May 13, 1969 H. L. BIRUM, JR 3,443,350

EXTERIOR WALL ACCESSORIES

Filed May 13, 1966 Sheet 1 of 2

FIG. 1.

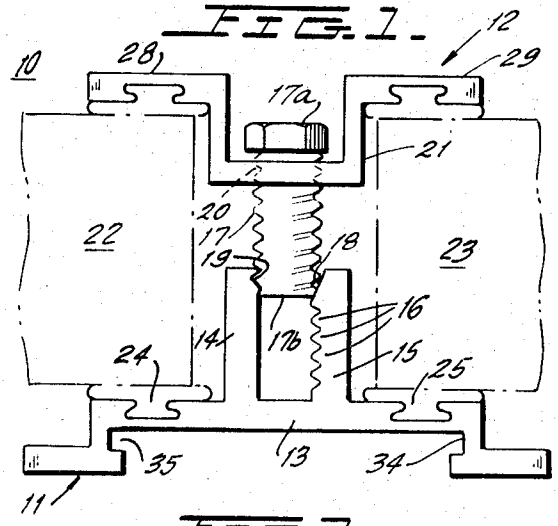


FIG. 1a.

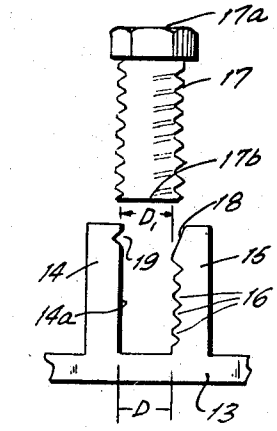


FIG. 2.

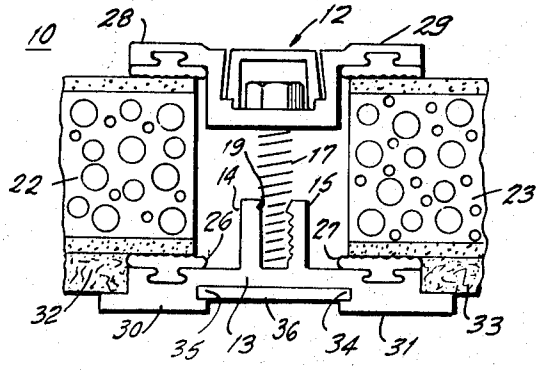
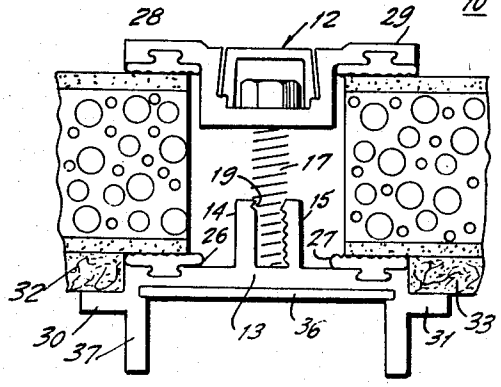


FIG. 3.



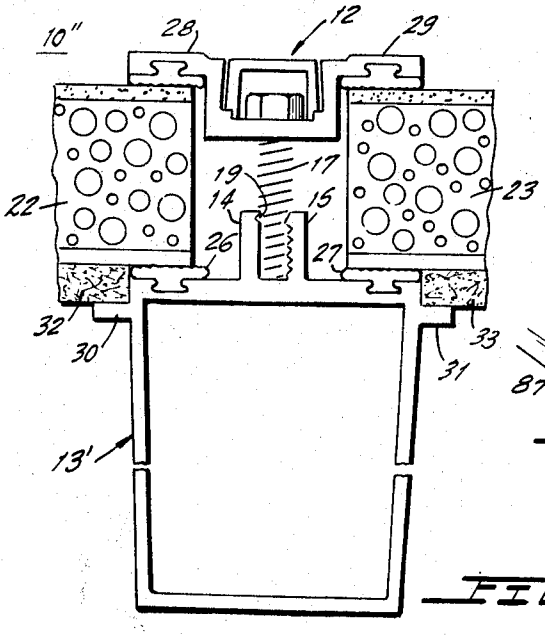


FIG. 4.

