June 15, 1943. G. O. ADKINS 2,321,640

OUTLET BOX COVER AND FIXTURE SUPPORT

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Fig. 1.

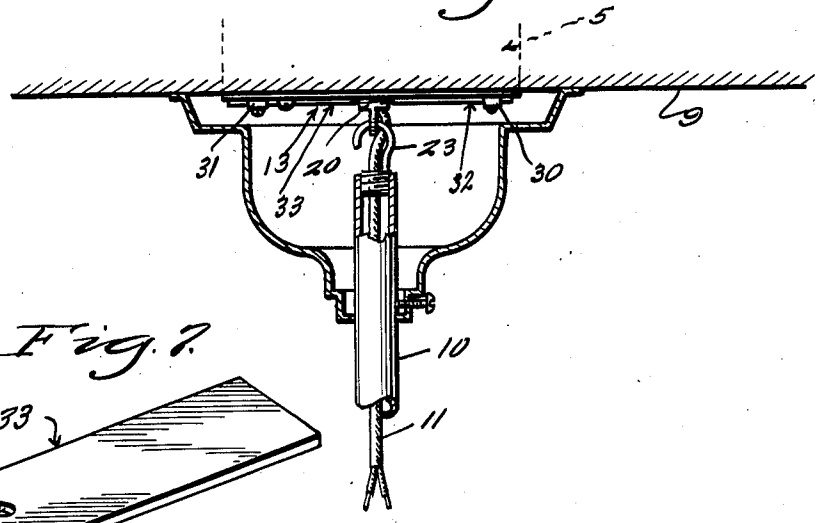


Fig. 2.

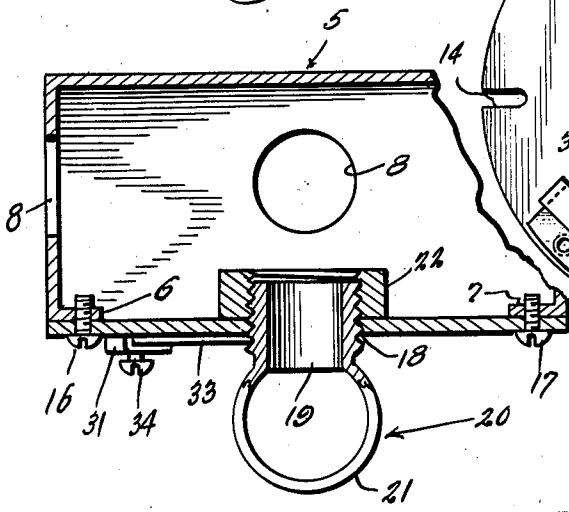
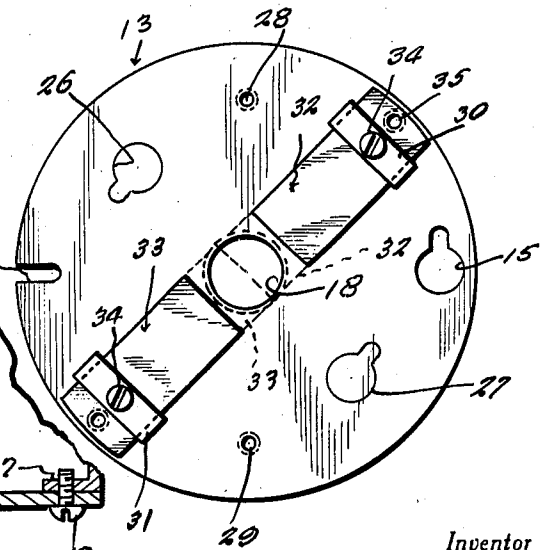


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4

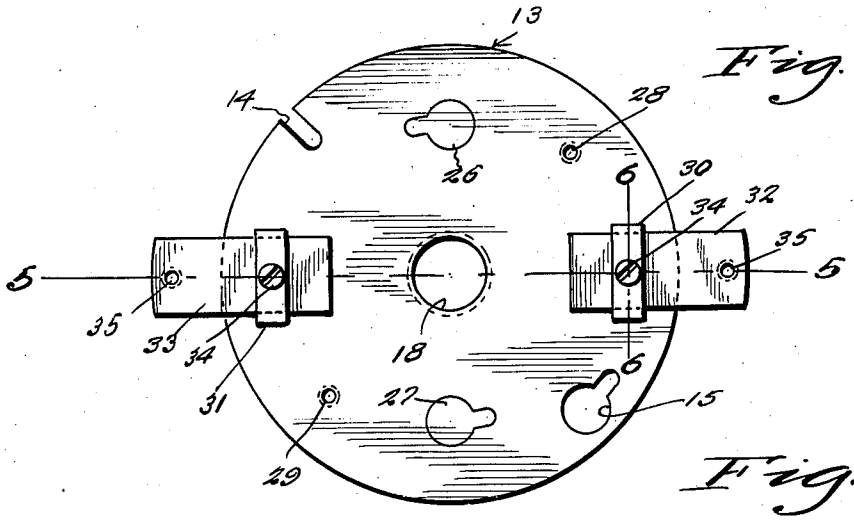


Fig. 6.

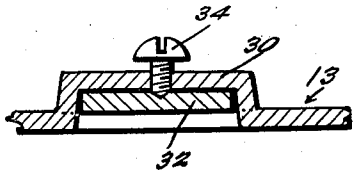


Fig. 5

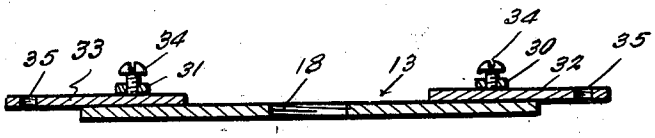


Fig. 8.

