

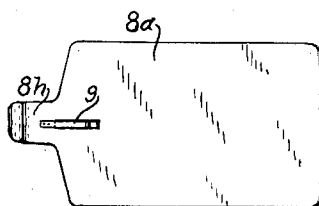
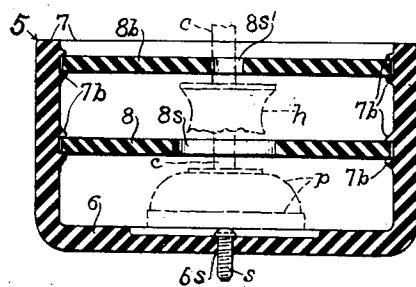
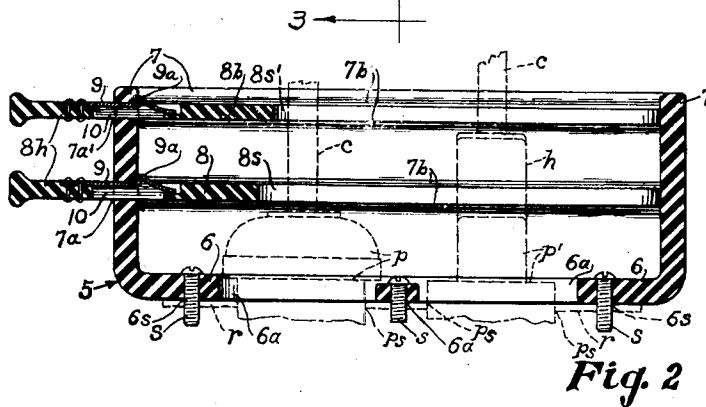
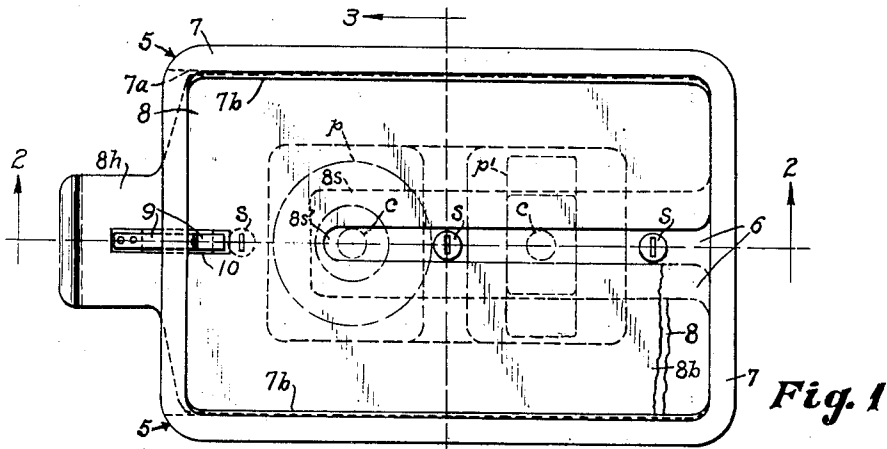
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PROTECTING GUARD FOR ATTACHMENT TO WALL-RECEPTACLES

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PROTECTING GUARD FOR ATTACHMENT  
TO WALL RECEPTACLES

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4 Claims. (Cl. 174-67)

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This invention relates to electric insulators, also to electric conductor-guards, and especially to a protecting guard for attachment to dual wall-receptacles.

Unprotected wall-receptacles are dangerous and subject to dangers from various sources; for instance, from children who are likely to pull out the conducting plugs and probe into the sockets with whatever is handy to them; and if the probe be of metal there is obvious danger for both child and electric contacts. Even if sticks, paper or other non-conducting materials be set into the sockets, it may render them ineffective.

The main object of this invention is to provide simple, effective means to preclude the dangers mentioned, while minimizing the cost of production and installation of this safety means or protecting guard.

Other objects and important features are pointed out or implied in the following details of description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of this invention or wall-receptacle attachment, parts at lower-right being broken away.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view along line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view along line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a front view of one of the guard-plates or gates to be used interchangeably with those shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, this view being reduced to about one-half scale from that of Figs. 1-3.

Referring to these drawings in detail, in which, similar reference characters correspond to those in the accompanying drawings, the invention is described as follows:

In broad terms, the invention is an attachment for a wall-receptacle *r*, see Fig. 2, and comprises a guard for attachment to a wall-receptacle that includes an electric plug-socket (at *ps*), a casing 5 having a wall 6 that has means *s* to secure it to a wall-receptacle, and has an opening 6*a* therethrough to permit an electric plug *p'* to extend therethrough while the contact-plugs (not shown) are engaged with their complemental contacts in an electric circuit, said casing having a continuous wall 7 that adjoins said rear wall and has a slot 7*a* therethrough substantially parallel to said rear wall, said continuous wall having a pair of parallel guard-plate-retainers 7*b* that extend from said slot toward the opposite side of said continuous wall, in combination with the guard-plate 8 normally seated and removably secured in said slot and between the retainers of said

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pairs, and having a straight slot that is open at one end and adapted to receive insulated conducting wires therethrough (as indicated at *c*) while being too narrow to permit the plug-bodies to be passed therethrough.