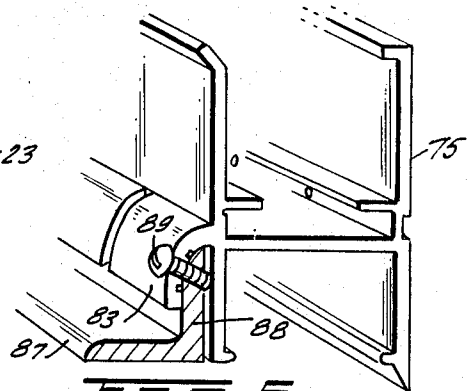


FIG. 6a.

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May 13, 1969 H. L. BIRUM, JR 3,443,350

EXTERIOR WALL ACCESSORIES

Filed May 13, 1966 Sheet 2 of 2

FIG. 5a.

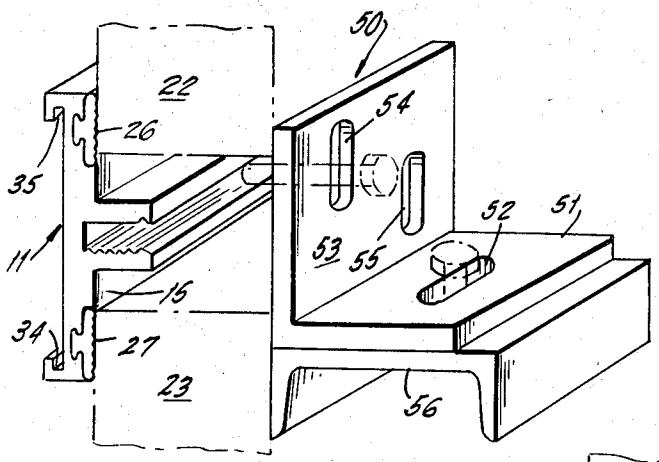


FIG. 5c.

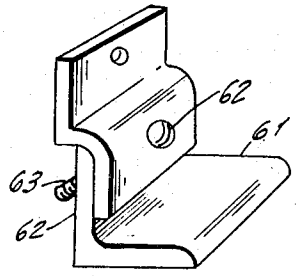


FIG. 5d.

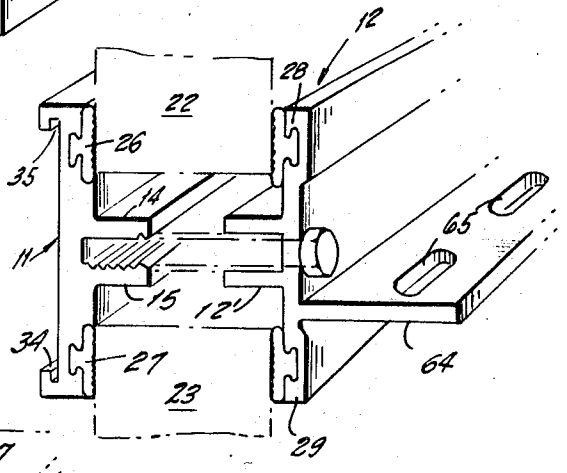
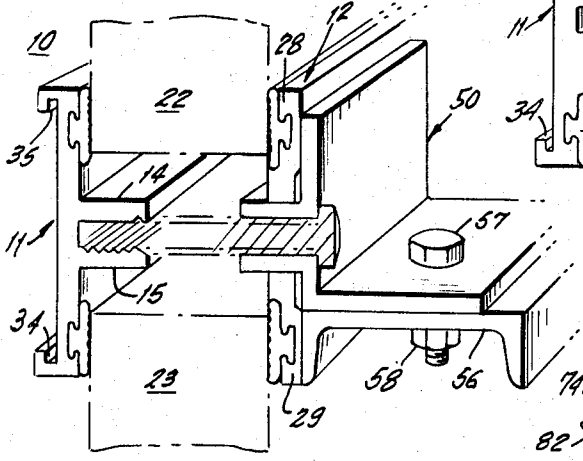


FIG. 5b.



