March 18, 1941. C. L. CHURCH 2,235,397

CLIP FOR METAL LATH AND THE LIKE

Filed Dec. 23, 1939

Fig. 1.

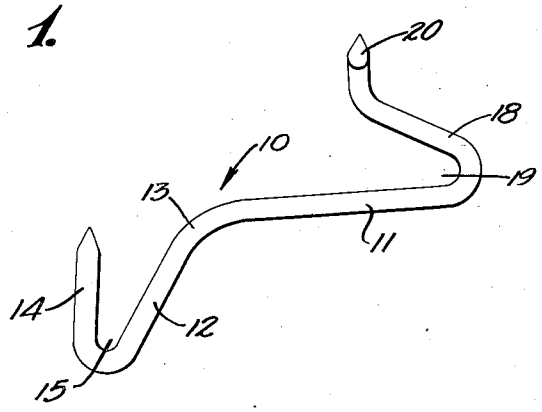


Fig. 2.

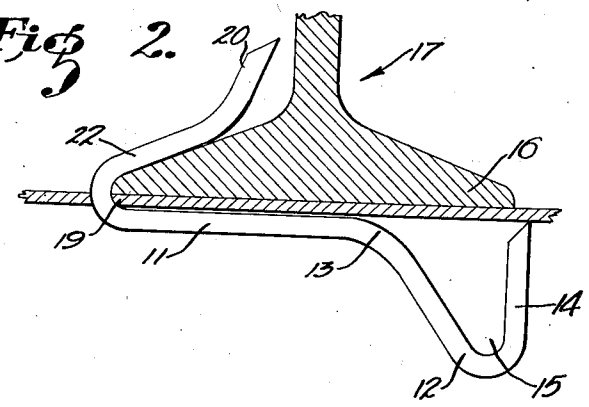


Fig. 3.

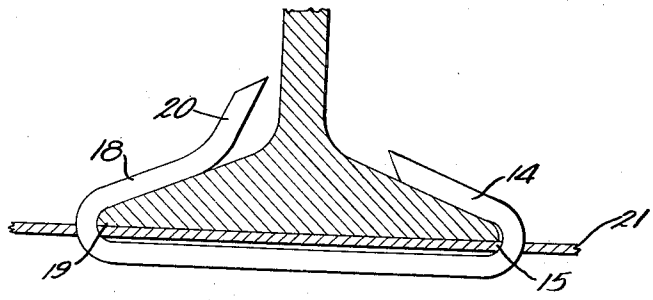
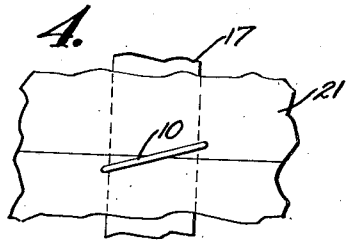


Fig. 4.



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CLIP FOR METAL LATH AND THE LIKE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 72—118)

This invention relates to building construction and particularly pertains to a clip for metal lath and the like.

At the present time building construction includes the use of structural steel elements such as joists and studding and over which metal lath is disposed. Various devices have been provided to apply the metal lath to the structural steel elements and to insure that it is securely held. In view of the fact that metal lath is rather difficult to handle and to secure to metal frame elements the problem of attachment has required a great deal of attention. This is due first to the fact that when the lath is placed on the studding element there is no opportunity to secure the lath directly to the studding and joists from the frame side of the lath, thus making it desirable to provide some simple means of interlocking the lath with the frame. It is the principal object of the present invention, therefore, to provide a metal lath clip which can be instantly applied to the lath and the clip and by a simple operation on the part of the workman can be set to positively grip the structural element and to permanently hold the lath in position. This invention has as another object the secure fastening of the lath to a frame element so that when plaster is applied thereto the lath will be held in place firmly even though the weight of the plaster is considerable.

The present invention contemplates the provision of a clip element preferably made of a single piece of steel or iron wire of heavy gauge, the element being formed with opposite hooked and pointed end prongs which may be inserted through the interstices of the lath and in position with relation to the flanges of a structural element, such as an I-beam, so that when the clip is driven into place it will grip the structural element and hold the lath.

The invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective showing the metal lath clip with which the present invention is concerned.

Fig. 2 is a view in section and elevation showing the preliminary step of applying the metal lath clip to a structural element.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 indicating the clip in its set and gripping position upon the structural element and while holding the metal lath in position.

Fig. 4 is a small view looking upwardly beneath a joint occurring between sheets of metal lath and a supporting element and indicating the manner in which the clip holds the lath across the joint.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 10 indicates the metal lath clip with which the present invention is concerned. This clip is preferably made of relatively stiff steel or iron wire which will take and hold a permanent set unless considerable force is applied thereto. The clip is formed with a body length of two sections 11 and 12. These sections are bent with relation to each other and thus provide an inclined hump 13 which cooperates in the setting of the device. The portions 11 and 12 are of different length preferably for the purpose of facilitating in bending the structure as it is set. The portion 12 carries a prong 14 which is bent upon the portion 12 to form a hook throat 15. This throat accommodates the leg 16 of a structural element such as the I-beam 17 shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The opposite end of the clip is fitted with a return loop portion 18 which is a continuation of the body portion 11 and provides a throat 19. Bent at an angle to the portion 18 and formed as a continuation thereof is a prong 20. The prongs 14 and 20 are preferably sharpened so that they will enter the interstices in the metal lath.

