

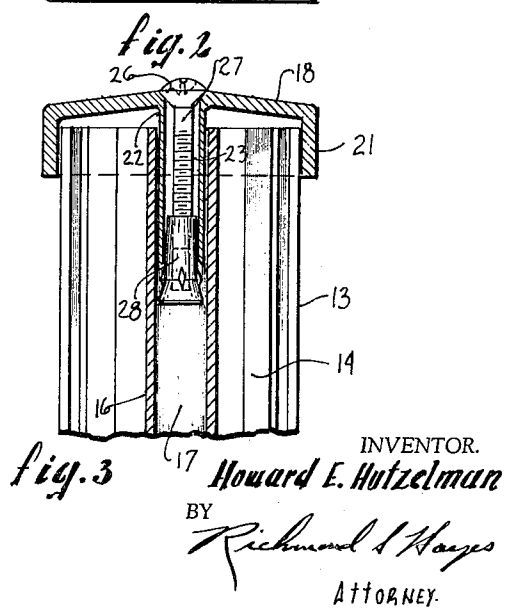
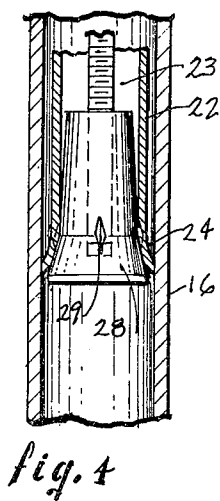
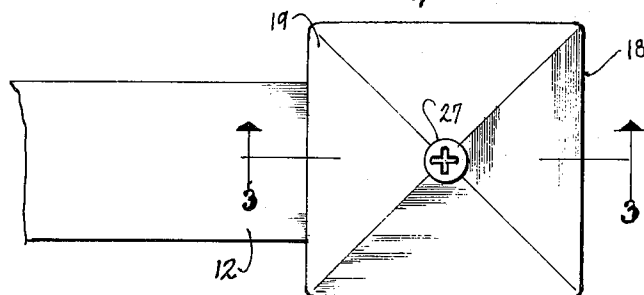
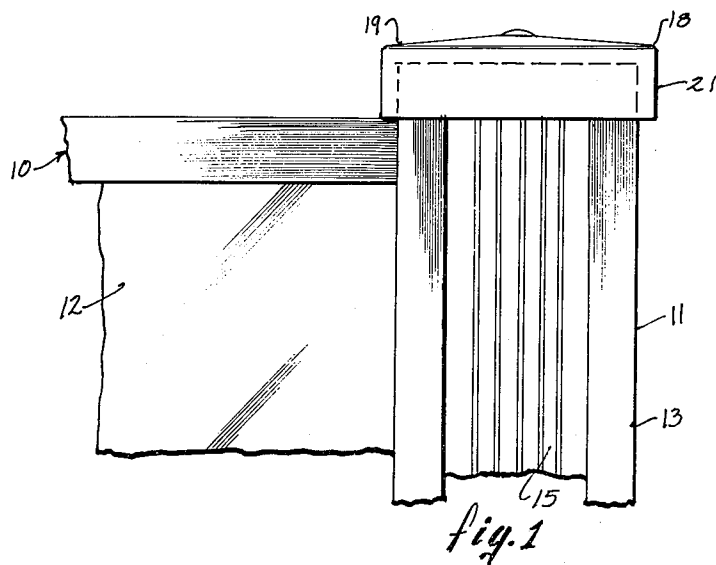
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CAPS FOR POSTS OF FREE STANDING PARTITIONS

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2,998,110 CAPS FOR POSTS OF FREE STANDING PARTITIONS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 189-42)

This invention relates to improvements in partitions and particularly to those of the free standing type where in the height is selectively less than the height of a room, such partitions being generally used to sub-divide office areas and the like into smaller semi-private areas.

In partitions of this type, the posts, both end and intermediate, are required to be closed or capped at their upper ends, not only to enhance the appearance of the partition as a whole, but to conceal and enclose the unfinished post ends and, of course, eliminate access to an area where dust or dirt might collect. Of course, post caps should be designed to also provide a trim or finished jointure with the upper edge of a panel that may be engaged with the post.

It has been found, in the construction and assembly of partitions of this type, that slight errors in dimensions or installation practices necessitates providing a measure of leeway for relative adjustment of the joined parts if the entire structure, when assembled, is to present a finished appearance. For example, slight unevenness in floors, posts of slightly inaccurate length, or errors in panel height necessitate providing a post cap that will conceal a post end even though there may be slight errors in the manufacture or assembly of the post or a connected panel. Furthermore, partitions of the free standing type are often required to be disassembled and reassembled in some other arrangement as may be necessitated by changes in office requirements occurring from time to time and, of course, in order to accomplish this, the post caps must be readily removable.

The present invention is primarily directed to and has for one of its objects the provision of an attractive cap for the top of a free standing partition post that may be easily mounted or removed.

Another object of the invention lies in the provision of a cap that may be firmly secured to a post in order to withstand any possible inadvertent displacement or removal.

Another and important object of the invention lies in the provision of a cap that may be fitted on to a post end in a manner and to an extent that it will conceal any discrepancies as between post height and panel and present a finished appearance to these parts.

