J. F. SONTGERATHE AND R. KALE.

CONVERTIBLE PLATE OR COVER FOR ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLES.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 18, 1921.

1,399,899. Patented Dec. 13, 1921.

Fig. 1.

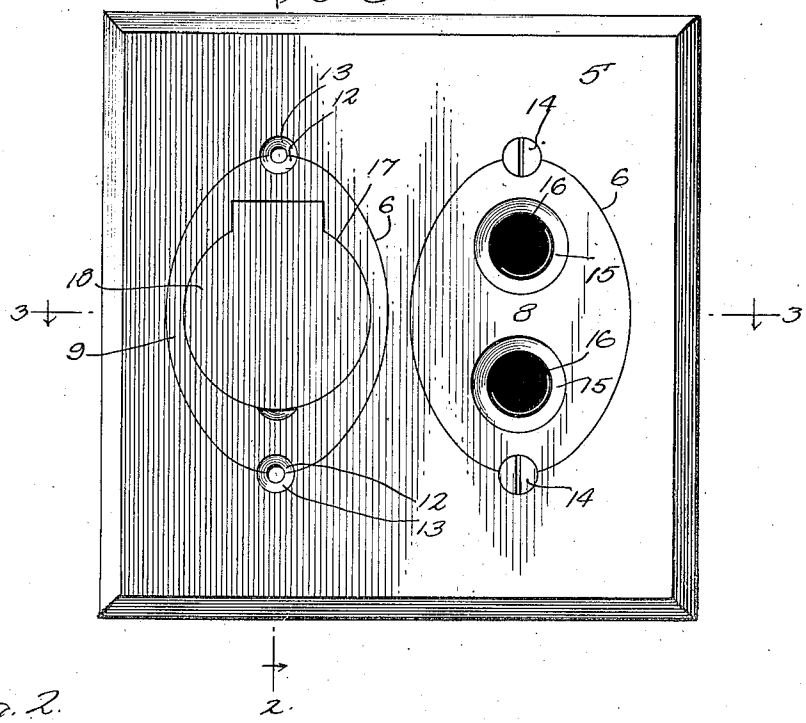


Fig. 2.

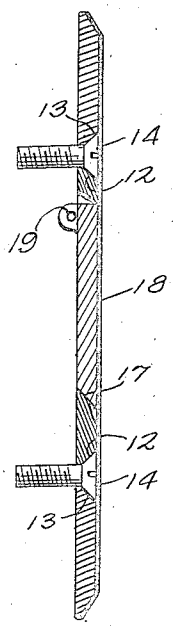


Fig. 3.

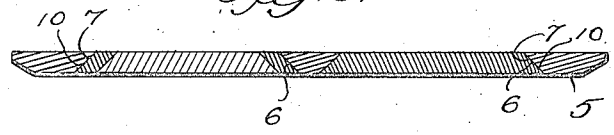
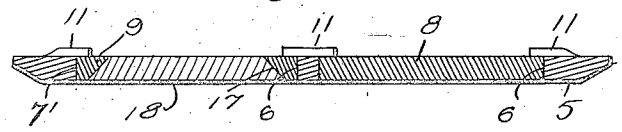


Fig. 4.



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CONVERTIBLE PLATE OR COVER FOR ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLES.

1,399,899. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 13, 1921.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOSEPH F. SONTGERATHE and RAYMOND KALE, citizens of the United States, residing at Cherryvale, in the county of Montgomery and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Convertible Plate or Cover for Electrical Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to a convertible face plate or cover for electrical receptacles.

As is well known, the plate or cover for electrical receptacles frequently carries a number of, such as two or more, push buttons, inserts, pilot lights, or combination thereof. The trouble heretofore experienced in connection with these plates is that a plate must be purposely designed, for the particular combination of elements with which it is associated. Attempts have heretofore been made to overcome the difficulty, by manufacturing these plates, in the various desired combinations, but this imposes the necessity of the dealer carrying a large num' r of different types of plates, to meet the several conditions, which may arise.

