Nov. 13, 1928. 1,691,728

J. C. MATTHAI

MINIATURE OR TOY FENCE SECTION

Filed April 29, 1927

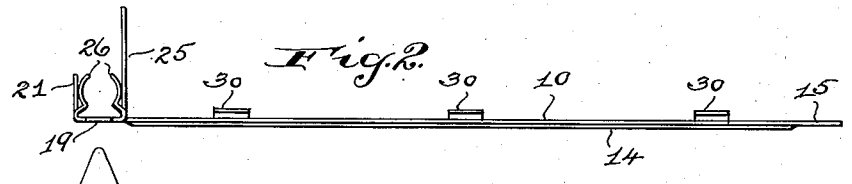


Fig. 2.

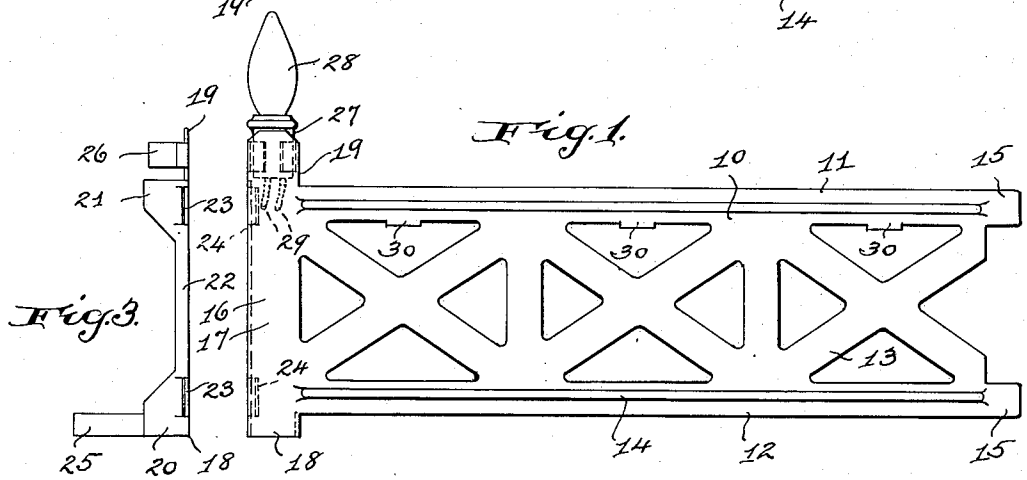


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

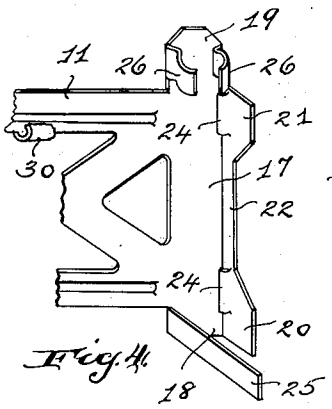


Fig. 4.

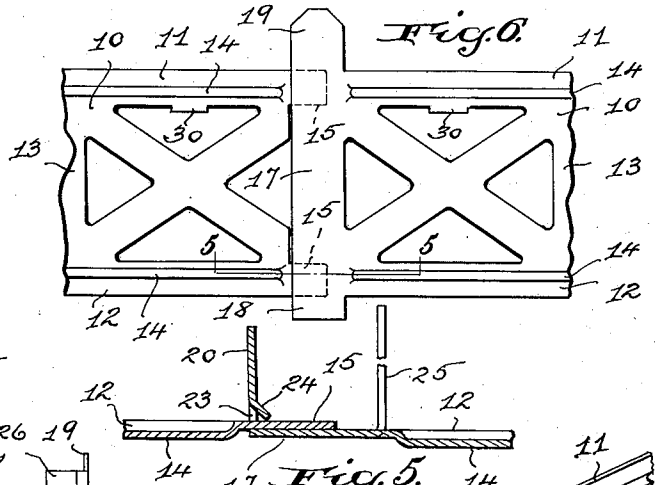


Fig. 6.

Fig. 5.

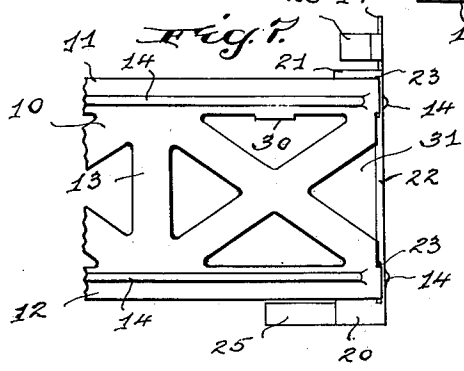


Fig. 7.

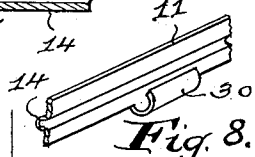


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MINIATURE OR TOY FENCE SECTION.

Application filed April 29, 1927. Serial No. 187,420.

This invention relates to improvements in miniature fences such as are suitable for use in connection with Christmas tree displays and toy gardens.

The object of the invention is to provide a novel and attractive construction of fence sections which may be readily joined to form a fence; to provide the sections with means for sustaining electric lamps and which sections may be stamped from sheet metal and produced at a cost well within the reach of the majority of users.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein,—

Fig. 1 shows one of the improved fence-sections in front elevation.

Fig. 2 illustrates the same in top view.

Fig. 3 shows the fence section as viewed from the post-end thereof.

Fig. 4 illustrates the post-end of the fence-section in perspective as seen from the inner side thereof.

Fig. 5 shows an enlarged horizontal sectional detail through two joined sections,—the section being taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 illustrates a fragment of two joined sections in front elevation.

