June 23, 1942. P. D. PHILLIPS 2,287,564

ELECTRIC FIXTURE

Filed Aug. 2, 1940 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

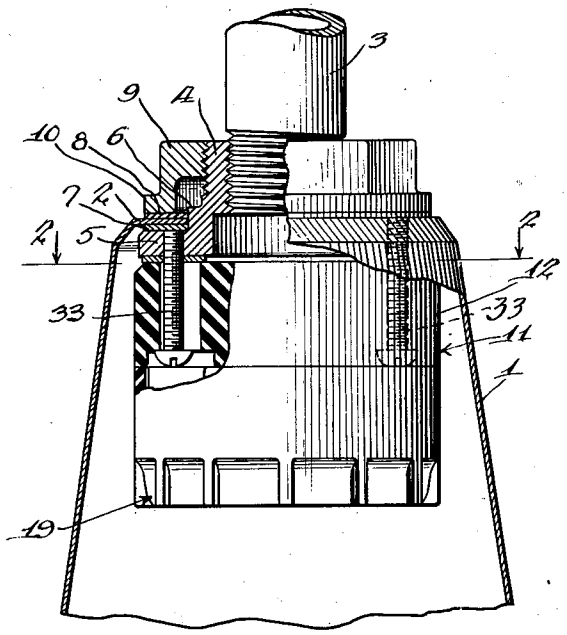


Fig. 1.

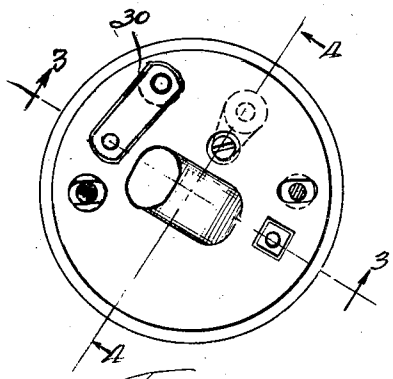


Fig. 2.

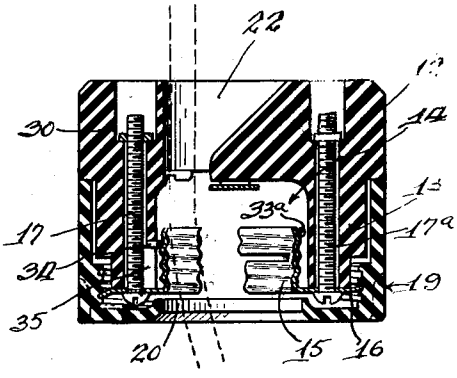


Fig. 3

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ELECTRIC FIXTURE

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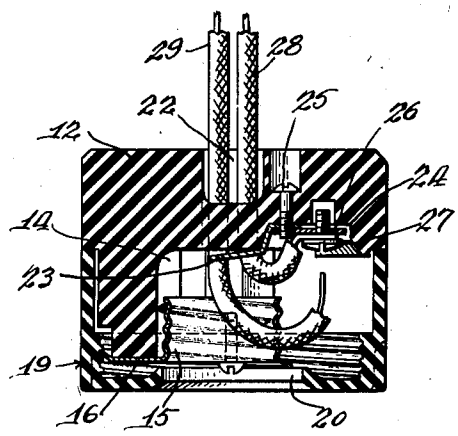


Fig. 4.

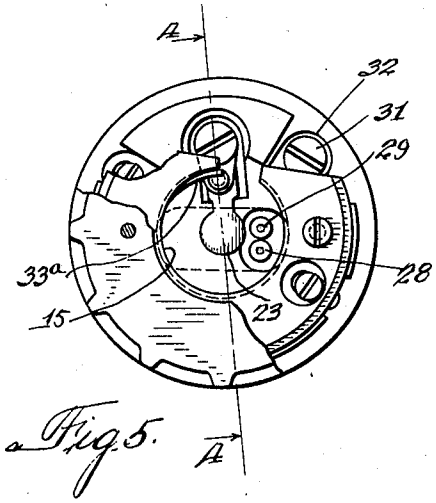


Fig. 5.