Now, we have conceived of means whereby one plate, may be constructed with any suitable number of openings, for the reception of interchangeable closure plates, each closure plate being specifically constructed for the particular work. One closure plate is provided with a pair of openings to receive the usual pair of push buttons, while another closure plate may be provided with a swinging cap, so that a screw plug or insert may be used by opening the cap. By this means the dealer may carry a relatively small stock of the main plates, and at a relatively low cost, a large number of the insert plates, and, properly combine them with the main plates, to meet the various conditions.

An important object of the invention is to provide a device of the above mentioned character, which is characterized by extreme simplicity and cheapness, and which is neat and attractive in appearance.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent in the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device embodying our invention,

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a similar view showing a slightly different form of the device.

In the drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration are shown preferred embodiments of our invention, the numeral 5 designates a face plate of an outlet box, illustrated as rectangular, while it may be of any desired shape. This plate has a plurality of openings 6 formed therein. We have shown two of these openings for the purpose of illustration, but the number may be increased, as may be found advantageous. The openings are also shown elliptical, for the purpose of illustration, and the walls of these openings may be beveled, shown at 7.

The numerals 8 and 9 designate closure plates, preferably elliptical, and adapted to fit snugly within the openings 6, and having beveled edges 10, so that the closure plates will be supported with their outer faces flush with the outer face of the face plate 5. In Fig. 4, the edges of the closure plates 8 and 9, are at right angles to the outer face thereof, and the same is true of the walls 7′ of the openings 6 and to prevent the closure plates from moving inwardly beyond the desired point, lugs 11 are formed upon the rear or the face plate 5, and project inwardly past the openings 6, as shown. Each closure plate is provided at its upper and lower edges with openings 12, preferably semi-circular for co-action with semi-circular contacts 13, formed in the face plate 5. These openings receive screws 14 or the like, the heads of which are preferably flush with the outer surface of the face plate. These screws may engage suitable elements in the switch, or receptacle, or bolts may be employed, carrying nuts.

The plate 8 is shown as equipped with (2) openings 15, receiving push buttons 16, while the closure plate 9 has a large opening 17, receiving a cap 18, hinged at 19. This cap is employed when a screw plug, insert, pilot light or the like is connected with the switch unit beneath the closure

plate 9. It is obvious that the closure plates 8 and 9 can be readily interchanged, and that other closure plates, having different openings therein, may be interchanged therewith.

It is to be understood that the form of our invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size, and arrangements of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of our invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described our invention, we claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a face plate for an outlet box having a plurality of like main openings, closure plates detachably mounted within said openings and being interchangeable with each other, said closure plates having their outer surfaces substantially flush with the outer surface of the face plate, each closure plate being adapted to coöperate with a different type of electrical unit, and means for holding the closure plates and face plate in place in use.

2. A device of the character described comprising a face plate for an outlet box having a plurality of like main openings, closure plates detachably mounted within said openings whereby they may be interchanged with other closure plates, each closure plate having suitable opening means, and a screw engaging the closure plate and serving to hold the same within the opening of the face plate and also to hold the face plate against displacement.

3. A device of the character described comprising a face plate for an outlet box having a plurality of like main openings, closure plates detachably mounted within said openings and being adapted to be interchanged with other closure plates, each closure plate having opening means, each closure plate having its outer surface substantially flush with the outer surface of the main plate.

4. A device of the character described comprising a face plate for an outlet box having a plurality of face openings, closure plates detachably mounted within said openings and being adapted to be interchanged with other closure plates, each closure plate having opening means, each closure plate having its outer surface substantially flush with the outer surface of the face plate, said face plate and closure plates having openings formed therethrough at their points of union, a portion of each opening being formed in the face plate and the complementary portion of the opening being formed in the closure plate, and a screw inserted within each opening and serving to hold the closure plate within the opening of the face plate and also to hold the face plate against displacement.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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