

Dec. 2, 1969

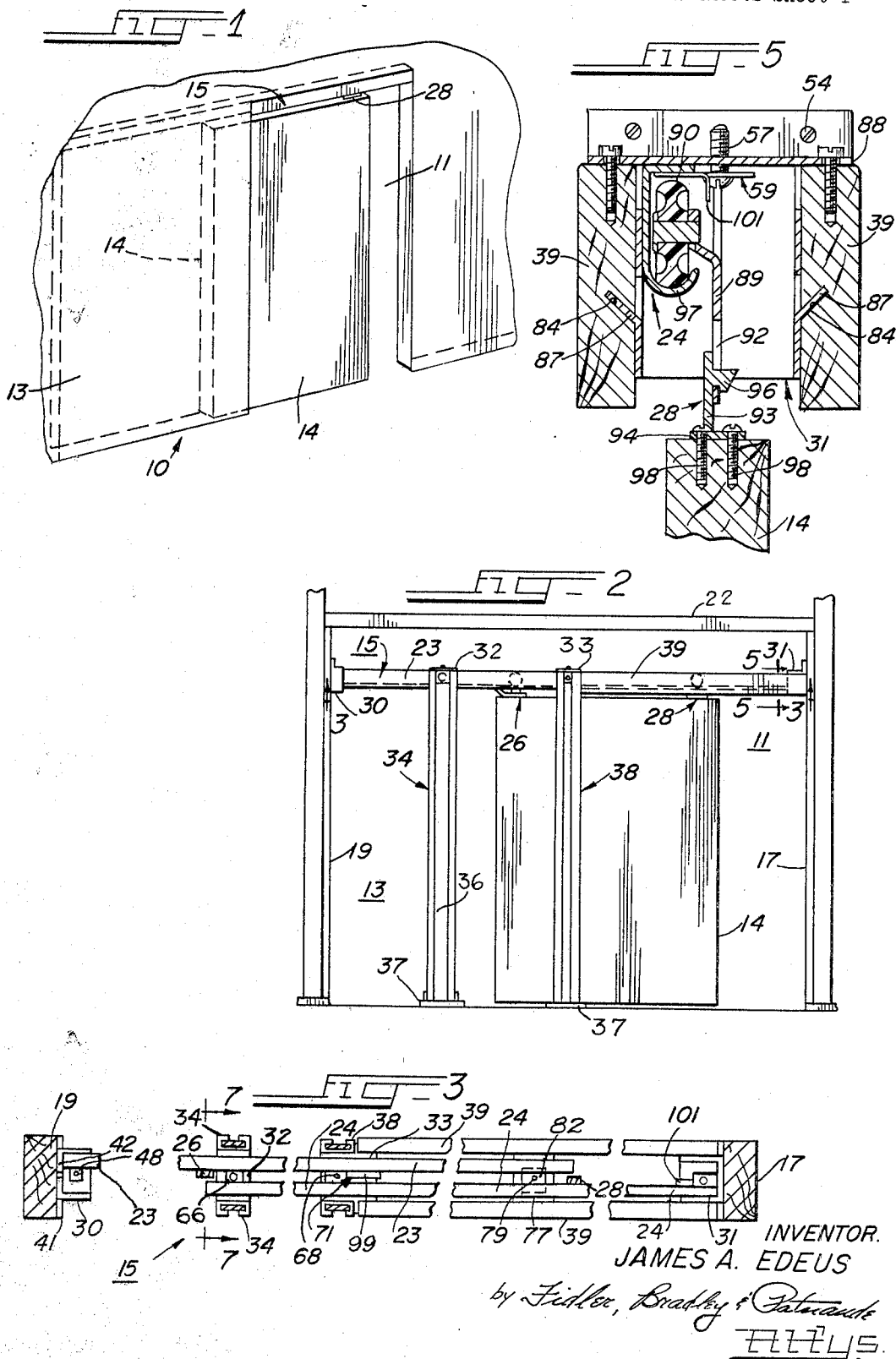
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POCKET DOOR ASSEMBLY