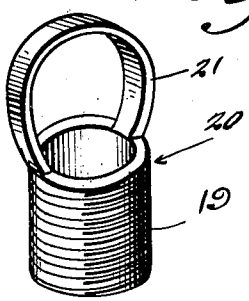
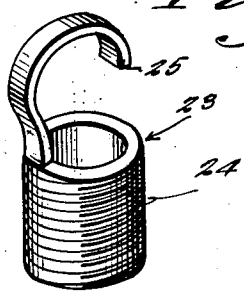


Fig. 9.



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2,321,640

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,321,640

OUTLET BOX COVER AND FIXTURE SUPPORT

Glen O. Adkins, Hamlin, W. Va.

Application March 22, 1940, Serial No. 325,459

1 Claim. (Cl. 220—3.8)

My invention relates to improvements in combined outlet box cover and fixture supports, and an important object of the invention is to provide an arrangement of this character which saves time and labor by being adaptable to fit several different sizes of outlet boxes and by being adjustable to connect with and support fixtures of different sizes and types of both the pendant and wall types, thereby making it unnecessary to keep on hand many different types.

Another important object of my invention is to provide an arrangement of the character indicated above which eliminates the usual fixture stud and extension and provides more room for the splicing and folding of wires in the outlet box.

Another important object of the invention is to provide an arrangement of the character indicated which meets the requirements for a covered and completely closed outlet box serving as a grounded fitting connection.

Other important objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from a reading of the following description and the drawings showing a preferred embodiment of my invention for purposes of illustration.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a transverse vertical sectional view showing the embodiment installed in a ceiling and suspending a stem fixture.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical view taken through an outlet box with the cover in place therein and having the cover eye in place.

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of Figure 2 with the adjustable bars in partly retracted positions and showing these bars in fully retracted positions in dotted lines for covering the center opening in the cover.

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 but showing the adjustable bars in extended positions.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken through Figure 4 approximately on the line 5—5.

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken through Figure 4 approximately on the line 6—6.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of one of the adjustable bars.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the cover eye.

Figure 9 is a perspective view of the fixture hook.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 5 generally designates a conventional type of universal outlet box having a circular opening 6 having a radially inwardly projecting bottom flange 7, the sidewalls of the box being formed with BX conduit passing openings 8, and the outlet box being adapted to be set in an opening in a ceiling or wall or other support 9 approximately flush with the exposed surface thereof, as illustrated in Figure 1. In the case of a stem type fixture involving the pendant tubular stem 10, through which the fixture wires 11 pass to the lights of the fixture (not shown), a decorative shell 12 may be employed to surround and conceal the outlet box and the opening in which it is set, with portions of the shell engaging the exposed surface 9 and the stem 10, as illustrated. In the case of a chain type fixture a generically similar but specifically adapted shell would be preferable.

In accordance with the present invention, the opening 6 in the bottom of the outlet box 5 is closed by a circular flat cover plate 13 which has a slot 14 and a keyhole 15 in diametrically opposed relation to accept studs 16 and 17 which thread through the flange 7 as shown in Figure 2. The cover plate has a centralized threaded opening 18 to accept the tubular threaded shank 19 of the cover eye 20 which includes a horseshoe shaped loop 21 at one end, with a locknut 22 threaded on the upper end of the shank 19 and abutting the top of the cover plate. The thread on the shank 19 is a right hand thread. The fixture hook 23 is composed of a tubular threaded shank 24, which also has a right hand thread, and the crook 25 which is adapted to be engaged through the loop 21, as shown in Figure 1. With this arrangement of the threads on the shanks, the stem 10 of the fixture can be rotated into threaded connection with the fixture hook easily and quickly, and without twisting the wires 11.

The cover plate 13 is provided with diametrically opposed knockouts 26 and 27, respectively, at one side of the slot 14 and keyhole 15, the knockouts being spaced radially inwardly from the keyhole 15 whereby the cover 13 may be used with smaller diameter outlet boxes. Diametrically opposed threaded holes 28 and 29 are provided in the plate 13 to accept studs for attaching small ceiling fitting and such fixtures as bracket lights.

Diametrically opposed saddles 30 and 31 extending on the lower side of the plate 13 slidably connect the adjustable bars 32 and 33, respectively, which are extensible and contractible in radial directions and arranged to be locked in

adjusted position by set-screws 34 in the saddles. The adjustable bars can be used in the partly contracted positions shown in full lines in Figure 3 or in the full retracted positions shown therein in dotted lines. In the latter position the bars completely close the opening 18 in the plate 13. The bars are extensible beyond the periphery of the cover plate as illustrated in Figure 4. Threaded holes 35 are provided in the outer ends of the bars to receive studs on various kinds of fixtures to connect the fixtures for support from the outlet box.

Although I have shown and described herein a preferred embodiment of my invention, I do not wish to limit the invention thereto beyond the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

A cover for an open bottom outlet box, said cover comprising a disk having a central access opening therein, means adapting said disk for attachment to said bottom, a pair of flat bar slides on the under side of said disk endwise adjustable toward and from each other to close and open said access opening, respectively, and adjustable from each other to extend outwardly beyond the edge of the disk, U-shaped saddles formed integrally with said disk for slidably maintaining the slides in place, and set screws in said saddles for engaging and locking said slides in adjusted position.

GLEN O. ADKINS.