March 2, 1965 C. J. GRETTER 3,171,232

FASTENING MEANS

Original Filed Sept. 24, 1958

Fig. 1

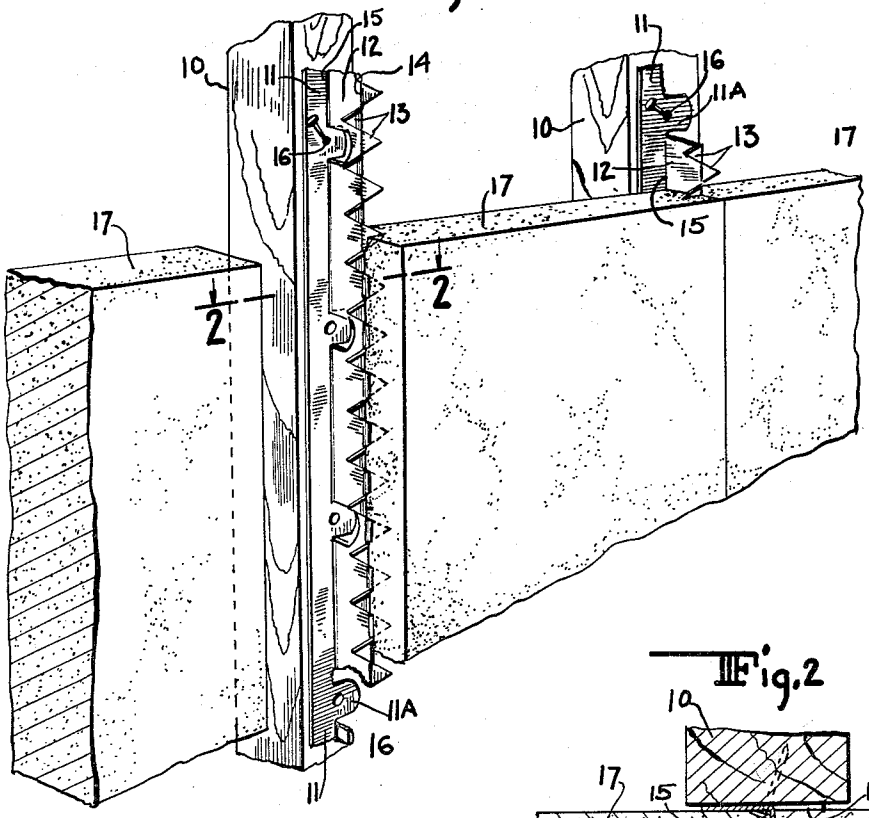


Fig. 2

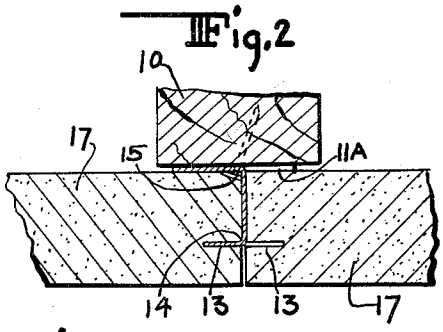


Fig. 4

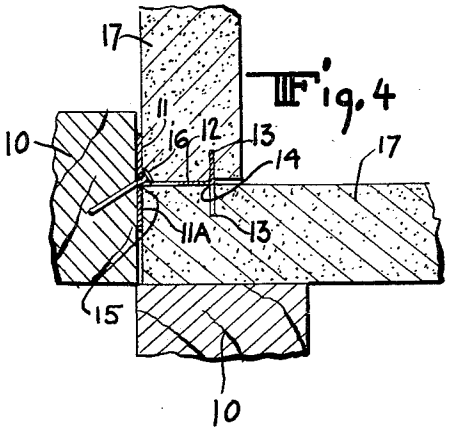
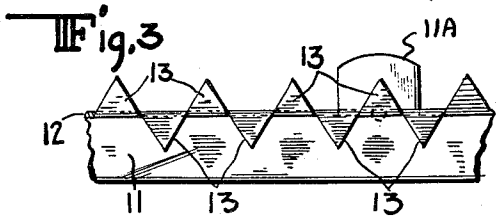


Fig. 3



INVENTOR.
BY Clemens J. Gretter

Pollard Johnston Smythe & Robertson
ATTORNEYS

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3,171,232

FASTENING MEANS

Clemens J. Gretter, Seir Hill Road, Wilton, Conn.

Continuation of application Ser. No. 763,124, Sept. 24, 1958. This application Oct. 11, 1961, Ser. No. 145,531
1 Claim. (Cl. 50—481)

The present invention relates to fastening means for securing a plurality of semi-rigid panel members to a frame structure such as studding or lathing to form a side wall, partition, ceiling and the like.