Filed Feb. 5, 1968

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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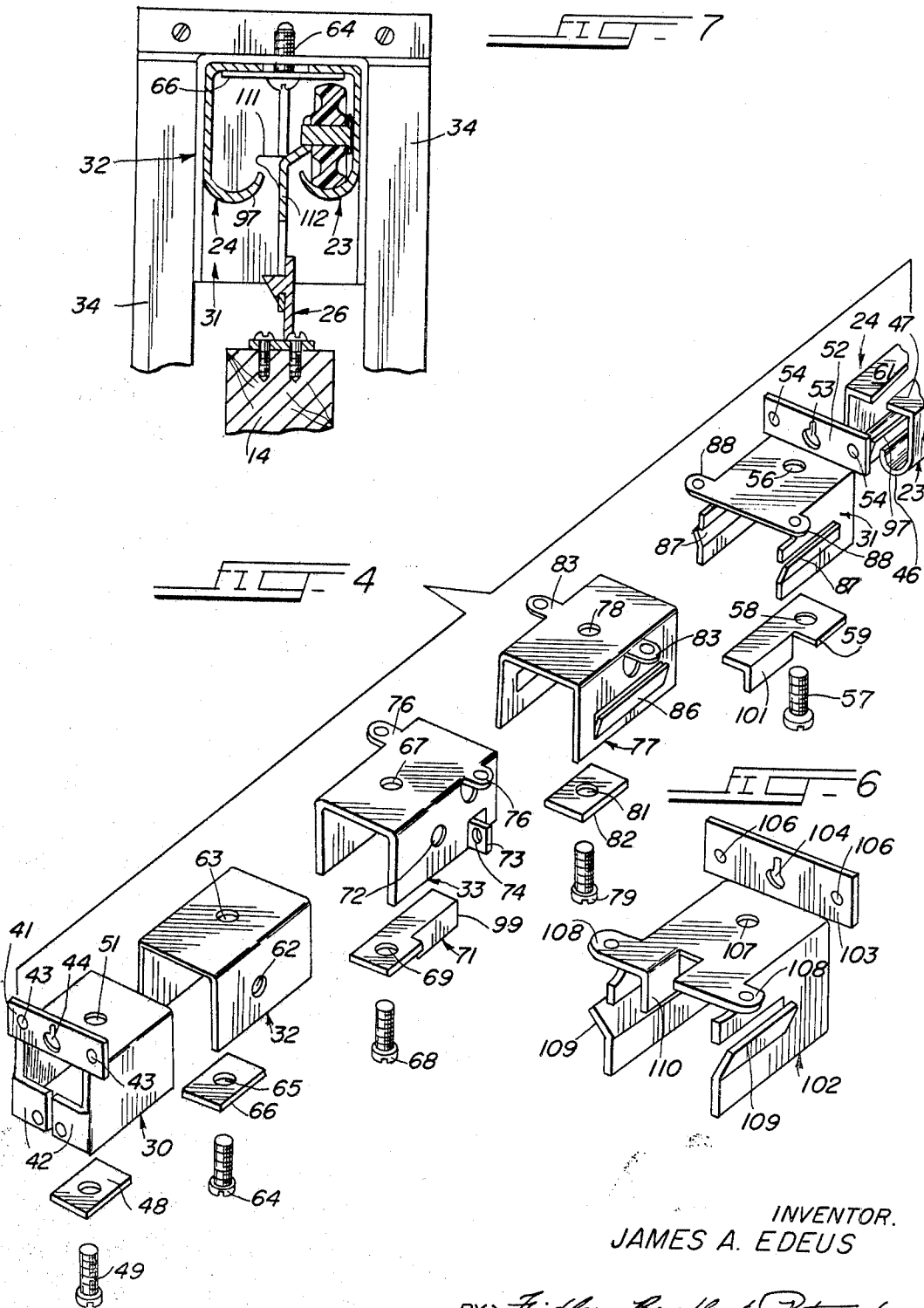
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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POCKET DOOR ASSEMBLY

