, especially when the entire cabinet assembly is initially installed as a unit. However, when the cabinet assembly is added to a piece at a time at different intervals, it is a simple expedient to remove the trim piece 47 from the end of one cabinet, and connect an adjacent top to the top already there and the addition is unnoticeable as to the entire top assembly. It should also be clearly noted that all cracks or crevices are completely eliminated regardless of how many top sections are connected to each other, and the entire structure is completely drip-proof. It is further apparent that the structure is pleasingly streamlined in appearance so as to harmonize with almost any modern kitchen appliances, as well as being sturdy and highly durable.

It will, of course, be understood that various details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention and it is, therefore, not the purpose to limit the patent granted hereon otherwise than necessitated by the scope of the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

For use with a counter means having a covering and an attaching flange depending from the edge of the covering, including an open bottom channel member having one side attached to said flange and the other side extending outwardly therefrom, a trim and sealing strip comprising a thin metallic member having one edge bent to form a channel in hooked engagement with the free edge of the channel member and extending upward and over the channel mem-

ber to provide a raised ridge above and opposite to the meeting sides of the channel member and the attaching flange and extending downward and bent back upon itself to provide a slanting flexible lip for biting into the covering, and then having a downwardly bent flange for holding engagement between the channel member and the attaching flange.

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