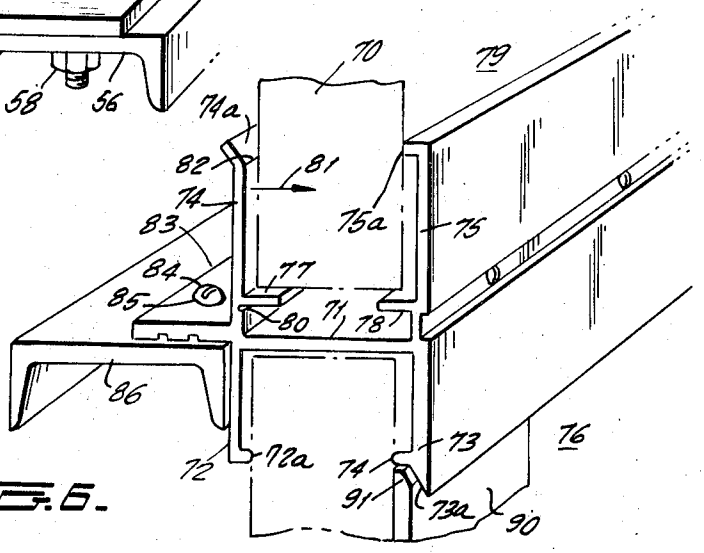


FIG. 6.

United States Patent Office 3,443,350 Patented May 13, 1969

3,443,350

EXTERIOR WALL ACCESSORIES

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Filed May 13, 1966, Ser. No. 549,834
Int. Cl. E04b 2/00
U.S. Cl. 52—459 10 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Exterior batten assemblies for securing building facings to building superstructure in which exterior batten strips are securely fastened to interior batten strips for support of building facings by means of elongated projections defining a cavity in which one interior surface of the cavity is substantially flat while the opposing surface is ribbed for firmly receiving and embracing fastening means threadedly engaged within the cavity.

The instant invention relates to exterior building assemblies and more particularly to assemblies of novel design useful in finishing off buildings and like commercial establishments and exhibiting superior strength, greater ease of handling and assembly, as well as flexibility of use.

Modern construction techniques have recently placed great emphasis upon new exterior wall structures which provide a great deal of aesthetic beauty while at the same time providing strong, reliable building facings or walls which are simple in design, flexible in their application and which greatly simplify assembly thereof.

The building facings may be comprised of large, usually rectangular shaped panels which are secured directly to the building framework or superstructure by batten assemblies which rigidly position and secure the panels to the building structure as well as providing adequate sealing along the joining edges of adjacent panels to prevent rain, moisture or other elements from entering into the building proper. Each batten assembly is comprised of interior and exterior batten strips secured together by suitable fastening means so as to embrace the marginal edges of adjacent panels. The exterior batten of one preferred embodiment is provided with a pair of cooperating spaced parallel projections adapted for receiving the forward end of a threaded member. One interior wall of a first projection is ribbed to guide the insertion of the threaded member; the interior wall of the remaining projection is provided with a V-shaped groove near the top of the projection for the purpose of guiding the threaded member into the space between the projections. The projections are formed of a material having characteristics which permit the threaded member to cut grooves into the flat interior surface of the remaining projections so as to be firmly threadedly engaged therein. Such batten strips are typically formed of extruded aluminum which yield the above desirable characteristics. The distance between the flat interior wall and the crests of the ribs on the opposite interior wall of the projection is selected so as to be slightly less than the distance between the roots of the screw thread on diametrically opposed sides of the screw. It has been found that by making this distance between zero to 15,000 of an inch less than the distance between two diametrically opposed roots of the screw member, the pulling power of the screw, when threaded therein, more than triples thereby providing a batten assembly having extremely large holding strength.

The external batten members are further provided with flanges along their opposing edges which are arranged a spaced distance from the external surface of the panels which they embrace. Arranging the flanges in this manner provides adequate clearance for receiving the ends of

intersecting battens between the flanges and the external surface of the panels and further facilitates the introduction of caulking which is a far superior sealant to those methods which have previously been employed.