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10 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pocket door assembly comprises a track for a pair of roller hangers connected to a sliding door. The track includes a pair of parallel, spaced-apart rails adjustably connected to a series of spaced-apart channel-shaped mounting brackets. Each rail has a concave portion forming a track for supporting one of the roller hangers. To accommodate any one of various different size doors, the rails can be loosened from the mounting brackets so that one rail can be moved longitudinally with respect to the other rail into an adjusted position. To limit the extent of tilting of the roller hanger prior to hanging the door, one or more of the mounting brackets may be provided with a depending tab, or alternatively, the roller hanger may be provided with a shoulder stud for contacting the opposite rail to limit tilting of the hanger.

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

For a more detailed disclosure of the roller-type door hanger disclosed herein, reference may be had to my co-pending application Ser. No. 647,843, filed June 21, 1967, entitled "Door Hanger for a Sliding Door."

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to pocket door assemblies and it relates more particularly to a novel prefabricated pocket door assembly which is adjustable in the field to accommodate different door sizes.

Pocket doors normally include a horizontal track which extends above a door opening into a compartment or pocket adjacent the opening for slidably supporting the door for horizontal movement between a first position across the opening and a second or storage position within the pocket. Originally, such assemblies were built in sites by carpenters but for reasons of economy and quality these custom-built installations have been largely replaced by prefabricated assemblies. Since the desired doorway sizes vary over a wide range, it has been found desirable to make such assemblies adjustable in size. Such assemblies have not, however, been entirely satisfactory from the standpoints of cost and ease of installation. For example, some such assemblies required that steel hanger rails to be cut to size by the carpenter or other person installing the door. Others employed relatively expensive telescoping rail channels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of this invention is, therefore, to provide a new and improved prefabricated pocket door assembly.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel track assembly which is adapted for use in a pocket door installation.

In order to hang a sliding door so that it does not spuriously come off the track, it has been found desirable to provide two-part hangers, one part of which is secured to the top of the door and hooks onto the second part which is slidably secured to the overhead track or rail. Where the second part has its center of gravity offset from the track engaging portion thereof, the second part

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has tended to tilt to one side before the door is hung therefrom. As a consequence, it was frequently difficult to hang the door onto the second hanger part.

Therefore, a further object of this invention is to provide a new and improved means for preventing such hanger parts from tilting in the track before the door is hung.

Briefly, the above and further objects of the invention are realized in accordance with the present invention by providing a pocket door frame assembly including a pair of rails each having a mounting web portion adjustably connected to a mounting bracket in co-planar, spaced-apart relationship so that at least one of the rails may be loosened to move it longitudinally with respect to the opposite rail into an adjusted position, whereby the overall length of the pocket door frame may be adjusted for accommodating various different size doors. Also, when two-part hangers are employed with the track assembly, for the purpose of limiting the tilting of the track-engagable roller part prior to mounting the door on the track assembly, the track structure is provided with a mounting bracket having a depending abutment member to limit tilting of the roller part of the door hanger, or alternatively, the roller part may be provided with an abutment member for contacting the opposite rail to limit tilting of the roller part. Furthermore, since the two rails used with the hangers are identical, manufacturing techniques and inventory procedures are more economical and simplified.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and further objects of the present invention will be understood more fully and completely from the following detailed description when considered with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of a pocket door frame assembly which may incorporate the principles of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of the pocket door frame assembly of FIG. 1;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged, cross-sectional view of FIG. 2 taken substantially along the line 3—3 thereof;

FIGURE 4 is an exploded, enlarged isometric view of the mounting brackets and a portion of the rails for the adjustable track assembly of the present invention;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged, cross-sectional view of FIG. 2 taken substantially along the line 5—5 thereof with one of the roller hangers shown in vertical cross section;