The metal lath clip is used as follows:

A metal lath 21 is stretched across the end face of the leg portion of an I-beam having the flanges 16 and 22. After this has been done and as it is being held by the workman the point of prong 20 is passed through an interstice of the metal lath 21 and its portion 18 hooked over the edge of the leg portion 22 of the I-beam so that this edge will move into the throat 18, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The throat 18 approximates the configuration of the beam portion 22. At this time the portion 12 of the clip will extend downwardly and will provide a suitable grip for the workman so that he may hold the structure firmly and manipulate it readily. At this time the clip is disposed transversely of the I-beam as indicated in Fig. 2. This will place the body portion 11 upwardly and against the under face of the I-beam portion 22 and the metal lath 21 interposed therebetween. In this particular position the prong 14 is ready to be inserted through the interstice of the metal lath adjacent the outer edge of the leg portion 16 of the I-beam. This is indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The loop portion comprising lengths 12 and 14 is then given a sharp blow upwardly with a hammer. This will swing the body portion 12 upwardly to a position substantially flush with

the under face of the metal lath and the portion 16 of the I-beam. As this is done the prong 14 will pass through the metal lath and curl over and around the edge of the portion 16 of the I-beam to the position shown in Fig. 3. As the blow is struck the hook portion 18 will hold the initially seated end of the clip in position and will straighten the members 11 and 12 with relation to each other so that the hump 13 will be straightened out of the body member and portions 11 and 12 will lie flush against the lath 21 and the under fan of the I-beam. Due to the fact that the material of which the clip is made is relatively stiff, it will be evident that when a blow is given the loop portion 12 to straighten the members 11 and 12 with relation to each other that these members will retain their straightened position and hold the throats 15 and 19 around and over the edges of the leg portions 16 and 22 of the I-beam.

Attention is directed to the fact that this is not a clip structure which moves into position by a springing movement of parts to cause them to engage the beam or any other structural element to which they are applied, but is a clip which positively moves into position and remains in that position after it has been set, the result being that the clip is decidedly strong, will positively and firmly hold the metal lath and any load of plaster which is normally imposed thereupon.

It will thus be seen that the building clip here disclosed may be easily manufactured, easily constructed, requires an unusually small amount of material for its manufacture, it may be made and dispensed in bulk at small expense, and can be instantly applied without the use of any special tools and without any special operation other than a driving blow such as would be used in driving a nail or staple in position.

While I have shown the preferred form of my invention as now known to me, it will be understood that various changes may be made in combination, construction and arrangement of parts by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of my invention as claimed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A metal lath slip or the like comprising a one-piece clip element having a body portion, hooking prongs at the opposite ends thereof, there being a bend at a point in the length of the body portion which when straightened out will cause the hooked prongs to pass around the edges of a structural member and to permanently grip the same.

2. Same as 1, adding the following: the said structure being made of material which will take a permanent set around the support when disposed in its hooking position.

3. A clip for metal lath and the like for attaching the same to a structural element, characterized as having a flat face against which a metal lath is applied and opposite edges over which a clip element may engage, said clip being formed of a continuous piece of material adapted to take a permanent set, the clip having a body portion which is bent at a point in its length to form a hump, a hook formed at each end of said body portion and lying in the plane of the hump, said hooks terminating in prongs adapted to be inserted through the metal lath and acting to embrace the opposite edges of the element to which the lath is to be fastened when the body portion is bent straight thereagainst to remove the hump.

4. A clip structure comprising a continuous wire element, the intermediate body portion of which is formed of two sections bent to an angular relation to each other, whereby a hump will occur intermediate the body portion and will be formed of two relatively straight body sections, hooks, one formed at each end of said body sections and comprising a relatively straight prong thereof and a prong bent upon the relatively straight portion to provide a U-shaped throat, the bends in the body portion and the hooks being in the same plane, the developed length of the body portion between the throat of the hooks being slightly greater than the width of the structural element to which the hook is attached, whereby when the bend in the body portion is straightened the hooks will pass around the edges of the structural element and positively engage and grip the same, the bend of the hooks being such as to insure that when one hook is in its seated position and the body portion is still bent the point of the other hook will be in a position to clear the opposite edge of the structural element as the body of the structural element is straightened, and an extension prong provided upon the hook having this clearance whereby the end of the hook may be inserted through the metal lath.

5. Same as 4, adding the following: said extension prong being bent at an angle to the hook upon which it is mounted to assume a position substantially at right angles to the metal lath when the hook at the opposite end thereof is in a seated position.

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