The external surface of the exterior batten members are further provided with a pair of undercut grooves for receiving feature strips which may be of any suitable color or styling to further enhance the aesthetic appearance of the batten members.

Such exterior batten assemblies are typically secured to the building superstructure by means of clips which are bolted or otherwise suitably fastened to the beam or beams forming the building's superstructure. The mounting of exterior wall assemblies within a single building quite frequently requires a variety of fastening clips due to the variety of forms of superstructure. Such requirements complicate both handling and assembly. The instant invention however, provides a universal clip which is quite flexible in use and is thereby capable of being employed in all possible mounting applications thereby greatly simplifying both handling and assembling operations. The universal clip is an L-shaped member formed of a flat sheet of seal, preferably of ⅛ inch thickness. One arm of the member is provided with a pair of elongated openings arranged at spaced intervals to one another and each being aligned transverse to the alignment of the first opening provided in the first arm. Provision of elongated openings provides a sufficient tolerance for aligning the clip with the batten assemblies as well as providing for normal expansion and contraction of the batten assemblies. These arrangements provide for normal expansion and contraction in two mutually perpendicular directions while at the same time providing suitable support for the batten assemblies and the panel members which they in turn support. The thickness of the universal clip is sufficient to permit bending of an arm in order to provide securement to an L-beam having a vertically aligned mounting surface. As an alternative embodiment, the universal clip may be replaced by an interior batten strip having an elongated projection extending from its interior surface, which strip is capable of being secured to the building structure mounting surface by means of fastening either to the horizontal surface of a U-shaped beam or the vertical surface of an L-beam.

In cases where horizontal batten assemblies are employed for the purpose of positioning and supporting exterior panel members, still another simplified embodiment is provided, which embodiment comprises a substantially H-shaped batten strip having a pair of downwardly depending arms for embracing the upper marginal edge of a panel member and having a pair of upwardly aligned arms for receiving the lower horizontal marginal edge of another panel member. The upwardly aligned arms are each provided with a pair of flanges upon which the lower horizontal edge of the upper panel rests. The upper arm which is positioned toward the building interior is provided with a weakening groove aligned just slightly below its panel supporting flange which weakens the arm at that point causing the arm having the weakening groove to bend inwardly under the weight of the panel member to provide an excellent force-fit of the panel member between the upwardly aligned arms. The H-shaped unitary batten assembly may further be provided with an inwardly directed flange directed toward the building interior for the purpose of securing the H-shaped batten assembly to the building superstructure.

All of the above batten assemblies provide features which greatly simplify handling and assembly while at the same time providing the requisite amount of support and rigidity required of such exterior panel assemblies.

It is, therefore, one object of the instant invention to provide novel batten assemblies for use in finishing build-

ing exteriors wherein handling assembly operations are greatly simplified.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a novel two-piece batten assembly having an elongated opening for receiving a threaded member which is so designed as to have a width no greater than the diameter of the threaded member between diametrically opposed roots of the threaded member so as to significantly improve the pulling force of the threaded engagement.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a novel batten assembly comprising an exterior batten strip having flanges spaced from the surface of the panel members which it embraces to provide sufficient space for intersecting batten strips as well as for the receipt of a sealant to provide an excellent seal against the intrusion of water or other external influences from entering into the building interior.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a novel exterior batten assembly wherein the exterior batten strip is provided with a pair of undercut grooves on its exterior surface for the receipt of feature strips of a variety of colors or designs to further enhance the aesthetic appearance of the batten members.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide novel batten assemblies for use in finishing building exteriors comprising a novel universal clip to permit rigid securement of the batten assemblies to the building superstructure in a variety of differing positions.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a novel unitary batten assembly for use in finishing building exteriors and having at least one pair of embracing arms for receiving the marginal edge of a panel member and means for weakening the supporting strength of at least one of said arms in order to provide an excellent force-fit between the panel member and pair of arms by which it is embraced.