FIGURE 6 is an isometric view of an alternative construction for one of the mounting brackets of the present invention; and

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of FIG. 3 taken substantially along the line 7—7 thereof.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, thereof, there is shown a pocket door installation 10 including an opening or doorway 11, a pocket 13 and a door 14 slidably supported on an overhead track assembly 15 between a closed position within the opening 11 and an open or storage position within the pocket 13. Although the prefabricated pocket door assembly may be attached to the building in several different ways, for purposes of illustration an overall frame which may be built from two-by-fours includes a stud 17 defining one side of the opening 11 and a stud 19 at the rear end of the pocket 13. It will be understood that the stud 17 is merely the framing member and in the final installation will be covered in the usual manner. A header 22 is secured to the stud 17 and 19 a substantial distance

above the track 15 to maintain the studs 17 and 19 in the vertical position.

As is more fully described hereinafter, the track assembly 15 includes a pair of rail members 23 and 24 for respectively supporting a pair of hangers 26 and 28 which are attached to the top edge of the door 14. The rails 23 and 24 are each slightly greater in length than the width of the door 14 and the rail 23 is fixedly secured at its end to a header end bracket 30 which is in turn attached to the stud 19 and the rail 24 is fixedly attached at its end to a header end bracket 31 which is in turn attached to the stud 17. The rails 23 and 24 are connected together by means of a bracket 32 and a bracket 33. When assembling the door, these brackets 32 and 33 are loosened and the rails 23 and 24 are extended in a longitudinal direction relative to one another such that the brackets 30 and 31 respectively abut the studs 19 and 17. With the rails 23 and 24 being level with the horizon, the header brackets 30 and 31 are then secured to the respective studs. The brackets 32 and 33 are then tightly secured to the rails 23 and 24 to hold them in the proper relative position.

The bracket 32, in addition to securing the rails 23 and 24 together in the adjusted position, also provides a support for a pair of split stud members 34 disposed on opposite sides of the track assembly. The split frame member 34 includes a metallic channel member having reentrant marginal flanges for retaining a wood nailing strip 36 therein and is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures in the web thereof for receiving screws which attach the top of the stud 34 to the bracket 32. A footplate 37 which may be secured as by nailing to the floor includes means for securing the bottom of the nailing strip 36 thereto. The bracket 33 also functions to support a similar split stud member 38 which is also secured at the bottom to a footplate 37 which is in turn fastened to the floor. The split stud 38 also serves as the other jamb member for the doorway 11. As is more fully described hereinafter, a pair of header nailing strips 39, suitably formed of wood, is secured over the opening 11 to the bracket 33 and to the header end bracket 31. It may thus be seen that the split stud members 34 and 38 and the header strip 39 provide a convenient means to which wallboard or other sheet material may be secured for completing the installation.

Referring now to FIG. 4, it may be seen that the header end bracket 30 which is located within the pocket 13 is a generally channel-shaped metallic member having an upstanding mounting flange 41 and a pair of apertured end flanges 42. The flange 41 is provided with a pair of apertures 43 for receiving mounting screws and it is further provided with a centrally disposed keyhole slot 44 whereby the bracket 30 may be hung on a nail during initial installation of the track assembly 15.

The rails 23 and 24 are identical and may be cut from a single metallic extrusion and, as shown, the rail 23 includes a concave roller-receiving flange 46 and a mounting flange 47. The rail 23 is secured to the bracket 30 by means of an apertured plate 48 disposed under the flange 47 and a machine screw 49 which extends through the aperture in the plate 48 and is threadedly received in an aperture 51 in the web of the bracket 30.

The header end bracket 31 is also generally channel-shaped and includes an upstanding mounting flange 52 provided with a centrally disposed keyhole slot 53 and a pair of holes 54 for receiving mounting screws. The web of the bracket 31 is provided with a threaded hole 56 which receives a machine screw 57 which extends through an aperture 58 in a bracket plate 59 disposed beneath a mounting web 61 of the rail 24 to secure it to the bracket 31.

