May 26, 1931. F. KUSTERLE 1,806,945

FURNITURE POST END FITTING

Filed March 16, 1929

Fig. 1

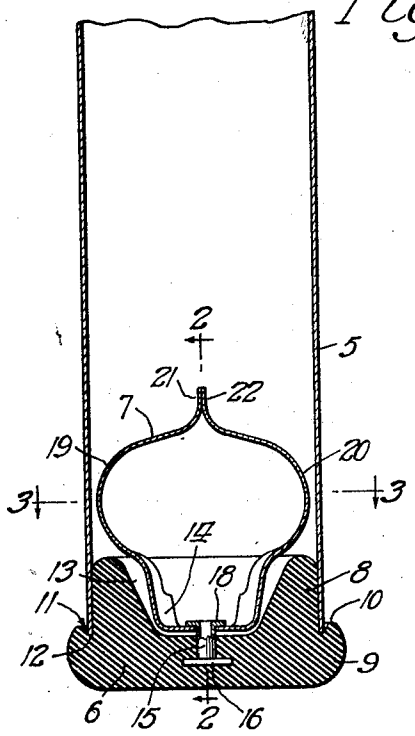


Fig. 2

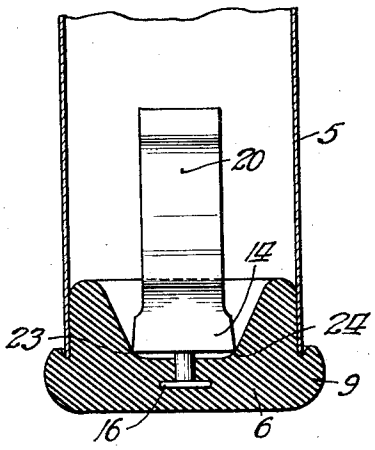


Fig. 3

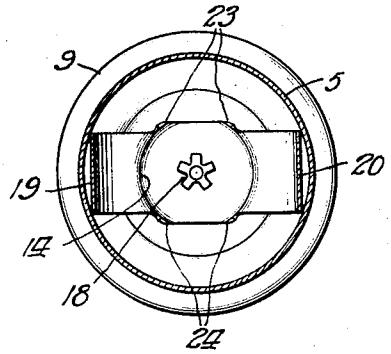
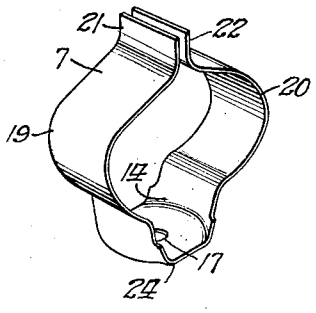


Fig. 4



Inventor
Frank Kusterle

By Fisher, Clapp, Soans & Pond Attys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FRANK KUSTERLE, OF KENOSHA, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNOR TO SIMMONS COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE

FURNITURE POST END FITTING

Application filed March 16, 1929. Serial No. 347,496.

This invention relates to furniture post end fittings and more particularly to an end fitting for the end of a hollow post, for example the leg or corner post of an article of furniture.

Objects of the invention are to provide an improved fitting of the class described, which can be cheaply and economically manufactured; to provide a fitting which is adapted to serve either as a sliding caster or button on the foot end of a post or as a trimming on the upper end of a post; to provide means for effectively retaining the fitting on the end of a post; to provide a fitting which will present a neat and pleasing appearance on the end of a post in either of its above indicated uses; and in general, it is the object of the invention to provide an improved fitting of the class above described.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawings in which I have illustrated an improved end fitting embodying the features of my invention, the fitting being shown associated with the lower or foot end of a hollow metal post.

Referring now to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a section through the axis of a tubular metal post and an end fitting mounted on the lower end of the post.

Figs. 2 and 3 are sections on the lines 2—2 and 3—3 respectively, of Fig. 1, except for a part of Fig. 2 which is in elevation; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective of a part of the end fitting.

In the drawings a round tubular metal post is indicated at 5 and the lower end of said post is provided with an end fitting comprising an end member 6 and a part 7 which is secured to said end member. According to the present invention, the end member 6 is preferably molded of a suitable phenol condensation product such as bakelite, and includes an inner plug portion 8 which is of a size and shape to fit snugly inside of the post 5. As an incident to molding of the end member, the periphery of said inner plug portion is slightly tapered to a smaller diameter at its extreme inner end than at its outer or lower end adjacent the end of the post.

The end member 6 also includes an enlarged outer cap-like portion 9 whereby a shoulder 10 is formed for receiving the end of the post and positively limiting inward movement of the inner end portion 8 of the end member in the post. The shoulder 10 is preferably recessed as shown at 11, the recess 11 being spaced inwardly from the periphery of the enlarged outer end portion 9 so that a seat 12 is formed which is engaged by the end of the post. The recessed seat arrangement serves to effectively conceal from view the line of engagement between the end of the post and the stop shoulder 10 of the end member 6.