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 763,124, filed September 24, 1958, in the name of Clemens J. Gretter and now abandoned.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a unitary fastening means that is effective throughout the length of the entire edge of each panel as well as throughout the extent of the edges of successive aligned panels in order to insure perfect alignment of succeeding courses of panels.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a fastening means that will provide a continuous rigid locating surface extending throughout the edge dimension of each panel as well as succeeding aligned panels in order to maintain a rigid linear surface against which successive aligned panels abut.

In one aspect of the invention the fastener is made substantially equal to the length of the panels to be applied to a wall or the like. The fastener may be formed from a strip of metal or similar material so as to have a flange means along one edge and tabs extending at right angles to the strip or central flange along the other edge, the tabs or teeth extending alternately in opposite directions and being in a plane substantially parallel to the base flange means. The tab means can be adapted to penetrate and to hold courses of the semi-rigid panel material. Cutouts can be formed in the strip material central flange so as to permit fastening means, such as nails, to be driven in from either side at the centerline of the strip. The material from the cutouts can be bent in the opposite direction from the base flange means so as to form an auxiliary flange. Preferably, the strip constituting the centrally disposed wall or flange is of substantially constant thickness.

The alternate teeth or tabs may be formed by slitting and bending slit or serrated edge portions in opposite directions at right angles to the main body of the strip to form blades adapted to penetrate the edges of succeeding panels of semi-rigid panel material.

The above, other objects and novel features of the invention will become apparent from the following specification and accompanying drawing which is merely exemplary.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of part of a wall construction embodying the principles of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a section taken substantially along line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a vew of a portion of a strip of sheet metal to which the principles of the invention may be applied; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional plan view of an intersection of two right angularly disposed walls.

Referring to the drawings, the principles of the invention are shown as applied to the interior wall of a building having the usual studs **10** at substantially equal intervals. A strip of sheet metal may be formed with base flange means **11** and **11A** bent at right angles to the strip of sheet metal forming a central flange means **12** having continuity throughout the entire length of the strip metal fastener.

The edge of the strip metal sheet opposite that which forms the flange means **11** may be serrated, forming saw-like teeth **13**. It will be noted that the bottoms **14** of the teeth **13** are spaced a substantial distance from the point **15** where flange means **11** joins the central flange **12**, thereby providing a rigid linear surface of substantial area extending througout the length of the fastening strip.

Holes **16** may be provided and centered between flange means **11** and **11A** for nailing the flange means to the studs of a building preparatory to fastening a course of semi-rigid panels thereto. The apertures in web **12** allow nailing or fastening at centered holes **16** in base **11** from either side of central flange or web **12**.

In employing the fastener of this invention, a first vertical course **17** may be laid at one corner of a room and held in place, at the corner, by a strip fastener of this invention as shown in FIG 4. The flange means **11A** on one side of the central web **12** can be slid between the course **17** and the stud **10**. The flange means **11** on the other side of web **12** is exposed and can be nailed from the left side, FIG. 1, to hold the first course in place. Succeeding courses **17** may then be applied, and at the exposed edge of each successive vertical course another strip fastener of this invention may be nailed. The flange means **11** and **11A** on each side of the web **12** maintain the outer surfaces of all panels flush.

Although the various features of the new and improved fastener for semi-rigid panel material have been shown and described in detail to fully disclose one embodiment of the invention, it will be evident that numerous changes may be made in such details and certain features may be used without others without departing from the principles of the invention.

What is claimed is:

A fastener for semi-rigid panel material and the like comprising strip material of a length substantially equal to the length of a course of panels to be applied to a wall to be covered, said strip material having a central wall flange means of substantially a constant height; base flange means extending substantially at right angles in only one direction from one edge of said central wall flange means and forming a continuous uninterrupted base along one side of said central flange means for its entire length; a plurality of portions punched out from said central wall flange means, spaced at intervals throughout its entire length, and extending at right angles to said central flange means, in the opposite direction from, and in the same plane as said base flange means; walls refining holes at the junction between the base flange means and said punched-out portions and lying within the plane of said central wall flange means, said holes facilitating the insertion of nails therethrough from either side of said central wall flange means; and means formed along the entire length of the longitudinal edge of said central wall flange means opposite that containing said base flange means, said last mentioned means

comprising a plurality of means alternately extending in opposite directions from said central wall flange means throughout its entire length, within a plane substantially parallel to that including said base flange means, and adapted to penetrate the edge of succeeding courses of said semi-rigid panel material.

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JACOB L. NACKENOFF, *Primary Examiner.*

WILLIAM I. MUSHAKE, *Examiner.*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,171,232 March 2, 1965

Clemens J. Gretter

It is hereby certified that error appears in the above numbered patent requiring correction and that the said Letters Patent should read as corrected below.

Column 2, line 57, for "refining" read -- defining --.

Signed and sealed this 19th day of October 1965.

(SEAL)
Attest:

ERNEST W. SWIDER
Attesting Officer

EDWARD J. BRENNER
Commissioner of Patents