The bracket 32 is channel-shaped and includes openings 62 in the side flanges thereof for receiving the mounting screws which attach the split studs 34 thereto and a threaded aperture 63 in the web thereof for receiving

a machine screw 64 which extends through an aperture 65 in a mounting plate 66 which underlies the web 47 of the rail 23. Depending upon the size of the opening 11, the plate 66 may also underlie the web 61 of the rail 24 thereby to secure it to the bracket 32 also.

The bracket 33 is also generally channel-shaped and is provided with a threaded hole 67 in the web thereof for receiving a machine screw 68 which extends through a hole 69 in a mounting plate 71 which underlies the webs 47 and 61 of the rail members to secure them to the brackets 33. The side flanges of the bracket 33 are provided with openings 72 for receiving screws for attaching the split jamb members 38 thereto. In addition, the bracket 33 is provided with a pair of offturned tabs 73 which overlie the vertical edges of the nailing strip 39 and are provided with opening 74 for receiving rails or other fastening elements which extend into the nailing strip 39. A second pair of tabs 76 are struck out of the side flanges of the bracket 33 and overlie the top edge of the nailing strip 39 and are apertured to receive fastening elements such as nails or drive screws.

Mounted approximately midway of the opening 11 is a further bracket 77 which is generally channel-shaped and provided with a tap hole 78 in the web thereof for receiving a machine screw 79 which extends through a hole 81 in a mounting plate 82 disposed beneath the webs 47 and 61 of the rails to secure them to the bracket 77. A pair of tabs 83 are struck out of the side flanges of the bracket 77 and are disposed in a horizontal plane substantially flush with the web of the bracket and are apertured to receive nails or the like which extend downwardly to the top edge of the nailing strip 39.

As best shown in FIG. 5, the nailing strips 39 are provided with sawcut grooves 84 which extend into the inner faces of the nailing strips 39 in an upward direction. These grooves 84 extend throughout the length of the nailing strips 39 and may be readily cut therein at the factory. As shown in FIG. 4, the bracket 77 includes a pair of struck-out tabs 86 which extend from the side flanges of the bracket at an angle equal to the angle at which the grooves 84 are cut in the nailing strips 39. In like manner, the header end bracket 31 is provided with a pair of struck-out tabs 87 to be received in the grooves 84 in the nailing strips 39. Accordingly, the brackets 77 and 31 are slidably disposed relative to the nailing strips 39 prior to there being secured to the nailing strips by means of nails or the like extending through the tabs 83 on the bracket 77 and a pair of similar tabs 88 on the bracket 31. With this construction, the brackets 77 and 31 may be spaced from the bracket 33 at the desired positions for the width of the opening 11 and the portions of the nailing strips 39 which extend beyond the end of the bracket 31 may be readily cut off. Thereafter, the brackets 77 and 31 may be secured to the nailing strips 39 by drive screws or the like.

Considering now the door hangers 26 and 28 in greater detail with reference to the drawings, the hangers 26 and 28 are similar to one another and are two-part hangers for conveniently connecting the door 14 to the track assembly 15. For purposes of plumbing the door 14, at least one of the hangers may be adjustable to permit the door 14 to be moved into an adjusted position relative to the track assembly 15 and the stud 17 and to be maintained in the adjusted position. For a detailed description of a two-part door hanger having means for adjusting the door, reference may be made to the above cited copending application entitled "Door Hanger for a Sliding Door."

As shown in FIG. 5, the hanger 28 includes a roller member 89 having a roller 90 journaled for rotation thereon and having an opening or slot 92 therein, and a door-engageable member 93 having a base 94 and an upstanding hook 96 receivable in the opening 92. The roller 90 rolls along a concave flange 97 of the rail 24. The base 94 of the door-engageable member 93 is attached to the top edge of the door 14 by mounting screws 98. When connecting the door 14 to the track assembly 15, the roller member 89

is first inserted in slideable engagement with the flange 97 and then the door-engageable member 93 is attached to the top edge of the door 14. Thereafter, the hook 96 is manipulated into engagement with the roller member 89.

