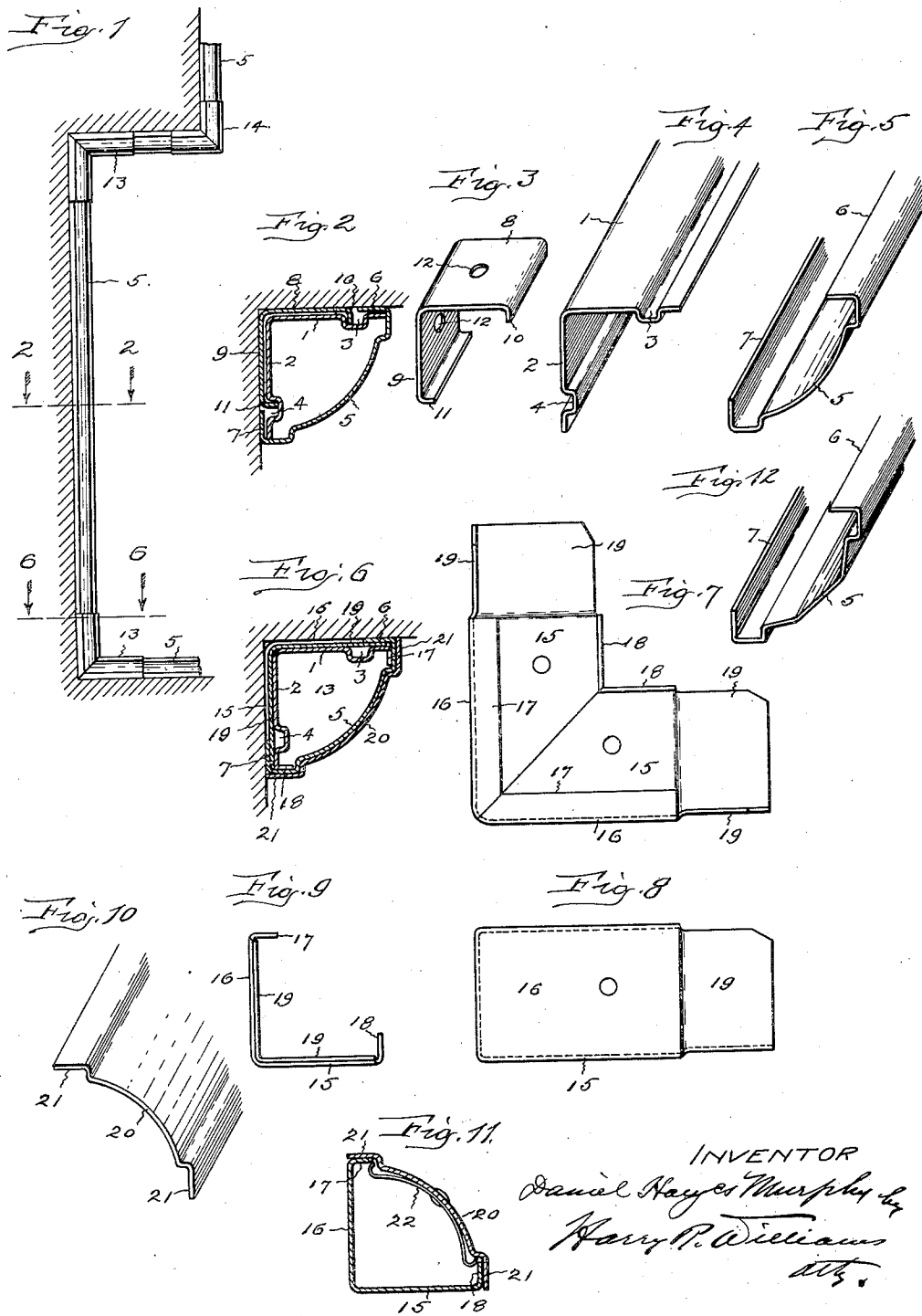


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D. H. MURPHY
ELECTRICAL CONDUIT
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INVENTOR
Daniel Hayes Murphy
Harry P. Williams
att.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DANIEL HAYES MURPHY, OF WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE
WIREMOLD COMPANY, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF CON-
NECTICUT

ELECTRICAL CONDUIT

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This invention relates to a surface conduit for electric wires which is particularly designed to be located close to moldings, or cornices, or in corners, in such manner that it conforms to the architecture of the interior of a room and forms an attractive trim, being especially desirable in homes and offices where the ordinary conduit would be objectionable as too conspicuous.

The object of the invention is to provide a conduit of the character mentioned which is not only cheap to manufacture in quantities and which will inconspicuously blend with the decorations of a room or office, but which will be very easy to install in such manner that the fastening means will be invisible.

In attaining this end the embodiment of the invention illustrated has a base strip of indefinite length with sides extending at right angles to each other and having throughout their length longitudinally extending grooves near their edges. Applied to this base is a cover strip of indefinite length that is outwardly bowed in cross section and has its edges bent in to approximately ninety degrees with relation to each other and at such distances apart that they will slip over and engage with the edges of the base strip for holding the parts together.

