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D. M. HEDGECOCK
ELECTRICAL BASEBOARD CONSTRUCTION

2,673,967

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FIG. 1.

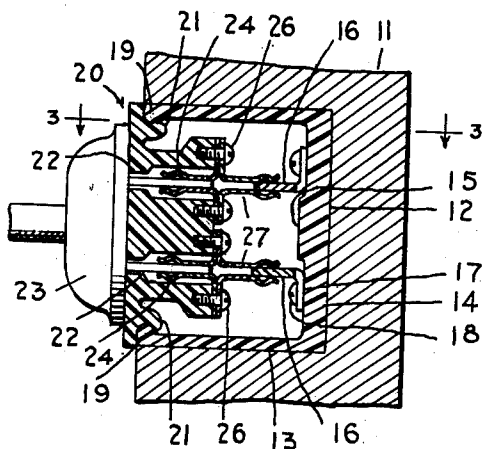


FIG. 2.

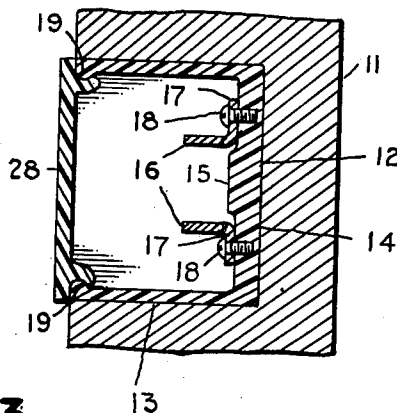


FIG. 3.

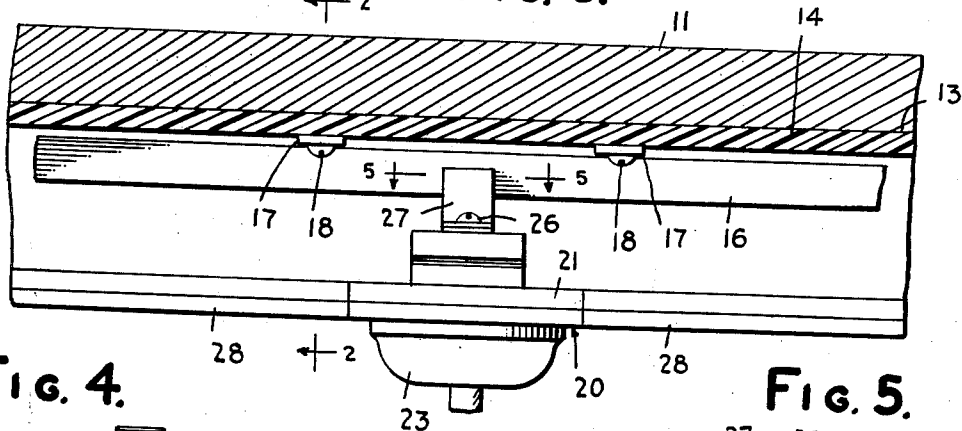


FIG. 4.

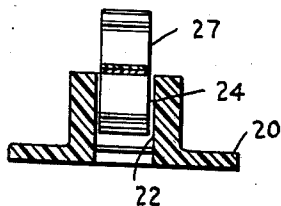


FIG. 5.

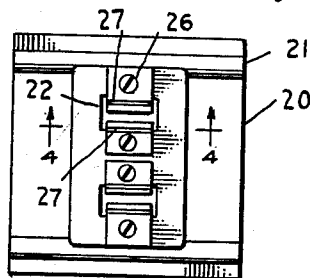
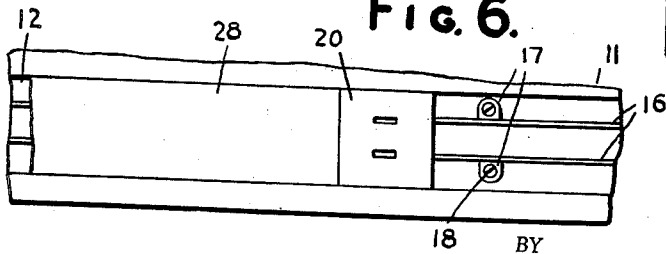


FIG. 6.



INVENTOR
DARRELL M. HEDGECOCK

BY
Mc Morrow, Perlman & Davidson
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ELECTRICAL BASEBOARD CONSTRUCTION

Darrell M. Hedgecock, Snyder, N. Y.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 339-22)

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This invention relates to electrical outlets, and more particularly to improved baseboard electrical fixtures including outlet sockets.

The main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved electrical outlet structure adapted to be installed in a baseboard and to provide an outlet socket which is adjustable in position horizontally along the baseboard, the improved structure involving only a few parts, being simple to install, and involving inexpensive components.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved baseboard receptacle assembly wherein the position of the electrical socket element may be readily adjusted along the baseboard to any desired convenient position, the improved assembly being inconspicuous in appearance, being easily accessible for changing the position of the socket element thereof, and being durable in construction.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a transverse vertical cross sectional view taken through an improved electrical outlet structure according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a transverse vertical cross sectional view taken through the elongated housing of the improved outlet structure of Figure 1, the view shown in Figure 2 being taken on the line 2-2 of Figure 3.

Figure 3 is a horizontal cross sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional detail view taken through the socket element of the improved outlet structure of Figures 1 to 3, the view of Figure 4 being taken on the line 4-4 of Figure 5.

Figure 5 is a rear elevational view of the socket element taken on the line 5-5 of Figure 3.

