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July 18, 1961 J. F. NELSON ET AL 2,992,438

MULTI-STATION SURFACE MOUNTED PLUMBING FIXTURE

Filed Nov. 28, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

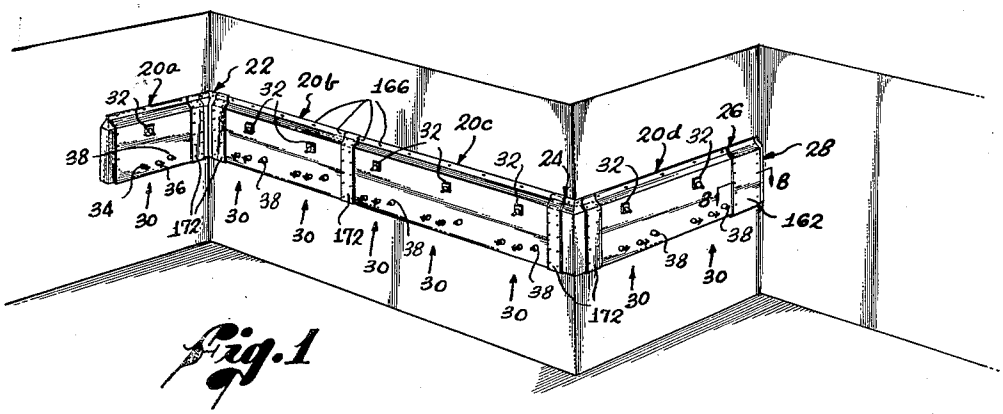

Fig. 1

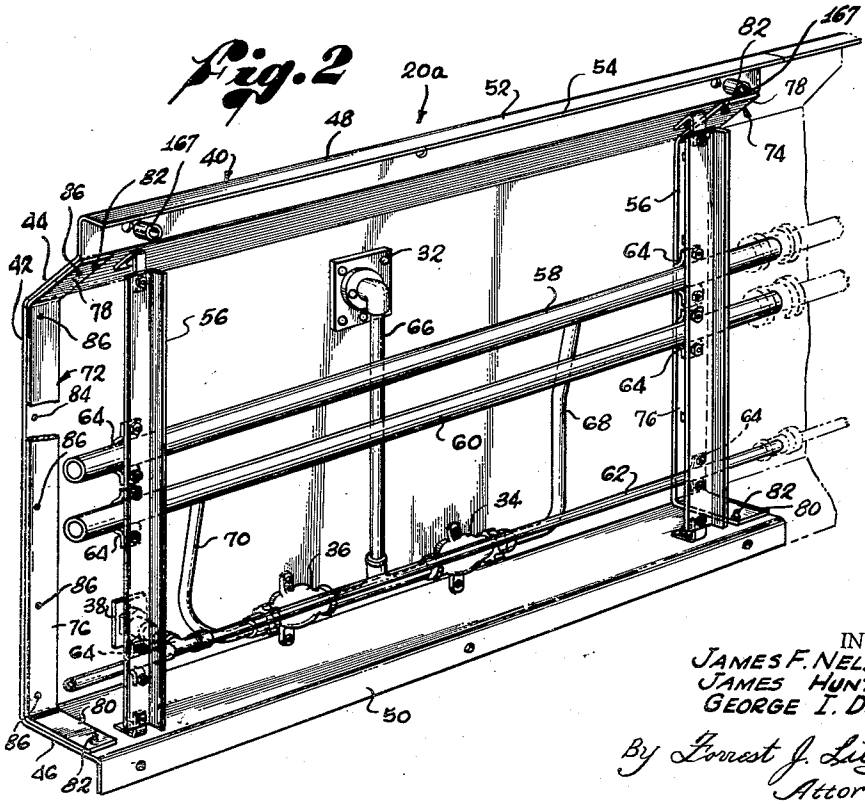

Fig. 2

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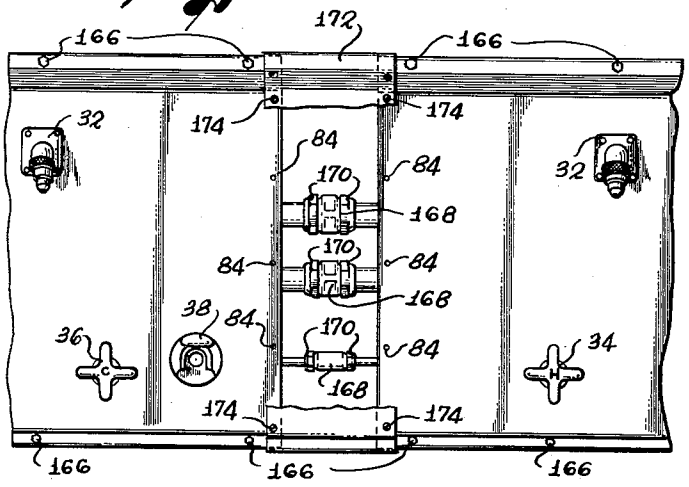
Filed Nov. 28, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4



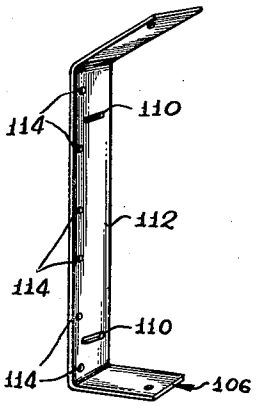


Fig. 3

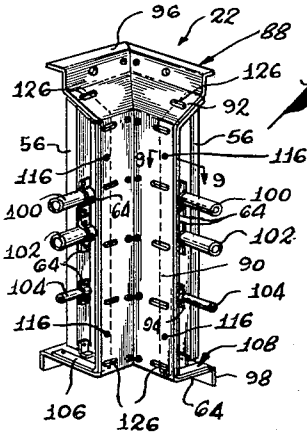


Fig. 5

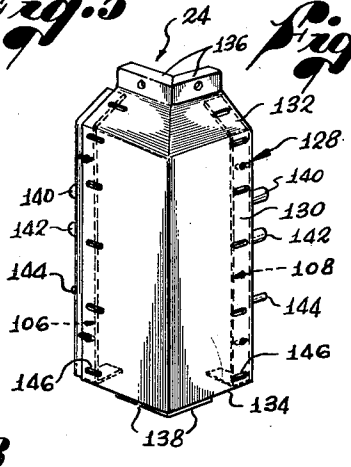


Fig. 6

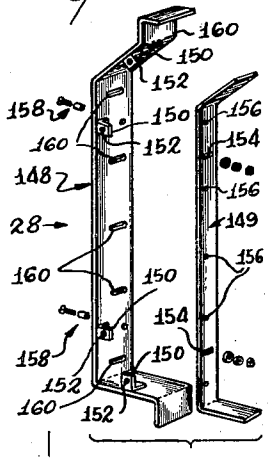


Fig. 7

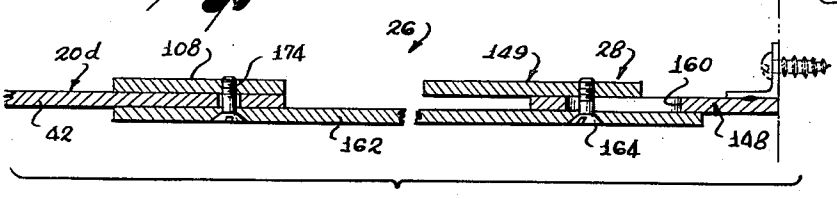


Fig. 8

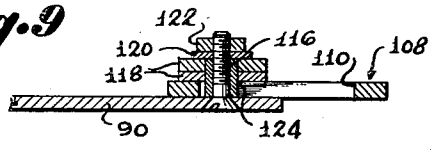


Fig. 9

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MULTI-STATION SURFACE MOUNTED PLUMBING FIXTURE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 4—192)

This invention deals generally with plumbing fixtures, and more particularly with a multi-station, surface mounted plumbing fixture.

In the past, the several stations of a multi-station plumbing installation, such as the multi-station shower installations required in schools and certain other large establishments, were generally supplied with hot and cold water, and in some cases with liquid soap, through a system of piping which was installed prior to completion of the building walls. This piping consisted of main supply headers located between the walls and branch pipes which lead from the headers, through the building walls, to each station.

These branch pipes were installed prior to plastering and finishing of the walls. The several fittings of each station, such as a shower head, valves and a soap dispensing head, were individually connected to the branch lines and mounted on the building walls at some stage in the completion of the latter.

