Oct. 25, 1932. E. J. WELCH 1,884,441

DRIP STRIP

Filed Oct. 23, 1929

Fig. 1.

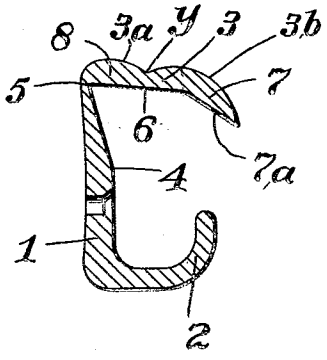


Fig. 2.

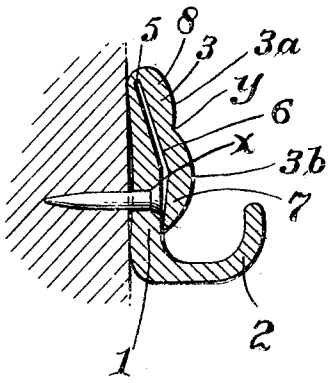
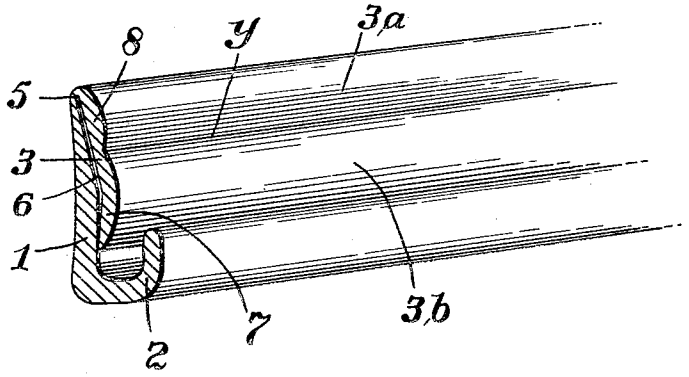


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DRIP STRIP

Application filed October 23, 1929. Serial No. 401,808.

My invention relates to drip strips for automobiles and the like and is designed to provide a strip which can be readily made, easily applied, and of attractive appearance when mounted on the automobile, the nails being completely covered.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is cross sectional view of the strip before it is applied.

Fig. 2 is a similar view after it is applied.

Fig. 3 is a front view of the strip as applied, i. e. in its completed form.

The strip is formed by extruding the metal of which it is composed, i. e. aluminum, through a die. Its form as it comes from the die and before it is applied to the automobile is like that shown in Fig. 1. It consists of a base 1, a gutter flange 1, and an upper flange 3, the latter being adapted to be folded down over the front face of the base after the nails have been driven into place so that said nails will be covered by this folded down flange and thus hidden from view. The base 1 is of substantial thickness from the lower end up to the point 4 where the front face inclines rearwardly to the upper edge of the base, where a thin or weak line of metal joins the flange 3 with said upper edge of the base at part 5. The gutter flange in the blank Fig. 1 is of the same form as the gutter flange in the completed article of Fig. 2. That is to say the relation of the gutter flange to the base is not altered during the application of the strip to the automobile. The flange 3, however, is intended to be folded down from the position of Fig. 1 to that of Fig. 2, after the nails have been driven, said flange covering and hiding the nails from view. This flange is specially formed. It has a substantially flat inner surface at 6 and its edge portion 7 lies at an angle to its main portion 8, the inner face 7, i. e. the face $7a$ being at an angle to the substantially straight face 6.

The extreme edge of this flange, when the same is folded down to cover the nails contacts with the front face of the lower portion of the base, leaving a space at x Fig. 2 where the head of the nail lies so that should this protrude slightly the covering flange will not come against it and be deformed when the flange is pressed to its final position of Fig. 2 by an anvil or block in the hand of the workingman.

The folding takes place from the extreme upper edge of the base where the weakened line 5 occurs and the exterior of the flange 3 is provided with curved faces $3a$, $3b$ which give a fluted or corrugated appearance to the strip, and which is accentuated when viewed from the front by the flange of the gutter, the upper edge of which is in a plane considerably below the depression y lying between the curved faces $3a$, $3b$, this relation of parts carrying out the corrugated appearance of the strip when viewed from the front. These strips are placed along the upper part of the sides of the car to catch rain water and direct it to the point of discharge toward the rear of the car, and they are viewed by the observer in most instances standing at the side of the car so that from this viewpoint the gutter flange harmonizes with the curves $3a$, $3b$ to give the general fluted effect. The gutter flange therefore cooperates with the corrugated flange.

The metal of the strip, being aluminum, is pliable. The flange, when folded down, does so about the weakened line. The flange preserves its form, and remains in the position in which it is set. The bent free edge, resting as it does against the front of the base and without abutting against any rib or shoulder, is free and affords accommodation for bending the strip on a curve where necessary, and takes care of any tendency of the metal to wrinkle or buckle, because any wrinkles can be ironed out. The drip flange is high enough to hide the lower edge of the folded flange. The base flange is comparatively thick and the drip flange as well as the foldable flange, are of considerable thickness.

I claim:

1. An extruded soft metal drip strip having a base with an upwardly extending gutter flange at its lower end and a fold down flange at its upper end, said base being relatively thick from its lower end to a point above the level of the upper end of the gutter flange, said flange being connected to the base by a

weakened line of metal in the base itself and in line with the under face of the flange when in initial open position, about which weakened line the flange will turn bodily without deformation, said flange in folding being free from bending contact with the base intermediate the weakened line and the free edge, the root of the folded flange reaching above the plane of the weakened line to maintain concealment of the same, substantially as described.

2. An extruded soft metal drip strip for automobiles comprising a base having a gutter portion at its lower end terminating in an upwardly extending flange, and having a fold down flange at its upper end, said base being relatively thick from its lower end to a point above the lever of the upper end of the gutter flange from which point the front face of the base inclines towards the back face thereby thinning the base progressively to the juncture of the base with the fold down flange and providing a line of weakness in line with the under face of said flange when in open position, said flange turning bodily about said weakened line only and free from bending contact with the base intermediate its free edge and the weakened line.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

EDWARD J. WELCH.