These and other objects of the instant invention will become apparent when reading the accompanying description and drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an end view of a batten assembly designed in accordance with the principles of the instant invention;

FIGURE 1*a* is an elevational view showing the exterior batten assembly and threaded member of FIGURE 1 in greater detail;

FIGURE 2 shows a manner in which a batten assembly is the type shown in FIGURE 1, but embraces a pair of panel members;

FIGURE 3 shows an alternative embodiment for the batten assembly in FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 shows another alternative embodiment for the batten assemblies of FIGURES 2 and 3;

FIGURE 5*a* is a perspective view of a universal clip for securing the batten assemblies of the instant invention;

FIGURE 5*b* is a perspective view showing another application for the universal clip of FIGURE 5*a*;

FIGURE 5*c* shows still another application for the universal clip of FIGURE 5*a*;

FIGURE 5*d* is a perspective view showing a batten assembly wherein the universal clip is formed as an integral part of the interior batten strip;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view showing a one-piece batten assembly; and

FIGURE 6*a* shows an alternative manner for securing the batten assembly in FIGURE 6 to the building superstructure.

FIGURE 1 shows a batten assembly **10** which is comprised of an exterior batten strip **11** and an interior batten strip **12**. The exterior batten strip, so named because it faces the exterior surface of a building or other structure, is comprised of a central portion **13** having a pair of upwardly directed projections **14** and **15** for receiving a threaded member therebetween. The interior surface of projection **15** is provided with a plurality of ribs **16** which are substantially spaced from one another by an amount of substantially equivalent to the pitch of the threaded member **17**. The interior surface of projection **15** is further provided with a tapered portion **18** near its free end to facilitate insertion of threaded member **17**.

The interior surface of projection **14** is substantially flat, however, a single substantially V-shaped groove **19** is provided near its top edge. This groove acts as a "starting groove" for the threading of threaded member **17** therebetween. The distinct advantage of such a groove receiving structure is that the projections **14** and **15** run substantially the entire length of the exterior batten strip **11** which may be as long as 20, 30, or 40 feet. Using this arrangement, there is no problem whatsoever of aligning the hole (or holes) provided in the interior batten strip **12** which receives threaded member **17** so as to insure its proper alignment with the screw receiving projections **14** and **15**. Thus, no care whatsoever need be exercised in the location of the opening in interior batten strip **12**.

The batten strips are secured to one another in the following manner:

An opening **20** is drilled in the central portion **21** of interior batten strip **12** which is of a diameter sufficient to permit the threaded member **17** to pass therethrough while providing a suitable support for the head **17***a* of the threaded member. The panel members **22** and **23** to be embraced by the batten strips **12** and **13** are positioned substantially in the manner shown in FIGURE 1, and the forward end **17***b* of threaded member **17** is positioned between the tapered surface **18** and the "starting groove" **19** of projections **14** and **15**. Threaded member **17** is then rotated by any suitable tool such as a screwdriver, wrench, and the like. The rotation of the thread in this manner causes it to enter between the opposing surfaces of projections **14** and **15**. The ribs **16** and the "starting groove" **19** cause the threaded member to be driven vertically downward and to cut grooves or ribs into the flat interior surface of projection **14**. The rotating operation may be performed until the marginal edges of panels **22** and **23** are firmly embraced by the batten strips **12** and **13**.

FIGURE 1*a* shows an enlarged view of the projections **14** and **15** and the manner in which they are formed so as to significantly improve the pulling strength of the batten assemblies. The distance D between the crests of ribs **16** and the interior surface **14***a* is selected so as to be equal to or less than the distance D_1 between diametrically opposed roots of the threaded member **17**. As one exemplary embodiment, the distance D was 180 thousandths of an inch relative to the distance D_1 which was 195 thousandths of an inch. Since the batten strips are preferably extruded from aluminum, the characteristics of the extruded aluminum caused the aluminum to yield slightly with the threading of the screw member so as to permit threading engagement between the batten strip and the threaded member. It was found that with this arrangement the pulling strength of the batten assembly was better than three to four times greater than the pulling strength of ordinary batten assemblies, wherein the distance D is conventionally greater than the distance D_1. It was found that this improvement in pulling strength is significantly improved when the distance D is either equal to the distance D_1 or less than the distance D_1 by as much as 15 thousandths of an inch.