This type of plumbing installation, while suitable for homes and other small establishments, is not satisfactory for large, multi-station installations since it delays finishing of the building walls, and is excessively costly and time consuming.

A broad object of the present invention is to provide a multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described which may be mounted on the walls of a building after the walls are completely finished.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described which may be readily prefabricated.

Another object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described consisting of a plurality of standard, prefabricated units designed to be mounted in end-to-end fashion in such a way as to accommodate installation of the fixture in rooms of various sizes and shapes.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described which embodies both inside and outside corner units to permit mounting of the fixture on right angle walls of a building.

A further object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described embodying units which are extensible to adjust the overall length of the fixture or a portion thereof to permit mounting of the fixture on walls having different horizontal dimensions.

Yet a further object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described made up of prefabricated units equipped with liquid supply pipes extending between the ends of the respective units, opposite ends of which pipes are open and exposed at the ends of each unit to permit mounting of several of the units in end-to-end fashion on a building wall with the exposed ends of the supply pipes on adjacent units coupled whereby the several units may be supplied with liquid soap and water through common supply lines connecting to one of the units.

An object of the invention closely related to the foregoing object is to provide a plumbing fixture of the character described in which certain of the prefabricated units

are equipped with one or more groups of fittings, such as shower heads, valves and liquid soap dispensers, each making up a station of the fixture.

A still further object of the invention is to provide various types of prefabricated fixture units for a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture of the character described and prefabricated fixture units therefor which are relatively simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, pleasing in appearance, and otherwise ideally suited to their intended purposes.

Other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become readily apparent as the description proceeds.

Briefly stated, the plumbing fixture of the invention consists of a series of prefabricated, standard units of various shapes and sizes which are designed for mounting in end-to-end fashion on the finished walls of the building. Certain of these units have a flat, panel-like construction and mount one or more groups of plumbing fittings, such as shower heads, valves and liquid soap dispensers, each of which groups forms a station of the finished, multi-station plumbing fixture. These panel units are prefabricated in different standard lengths and may have one, two, three, four or more stations, depending on the length of the panel. Each such panel unit is designed to be mounted flush against a flat portion of a building wall.

Other units of the present plumbing fixture have a generally right angular configuration in horizontal section and form either inside or outside corner units. These corner units are designed to be mounted in the corners of a room in such a way as to interconnect a pair of panel units which are mounted on right angular walls of a building.

Each of these corner units embodies extensible connections or joints for attachment to the adjacent panel units so as to permit limited longitudinal adjustment of the panel units with respect to the corner units. This adjustment permits the overall length of each section of the present plumbing fixture extending between adjacent corners of a room to be varied to match the length of the wall between such adjacent corners.

In some installations of the present plumbing fixture, it is desirable or necessary that one end of the fixture dead end flush against a building wall extending at right angles to the wall on which the adjacent portion of the fixture is mounted. For this situation, the invention provides right and left hand extension panel units which are designed to be mounted between the end of a main panel unit and the right angular building wall. The adjustment afforded by these extension units permits compensation to be made for variations in the spacing between the end of the main panel unit and the right angular building wall so as to enable the fixture to dead end flush against the latter wall, as mentioned.

Each of the prefabricated units mounts liquid supply piping such as hot and cold water supply pipes and liquid soap supply pipes, behind the front panel of the unit. These pipes, which extend between opposite ends of the respective units, have their opposite ends open and exposed at the ends of the units to permit coupling of the pipes on one unit to the pipes on an adjacent unit. The shower heads, soap dispensers or other fittings on the main panel units are connected to the appropriate pipes on the respective units.

The present surface mounted, multi-station plumbing fixture may be provided with any desired number of stations and may be adapted to installation in rooms of various sizes and shapes by proper selection and arrangement of the various prefabricated units of the invention.

The plumbing fixture of the invention is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, easy to install, and very pleasing in appearance.

The invention will be disclosed with reference to a shower fixture in which each station of the fixture comprises a shower head, valves for regulating flow of hot and cold water to the shower head, and a liquid soap dispenser. It will become clear as the description proceeds, however, that each station may comprise, for example, only a shower head or a faucet in lieu of a shower head. Also, the several stations of the fixture may be supplied with temperate water at the proper temperature, in which case each unit will have only a single water supply pipe and a single valve for regulating flow of water from this pipe to the outlet fitting of each station.

