J. G. RAQUETTE.

ELECTRIC WALL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 25, 1912. RENEWED FEB. 27, 1914.

1,104,930.

Patented July 28, 1914.

Fig. 1.

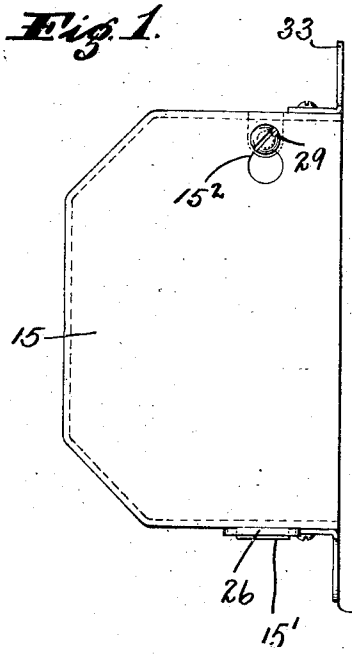


Fig. 2.

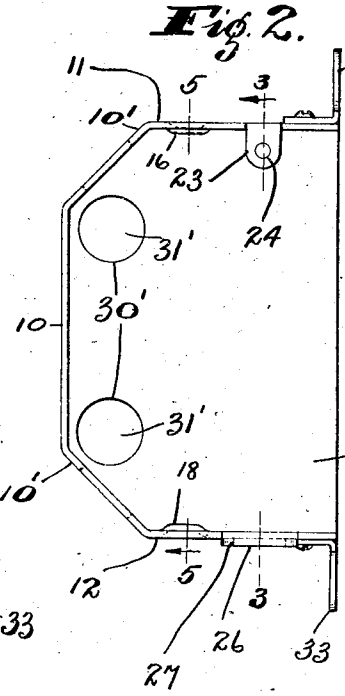


Fig. 3.

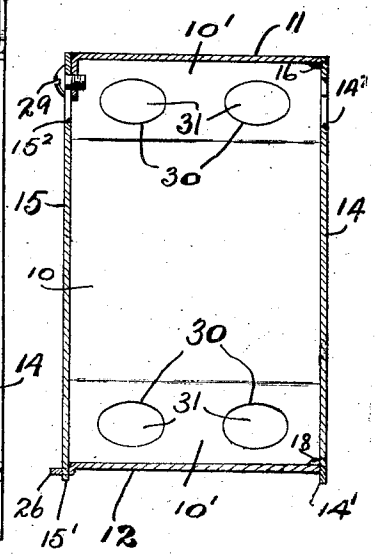


Fig. 4.

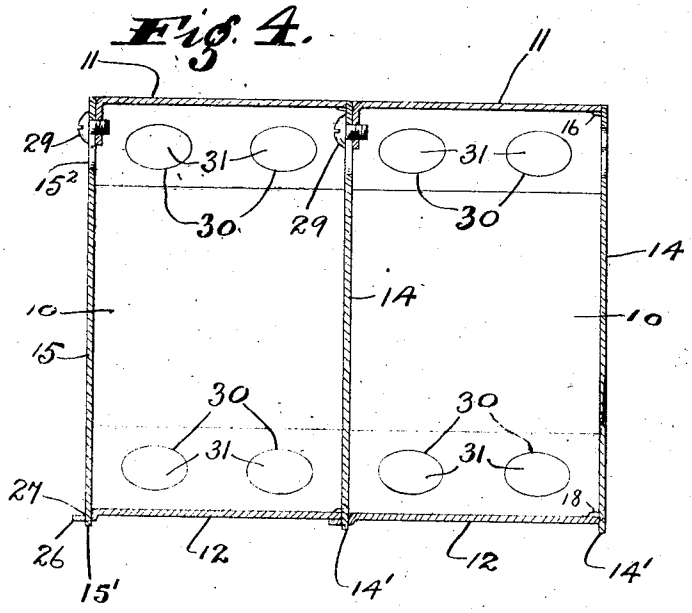
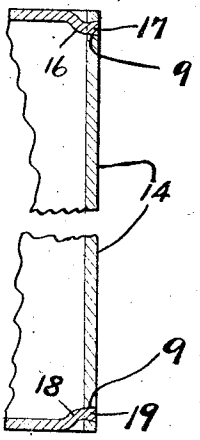


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH G. RAQUETTE, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE UNIVERSAL SWITCH BOX CO., A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

ELECTRIC WALL-BOX.

1,104,930. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 28, 1914.

Application filed May 25, 1912, Serial No. 699,624. Renewed February 27, 1914. Serial No. 821,573.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH G. RAQUETTE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric Wall-Boxes; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to electric wall boxes or outlet boxes which are used when wiring a building for an electric installation and are designed to receive switches, fuse blocks and the like.

The invention relates particularly to electric wall boxes having such a construction that a number thereof can be readily assembled in a gang when necessary.

One object of the invention is to provide a wall box of this description which can be cheaply manufactured and which when used alone will form a complete and substantial box, and which can be readily and rigidly secured to another box when it is desired to form a gang.

My invention, therefore, consists in certain new and improved features of construction and combination of parts, the preferred form of which is described in the specification, pointed out in the claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a side view of a wall box embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same with the detachable side removed. Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a similar view to Fig. 3 showing two wall boxes combined in a gang. Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5, Fig. 2, part being broken away.