Since the distance D is always either equal to or less than D_1, the tapered surface **18** is provided to permit starting of the threaded member **17** into threaded engagement with the interior surfaces of projections **14** and **15**. The tapered surface **18** permits the forward end of threaded member **17** to enter to a sufficient depth so that one crest **17'** of the threaded member will embrance the "starting groove" **19** along surface **14***a* to readily permit the threading operation. The result of these dimensional relationships were found to be so good that no slippage of the thread occurred during the performance of a strength test until maximum load was reached, at which time failure was due only to the shearing of the aluminum.

FIGURE 2 shows a batten assembly **10** substantially identical to that shown in FIGURE 1 in a position embracing a pair of exterior panels **22** and **23**. The interior surface of batten strip **13** is provided with a pair of double undercut grooves **24** and **25** (see FIGURE 1) to receive mating projections provided along a pair of sealing gaskets **26** and **27**, so as to provide a good seal between batten strip **13** and the surface of panel members **22** and **23**. The interior batten strip **12** is likewise provided with a pair of double undercut grooves **28** and **29** which may receive elongated sealing strips of the same general configuration as the strips **26** and **27**. This is not absolutely necessary since the batten strips **12** are positioned within the building interior.

As will further be noted, the batten strip **13** is provided with a pair of outwardly directed flanges **30** and **31** which are positioned a spaced distance away from the exterior surfaces of panel members **22** and **23**. This arrangement provides suitable clearance for the receipt of intersecting batten strips so as to permit the edges of an intersecting strip, such as for example, the strip **32** so as to provide a neater finish on the building exterior by concealing the edge of the intersecting batten strip, which may be roughly finished due to a cutting operation. A still further advantage of the flanges **30** and **31** is that they provide a confined space for the receipt of a sealant **33** such as for example, a caulking compound to provide an excellent air and water-tight seal between the exterior batten strip and the exterior surfaces of the panels. The sealing gaskets **26** and **27** normally provide adequate seals under average conditions, but do not have the ability to alter their shape considerably so as to follow all imperfections, crevices, etc., to provide the excellent sealing characteristics which can be achieved through the use of a caulking compound. The flanges **30** and **31**, in addition to providing a rather confined space for receiving the sealant, act to substantially conceal the sealant from view so that its presence does not mar the esthetic appearance of the batten assembly.

A further esthetic feature provided by the batten strip **13** is the provision of a pair of undercut grooves **34** and **35** (see FIGURE 1) for the receipt of a feature strip **36** which may be an elongated strip of plastic, metal or any other suitable material, which may be of any color or finish desired so as to further enhance the esthetic appearance of the assembly. These feature strips may be selected to blend with the decor of the panels **22** and **23**, and may also be removed and replaced by feature strips of other colors or finishes if it is also desired to refinish the panels **22** and **23**, or replace them with panel members of other finishes or colors.

FIGURE 3 shows another embodiment **10'** of a batten assembly of the type shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, wherein the exterior surface of the exterior batten strip **13** is provided with a pair of outwardly directed projections **37** and **38** to provide a shadow effect to further enhance the esthetic appearance of the batten assembly.

FIGURE 4 shows another alternative embodiment **10''** in which the exterior batten strip **13'** commonly referred to as a mullion is substituted for the batten strips **13** of FIGURES 2 or 3. This arrangement shows still another esthetic feature which may be provided by means of the mullion structure which projects a significant degree outwardly from the building surface so as to provide more pronounced shadow effects for the structure. Any of the structures of FIGURES 1 through 4, however, incorporate the features of the superior pulling strength of the screw receiving projections as well as providing the flanges for receipt of caulking compounds and intersecting batten assemblies without any reduction in esthetic appearance of the completed assemblies. The spacing between any of the flanges **30** and **31** from the exterior surface of the panel members is sufficient so that when an intersecting batten such as batten **39**, shown in FIGURE 4, is positioned behind flange **31** there is still better than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch clearance for the receipt of a caulking compound to prevent an adequate seal, even in the presence of the intersecting batten.