A better understanding of the invention may be had from the following detailed description thereof, taken in connection with annexed drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective, of the various prefabricated units of the invention mounted on the walls of a building so as to form a surface mounted, multi-station shower fixture according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged rear view in perspective of one of the main panel units of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a detail in perspective of an anchor strip embodied in certain of the units of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a partial view in front elevation of a pair of main panel units and illustrating the manner of coupling the supply pipes of the units;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of an inside corner unit embodied in the shower fixture of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of an outside corner unit embodied in the shower fixture of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is an exploded view in perspective of an extension joint embodied in the shower fixture of FIG. 1;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged section taken along line 8—8 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 9 is an enlarged section taken along line 9—9 of FIG. 5.

As preliminarily mentioned, the present invention provides a series of prefabricated, standard units which are designed to be mounted on the surface of a finished wall in end-to-end fashion in such a way as to provide a multi-station plumbing or shower fixture, such as illustrated in FIG. 1 These prefabricated units of the invention comprise main panel units **20***a*, **20***b*, **20***c* and **20***d*, an inside corner unit **22**, an outside corner unit **24**, an extension panel unit **26**, and an extension joint **28**. Each shower station **30** of the shower fixture includes a shower head **32**, hot and cold water taps **34** and **36**, and a liquid soap dispensing head **38**.

The several main panel units **20***a*, **20***b*, **20***c* and **20***d* are identical except for their different lengths and their different number of shower stations. Thus, panel unit **20***a* is relatively short and has a single shower station **30**. Panel unit **20***b* is of medium length and has two shower stations. Panel unit **20***c* is relatively long and has three shower stations. Obviously, main panel units longer than panel unit **20***c* having more than three shower stations may be made.

Because of this similarity of the main panel units, only one unit, namely, panel unit **20***a*, illustrated in FIG. 2, will be described. In view of what has just been said, it will be apparent that the following description of the main panel unit **20***a* will apply equally well to the remainder of the main panel units, except as to the number of shower stations on the unit.

Panel unit **20***a* comprises a hollow housing **40**, the rear or wall side of which is open, as shown in FIG. 2. Housing **40** has a front, sheet metal panel **42** and open, normally vertical ends. The front panel **42** of the housing may be made, for example, from a sheet of stainless steel.

The metal sheet comprising the front panel **42** is rearwardly folded along the normally upper and lower longitudinal edges of the front panel to form an upper inclined panel portion **44** and a lower, normally horizontal panel portion **46** which extends perpendicular to the front panel **42**. These panel portions are flanged along rear edges to provide an upper, generally L-shaped flange **48**, and a lower flange **50**.

One leg **52** of the upper flange **48** is disposed in a normally horizontal plane perpendicular to the front panel **42**. The lower flange **50** is disposed in a normally vertical plane parallel to the front panel **42** and is approximately coplanar with the rear edge **54** of the upper flange **48**. When the panel unit **20***a* is mounted on a wall, edge **54** of the upper flange **48** and flange **50** flatly engage the wall surface.

Located within the housing **40**, adjacent opposite ends of the latter, are a pair of vertical angles or pipe supports **56**. The upper and lower ends of these pipe supports are attached to the panel portions **44** and **46** of the housing in the manner illustrated. The pipe supports are spaced rearwardly from front panel **42**, as shown.

Extending lengthwise of the housing **40**, within the latter, and behind the front panel **42**, are a hot water supply pipe **58**, a cold water supply pipe **60** and a liquid soap supply pipe **62**. These pipes are rigidly mounted on the forward sides of the pipe supports **56** by means of U-shaped brackets **64** bolted to the supports.

Supply pipes **58**, **60** and **62** have approximately the same legnth which is slightly greater than the length of the housing **40**. The pipes are longitudinally centered with respect to the housing so that opposite ends of the pipes extend a distance beyond the ends of the housing as may be most readily observed in FIG. 4. The ends of the pipes are thus exposed at the ends of the housing and, prior to attachment of the unit to other units, are open, as shown in FIG. 2.

Shower head **32** is connected to the hot and cold water pipes **58** and **60** through a riser **66** and a pair of hot and cold water branch pipes **68** and **70**. The hot and cold taps **34** and **36** are connected in the usual way in the branch pipes **68** and **70**. The soap dispensing head **38** is connected directly to the soap supply line **62**, as shown in FIG. 2.

