OUTLET BOX MOUNTING STRIP

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 6

Patent Drawing
This invention appertains to outlet boxes, switch boxes and the like and more particularly to novel means for mounting various outlet boxes on various kinds of composition wall boards, plaster boards and the like, and plaster walls in some cases, for example, plaster on metal lath.

One of the primary objects of my invention is the provision of a novel strip for holding various kinds of outlet boxes on the wall and ceiling of completed buildings, the construction of the strip being such as to permit the wall boards or other material to be put in place before cutting out openings for the boxes, thereby eliminating waste by rough cutting and misfit made by the workman putting in the wall board and the saving of time and labor incident thereto.

Another important object of the invention is the provision of a novel strip for holding one or more outlet or switch boxes in place which will insure a neater and more uniform job and which will act as means to strengthen the material on which the boxes are used.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a novel device for connecting switch boxes and the like to wall boards of the above character, which will be durable and efficient in use, one that will be simple and easy to manufacture, and one which can be placed upon the market at a reasonable cost.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and formation of parts as will be hereinafter more specifically described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation illustrating the novel mounting strip in use and showing the same employed for holding a gang of switch boxes in place.

Figure 2 is a rear elevation showing the novel strip in place and holding a gang of switch boxes in position.

Figure 3 is an enlarged transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view of one of the novel mounting plates prior to the folding and punching thereof.

Figure 5 is a detail perspective view of a template for facilitating the marking of the wall board for reception of a single switch or outlet box, and

Figure 6 is an enlarged transverse section through one of the novel mounting strips showing the same in its folded condition, holes punched and tapped for the reception of a holding screw, the holding screw being shown in dotted lines.

Referring to the drawings in detail, wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the letter A generally indicates my novel mounting strip and B a gang of switch boxes arranged in an opening 10 formed in the wall or plaster board 11.

In the present instance I have shown the mounting strip employed in connection with a gang of four switch boxes but it is to be understood that strips can be utilized for holding one or more boxes of the switch outlet.

Referring to the novel mounting strip A, the same is preferably formed from a length of sheet metal 15 of the desired gauge having formed on one longitudinal edge thereof laterally extending tongues 16.

The strip 15 is bent back upon itself along a longitudinal center line to provide a pair of plies 17 and 18 for rendering the strip strong and rigid in use. In order to further strengthen the strip, the same at the point of folding or connection of the plies 17 and 18 is rolled to provide a bead 19.

After the strip is folded, as shown in Figure 6 of the drawings, the same is punched and tapped at an appropriate point to provide threaded openings 20 for the reception of fastening screws as will be later described. The holes are preferably punched with a pointed tool to form a depressed or concaved rim 21 around the opening into which a screw will readily find its way, the formation of the opening also allowing more surface or thread and causes a locking effect on the thread of the screw thus helping to prevent stripping of threads.
This completes the formation of the strip and the same is ready for use. In holding the switch or outlet boxes in place a strip is used at the bottom and top of the opening cut in the wall, and the tongues 16 are bent in a substantially U-shape around the walls of the opening to hold the strip in place without nailing. The strips are cut according to the size and number of boxes to be held in place and after the strips are placed in position, the holding brackets 22 of the switch boxes B are connected to the boxes and adjusted to align the openings therein with the threaded openings 20 in the strips.

3. A mounting strip for outlet boxes comprising an elongated plate bolted longitudinally upon itself to provide a pair of opposite portions attached one with the other, each of said portions being provided with longitudinally spaced threaded openings, each of which openings is provided with a concave rim projecting laterally with respect to the strip, and the rims of the openings on one of the strip portions being telescoped within the rimmed openings on the other of said strip portions, and said plate at the connected edges of said portions being provided with a strengthening bead, and said plate adjacent one longitudinal edge thereof being also provided with a plurality of relatively spaced angular tongues.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

DELBERT E. RICHARDSON.