More specifically, the invention also comprises a substantially continuous or unslotted guard-plate 8*a* adapted to be seated and secured in said casing in such a position as to entirely cover the opening of the rear wall when said plug is absent from said plug socket, also, said casing being provided with second slot 7*a'* and a second pair of guard-plate-retainers 7*b*, and a second slotted guard-plate 8*b* adapted to be secured in said second slot of the casing and between retainers 7*b* of said second pair, the slot 8*s* of the first said guard-plate being sufficiently wide to receive the outer end portion or handle *h* of a well-known type of electric-plug while the second said guard-plate 8*b* is in proper position to prevent or limit outward movement of said handle while permitting insulated conducting wires to extend through the slot 8*s'*.

Moreover, the invention comprises spring-means 9 to resist sliding movement of said guard-plate from its normal position, said spring-means being adapted to yield to strong pressure so as to release said guard-plates from said casing. The spring-means 9 of each guard-plate is located in a recess 10 and comprises a hump 9*a*, normally engaged with the upper margin of the slot 7*a* or 7*a'* and is in a proper position to be reached and pressed inward while the handle 8*h* is being pulled outward. This spring-means, though quite simple, requires more strength and more mechanical knowledge than is usually possessed by small children, but is operable by any normal adult.

The protecting guard here shown is designed for use on a dual wall-receptacle, but the invention contemplates adapting the same general principle and broad combination to a single or multiple wall-receptacle; and though the device is here shown as composed mainly of insulating material, it may be composed of any appropriate material or combination of materials.

This device, as shown, accommodates either or both of the kinds of contact-plugs shown at *p* and *p'*, either in the positions shown or in interengaged positions, for the slot 8*s'* is long enough and only wide enough to receive the insulated conductors *c*; and the slot 8*s* is long enough and wide enough to receive the handle *h* at any point therealong, but not wide enough to permit the main body of either plug to be

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moved thereinto. Therefore, when the guard-plates are in the normal positions shown, the plugs cannot be disconnected from the socket *ps*.

Whenever the plugs are removed from the sockets, it is then advisable to substitute the unslotted guard-plate *8a* for one of the slotted guard-plates.

The rear wall *6* is apertured at *6s* for receiving the screws *s* that secure the casing to the wall-receptacle.

Though I have described this invention specifically, I have no intention to limit my patent protection to the precise details of construction described in the foregoing and shown in the drawings; for the invention is susceptible of numerous changes within the scope of the inventive ideas as implied and claimed.

My invention is claimed as follows:

1. In a guard for attachment to a wall-receptacle that includes an electric plug-socket, a casing having a rear wall that has means to secure it to a wall-receptacle and has an opening therethrough to permit an electric plug-body to extend therethrough while the plug-contacts are engaged with their complemental contacts in an electric circuit, said casing having a continuous wall that adjoins said rear wall and has a slot therethrough substantially parallel to said rear wall, said continuous wall having a pair of parallel guard-plate-retainers that extend from said slot toward the opposite side of said continuous wall, in combination with a guard-plate normally seated and removably secured in said slot and between the retainers of said pair, said guard-plate having a straight slot that is open at one end and adapted to receive insulated conducting wires therethrough while being too narrow to permit the plug-bodies to be passed therethrough.

2. The combination described in claim 1, and a substantially continuous guard-plate that constitutes means securable between the guides of said pair when the first said guard-plate is absent

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therefrom, thereby to entirely cover the said opening in said rear wall when said plug is absent from said plug-socket, and means to removably secure said continuous guard-plate between said guard-plate-retainers.

3. The invention described by claim 1, said casing being provided with a second slot and a second pair of guard-plate-retainers of substantially same size and contour as the first said guard-plate-retainers of substantially the same construction and arrangement as the first said retainers, and a second slotted guard-plate of substantially the same size and contour as the first-said guard-plate and provided with means to secure it in said second slot of the casing and between retainers of said second pair, the slot of the first said guard-plate being sufficiently wide to receive the outer end-portion or handle of a well-known type of electric-plug while the second said guard-plate is in proper position to prevent or limit outward movement of said handle and to provide a space through which said insulated conduction wires can be extended to and through said slot of the first said guard-plate.

4. The invention described by claim 1, and spring-means operatively engaged with said casing and guard-plate to resist sliding movement of said guard-plate from its normal position, said spring-means being adapted to yield to strong pressure so as to release said guard-plate from said casing.

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