Located within opposite ends of the housing **40** are a pair of anchor strips **72** and **74**. These anchor strips are preferably constructed of relatively heavy gauge steel.

The anchor strips, which are bent to conform to the configuration of the front panel **42** and panel portions **44** and **46**, have a central portion **76** which is flatly engageable with the rear surface of the front panel **42**. Opposite ends **78** and **80** of the anchor strips are bent into parallelism with and are flatly engageable with the inner surfaces of the panel portions **44** and **46**.

The anchor strips **72** and **74** are secured to the housing **40** by screws **82** which pass through panel portions **44** and **46** and the bent ends **78** and **80** of the anchor strips. The sheet metal panel of the housing **40** and the anchor strips have aligned holes **84** and **86** to receive attaching screws for connecting adjacent units. The holes **86** in the anchor strips are threaded.

The holes in the sheet metal panel of the housing **40** through which the anchor strip attaching bolts **82** pass, as well as the panel holes **84** for receiving other attaching screws are slightly enlarged to permit limited adjustment of the anchor strips with respect to the housing. This floating action of the anchor strips facilitates lining up attaching screw holes on adjacent units with holes in certain overlay panels, to be described, when the units are mounted on a wall.

As mentioned earlier, the other main panel units **20***b*, **20***c* and **20***d* are identical to panel unit **20***a*, just described, except for their longer length and increased number of shower stations **30**. Also, the longer panel units have additional pipe supports **56**.

Referring now to FIG. 5, the inside corner unit **22** will be seen to comprise a hollow housing **88** which is open,

at its rear or wall side and has a configuration, in vertical section, substantially identical to that of the housing **40** of the main panel units. Thus, the housing **88** has a front panel **90**, an upper inclined panel portion **92**, a lower, normally horizontal panel portion **94**, and upper and lower, rearwardly offset flanges **96**, **98** for engaging a wall surface.

The corner unit **22**, in horizontal section, has a generally right angular configuration, as shown, so as to be capable of fitting the inside corner of a room, in the manner illustrated in FIG. 1. The front panel, panel portions and flanges of the corner unit **22** accordingly comprise right angularly extending sections.

Mounted within the housing **88**, behind the front panel **90**, are hot and cold water supply pipes **100** and **102**, respectively, and a liquid soap supply pipe **104**. These pipes are mounted on pipe supports **56** in the same manner as the supply pipes in the main panel unit **20***a*. As shown in FIG. 5, the supply pipes in the corner unit have a right angle bend so as to conform to the right angular configuration of the corner unit. The ends of these supply pipes are open and exposed at the normally vertical, right angularly disposed ends of the housing to permit coupling of the pipes to the pipes of the main panel units.

As preliminarily mentioned, the corner units, including the inside corner unit of FIG. 5, have extensible connections or joints to permit limited adjustment of the main panel units with respect to a corner unit to which they are attached. These extension joints comprise a pair of floating anchor strips **106** and **108** which are similar in shape to the anchor strips on the main panel units and are positioned behind the front panel **90** and upper and lower panel portions **92** and **94** of the corner units in the manner illustrated in FIG. 5. Referring now to FIG. 3, anchor strip **106** will be seen to comprise a pair of laterally extending slots **110** located adjacent the opposite ends of the normally vertical, intermediate portion **112** of the strip. Also extending through the portion **112** of the anchor strip, adjacent the left-hand edge of the latter as it is viewed in FIG. 3, are a series of threaded holes **114**. Anchor strip **108** is identical to anchor strip **106**, just described, except for the fact that the holes **114** in the anchor strip **108** are along the right edge of the strips, as viewed in FIG. 3.

Each of the anchor strips **106** and **108** is attached to the front panel **90** of the corner unit by a pair of bolts **116** which pass through countersunk holes in the front panel **90** and the slots **110** in the anchor strips, as may be best observed in FIG. 9. Each of the bolts **116** carries a pair of washers **118** of a size to engage the respective anchor strip at opposite sides of the adjacent slot **110**, a lock washer **120**, and a nut **122**. A spacer bushing **124** mounted on each bolt **116** abuts, at opposite ends, the front panel **90** and lock washer **120**. The diameter of the bushings **124** are such that each bushing has a sliding fit in its respective anchor strip slot **110**. The length of the spacer bushings **124** is such that when the lock washers **120** are firmly clamped against the rear ends of the bushings by the nuts **122**, sufficient clearance exists between the front panel **90**, washers **118** and the anchor strips to enable slidable lateral adjustment of the latter.