Fig. 7 shows in side view fragments of two joined sections at a right-angle bend or corner, and

Fig. 8 illustrates a fragment of the top rail and shows one of the wire-carrying hangers formed thereon.

Referring to the drawing the numeral 10, designates the fence section having upper and lower horizontal rails 11 and 12 respectively and with an ornamental portion 13 between the upper and lower rails.

The rails 11 and 12 and the ornamental portion 13 between the same, are all formed from a thin metal plate, and the ornamental portion 13 is produced by means of dies or punches that produce openings of an ornamental character therein.

The particular form of the punchings or openings to produce the ornamentation is obviously immaterial to the invention and may be varied but it is regarded as desirable to provide each of the rails 11 and 12 with a horizontal bead 14 because such a bead, not only serves as an additional ornamentation but also serves to stiffen the section.

Each rail has an extension or engaging-lug 15, at one end of each section which project beyond the ornamental portion 13 and the purpose of these lugs will presently be explained.

At the opposite end of each section, I form a post-member 16, which latter, preferably has an imperforate front panel 17 with a base 18 that extends below the lower rail 12 and with an extension 19 which projects above the upper rail 11.

The end face of the post, as seen particularly in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawing, has a back-turned flange, or a flange that is bent at a right angle with respect to the front face, which flange has a broad base end 20; a broad upper portion 21 and a narrower intermediate portion 22 extending between said broader base and upper portions.

Each of the broader portions 20 and 21 has a vertical slot 23 therein and the metal displaced from said portions in producing those slots is bent inwardly to form grip-tangs 24, as and for a purpose that will presently be more fully explained.

The broad base 20 on the flange at the side of the post-member seats on the same surface upon which the base 18 of the post rests and aids in sustaining the fence-section in an upright position, but I may also provide a separate foot 25 which extends inwardly from the base 18 of the post, as clearly shown in Figs. 3—4—5 and 7 of the drawing.

This additional support or foot 25, may readily be provided without loss of metal because it is produced from a strip that is cut from the lower edge of the lower rail 12 and bent inwardly.

The extension 19 at the top of the post-member has two clip-members 26 formed integrally therewith which project rearwardly and these clips are provided for the purpose of engaging and holding an electric lamp-socket 27, in which a lamp 28 may be carried, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

When a socket 27 is held by the clips 26, the wires 29, for the electrical connections will be hidden at the inner side of the imperforate front panel 17 of the post.

To provide a further support for the lighting wires which must extend from the post of one section to the post of the next section, I provide the lower edge of each upper rail 11, with a series of hangers 30 formed integrally therewith and turned up at the inner side so that the lighting wires 29 may be sup-

ported thereby and at the same time concealed from view from the outer side.

By providing these hangers 30 along the top rail 11, a direct line for the lamp wires is obtained, which not only avoids the laying of unsightly wires on a Christmas-tree board but effects a saving in the quantity of wire that is very desirable in an article of this kind.

The fence sections may be readily connected by inserting the lugs 15 at the ends of the upper and lower rails in the vertical slots 23 formed in the back-turned flange-portions 20 and 21, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawing, and when thus inserted, the grip-tangs 24 engage the inner sides of the inserted lugs, as seen in Fig. 5, and retain the latter from withdrawal.

To make a right-angle turn when forming a fence, the lugs 15 of a section will be inserted in the slots 23 of the corner post and the section then bent at right angles, thus producing a bend at the root-ends of the lugs 15, which the metal will readily permit, and the corner joint will have the appearance as shown in Fig. 7 of the drawing.

In a fence section wherein the ornamentation consists of openings such as illustrated in the drawing, I have found that where a right-angle bend occurs in the fence that unless a narrow flange-portion 22, be provided (see Fig. 7) most of the opening 31, in the first section will be underlapped so I avoid this by reducing the width of the side flange at 22 as readily seen in said Fig. 7.

A miniature fence section formed from thin sheet metal as herein disclosed can be produced at very little expense, and may readily be set up or taken down, and when set up may readily carry attractively colored lamps which produces a very pleasing effect.

Having described my invention, I claim,—

1. In a miniature fence formed of sheet metal sections each having engaging lugs projecting from one end thereof and at the opposite end each section being provided with a back-turned flange with slots therein to receive the lugs of another section and at said slots each section having a grip tank to engage the lug that enters said slot.

2. In a miniature fence formed of sheet metal sections each section having an integral back-turned flange at one end thereof with slots in said flange and at the other end each sheet-metal section having lugs shaped to correspond to the shape of the slots in the back-turned flange whereby said lugs may enter the flange-slots in the section it is to join.

3. In a miniature fence formed of sheet metal sections each section having engaging lugs projecting therefrom at one end and at the other end each section being provided with an integral back-turned flange extending vertically from the lower base edge upwardly and forming a support to hold the section upright and said back-turned flange also having means formed therein to receive the engaging lugs of a section to be joined thereto.

4. In a miniature fence formed of sheet metal sections each section having engaging lugs at one end thereof and at the opposite end each section having an integral post-member with a front panel, said post-member being provided with means to receive the lugs of another section and said post-member also having an integral back-turned support at its base which extends rearwardly from one side of the post panel.

5. In a miniature fence formed of sheet metal sections each section having engaging means at one end thereof to engage another section and at the opposite end each section having a post member with a front panel, said post-member having a back-turned flange at one edge with means thereon to coact with the engaging means on the opposite end of another section and the opposite edge of each post-member having a support bent back from the base of the face plate to hold the section in an upright position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN CLARKE MATTHAI.