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H. R. COOK

1,642,142

OUTLET BOX

Filed March 9, 1925

Fig. 1.

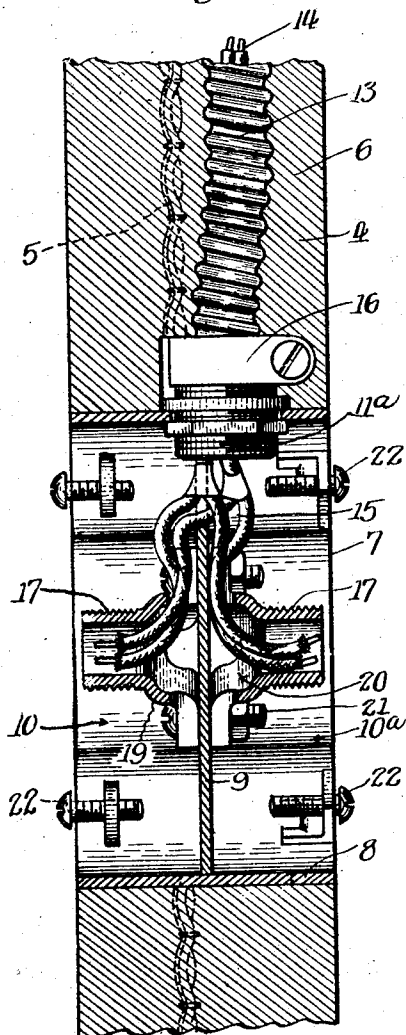


Fig. 2.

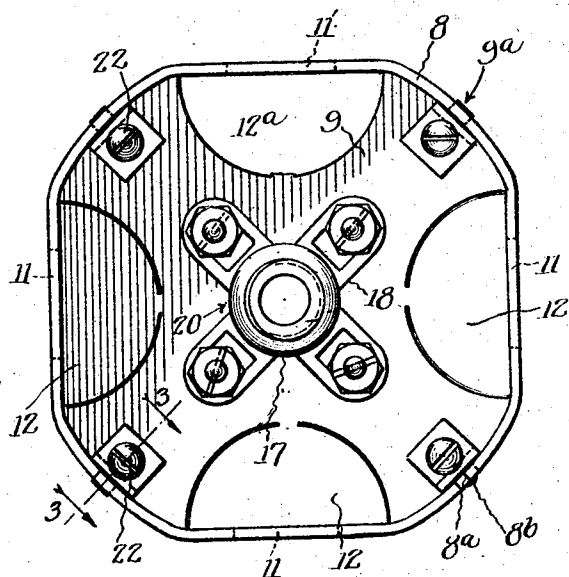
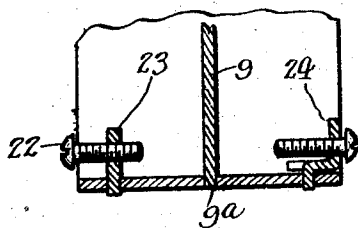


Fig. 3.



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OUTLET BOX.

Application filed March 9, 1925. Serial No. 13,989.

The invention relates to outlet boxes particularly adapted for use in partition walls of buildings, this application being a continuation in part of my copending application, Serial No. 617,663, filed Feb. 8, 1923.

It is sometimes desirable to have these boxes located in the same relative positions in such walls uniformly throughout a building, and this frequently involves the necessity of locating in a given partition two boxes directly opposed to each other but opening upon opposite sides of the partition. When the partition is of sufficient thickness no difficulty is encountered, but in the case of the so-called "solid plaster" wall which is made relatively thin, approximately two inches in thickness, it has been found necessary when using outlet boxes of the type heretofore constructed, to arrange them in offset relation, because of their depth. This, of course, destroys the desired uniformity.

The object of my invention is to produce an outlet box duplex in character, so as to overcome the difficulty above referred to, and I attain this object by a unitary construction providing in effect two boxes arranged directly opposite with their open faces substantially flush with opposite faces of the partition wall in which the unit is inserted.

A special object of the invention is to provide a construction for the unit which reduces to a minimum the cost of manufacture.