In order to prevent the roller members of the hangers 26 and 28 from tilting out of engagement with the concave flanges of the rails 23 and 24 before the door-engageable members are connected to their roller members, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention as shown in FIGS. 3-5 and 7, the clamping plate 71 includes a depending tab 99 which extends downwardly opposite the marginal edge of the flange 46 and the clamping plate 59 includes a depending tab 101 which extends downwardly opposite the marginal edge of the flange 97. Before connecting the door 14 to the track assembly 15, the roller members of the hangers 26 and 28 are placed in engagement with the respective rails 23 and 24 opposite the respective depending tabs 99 and 101. As shown in FIG. 5, due to its offset center of gravity, the roller member 89 can tilt in a clockwise direction before the door-engageable member 93 hooks onto the roller member 89. However, as shown in FIG. 5, the tab 101 limits tilting of the roller member 89.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 6, a header end bracket 102 which may be used for the same purpose as the header end bracket 31 limits tilting of a roller member in the same manner as the bracket 31. The bracket 102 is generally channel-shaped and includes an upstanding mounting flange 103 provided with a centrally disposed keyhole slot 104 and a pair of holes 106 for receiving mounting screws. A threaded hole 107 in the web of the bracket 102 is provided for receiving a machine screw (not shown) which extends through an aperture in a rectangular bracket plate (not shown) disposed beneath the mounting web 61 of the rail 24 to secure it to the bracket 102. The bracket 102 is provided with a pair of struckout tabs 108, each of which is disposed in a horizontal plane substantially flush with the web of the bracket in the same manner as the tabs 88 of the end mounting bracket 31. A pair of struckout tabs 109 extend from the side flanges of the bracket 102 in the same manner as the tabs 87 of the bracket 31. A struckout tab 110 extends downwardly from the web of the bracket 102 substantially opposite the marginal edge of the flange 97 to limit tilting of the roller member 89 in the same manner as the tab 101.

According to a further embodiment of the invention, in order to limit tilting of the roller members prior to mounting the door, either one or both of the hangers 26 and 28 may be provided with an abutment member, such as a shoulder stud 111, as shown in FIG. 7, which is fixedly connected to the hanger 26 by any convenient technique, such as welding. The shoulder stud 111 extends from a roller member 112 of the hanger 26 over the marginal edge of the opposite flange 97 of the rail 24 to limit tilting of the roller member. Should the roller member 112 tilt in a counterclockwise direction as viewed in FIG. 7, the shoulder stud 111 engages the marginal edge of the flange 97 to prevent further tilting of the roller member 112. With the shoulder stud 111, the roller member 112 may be initially placed at any convenient point along the rail 24 prior to mounting the door 14 without regard to the location of the mounting brackets.

Installation procedure

In order to install the pocket door installation 10, after loosening each of the clamping plates for the brackets except plate 48, the end bracket 31 is slid along the headers 39 as guided by the slots 84 therein to a position spaced from the bracket 33 to correspond to the width of the opening 11, and then the portions of the nailing strips 39 extending beyond the end of the bracket 31 are cut off. Thereafter, the bracket 77 is slid to a position mid-way between the bracket 33 and the bracket 31. The brackets 77 and 31 may then be secured to the

nailing strips 39 by drive screws or the like. The rail 24 is secured to bracket 31 by plate 59.

After inserting a nail or the like in both of the studs 17 and 19 at the proper height so that the track assembly 15 can accommodate the door 14, the end bracket 31 is hooked on the nail in the stud 17 and the rails 23 and 24 are extended longitudinally relative to one another until the end bracket 30 abuts the stud 19 so that the end bracket 30 can be hooked on the nail in the stud 19. Thereafter, the bracket 32 is moved into a position mid-way between the end bracket 30 and the bracket 33. With the rails 23 and 24 being level with the horizon, the end brackets 30 and 31 are then secured to the respective studs 19 and 17. Thence, each of the clamping plates are tightened to secure the rails 23 and 24 to the brackets.