Formed in the front panel **90** of the corner unit, adjacent the opposite ends of the latter, are vertical rows of slots **126** which parallel the direction of lateral adjustment of the anchor strips. Each of these slots is aligned with one of the threaded holes **114** in the adjacent anchor strip. As will presently be seen, overlay panels, which bridge adjacent units of the present fixture, and attached to the corner panel unit, just described, by passing attaching screws through holes along one edge of the overlay panel and threading such screws into the threaded holes **114** in the anchor strips of a corner unit. The adjustability of the anchor strips on the corner unit permit limited endwise adjustment of main panel units with respect to the corner unit.

The outside corner unit **24**, illustrated in detail in FIG. 6, is generally similar to the inside corner unit just described, except of course that the corner unit of FIG. 6 conforms to an outside rather than an inside corner. Thus, the outside corner unit **24** comprises a housing **128** identical in configuration, in vertical section, to the housing **88** of the inside corner unit. The outside corner unit housing has a front panel **130**, upper inclined and lower normally horizontal panel portions **132** and **134**, respectively, and rearwardly offset upper and lower wall engaging flanges **136** and **138**, respectively.

The hot and cold water pipes **140** and **142** and the soap supply pipe **144**, which are mounted in the housing **128** behind the front panel **130**, in the same manner as the supply pipes of the main panel unit of FIG. 2 and the inside corner unit of FIG. 5, have right angle bends in conformance with the right angular configuration of the outside corner unit in horizontal section. Opposite ends of the supply pipes **140**, **142** and **144** are open and exposed at the opposite, normally vertical and right angularly related ends of the housing **128**.

Mounted within opposite ends of the housing, behind the front panel **130**, are a pair of the aforedescribed floating anchor strips **106** and **108**. These anchor strips are attached to the outside corner unit in the same manner as described with reference to the inside corner unit of FIG. 5. The front panel of the outside corner unit is also provided, at opposite ends of the unit, with vertical rows of slots **146** which are aligned with the threaded holes **114** in the anchor strips.

The extension joint **28** of FIG. 1 is illustrated in exploded fashion in FIG. 7. This joint comprises a main, relatively stationary housing or anchor strip **148** and a floating anchor strip **149**. Stationary anchor strip **148** has a configuration in vertical section identical to that of the main panel units.

Rigidly attached to the inner, or rear side of the stationary anchor strip **148** along one edge of the latter, are a series of right angle mounting brackets **150**. One leg of these brackets extend normal to the plane of the anchor strip and have their outer faces located approximately in the plane of the adjacent edge of the strip. These mounting brackets have holes **152**.

As will be presently more fully described, the extension joint **26** is used in those instances where one or both ends of the present surface mounted fixture is to dead end at a right angle wall in the manner illustrated in FIG. 1. The stationary anchor strip is attached to the right angle wall by mounting bolts by passing through the holes **152** in the mounting brackets **150** of the strip.

The floating anchor strip **149** of the extension joint **126** is identical to the floating anchor strip **106** previously described. This floating anchor strip **149** (FIG. 7) has, in the same fashion as the anchor strip **106**, a pair of lateral slots **154** and a series of threaded holes **156**. Floating anchor strip **149** is attached to the stationary anchor strip **148** by a pair of fastening means, generally indicated at **158**, which are identical to the fastening means employed for attaching the anchor strips **106** and **108** to the front panels of their respective corner units. These fastening means **158** pass through the slots **154** in the floating anchor strip **149** so as to render the latter capable of limited lateral adjustment on the stationary anchor strip **148**.

The stationary anchor strip is formed with a series of lateral slots **160** aligned with the threaded openings **156** in the floating anchor strip.

The extension joint **26** is made in both a right hand and left hand version. The left hand version of the extension joint is a mirror image of the right hand extension joint illustrated in FIG. 7. Such a right hand extension joint is not embodied in the fixture of FIG. 1.