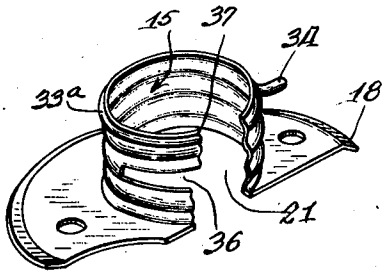


Fig. 6.

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June 23, 1942. P. D. PHILLIPS 2,287,564

ELECTRIC FIXTURE

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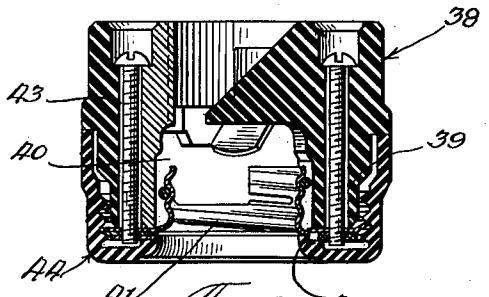


Fig. 7.

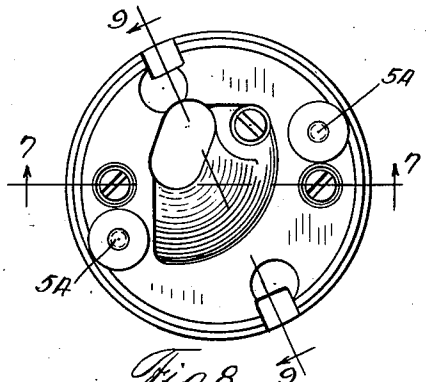


Fig. 8.

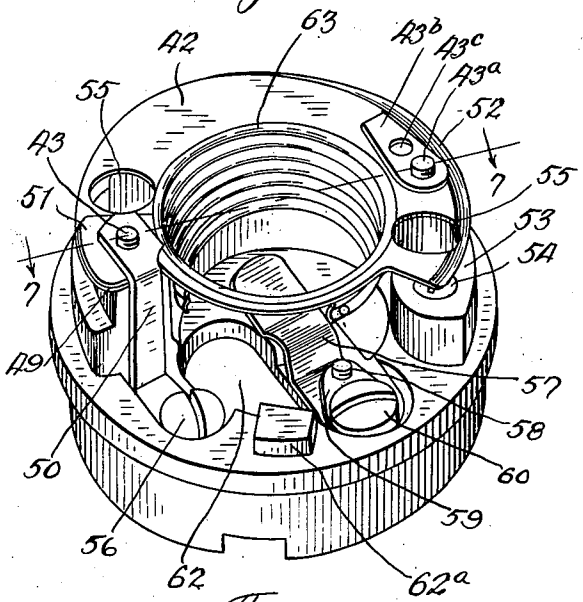


Fig. 10.

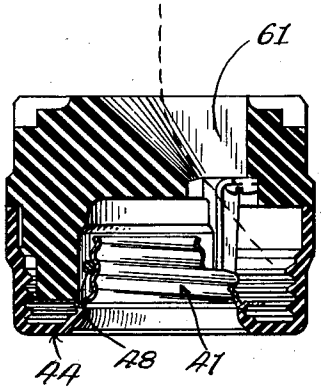


Fig. 9.

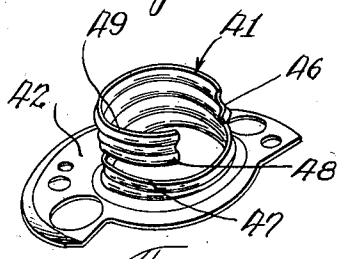


Fig. 11.

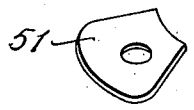


Fig. 12.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,287,564

ELECTRIC FIXTURE

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Application August 2, 1940, Serial No. 349,651

19 Claims. (Cl. 173—358)

This invention relates to electric fixtures and more particularly to sockets for use with various types of fixtures, especially where the fixtures are supported by a conduit or other suitable connection through which the conductor wires extend to the socket and to which the fixture may be directly attached. This application is a continuation in part of my copending application Serial No. 205,167, filed April 30, 1938.