FIGURE *5a* shows a universal clip **50** having a flexibility permitting its use in a variety of mounting applications for the purpose of securing the batten assemblies to the building superstructure. The universal clip **50** is an elongated substantially L-shaped member having a first arm **51** provided with an elongated opening **52**, and having a second arm **53** provided with a pair of elongated openings **54** and **55**, which are offset from one another.

As shown in FIGURE *5b*, the universal clip **50** is secured to a horizontally aligned U-beam **56** by means of a bolt **57** and cooperating fastening nut **58**, received by a suitable opening in beam **56** (not shown) and by the opening **52** provided in arm **51**. The vertically aligned arm **53** receives the fastening member **17** through either one of the openings **54** or **55**. This fastening member **17** not only secures the batten strips **12** and **13** to one another, but secures the entire assembly to the universal clip **50**, and hence, to the U-beam **56**. For alignment purposes, the elongated openings **54** and **55** are offset relative to one another so that if either opening is too low or too high relative to the positioning of the batten assembly **10**, the other openings may be selected for mounting purposes. After selection of one opening and securely fastening the threaded member **17**, the elongated openings **54** and **55** permit the interchange of normal expansion and contraction as between the beams **56** and the batten assemblies **10**, so as to permit a certain amount of yielding under such pressures. In a like manner, the batten assembly **10** and the U-beam **56** may undergo expansion and contraction along its lengthwise dimensions which expansion and contractional interplay may be taken into account by virtue of elongated opening **52** and arm **51**. Thus, in addition to providing a wide amount of tolerance for mounting, these elongated openings **52**, **54** and **55**, also allow for normal expansion and contractional changes in the structural components employed.

FIGURE *5a* shows an assembly in which the interior batten strip **12** is completely omitted, and wherein the universal clip **50** provides both the function of securing the batten assembly to the U-beam **56**, as well as performing the function of the interior batten strip **12**. It should be understood that a suitable number of universal clips **50** should be positioned at spaced intervals along the length of the batten assembly to provide adequate support for the panel members.

FIGURE *5c* shows another mounting application for universal clip **50**. The clip **50**, which is preferably formed from a steel sheet of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thickness, may be bent so that its arm **51** curves about the upwardly directed arm **60** of a structural L-beam **61**. After suitable bending of the clip **50**, the clip may then be fastened to arm **60** of L-beam **61** by means of bolt **62** and a cooperating fastening nut **63**. The arm **53** of clip **50** may then be secured to the batten assembly **10** as shown in FIGURE *5b*, or may be substituted for the internal batten strip **12** in the manner shown in FIGURE *5a*.

FIGURE *5c* shows an alternative mounting structure wherein the internal **12'** is substantially similar to the batten strips **12** of FIGURES 1 through 4, with the exception of being provided with an inwardly directed projection **64** provided with elongated openings **65** arranged at spaced intervals along the projection **64** for the purpose of mounting the interior batten to a beam of the type shown in FIGURES *5a* and *5b*. When required, the projection **64** may be bent downwardly in the manner in which arm **51** of clip **50** is bent, as shown in FIGURE *5c*, for the purpose of securing the interior batten strip **12'** to an L-shaped beam **61**. The elongated configuration of the openings allow for normal expansion and contraction of the batten member which may be dissimilar to the amount of expansion and contraction experienced by the supporting beams.

FIGURE 6 shows a unitary batten assembly **70** which may be employed in applications requiring horizontal batten strips. The unitary batten assembly **70** has a substantially H-shaped cross-sectional configuration, and is comprised of a central portion **71** having a pair of downwardly depending arms **72** and **73**, and a pair of upwardly aligned arms **74** and **75**. The downwardly depending arms **72** and **73** receive the upper marginal edge of a panel member **76**, which is aligned below batten assembly **70** and may be supported at its lower end by a batten assembly similar in configuration to assembly **70**. The upper arms **74** and **75** are provided with a pair of inwardly directed flanges **77** and **78**, arranged along their interior surfaces for the purpose of supporting the lower edge of a panel member **79**. A "weakening" groove **80** is provided along the interior surface of arm **74** just slightly below flange **77**. In operation, the panel **79** is positioned between arms **74** and **75** so that its lower edge rests upon flanges **77** and **78**. The weight of the panel member **79** upon the flange **77** weakens the supporting strength of arm **74** due to the presence of the weakening groove **80** and causes it to be pulled inwardly in the direction shown by arrow **81** to create an excellent force-fit between the vertex **82** of arm **74** and the inwardly directed flange **75***a* provided at the free end of arm **75**. The vertex **82** lies between the outwardly flared portion **74***a* of arm **74** and the flat vertical surface **74***b* of arm **74**, The outwardly flared portion **74***a* of arm **74** facilitates the insertion of the panel member between arms **74** and **75**. The front face of member **70** is provided with an elongated groove **74***b* which, in turn, is provided with a plurality of weep holes **74***c*, arranged at spaced intervals within groove **75***b* to permit egress of any water or moisture which may accumulate along the upper surface of central portion **71**.