The extension panel unit **26** comprises the extension

joint just described and is completed by a narrow overlay panel **162** (FIGS. 1 and 8). This overlay panel is similar in configuration in vertical section to the panel of the main panel units and proportioned to fit over the end of a main panel unit in the manner illustrated in FIG. 1. One edge of this overlay panel is attached to the floating anchor strip **149** of the extension joint by attaching screws **164** which pass through the slots **160** in the stationary anchor strip of the joint and are threaded into the floating anchor strip **149** of the joint in the manner illustrated most clearly in FIG. 8. The other, normally vertical edge of the overlay panel is formed with a series of holes to receive attaching screws for attaching the overlay panel to a main panel unit, in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 8.

To make a completed, multi-station shower fixture, such as illustrated in FIG. 1, a plurality of the prefabricated units just described are mounted in end-to-end fashion on the surface of finished building walls by means of mounting screws **166** which pass through the upper and lower, rearwardly offset flanges on the units, as shown in FIG. 1. Suitable wall engaging spacers **167** (FIG. 2) are provided at the rear of the panel flanges at each location of a mounting screw.

When mounting the units, the latter are arranged so that adjacent ends of adjacent units are spaced in the manner illustrated in FIG. 4 to permit joining of the supply pipes on the adjacent units. It will be observed in FIG. 4 that the supply pipes on the several units are so vertically located on the latter as to be longitudinally aligned when the units are mounted in end-to-end fashion. The couplings **168** may comprise any suitable type of coupling, such as a slip joint coupling member, which is secured to the respective pipes by tightening clamp nuts **170** at opposite ends of the coupling, or a soldered union, for example.

The gaps between the adjacent units are then covered by means of overlay panels **172**. These overlay panels are shaped and proportioned to fit over the outside of the prefabricated units, as shown. The overlay panels between adjacent main panel units are secured to the latter by attaching screws **174** which pass through a series of holes along the vertical edges of the overlay panel and the holes **84** in the ends of the main panel units and are threaded in the holes **86** of the anchor strips **72** and **74** of the main panel units. In the case of a main panel unit and a corner unit **22** or **24**, the attaching screws for the overlay panel pass through the slots **126** or **146** in the corner unit and are threaded into the floating anchor strip **106** or **108** of the corner unit. The overlay panel **162** of the extension unit **26** is attached to the end of a main panel unit, in the manner illustrated in FIG. 8, by attaching screws **174** which pass through the overlay panel and are threaded in the anchor strip of the main panel unit. Stationary anchor strip **148** of the extension panel unit is bolted to a right angular wall in the manner previously described. The coupled supply pipes in the fixture will, of course, be connected at some point along the fixture, to hot and cold water and soap supply pipes (not shown) of the building, and will be suitably capped at their ends.

It will be apparent from the preceding description that by proper selection and placement of the various prefabricated units of the invention, a finished, multi-station shower fixture may be made to conform to a room of substantially any shape and size. As mentioned, the several adjustments afforded by the extension panel units **26** and the adjustable connections embodied in the corner units **22** and **24** permit limited adjustment of the lengths of the various sections of the fixture to accommodate the sections to walls of various dimensions as well as dead ending of one or both ends of the fixture against right angular walls. The anchor strips uniquely serve a dual function of reinforcing the sheet metal housings of the panel units as well as a means to join adjacent units.

It will be clear, therefore, that there has been described and illustrated a surface mounted, multi-station shower fixture and prefabricated units therefor which are fully capable of attaining the several objects and advantages preliminarily set forth.

While preferred embodiments of the invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, numerous modifications in design and arrangement of parts and instrumentalities of the invention are possible within the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. An expansion unit for a prefabricated surface mounted plumbing fixture of the character described, comprising a narrow relatively stationary anchor strip having a front side and rearwardly offset flanges at opposite ends for seating against a building wall, means to attach the strip to the building, a floating anchor strip behind and parallel to the stationary strip, means loosely securing the floating strip to the stationary strip for limited lateral adjustment of the floating strip on the stationary strip, said floating strip having a series of screw holes spaced therealong, and said stationary strip having a slot aligned with each screw hole and extending parallel to the direction of adjustment of the floating strip on the stationary strip.