In the drawings the socket is shown in connection with an ordinary so-called dome reflector, the reflector portion being broken away as the specific details of the reflector form no part of the present invention.

In the installation of fixtures such as so-called "socket-reflector" units, it is sometimes not possible to raise the enclosing reflector or to otherwise expose the socket for access to binder screws or wiring terminals. It is, therefore, necessary to attach and secure the feed wires to the socket terminals with the socket closely surrounded by the enclosing walls of the dome or hood of the fixture.

Heretofore, two-part sockets have been constructed to enable removal of the lower element to provide access to the terminals. In such sockets the terminal screws are located on the upper element with their axes parallel to the lamp axis and are exposed for easy access when the lower element is removed. The center contact is secured to the upper base, and the shell contact is permanently secured to the lower base, and a separable connector between the shell and one of the terminals on the upper base is provided so that the lower base may be removed by loosening the supporting screws. When the lower element is removed, the entire lower face of the upper element is exposed and the terminal screws are readily accessible for wire attachment.

Such a construction has many disadvantages in that a large number of parts are required and each base requires separate assembly. Furthermore, such a construction requires the use of a screw driver in removing the lower element to provide access to the wiring terminals. The separable connection between the shell contact and its terminal is unsatisfactory, particularly where corrosive atmospheric conditions occur or where metal dusts may be excessive. Such conditions often seriously decrease the effective contact between the connector contacts and result in heating and final burning out by arcing.

The present invention is an improvement over such structures, and it is an object to provide a device for use with a deeply recessed fixture or reflector in which the fixture may be rotated about a supporting stem having feed wires extending therefrom without dangerously twisting the wires or damaging the insulation, and wherein the terminal screws are accessible for attachment of the wires by the removal of a one-piece cover, which may readily be removed and replaced without the use of tools.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device of the character described, in which the socket is of comparatively few parts and may comprise only two main elements, on one of which all of the conducting and supporting parts are assembled, the other element being merely an insulating cover for the conducting elements on the main base.

A further object is the provision of a fixture having a socket of the character described in which the wires protruding from the fixture support may extend through the socket adjacent the axis, whereby the device may be rotated without twisting the wires and wherein the shell contact is so constructed that the feed wires may be readily connected to the terminal screws which may be located outside the diameter of the shell.

A further object is the provision of a split shell affording easy access to the binding terminals and including an efficient lamp grip which not only retains the lamp snugly in the socket, but also serves as a rubbing element to clean the lamp base surface and improve the electrical contact over a wide area. The lamp grip provides a brake shoe action which is effective throughout a considerable portion of the lamp removing process and not merely for a few degrees of the backing off rotation.

A further object is the provision of a socket having a one-piece cover which may be threaded onto the main base and be retained by the combined resilient and frictional action of the cooperating parts and which may be removed or attached by hand without the use of tools.

Another object is the provision of a socket of the character described in which, during wiring, the wires are automatically guided to a position outside a closed ring shell contact where they may conveniently be secured to the terminals.

Still another object is to provide a socket base of the character described having a flanged closed ring shell contact of thin resilient material permanently secured thereto, the edge of the socket flange being adapted to retain an internally threaded removable socket cover thereon, one portion of said flange being reinforced to provide a rigid starting edge for engaging in the

threads of the cover and to prevent distortion of the flange and another portion of said flange being free to flex and being formed to resiliently and frictionally engage the cover threads to retain the cover against displacement.

It is also an object to provide a device of the character described which will be of few parts, easy to assemble, cheap to manufacture, and which will not easily get out of order.

Further objects will be apparent from the specification and the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a vertical side elevation partially in section of a completely assembled socket and hood reflector secured to a suitable support such as the usual conduit and illustrates one embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a top view of the socket with the supporting screws shown in section on a line substantially corresponding to line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the socket taken on a line substantially corresponding to line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view through the socket and taken on a line substantially corresponding to line 4—4 of Fig. 2 and line 4—4 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 5 is a bottom view of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 4, with cover partly broken away.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the shell contact and lamp grip associated therewith.