A further object is to provide a duplex box in which the separating partition is provided with "knock-outs" which connect the two compartments adjacent the point of entry of a conduit to the box.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated an outlet unit embodying my invention in a preferred manner. While only one form is thus shown, it is contemplated that various changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through a partition wall, with my improved outlet box in position therein. Fig. 2 is a face view of the box looking from the left in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view showing details of construction.

The partition wall for which my box is particularly adapted is designated by the numeral 4, and comprises metallic lathing 5 secured to suitable studding (not shown) and having plaster 6 applied upon its opposite sides. This wall is commonly made of a thickness of about two inches.

7 designates generally my improved outlet box, entered within a suitable opening made in the metal lath before the application of the plaster which subsequently surrounds it. It comprises a peripheral wall 8 in the form of a section of a tube having a central partition plate 9 therein which divides the unit into two compartments 10 and 10^a for each side of the wall. This partition plate may be secured in the box in any suitable way, the partition in the present instance having integral lugs 9^a on its edge fitting into recesses in the box wall. This peripheral wall of the box herein shown is formed from a strip of metal, the edges 8^a of which are secured together in abutting relation by welding. The partition may be put in place with the lugs engaging in the recesses before the ends of the peripheral wall are drawn together and welded, or it may be originally cupped and then forced into the box wall already closed.

In each of the four sides of the peripheral wall 8 is provided a "knock-out" or plug 11 located substantially centrally of the wall. Ordinarily a bushing 11^a is mounted in the wall opening through which the wires enter. To make room for the bushing the partition plate 9 is also provided with "knock-outs" 12 preferably semi-circular in form, which terminate at the periphery of the partition adjacent the respective wall "knock-outs" 11. This enables wires, inserted into the box through an opening formed by removing one of the "knock-outs" 11 and the adjacent partition "knock-out" 12 to be branched to one side or the other of the partition into one or the other of the compartments 10 and 10^a. The remaining "knock-outs" in the partition and wall are not disturbed so that the partition remains intact to completely separate the compartments of the box except at the point where the wires are to be branched. I have indicated in Fig. 1 a conduit 13 enclosing wires 14 which are branched as at 15 and lead into the compartments 10 and 10^a through the recess 12^a

formed by removing one of the "knock-outs" 12. A suitable clamp 16 is provided for securing the conduit in the opening formed by removing the "knock-out" 11.

5 The plate 9 is adapted for securing upon opposite sides of the partition threaded fixture studs 17 to which lamp fixtures may be secured. Any suitable type of fixture stud may be provided. Each of these fixture
10 studs 17 employed in the present instance is formed rigid with a spider 18, the studs having flared mouths 19 at their point of connection with the spider. Apertures 20
15 are thus formed between the arms of the spider through which the branch wires may be entered so as to lead out from the stud centrally of the compartment. The spiders
18 upon opposite sides of the partition are secured, it will be noted, by the same
20 bolts 21.

The usual face or cover plates (not shown) may be secured upon opposite faces of the box as by means of screws 22 entered through threaded openings in inwardly projecting
25 lugs 23 and 24, in a well known manner.

It will be apparent that the duplex box which I have thus provided renders it possible, even in thin partition wall construction, to locate boxes in a predetermined
30 position in the wall uniformly throughout the building. The cost of construction of the unit is less than two separate boxes of the

type heretofore used, and the cost of installation is also reduced.

I claim as my invention:

1. A duplex outlet box comprising, in combination, a peripheral wall in the form of a tube section having knock-outs therein, a partition plate attached to the inner side of said wall substantially at the center thereof, said plate having semi-circular knock-outs at its periphery adjacent the knock-outs of said wall, said plate being adapted for securing fixture studs on both sides thereof.

2. A duplex outlet box having a substantially straight peripheral wall containing a knock-out, a partition plate forming two separated compartments in said box, said partition having a knock-out therein adapted to be removed to form a recess in the periphery of the partition adjacent the knock-out of said wall.

3. A duplex outlet box having a peripheral wall in the form of a tube section containing an opening for a conduit into said box, a partition plate forming two substantially equal separated compartments in said box, said partition having an opening therein forming a recess in the periphery of the partition adjacent the opening of said wall.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

HERBERT RAY COOK.