2. A prefabricated unit for a surface mounted plumbing fixture of the character described, comprising a sheet metal housing having normally vertical open ends and a front panel, upper and lower edge portions of which are bent rearwardly to form rearwardly extending top and bottom panels of the housing, the rear edge portions of said top and bottom panels being bent outwardly to form rearwardly offset flanges for seating against the wall of a building, there being holes in said flanges to receive bolts for mounting the housing to said wall, at least one liquid supply pipe permanently mounted in said housing behind said front panel and extending between said ends of the housing, opposite ends of said pipe being open, a pair of relatively heavy reinforcing anchor strips behind said front panel at and parallel to the ends of the housing, each anchor strip having a central portion seating against the inner surface of the front panel and rearwardly bent ends which seat against the inner surfaces of said top and bottom panels, respectively, to reinforce the housing, means securing said anchor strips to the housing, and said front panel and anchor strips having aligned screw holes to receive attaching screws for connecting the unit to other units.

3. A prefabricated unit for a surface mounted plumbing fixture of the character described, comprising a sheet metal housing having open, normally vertical ends and including a front panel, upper and lower edge portions of which are bent rearwardly to form rearwardly extending top and bottom panels of the housing, and rear edge portions of said top and bottom panels being bent outwardly to form rearwardly offset flanges for seating against the wall of a building, there being holes in said flanges to receive bolts for mounting the housing to said wall, at least one liquid supply pipe permanently mounted in said housing behind said front panel and extending between said ends of the housing, opposite ends of said pipe being open, a pair of relatively heavy reinforcing anchor strips behind said front panel at and parallel to the end of the housing, each anchor strip having a central portion seating against the inner surface of the front panel and rearwardly bent ends which seat against the inner surfaces of said top and bottom panels, respectively, to reinforce the housing, means connecting said anchor strips to said front panel for limited lateral adjustment of the strips lengthwise of the housing, said anchor strips having longitudinally spaced screw holes to receive attaching screws for connection of the unit to other units, and said front panel having slots aligned with said anchor strip holes and extending lengthwise of the housing.

4. An expansion unit for a prefabricated surface

mounted plumbing fixture of the character described, comprising a housing having normally vertical open ends, and a front panel, upper and lower edge portions of which are bent rearwardly to form rearwardly extending top and bottom panels of the housing, rear edge portions of said top and bottom panels being bent outwardly to form rearwardly offset flanges for seating against the surface of a wall, means to attach said housing to the wall, a floating anchor strip behind and parallel to the ends of the housing, means securing said strip to the housing for limited lateral adjustment of the strip endwise of the housing, said strip having a series of screw holes spaced therealong, and said housing having a slot aligned with each screw hole and extending in the endwise direction of the housing.

5. An expansion unit for a prefabricated surface mounted plumbing fixture of the character described, comprising a housing having open, normally vertical ends and a front panel, upper and lower edge portions of which are bent rearwardly to form rearwardly extending top and bottom panels of the housing, rear edge portions of said top and bottom panels being bent outwardly to form rearwardly offset flanges for seating against the surface of a wall, means to attach said housing to the wall, a floating anchor strip behind and parallel to the ends of the housing, means including aligned slots and screw holes in said housing and strip and screws extending through the slots and holes for loosely securing the strip to the housing for limited lateral adjustment of the strip endwise of the housing, said strip having additional screw holes spaced therealong, and said housing having an additional slot aligned with each additional screw hole and extending in the endwise direction of the housing.

6. An expansion unit for a prefabricated surface mounted plumbing fixture of the character described,

comprising a housing having open, normally vertical ends and a front panel, upper and lower edge portions of which are bent rearwardly to form rearwardly extending top and bottom panels of the housing, rear edge portions of said top and bottom panels being bent outwardly to form rearwardly offset flanges for seating against the surface of a wall, means to attach said housing to the wall, a floating anchor strip behind and parallel to said ends of the housing, means loosely securing said strip to the housing for limited lateral adjustment of the strip endwise of the housing, said strip having a series of screw holes spaced therealong, and said housing having a slot aligned with each screw hole and extending in the endwise direction of the housing, a cover panel having a shape similar to and an edge portion overlying said housing, said edge portion of the cover panel having screw holes aligned with the screw holes in the floating anchor strip, and attaching screws passing through the aligned screw holes and slots for securing said cover panel to the floating anchor strip.

7. The subject matter of claim 6 wherein said holes in the cover panel are spaced from the adjacent edge of the cover panel a distance at least as great as the length of the slots in said housing, whereby said slots are covered by the cover panel in every position of adjustment of the cover panel and floating anchor strip relative to said housing.

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