Fig. 7 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3 but illustrates a slightly different form of the invention.

Fig. 8 is a top view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken on a line substantially corresponding to line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is an inverted perspective view of the socket shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the shell contact.

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of the reinforcing element for the socket flange.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, may comprise the usual reflector having a sheet metal hood 1 provided at its upper end with an inturned flange 2. This reflector is supported on a suitable threaded conduit 3 by means of a coupling member 4, which latter is preferably internally and externally threaded as shown and provided with an outwardly extending flange 5 to support the reflector. The reflector flange 2 is preferably provided with a hexagonal opening to seat a corresponding hexagonal shoulder 6 on the coupling 4 so that rotation of the reflector will cause a corresponding rotation of the coupling whereby the entire fixture may be threaded onto the conduit 3. Gaskets 7 and 8 are provided, one on each side of the flange 2, and a nut 9 is threaded onto the coupling member 4 as illustrated and is provided with an outwardly extending flange 10 whereby the flange 2 of the hood may be clamped securely between the members 4 and 9. It will be apparent that by this construction the fixture may be threaded onto or removed from the conduit 3 by rotation of the entire device.

A socket 11 is provided and comprises a base 12 having a depending skirt portion in the form of a segmental flange 13 which is reduced in diameter as shown in the sectional views, and this skirt portion is provided with an axial opening 14 to receive a shell contact 15. The shell contact is provided with an outwardly extending flange 16 which is secured against the outer end of the skirt by means of screws 17 and 17a whereby the shell is supported. The outer edge of the shell flange 16 is somewhat larger in diameter than the segmental flange on the base and is angularly formed at 18, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 6, to provide a thread to receive an internally threaded cover 19 of insulating material which is provided with a central opening 20 and which, with the base 12, forms a complete insulating enclosure for the conducting portions of the socket. A material portion of the skirt 13 is cut away on one side, as shown particularly in Figs. 4 and 5, to provide access to the wiring terminals, and the threaded shell is split completely through on the same side as shown at 21 so that the conductor wires may be passed therethrough and secured to the terminals. In other words, the segmental skirt and segmental shell contact and flange enable the workman to bend the conductors through the open side and secure them to the terminals on the lower face of the base. The flange 16 of the threaded shell is also cut away on one side, as illustrated in Fig. 6, to correspond with the skirt portion 13 of the base so that the binding screws of the terminals may easily be accessible with a screw driver.

The shell 15 and flange 16 are preferably made of resilient sheet metal so that, when the cover 19 is screwed thereon, the friction between the contacting surfaces of the base and the cover is greatly increased and provides an impositive frictional lock against loosening of the cover.

The base 12 is provided with a passage 22 therethrough, through which the conductors may extend for attachment to the binding terminals. The passage 22 communicates with the shell chamber 14 so that the conductors may be extended through the socket and then bent laterally through the slot 21 of the shell for attachment to the terminals.

A center contact 23 which may be of the usual spring type is secured in a depression 24 by means of a screw 25 threaded into a terminal plate 26, which latter is provided with a binding screw 27 by means of which one of the conductors 28 and 29 may be secured.

The shell terminal comprises a conducting link 30 (Figs. 2 and 3) positioned in a depression in the upper side of the base and retained by means of the shell supporting screw 17. A binding screw 31 is seated in a depression 32 in the face of the base and is threaded into the link 30. The slot 21 in the threaded shell permits the conductor 29 to be bent laterally and secured to the binding screw 31. The socket may be secured to the coupling member 4 by means of suitable screws 33. This may be done before or after the reflector is mounted on the conduit 3.

The device preferably is first completely assembled as illustrated in Fig. 1 and is then threaded onto the conduit 3 with the conductors 28 and 29 extending downward through the passage 22 and through the threaded shell. After the fixture is in place, the conductors may be bent laterally as shown in Fig. 4 and secured to the appropriate binding terminals. By means of this construction the completely assembled device may be freely rotated for threading onto the conduit 3 without twisting the conductors 28 and 29 which are extending through the socket. After the conductors are secured in position, the insulating cover 19 may be threaded securely onto the shell flange 8 as shown.