In the accompanying drawings, and referring particularly to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 5, the back of the box is indicated by 10, the top of the box by 11 and the bottom of the box by 12. The back is preferably inclined forwardly at the top and bottom, as shown at 10′ and the top and bottom are formed integral with the back. The sides of the box, shown at 14 and 15, are similar in shape, and each is provided with a tongue which extends down from the bottom edge, the tongues being indicated by 14′ and 15′, respectively. Near the top edge of each side is formed a key-hole slot, shown at 14^2 and 15^2 respectively. The side 14 is permanently secured in position and the side 15 is detachably secured in position so that it may be readily removed when it is desired to form a gang of boxes. The method of securing the permanent side 14 in position is as follows: Near the top and bottom edges of said side are formed slots 9. At one edge of the top 11 the material thereof is forced in, as at 16, and is also extended to form a lug 17. Similarly at the corresponding edge of the bottom 12 the material is forced in as at 18, and is extended out to form a lug 19. It will therefore be seen that the said lugs 17 and 19 project from the edges of the top and bottom in planes below and above the respective inner faces of said top and bottom and are arranged to extend into the slot 9 in the said side 14, whereby a much firmer joint is secured than if the said lugs were dove-tailed in slots formed at the edges of said side portions. After the said lugs 17 and 19 have been inserted in the said slots 9, the lugs are upset to prevent their withdrawal. The method of securing the detachable side 15 in position is as follows: At the edge of the top 11 is formed a vertically depending ear 23 having a screw-hole 24, and at the corresponding side of the bottom is formed a horizontally arranged lip 26 having a slot 27. The removable side 15 is secured in position by inserting the tongue 15′ into the slot 27 in the lip 26 and a screw 29 is passed through the key-hole slot 15^2 into the screw-hole 24 in the ear 23. In the back 10 are formed a series of openings 30 to permit the entrance of the conductors into the box and similar openings 30′ are formed in the permanent side 14 to permit wires from one box to be carried to the other box when the boxes are arranged in gangs. These openings are temporarily closed by means of plugs 31 and 31′ respectively which can be readily displaced when the box is being set and after the location of the wires has been determined. At the top and bottom of the box are secured detachable and adjustable bracket members 33 by means of which the box can be secured in position in the opening in the wall.

When it is desired to use one or more boxes in a gang, two boxes for instance, as shown in Fig. 4, the removable side 15 is detached from one of the boxes and the per-

manent side of the other box is placed against the open side of the box from which the removable side has been detached and the downwardly extending tongue 14′ on the permanently secured side is slipped into the slot 27 in the lip 26 on the bottom of the box from which the side was removed and a screw 29 is then passed through the key-hole slot 15² into the screw hole 24 in the ear 23 depending from the top of the box from which the side was removed, thereby rigidly securing the two boxes together.

By providing boxes with one removable side it is only necessary when forming a gang to have one complete box, that is one box with two sides, the remaining boxes need only have one side, that is the permanent side. In this way there is a saving of one side in all boxes added to the first box. Also there is an economy in space as each box is separated from the one next by a spacer forming side which of course has only the thickness of a single side and not a double thickness as when two complete boxes are placed together.

What I claim is,—

1. An outlet box comprising a rear wall, a top wall formed integral therewith and provided at one side with a projecting lug which extends outwardly in a plane below the lower surface of said top wall and at its opposite side with a depending ear provided with a screw-hole opening, a bottom wall formed integral with said rear wall and provided at one side with a lug which extends outwardly in a plane above the upper surface of said bottom wall and at its opposite side with a horizontally arranged slotted lip, a side wall provided at its upper end with a slot arranged to register with the lug on the top wall and at its bottom with a slot arranged to register with the lug on the bottom wall and a side wall provided with a key-hole slot arranged to register with the screw-hole in the ear on the top member and at its lower end with a tongue arranged to extend into the slot in the lip on the bottom wall and a screw adapted to pass through the key-hole slot in the last-mentioned side and into the key-hole in the ear depending from the top wall.

2. In a gang construction for outlet boxes, the combination with a complete box having one side thereof provided near its upper end with a key-hole slot and at its lower end with a depending tongue, of a box consisting of a rear wall, top and bottom walls and a permanently secured side wall, said top wall at the open side being provided with a downwardly depending ear having a screw-hole arranged to register with the key-hole slot in the side of the complete box and said bottom wall at the open side having a horizontally extending lip provided with a slot arranged to receive the downwardly extending tongue on the side of the complete box and a screw passing through the key-hole slot in the side of the complete box and into the screw-hole in the depending ear on the top of the open sided box.

3. In a gang construction for outlet boxes, the combination of a complete box having a permanently secured side and a removably secured side, the said permanently secured side being provided near its upper end with an opening for the passage of a screw and along its bottom edge with a downwardly extending tongue and an open sided box, the top wall of which at the open side being provided with a downwardly extending ear provided with an opening for a screw and the bottom wall of said box at the open side thereof being provided with a horizontally extending lip having a slot adapted to receive the vertically depending tongue on the permanently secured side of the complete box and a screw extending through the permanent wall of the complete box into the ear depending from the top wall of the open sided box.

In testimony whereof, I sign the foregoing specification, in the presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH G. RAQUETTE.

Witnesses:

VICTOR C. LYNCH,

N. L. MCDONNELL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."