Next, the split studs 34 and 38 are connected to the foot plates 37 and the brackets 32 and 33. Wallboard or other sheet material is then secured to the split stud members 34 and 38, the header strips 39 and the other frame members for completing the installation of the pocket door frame.

For the purpose of connecting the door 14 rollable engagement with the overhead track assembly 15, the roller members 89 and 112 are placed in engagement with the respective rails opposite the depending tabs 101 and 99 of the mounting brackets 31 and 33, respectively. The door-engageable members of the door hangers 26 and 28 are then secured to the top edge of the door 14 at the same distance apart as the roller members 89 and 112. The door 14 is then manipulated into engagement with the roller hangers 26 and 28. For purposes of plumbing, the door 14 may then be adjusted relative to the track assembly 15 and the stud 17. In order to do this, the door 14 is slid completely into the pocket 13 and the position of the jamb side of the door 14 is adjusted relative to the track assembly 15. Thereafter, the door 14 is slid into the opening 11 until the jamb side of the door 14 abuts the stud 17, and the pocket side of the door 14 is adjusted so that the jamb side of the door 14 is flush with the stud 17.

In view of the foregoing description, the adjustable pocket door assembly in accordance with the present invention provides an assembly which can accommodate various different size doors. The clamping plates on the mounting brackets may be loosened so that one of the rails may be moved longitudinally with respect to the opposite rail into an adjusted position to accommodate a given size door. Furthermore, various different techniques have been provided in accordance with the present invention to assist in mounting the door onto the track assembly by limiting the tilting of the roller member of the two-part door hangers.

While there have been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the assembly illustrated and in its operation may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A pocket door assembly connected to a support structure for rollably supporting first and second roller hangers adapted to be attached to a door, wherein the improvement comprises:

first and second parallel rails each having a mounting web portion and a roller-hanger supporting track; mounting means adapted to be connected to said support structure;

fastening means; and

clamping means adapted to underlie at least a portion of said web portions and adapted to be fastened directly to said mounting means by said fastening

means at a location between said rails for clamping said web portions of said rails in a spaced-apart, coplanar configuration between said clamping means and said mounting means,

whereby said rails may be loosened from said mounting means to permit said rails to be moved longitudinally relative to one another to an adjusted position and then said rails can be secured to said supporting structure by said fastening means and said clamping means so that said pocket door assembly can accommodate various different size doors.

2. A pocket door assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first rail is identical in cross section to said second rail.

3. A pocket door assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mounting means comprises a plurality of channel-shaped mounting brackets, and said clamping means comprises a plurality of bracket plates.

4. A pocket door assembly connectible to a support structure for rollably supporting first and second roller hangers adapted to be attached to a door, wherein the improvement comprises:

first and second parallel rails each having a mounting web portion and a roller-hanger supporting track; mounting means for adjustably securing said web portions of said rails in a common plane to said support structure, said mounting means comprising a plurality of channel-shaped mounting brackets, at least one of said brackets having a bracket plate for adjustably securing a portion of the web of at least one of said first and second rails between said bracket plate and the web of its mounting bracket; and

a pair of parallel spaced-apart, horizontally disposed strips each having a groove extending into the face thereof, at least one of said mounting brackets being adapted to be fixedly connected to said strips and being slidably mounted on said strips by means of a pair of support members extending transversely from the side flanges of said mounting bracket and receivable in said grooves of said strips, said grooves being complementary-shaped to snugly receive said support members,

whereby said rails may be loosened from said mounting means to permit said rails to be moved longitudinally relative to one another to an adjusted position and then said rails can be secured to said supporting structure by said mounting means so that said pocket door assembly can accommodate various different size doors and whereby the slidably mounted bracket can be moved longitudinally with respect to said strips to an adjusted position before fixedly connecting the slidably mounted bracket to said strips and then the excess portion of said strips can be cut off.