An efficient lamp grip is provided and comprises a ring-like spring wire member **33***a* which is slightly smaller in diameter than the shell **15**. This forms a split ring having a laterally extending end portion **34** which may be engaged in a longitudinal slot **35** in the base **12**, thereby providing against rotation of the spring member **33***a*. The ring snugly engages the shell adjacent its upper end and is seated in an outer thread of the shell adjacent the free end. The shell is slotted at **36** (Fig. 6) to provide a comparatively wide tongue portion **37**, which latter is normally pressed inwardly by the free end of the spring member **33***a*.

The lamp grip is very effective as it is located well above the entrance end of the threaded shell **15**, and the lamp, when entering, engages more than a complete turn of the shell thread before the lamp grip or so-called brake shoe begins to take effect. The grip tongue is so designed that its free end is opposite the first engagement point with the lamp entering and, therefore, the frictional effect with the lamp base is exceptionally smooth and free from chatter.

The brake shoe or tongue **37** is an integral part of the resilient threaded shell, and its frictional action with the lamp base is intensified by the reinforcing spring member **33***a*, which not only increases the contact pressure with the lamp base, but also causes a rubbing action to clean the lamp base surface over a wide area and improve the electrical contact. The brake shoe action is effective through a considerable portion of the lamp removal and preferably not merely for a few degrees of the back off rotation.

The embodiment illustrated in Figs. 7 to 12, inclusive, comprises an insulating base **38** which is very similar to the base **12** previously described, with the exception that the wiring passage through the base is constructed in a manner to normally direct the wires between the base and the shell contact and toward the binding screws. The base **38** is provided with a depending skirt portion which is preferably in the form of a segmental flange **39** and reduced in diameter as illustrated. The skirt provides an axial chamber **40** to receive a shell contact **41**.

The inner end of the shell contact **41** is spaced from the bottom of the chamber **40**, and the outer end of the shell is provided with a laterally extending flange **42** which is secured against the outer face of the skirt **39** by means of screws **43** and **43***a* extending through the base and skirt thereon, whereby the shell is rigidly supported. The shell flange **42** is somewhat larger in diameter than the skirt **39** so that the outer edge of the flange may provide the equivalent of a thread to receive an internally threaded cover **44**. The cover **44** is of insulating material and provided with an entrance opening **45** in axial alignment with the shell.

The shell contact is very similar to that previously described, except that it may be completely annular, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11, and the inner end of the threaded portion is cut away at **46** to provide clearance for the wires extending to the binding terminals. The shell contact may also be slotted at **47** to provide a lamp grip tongue **48**, and a ring-like reinforcing spring **49** may be mounted in the threads to retain the tongue in frictional relation with a lamp base.

The flange **42** is cut away on one side, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11, to correspond with the cut-out of the skirt **39**, so that the binding screws of the terminals on the base may easily be accessible with a screw driver from the face of the socket. The leading edge or corner **49** (Fig. 10) of the flange is clamped to the face of the skirt by means of a binding terminal **50**, into which the screw **43** is threaded. The opposite side of the flange is secured to the face of the skirt by means of screw **43***a* and a lock nut **43***b* having a depressed lug **43***c* for entering a complementary hole in the flange **42**.

A reinforcing element **51** is positioned between the terminal **50** and the flange to provide a rigid leading edge of the flange for entering the threads in the cover. The opposite or following edge of the flange is formed downwardly at **52** so that the edge of the flange forms the equivalent of a thread, and the main portion of the flange is sufficiently resilient to provide a frictional engagement in the threads, particularly when the cover is clamped against the shoulder of the base, so that the base is thereby releasably retained against displacement.