It is a further and important object of the invention that, although the panels, posts, and caps of a partition of this type are prefabricated, no on-the-job changes or corrections or special tools are required to mount or remove the caps.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be more fully understood from a consideration of the following specification, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing; in which

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a portion of a free standing partition and in particular shows a post fitted with a cap embodying one form of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the structure shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a vertical sectional view, taken substantially on the line 3-3 of FIG. 2 and shows the cap securing means prior to being operated; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view of a portion of the structure in FIG. 3 and shows

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the stem of the cap forced into pressure engagement with the enclosing walls of the core of the post.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the reference numeral 10 is employed to generally designate a portion of a free standing partition which, among other parts, includes a post 11 and panel 12. In the present disclosure, the post 11 is rectangular and includes corner sections 13, each adjacent pair of these sections having a web 14 connecting it with a core 16 that has an opening 17 therethrough of substantially uniform diameter. Between any pair of sections 13, the post is recessed to receive one vertical edge of a panel 12 or a closure strip 15.

In all free standing partitions—that is, partitions that derive their entire support and stability from the floor and their angular arrangement—the intermediate and end posts do not extend to the ceiling of the room or area in which the partition is located. Consequently, the top of each post 11 must be closed off and a cap 18 is provided for this purpose. Since the post 11 is rectangular, the cap will be in conformity and, in the present instance, includes a top 19, from which a rim, in the form of integral flanges 21, depends. A stem 22 extends downwardly from the center of the cap and, as shown, is of considerably greater length than the depth of the flanges 21. This stem has an opening 23 extending therethrough, the lower end of the opening being thinned down substantially as suggested at 24 in FIGS. 3 and 4. The other end of the stem opening 23 connects with a countersunk opening 26 made in the top 19 of the cap.

As frequently occurs in partitions of this type, the upper end of the post may be waist or shoulder height and, therefore, caps mounted on these posts are commonly grasped or bumped and subject to displacement if no provision were made to firmly secure them in place. The present means by which to secure the cap 18 is to project a screw 27 downwardly through the stem opening 23. This screw is usually of a length slightly less than the length of the stem 22. A plug 28 is provided and is tapered towards its upper end. A threaded opening is made in the upper end of the plug and the lower end is somewhat flared and includes a series of small, vertical ribs 29.

Prior to mounting the cap 18 on the post 11, the screw 28 is dropped into the opening 23, the head of the screw being flush with the top 19 by reason of the countersunk opening 26. The plug 28 is projected upwardly into the opening 23 into contact with the lower end of the screw and is rotated slightly so that screw and plug will not become separated. The cap 18 is now placed on the upper end of the post 11. As suggested, the cap provides a finished appearance to the post even though the post may, as suggested in dotted lines in FIG. 1, be of somewhat greater length than the upper edge of the panel 12 joined thereto. Due to the depth of the cap flanges 21, the cap may be pressed downwardly on to the post to the extent that the lower edge of one of the flanges contacts the upper edge of the panel 12. Of course, during mounting the cap, the stem 22 moves downwardly in the opening 17 of the core 16. To secure the cap against displacement, the screw 27 is rotated and this rotation serves to move or feed the plug 28 upwardly of the stem opening 23. There is little or no tendency for the plug to rotate due to contact of the ribs 29 with the stem 22 and, consequently, continued rotation of the screw causes a continually larger portion of the plug to enter the opening 23 until a point is reached such that the somewhat thinned end of the stem has been radially expanded into pressure engagement with the walls of the opening 17 of the core. This frictional engagement of the stem of the cap with the core of the post eliminates any possibility of the cap becoming loosened or

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displaced almost without regard for any abuse to which the post may be subjected.

As not infrequently occurs, due to rearrangement of office space, free standing partitions must be disassembled and reassembled in some other arrangement. This, of course, necessitates removing the caps 18 and such removal is readily accomplished by simply pressing down slightly on the screw 27 and rotating it in a direction to feed the tapered plug downwardly of the stem and to a point where it no longer forces the stem walls into pressure contact with the walls of the core. When this is done, the cap may be readily removed from the post and ultimately can be re-applied in the manner set out above.

It will be understood that the means by which the herein disclosed cap may be secured to, or released from engagement with, the post is applicable to posts and caps of a contour or shape other than that shown and described and that any variations in the securing structure or the post and cap are contemplated as being within the spirit and scope of the invention insofar as such variations are encompassed by the annexed claims.

Having thus set forth my invention, what I claim as new and for which I desire protection by Letters Patent is:

1. In partition construction of the free standing type wherein a rectangular post is provided with a centered circular hollow core, a cap for said post, marginal depending flanges on said cap defining a rectangular recessed area for receiving and engaging the top of said post, an integral cylindrical stem depending from the center of said cap and being of a diameter to be freely movable into said core to an extent that said flanges overlie and conceal the top of said post, said cap having an external opening connecting the opening in said stem, a screw projecting into said stem through said cap opening, a tapered plug projecting into the other end of said

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stem, the tapered end of said plug having a threaded opening, the threads of which being engaged by said screw, said screw being rotatable to draw said plug inwardly of said stem and uniformly expand the wall thereof into pressure engagement with the wall of said core.

2. In partition construction of the free standing type, a post having a centered circular hollow core of prescribed inner diameter, a cap for said post, an elongated cylindrical stem integral throughout with said cap and depending from the center of the inner cap surface, said stem being of a diameter to project into said core substantially throughout its length, interfitting marginal portions of said post and said cap serving to prevent relative twisting during the securing of said cap to said post, said cap having an external opening connecting the opening in said stem, a screw projecting into said stem through said cap opening, a tapered plug projecting into the other end of said stem, the tapered end of said plug having a threaded opening receiving said screw, said screw being rotatable to draw said plug inwardly of said stem and uniformly expand the end of the cylindrical wall thereof into pressure engagement with said core.

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