Angular fittings are provided for corners, which fittings have bowed caps and angular base pieces provided with tongues that are designed to engage the ends of the running lengths of the conduit. Angular clips are provided for securing the running lengths in place. These clips are permanently fastened to the supporting surface and they have their edges bent inward in such manner that when a length of conduit is snapped into the clips the edges of the clips will enter the grooves in the base strip and hold the lengths in place.

In the accompanying drawings Fig. 1 on reduced scale indicates a use of a conduit constructed according to this invention. Fig. 2 shows on enlarged scale a transverse section on the plane indicated by the dotted line 2—2 on Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a holding clip. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of an end of the base strip. Fig. 5 is a per-

spective view of an end of the cover. Fig. 6 is a transverse section through a fitting on the plane indicated by the dotted line 6—6 on Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a plan view of the base piece of a fitting. Fig. 8 is a side view of the fitting base piece. Fig. 9 is an end view of the base piece. Fig. 10 is a view of an end of a fitting cap. Fig. 11 is a transverse section showing a means which may be used for holding a fitting cap in place. Fig. 12 is a perspective view of an end of a cover of modified section.

The base strips of the running lengths of the conduit are desirably rolled from sheet metal in such manner that their sides 1 and 2 are at substantially right angles to each other and have outwardly opening grooves 3 and 4 extending near the edges throughout their entire length. The cover strips of the running lengths of the conduit are preferably rolled from sheet metal in such manner that the middle portion 5 is outwardly bowed with a curved contour as seen in Fig. 5, or angular contour as shown by Fig. 12, and the edges 6 and 7 are bent inward so that they will overlap the edges of the base strip. These members are made in any convenient lengths and usually are assembled at the place of manufacture by sliding the cover strips lengthwise on the base strips.

The clips for securing the running lengths in place of use are bent from sheet metal with sides 8 and 9 that are at substantially right angles to each other and that have their edges 10 and 11 bent inward. The clips are secured in place at the desired intervals by nails or screws driven through perforations 12 into the supporting surfaces. After the clips have been secured the running lengths of the conduit are pressed into them, the sides of the clips yielding outward and then closing in so that their inwardly bent edges 10 and 11 will snap into the grooves 3 and 4 in the base strip and thus firmly hold the running lengths in place without being exposed to view.

The corner fittings which may be made as internal elbows 13 or external elbows 14 have angular base pieces with sides 15 and 16 bent at right angles to each other and with the

edges 17 and 18 of the sides bent inward. Extending from both side walls of the angular base piece at both ends are tongues 19 which are slightly inset. These tongues are designed to be slipped between the sides of the base strip and the inwardly bent edges 6 and 7 of the cover for attaching these members together.

After these parts have been placed in position and the wires threaded through the conduit and passed around the corners, caps 20 are applied to the fitting. These caps have substantially the same sectional shape as the covers of the conduit and their edges 21 overlap the edges of the base pieces. When the parts are assembled the ends of the fitting caps overlie the ends of the running lengths of the conduit. Any suitable means may be provided for securing the fitting caps in place. In Fig. 11 there is shown for this purpose a spring 22 on the inside of the cap with its ends engaged with the inturned edges of the base piece.

When the parts are assembled and fastened in position a conduit is provided which closely fits into a corner and is firmly secured in position by concealed means without any obstruction in the runway through the conduit.

The invention claimed is:

1. A surface conduit for electrical conductors comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, and a bowed cover strip that has its edges bent inward therefrom and overlying the edges of the base strip.

2. A surface conduit for electrical conductors comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, and a cover strip that has a curved middle section and longitudinally extending grooves along its edges that embrace the edges of the base strip.

3. A surface conduit installation comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, a cover strip that has a curved middle section and edges bent inward therefrom and embracing the edges of the base strip, and a clip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and have inwardly bent edges that are adapted to spring into the longitudinal grooves in said base strip.

4. A surface conduit installation comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, a cover strip that has edges bent inward there-

from and embracing the edges of the base strip, and a clip having two walls which are at substantially right angles to each other and have inwardly bent edges that are adapted to spring into the longitudinally extending grooves in said base strip.

5. A surface conduit installation comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, a cover strip that has an angular middle section and edges bent inward therefrom and embracing the edges of the base strip, and a clip having two walls which are at substantially right angles to each other and have inwardly bent edges that are adapted to spring into the longitudinal grooves in said base strip.

6. A surface conduit for electrical conductors comprising running lengths which have a base strip with two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, and a cover strip that has a curved middle section with edges bent inward therefrom and overlying the edges of the base strip, and an angular section which has two walls that are at right angles with each other and have tongues extending from the ends thereof into the ends of said running lengths, with a cap fastened to said angular section and overlapping the covers of the running lengths of the conduit.

7. A surface conduit for electrical conductors comprising a base strip having two walls that are at right angles to each other and are provided near the edges with outwardly opening grooves which extend longitudinally thereof, a cover strip that has a curved middle section and edges bent inward therefrom and embracing the edges of the base strip, a section having two walls that are at right angles with each other and have their edges bent inward, a tongue extending from the end of said section and entered between the sides of said base strip and inwardly bent edges of said cover, and a cap applied to said section and overlapping said cover.

DANIEL HAYES MURPHY.