The skirt **39** is cut away on opposite sides, as illustrated at **53**, to provide shoulders for mounting screws **54** which extend through the base for securing the socket to the reflector coupling **4** (Fig. 1) in the same manner as previously described. The shell flange **42** is provided with openings **55**, so that the screws **54** are accessible therethrough from the face of the socket when the cover **44** is removed. The terminal **50** extends inwardly to the main portion of the base, as shown, and is provided with a binding screw **56** located outside the diameter of the shell contact.

A center contact **57** is secured to the base by means of a screw **58** threaded into a terminal plate **59**, which supports a binding screw **60**. The binding screws **56** and **60** are both positioned outside the diameter of the shell and are, therefore, accessible through the cut-away opening in the shell flange from the face of the socket. The base is provided with a wiring passage **61** therethrough which terminates in an opening **62** positioned between the binding screws **56** and **60** and partially within the diameter of the threaded shell. The terminal opening **62** is at one side of the shell chamber **40**, and the walls of the passage **61** are somewhat funnel-shaped; that is, they are angularly formed around the axis of the socket in a manner to normally direct conductor wires inserted therein from the axis of the socket toward the binding screws and between the shell contact and the base, substantially as shown by the dotted line in Fig. 9.

The base is provided with a shoulder **62***a* (Fig. 10) which co-operates with the skirt **39** for retaining the cover **44** in alignment when it is screwed onto the flange **42**. The threaded shell contact is preferably provided with an annular rib **63** to provide a rigid entrance opening to the threaded portion of the shell while permitting the main portion of the flange to be sufficiently flexible to frictionally retain the cover against displacement.

It is intended, of course, that the invention should not be limited to the specific embodiment or embodiments disclosed herein, since modifications may be made, and it is contemplated, therefore, by the appended claims to cover any such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A socket comprising an insulating base having an axial lamp-base chamber therein, a split ring contact supported on said base and constructed to retain a lamp inserted in said chamber, said base having a side opening to said chamber corresponding to the split side of said ring, a center contact in said chamber, and wiring terminals intermediate the ends of said base and accessible through said side opening, said base having a longitudinal passage to enable wires to extend therethrough and into said chamber and inside said ring, said split ring being positioned relative to the side opening of said base to enable said wires to be bent laterally therethrough and into said side opening, said side opening providing access to said terminals for securing the wires thereto.

2. A socket comprising an insulating base having an axial lamp-base chamber therein, a split ring contact supported on said base and constructed to retain a lamp inserted in said chamber, said base having a side opening to said chamber corresponding to the split side of said ring, a center contact in said chamber, wiring terminals intermediate the ends of said base and accessible through said side opening, said base having a longitudinal passage to enable wires to extend therethrough and into said chamber and inside said ring, said split ring being positioned relative to the side opening of said base to enable said wires to be bent laterally therethrough and into said side opening, said side opening providing access to said terminals for securing the wires thereto, and an insulating cover removably mounted on said base and having an opening to enable a lamp to be inserted in said split ring.

3. A socket comprising an insulating base having an axial lamp-base chamber therein, a split ring contact supported on said base and constructed to retain a lamp inserted in said chamber, said base having a side opening to said chamber corresponding to the split side of said ring, a center contact in said chamber, wiring terminals intermediate the ends of said base and accessible through said side opening, said base having a longitudinal passage to enable wires to extend therethrough and into said chamber, said split ring being positioned to enable said wires to be bent laterally therethrough and into said side opening and permitting access to said terminals for securing the wires thereto, and a removable cup-like insulating cover in threaded engagement with said ring and having an opening to enable a lamp to be inserted in said ring.

4. A socket comprising an insulating base having a longitudinal passage therethrough, a center contact and a shell contact supported thereon in longitudinally spaced relation, wiring terminals on said base and substantially outside the diameter of said shell, said shell contact being in the form of a split ring whereby conductors extending through said passage may be bent laterally through the split in said shell contact and secured to said terminals, and an insulating cover removably engaging said shell contact.