Figure 6 is a front elevational view of a portion of the baseboard utilizing applicant's improved outlet structure, one of the cover elements of the housing member of the outlet structure being removed.

Referring to the drawings, 11 designates a baseboard of conventional construction, as employed in the usual room. The baseboard 11 is formed with a horizontally extending groove or recess 12 in which is positioned the elongated channel member 13, said channel member being of insulating material and being formed in its rear wall 14 with the central rib 15. Secured to the rear wall 14 on opposite sides of rib 15 are the outwardly projecting, spaced, parallel con-

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ductor bars 16, 16, extending longitudinally in the housing 13, as shown. The conductor bars 16 may be provided with the apertured tabs 17 extending at right angles to the main portions of the conductor bars, through which suitable fasteners 18 are engaged with the wall 14 of housing 13 to rigidly secure the conductor bars in the positions shown in Figures 1 to 3. The conductor bars 16, 16 are respectively connected to the respective power lines in any suitable manner and by conventional means, not shown.

The longitudinal marginal edges of the sides of channel member 13 are formed with the inwardly projecting, opposing ribs 19, 19. Designated at 20 is a socket member whose main body is formed of insulating material and which is formed at its top and bottom edges to fit between the opposed ribs 19, 19. The top and bottom edges of the socket member 20 are formed with opposed outwardly concaved, curved locking ribs 21, 21 adapted to resiliently interengage with the ribs 19, 19 and to secure the socket member 20 between the ribs 19, 19, while allowing said socket member to slide longitudinally along the housing 13.

The socket member 20 is formed with the respective prong-receiving passages 22, 22 adapted to receive the prongs of a conventional male plug 23. Secured to the rear surface of the socket member 20 are respective pairs of contact springs 24, 24 extending inwardly through the passages 22 and being spaced apart to receive the prongs of a plug 23 therebetween and to conductively engage said prongs. The contact members 24, 24 may be secured to the body of socket member 20 by respective screws 26, 26 engaging the body of the socket member 20, as shown in Figure 1, and similarly secured to said body by said screws are the respective pairs of rearwardly projecting, spaced contact springs 27, 27 which are spaced apart to receive the respective conductor bars 16, 16 and conductively engage said bars. It will be readily apparent from Figure 1 that the contact springs 27, 27 and 24, 24 establish electrical contact between the power supply bars 16, 16 and the prongs of a socket 23 when said prongs are inserted in the prong-receiving passages 22, 22 of the socket member 20.

Designated at 28 are respective rectangular cover plates adapted to engage with the marginal edges of channel member 13 at opposite sides of the socket member 20 to cover the housing 13 after the socket member 20 has been disposed in a desired position along said housing. The cover plates 28 are of convenient length and may be

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readily removed to allow the socket member 20 to be shifted in position. Said cover plates are provided with locking rib structure similar to the ribs 21 on the top and bottom edges of the socket member 20, whereby the cover plates 28 may be detachably and resiliently engaged with the ribs 19, 19 of housing 13 in the same manner as the socket member 20. The cover plates 28 may be of convenient lengths, whereby a wide range of adjustments of the position of the socket member 20 is provided, and may be of different lengths so that the housing 13 may be completely covered if more than one socket member 20 is employed with a given housing.

While a specific embodiment of an improved adjustable outlet structure for use in baseboards has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical outlet structure of the character described comprising an elongated channel member of insulating material adapted to be installed in a wall, opposing inwardly projecting longitudinal ribs at the marginal edges of said channel member, a pair of spaced parallel outwardly projecting conductor bars secured longitudinally in said channel member, a socket member, respective outwardly facing longitudinal concave ribs at the opposite longitudinal margins of said socket member slidably receiving the inwardly projecting marginal ribs of the channel member, a pair of spaced conductive prong-receiving elements on said socket member, and contact means secured to the respective prong-receiving elements and slidably engaging the respective conductor bars.

2. An electrical outlet structure of the character described comprising an elongated channel member of insulating material adapted to be installed in a wall, opposing inwardly projecting longitudinal ribs at the marginal edges of said channel member, a pair of spaced parallel outwardly projecting conductor bars secured longi-

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tudinally in said channel member, a socket member, respective outwardly facing longitudinal concave ribs at the opposite longitudinal margins of said socket member slidably receiving the inwardly projecting marginal ribs of the channel member, a pair of spaced conductive prong-receiving elements on said socket member, contact means secured to the respective prong-receiving elements and slidably engaging the respective conductor bars, and respective cover plates formed with outwardly concave longitudinal marginal ribs lockingly engaging the inwardly projecting marginal ribs of the channel member at opposite sides of the socket member.

3. An electrical outlet structure of the character described comprising an elongated channel member of insulating material adapted to be installed horizontally in a baseboard, opposing inwardly projecting longitudinal ribs at the marginal edges of said channel member, a pair of spaced parallel, outwardly projecting conductor bars secured longitudinally to the rear wall of said channel member and disposed in said channel member, a socket member, respective outwardly facing longitudinal concave ribs at the opposite longitudinal margins of said socket member slidably receiving the inwardly projecting marginal ribs of the channel member, a pair of spaced conductive prong-receiving elements on said main body, spaced resilient contact arms secured to each of the respective prong-receiving elements and arranged to embracingly and slidably receive the respective conductor bars therebetween, and respective cover plates formed with outwardly concave longitudinal marginal ribs lockingly engaging the inwardly projecting marginal ribs of the channel member at opposite sides of the socket member.

DARRELL M. HEDGEcock.

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