5. A pocket door assembly according to claim 1, further including cooperating means on said roller hangers and on said mounting means for limiting tilting of said roller hangers relative to said rails when said roller hangers are positioned at predetermined locations on said rails,

whereby with said roller hangers at said predetermined locations said door can be mounted onto said door assembly without undue tilting of said roller hangers.

6. A pocket door assembly according to claim 5, wherein said first and second roller hangers each includes a track engageable member and a door engageable member for detachably connecting to said track engageable member; and

said cooperating means includes a downwardly depending abutment member mounted on said mounting means opposite the marginal edge of the track of said first rail to limit tilting of said track engageable member of said first hanger positioned on said track of said first rail opposite said abutment member before

connecting the door engageable member of said first hanger to its roller member.

7. A pocket door assembly connectible to a support structure for rollably supporting first and second roller hangers adapted to be attached to a door, said first and second roller hangers each including a track engageable member and a door engageable member for detachably connecting to said track engageable member, wherein the improvement comprises:

first and second parallel rails each having a mounting web portion and a roller-hanger supporting track, mounting means for adjustably securing said web portions of said rails in a common plane to said support structure,

cooperating means on said roller hangers and on said mounting means for limiting tilting of said roller hangers relative to said rails when said roller hangers are positioned at predetermined locations on said rails, whereby with said roller hangers at said predetermined locations said door can be mounted onto said door assembly without undue tilting of said roller hangers, said cooperating means including an abutment member mounted on the track engageable member of said first hanger and extending transversely therefrom over the marginal edge of the track of said first rail to limit tilting of said track engageable member of said first hanger before connecting said door engageable member to said track engageable member,

whereby said rails may be loosened from said mounting means to permit said rails to be moved longitudinally relative to one another to an adjusted position and then said rails can be secured to said supporting structure by said mounting means so that said pocket door assembly can accommodate various different size doors.

8. A pocket door assembly connectible to a support structure for rollably supporting first and second roller hangers adapted to be attached to a door, wherein the improvement comprises:

track means including first and second parallel track means connectible to said support structure, said rails each having a roller-hanger supporting track;

a pair of parallel spaced-apart strips for receiving at least a portion of said rails therebetween, said strips being adapted to be fixedly connected to said rails and to said support structure, each of said strips having a groove extending into the face thereof; and

mounting means for slidably and snugly mounting said strips on said rails so that the slidably mounted strips can be moved longitudinally relative to said rails to an adjusted position corresponding to the size of a given door before fixedly connecting the strips to said support structure and said rails, and then the excess portion of said strips can be cut off, said mounting means including a channel-shaped bracket having a pair of support members extending transversely from the side flanges of said bracket and receivable in the complementary-shaped groove in said strips.

9. A pocket door assembly according to claim 8, wherein each of said grooves extends in a direction intersecting with the face of the strip at an acute angle to provide a snug fit for its support member.

10. A pocket door assembly connectible to a support structure for rollably supporting first and second roller hangers adapted to be attached to a door, said first and second roller hangers each including a track engageable member and a door engageable member for detachably connecting to said track engageable member, wherein the improvement comprises:

track means connectible to said support structure, said track means including first and second parallel rails each having a roller hanger supporting track; and

cooperating means on said roller hangers and on said track means for limiting tilting of said roller hangers relative to said rails when said roller hangers are positioned at predetermined locations on said rails, said cooperating means including an abutment member extending transversely from said track engageable member of said first hanger, said abutment member extending over the track of said second rail to limit tilting of said track engageable member of said first hanger when positioned on the track of said first rail before connecting the door engageable member of said first hanger to its roller member, whereby with said roller hangers at said predetermined locations said door can be mounted onto said door assembly without undue tilting of said roller hangers.

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KENNETH DOWNEY, Primary Examiner

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