5. A socket comprising an insulating base having a lamp-base chamber open on one side to provide a terminal space outside said chamber and substantially flush with the bottom thereof, said base having a passage therethrough communicating with said chamber, wiring terminals in said space outside said chamber, a split shell contact in said chamber, said split shell being constructed and positioned to enable wires extending through said passage to be bent laterally through said shell to said terminals, said open side of said base providing access to said terminals for wiring.

6. A socket comprising an insulating base having a downwardly-extending segmental flange forming an axial lamp-receiving chamber and a peripheral shoulder, said base having a wire passage therethrough communicating with said chamber, a center contact and a shell contact in said chamber, wiring terminals on said base between the ends of said segmental flange, said shell contact having a side opening therethrough to enable conductors extending through said wire passage to be bent laterally to said terminals, an internally threaded cover, and resilient means on said base for threaded engagement with said cover to retain said cover in frictional engagement with said shoulder.

7. A socket comprising an insulating base having a downwardly-extending segmental flange forming an axial lamp-receiving chamber and a peripheral shoulder, said base having a wire passage therethrough communicating with said chamber, a center contact and a shell contact in said chamber, wiring terminals on said base between the ends of said segmental flange, said shell contact being of resilient sheet metal and having an outwardly extending flange secured against the face of said segmental flange, the periphery of said flange having helical cover-engaging portions, said shell and flange having a side opening to enable conductors from said wire passage to be bent laterally therethrough to said terminals and to enable wiring access to said terminals from the face of said socket, and an internally threaded insulating cover supported on said flange in resilient frictional engagement with said shoulder.

8. A socket comprising an insulating base having an axial lamp-receiving chamber, a center contact, and a threaded shell contact in said chamber, said shell contact having a longitudinal side wall opening therethrough, an integral tongue in the plane of the threads forming a spring cantilever gripping member extending circumferentially from its fixed end and having its free end radially movable and having a plurality of threads adjacent the inner end of said shell and terminating adjacent said side wall opening, and a resilient split ring embracing said shell contact and having one end engaging in an outer thread of said tongue and coextensive therewith to exert resilient pressure against a lamp base inserted therein.

9. A lamp socket comprising an insulating base having a lamp-receiving chamber and a longitudinal passage communicating therewith, one side wall of said chamber being cut away to provide a lateral surface for wiring terminals, a center contact, a threaded shell contact in said chamber and terminating remote from said surface, wiring terminals on said surface, said shell having a lateral flange overhanging the outer face of said base and secured thereto and having its periphery shaped for threaded engagement with a cover, said shell and flange being open on the side adjacent said terminals to provide access thereto and to enable wires from said passage to be bent laterally therethrough to said terminals, said shell being slotted adjacent the open side to provide a tongue conforming to part of the threads remote from the entrance end of said shell, a resilient split wire ring embracing said shell and having one end tending to force said tongue inwardly and the opposite end en-

gaging said base to prevent rotation, and an insulating cover in threaded engagement with said flange.

10. In a fixture of the character described, the combination with a cup-like socket housing, of a socket secured in said housing whereby substantially only the front of said socket is accessible, said socket comprising an insulating base, a split shell contact supported on said base, wiring terminals substantially outside the diameter of said shell contact, said base having a conductor passage therein within the diameter of said shell contact, said terminals being accessible through the open end of said housing whereby conductors extending through said socket may be bent laterally through the split in said contact and secured to said terminals.

11. A fixture comprising a housing, a socket substantially closely enclosed in said housing and having the lamp receiving end of said socket accessible, said socket comprising a terminal supporting base of insulating material secured to the inner wall of said housing, a center contact and a shell contact on the exposed face of said base, wiring terminals on said base substantially outside said shell contact, said housing having an opening therethrough for conductor wires, said base having a longitudinal passage therethrough communicating with said housing opening and with the face of said socket within the diameter of said shell contact, said shell contact being split on one side to enable the ends of said conductors extending through said socket to be bent laterally therethrough and secured to said terminals.

12. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having an arcuate portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact having an outwardly-extending flange at its outer end secured to and overlying said arcuate base portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and arcuate base portion, covering said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, the axis of both binding screws being outside the cylindrical surface containing the shell contact and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver.

13. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having an arcuate portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact having an outwardly-extending flange at its outer end secured to and overlying said arcuate base portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and arcuate base portion, covering said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, the axis of both binding screws being outside the cylindrical surface containing the shell contact and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver, a part of said shell contact adjacent the open side of the arcuate base portion being cut away to provide clearance for the wires in installing and wiring.

14. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having an arcuate portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact having an outwardly-extending flange at its outer end secured to and overlying said arcuate base portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and arcuate base portion, covering said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, the axis of both binding screws being outside the cylindrical surface containing the shell contact and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver, said cover member having a screw-threaded engagement with said flange.

15. An electrical receptacle comprising an insualting base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having an arcuate portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact having an outwardly-extending flange at its outer end secured to and overlying said arcuate base portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and arcuate base portion, covering said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, the axis of both binding screws being outside the cylindrical surface containing the shell contact and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver, a part of said shell contact adjacent the open side of the arcuate base portion being cut away to provide clearance for the wires in installing and wiring and to provide a yieldable circumferentially extending tongue for gripping engagement with a contact member inserted in the shell contact.

16. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts, and binding screws all mounted on said base, an axially aligned shell contact having a laterally-extending flange at its entrance end, shell supporting means between said flange and the main body of said base, means for securing said shell flange to laterally overhang the face of said shell supporting means, a cover threaded onto said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening of said shell, a portion of said flange being cut away to provide access to binding screws from the face of said socket and to provide an entrance for the threads of said cover, and means providing a rigid entering edge of said flange in said threads, a following edge portion being resilient and formed to frictionally engage in the threads to retain said cover.

17. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having a portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact having an out-

wardly-extending flange secured to said shell housing portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and said housing portion and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, both binding screws being outside the diameter of the shell contact and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver, said base having a passage therethrough terminating between said binding screws and at least partially within the diameter of said shell, the walls of said passage being disposed to direct wires from the axis of said base to the outside of said shell and toward said binding screws.

18. An electrical receptacle comprising an insulating base, shell and center contacts and binding screws electrically connected with said contacts all mounted on said insulating base, said base having an arcuate portion partially surrounding and housing said shell contact and having an open side to provide clearance for the location of said binding screws, said shell contact being completely annular and having an outwardly-extending flange secured to said arcuate base portion, and an attachable and detachable cup-like cover member surrounding said shell contact and arcuate base portion and threaded on said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening in said shell contact, the axis of both binding screws being outside the diameter of said shell and exposed by removal of the cover for operation by a screw driver, a part of the inner end of said shell contact adjacent the open side of the arcuate base portion being cut away to provide clearance for the wires in installing and wiring, said base having an opening therethrough for the wires leading to said binding screws, said opening being substantially funnel-shaped and having angular side walls arranged to direct wires from the center of said base and between the base and shell to said binding screws.

19. An electrical socket comprising an insulating body having a large-diameter base portion with a smaller-diameter depending skirt portion forming a housing for a shell contact, the walls of said skirt being of sufficient thickness to enable the passage of supporting screws therethrough and through said base portion to secure said socket to a support, supporting screws extending through said base with their heads within the contour of said skirt and below the face thereof, a shell contact having a laterally-extending flange at the entrance end of a diameter larger than the face of said skirt and secured thereon to support said shell contact in spaced relation to said base portion, said skirt and said flange being cut away to enable the mounting of binding screws on said base portion substantially in arcuate alignment with said skirt, said supporting screws and said binding screws being accessible from the front of said socket through the cutaway openings of said flange, a center contact and associated binding screw on said base portion, a shell terminal arranged to clamp a free end of said flange to the face of said skirt and terminating in a binding screw on said base portion, an insulating cover threaded onto said flange and having an entrance opening in registration with the entrance opening of said shell, said cover abutting said base portion, and a reinforcing plate clamped to said flange to form a rigid portion for starting engagement in the threads of said cover, the major portion of said flange being resilient and formed to provide a frictional engagement of said cover between said flange and the threads of said base portion to retain said cover against accidental displacement.

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