The plug portion 8 of the end member is preferably recessed as shown at 13 to receive a more or less cup-shaped bottom portion 14 of the part 7. A fastening device 15 is provided for permanently securing the part 7 to the end member and this fastening device may consist of a tubular rivet having an enlarged head 16 embedded in the end member during the molding thereof so that the fastening device is permanently secured or anchored in place. The bottom portion 14 of the part 7 is apertured as indicated at 17 to fit over the tubular rivet 15 whereby the part may be permanently secured to the end member by turning over the upper end portion of the tubular rivet as indicated at 18.

Projecting upwardly from the bottom portion 14 of the part 7, are a pair of arms 19 and 20 which spread outwardly in the manner shown in Figs. 1 and 4, and the upper ends of which are bent inwardly and upwardly to provide end portions 21 and 22 which are adapted to engage each other when the end fitting is mounted on a post end. As shown in Fig. 3, intermediate portions of the arms 19 and 20 engage the inside of the post whereby the end member is frictionally held in position on the end of the post. When the arms 19 and 20 are in operative position inside of a post, the

end portions 21 and 22 of the said arms engage each other substantially as shown in Fig. 1 and thereby tend to resist flexing or yielding of the arms 19 and 20 so that tight frictional engagement between the said arms and the inside of the post is effected. It will, of course, be understood that the part 7 is made of suitable metal of a gauge which will permit the arms 19 and 20 to yield and flex when necessary.

In the present embodiment of my invention, I have shown the bottom portion 14 of the part 7 of increased width as compared with the width of the arms 19 and 20. By providing the bottom portion 14 of increased width, the same may be given a more or less cup-shape which will tend to stiffen the arms of the part 7. The arrangement may be such that the cup-shaped bottom portion 14 will fit snugly in the bottom of the inner end recess 13 or it may be such, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, wherein opposite edge corner portions 23 and 24 serve to bite into the wall of the recess 13 so as to effectively lock the part 7 against rotation relative to the end member 6.

It will be seen that the above described end fitting comprises only two major parts, one being the one-piece metal part 7 and the other being the molded end member 6, and that these parts are of such simple construction that they can be cheaply and economically manufactured, assembled, and mounted on the ends of hollow furniture posts or the like by an unskilled workman.

I am aware that changes may be made in the above described structure without departing from the spirit of my invention, the scope of which should be determined by reference to the following claims, the same being construed as broadly as possible consistent with the state of the art.

I claim:

1. In a fitting of the class described, the combination of an end member having a recessed plug portion, a part secured to said end member in said recess and projecting from said plug adapted to yieldingly engage the inside of a hollow post for maintaining said member on the end of said post, the inner end portion of said end member being of a size and shape to snugly fit inside of said hollow post and the outer end portion being enlarged to form a shoulder for receiving the end of the post to position said end member thereon.

2. In a fitting of the class described, the combination of an end member having a recessed inner end portion, a part secured to said end member in said recess and projecting from said inner end adapted to yieldingly engage the inside of a hollow post for maintaining said member on the end of said post, the inner end portion of said end member being of a size and shape to snugly fit inside of said hollow post and the outer end portion being enlarged to form a shoulder for receiving the end of the post to limit inward movement of said inner end portion, said shoulder being provided with a recessed seat, spaced inwardly from the periphery of said enlarged outer end portion, for receiving said post and whereby the line of engagement between said post end and shoulder is effectively concealed from view.

3. In a fitting of the class described, the combination of an end member having a recessed inner end portion, a fastening device located in the bottom of said recess and having an end portion embedded in said end member whereby said fastening device is secured to said member, a part secured to said end member in said recess, through the agency of said fastening device and adapted to yieldingly engage the inside of a hollow post or the like for retaining the member on the end of such post, the inner end portion of said end member being of size and shape to snugly fit inside of said hollow post and the outer end portion being enlarged to form a shoulder for receiving the end of the post to limit inward movement of said inner end portion into said post, said shoulder being provided with a recessed seat spaced inwardly from the periphery of said enlarged outer end portion, for receiving said post and whereby the line of engagement between said post and end shoulder is effectively concealed from view.

4. A fitting of the class described comprising an end member of plastic material, a fastening device having a part permanently embedded in and thereby secured to said end member, and a part secured to said member through the agency of said fastening device, adapted to yieldingly engage the inside of a hollow post for maintaining the member on the end of such post, said end member having a portion constituting a seat for receiving the end of said post, whereby said end member closes said post end and the post conceals said fastening device and said yielding part.

5. A fitting of the class described comprising an end member of plastic material having fastening devices anchored thereto, and a part secured to said end member through the agency of said fastening device and adapted to frictionally engage the inside of a hollow post or the like to maintain said end member on said post end, said end member having a portion constituting a seat for receiving the end of said post, whereby said end member closes said post end and the post conceals said fastening device and frictionally engaging part.

FRANK KUSTERLE.