The one-piece batten assembly **70** is further provided with an inwardly directed projection **83** which has a plurality of elongated openings **84** (only one of which is shown) of the same type as shown in FIGURES *5a–5c* for receiving fastening means **85** to secure the batten assembly to a structural U-beam **86**.

In the case where it is desired to secure batten assembly **70** to a structural L-beam **87**, shown in FIGURE *6a*, the projection **83** is notched or otherwise cut at two-foot intervals, wherein each notch is preferably three inches wide, to form a plurality of individual flanges or flaps, which are then bent down against the upwardly directed arm **88** and secured thereto by suitable fastening members **89**. The horizontal batten assembly **70** greatly simplifies handling and installation in that it is a one-piece member and provides excellent supporting strength for the panel members.

The lower exterior arm **73** of the assembly **70** is provided with an inwardly tapered portion **73***a* and an inwardly directed projection **74** which cooperates with the inwardly directed projection **72***a* of arm **72** to provide a force-fit for the upper marginal edge of panel member **76**. The tapered portion **73***a* of arm **73** provides sufficient clearance for a vertically aligned intersecting batten strip **90**, the upper end of which is arranged to be concealed behind the tapered edge **73***a*. The tapered edge **73***a* acts as a water shed to prevent the entry of water or moisture between vertical batten **90** and panel member **76**. The upper exterior edge of the vertically aligned batten strip **90** is preferably tapered, as shown at **91**, so as to facilitate its insertion between the panel member **76** and arm **73**. When properly inserted, the intersecting vertical batten strip **90** enhances the force-fitting of the panel member **76** between the embracing arms of the one-piece batten assembly **70**.

It can be seen from the foregoing that the instant invention provides novel batten assemblies for use in finishing building exteriors which are simple to handle, greatly facilitate assembly thereof, and are sufficiently flexible to accommodate a variety of mounting applications, thereby greatly reducing material and assembly costs.

Although there has been described a preferred embodiment of this novel invention, many variations and modifications will now be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, this invention is to be limited, not by the specific disclosure herein, but only by the appending claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive privilege or property is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A batten assembly for supporting panel members and the like comprising:

a first elongated batten strip having a substantially flat central portion;

first and second projections extending in a first direction integrally formed on one surface of said batten strip;

a threaded member having a helical shaped thread and a head at one end thereof;

said projections forming a space for receiving said threaded member, defined by spaced substantially parallel first and second walls of said first and second projections respectively;

said first wall having a plurality of spaced parallel ribs; the distance between the crests of said ribs being substantially equal to the pitch of said threaded member;

the distance between the crests of said ribs and the opposite wall being less than the diameter of said threaded member measured between diametrically opposed roots of said threaded member.

2. The assembly of claim **1** wherein said second wall is provided with a starting groove positioned adjacent the free end of said second projection.

3. The assembly of claim **2** whrein said first wall is tapered at the free end of said first projection to widen the space for receiving the threaded member to facilitate entry thereof.

4. The assembly of claim **1** wherein said batten strip is formed from extruded aluminum.

5. The assembly of claim **1** further comprising a second batten strip being a substantially flat member having a plurality of openings placed at spaced intervals for receiving said threaded member.

6. The assembly of claim **1** wherein said distance lies within the limits of being equal to said diameter and being 15 thousandths inches less than said diameter.

7. A batten assembly for supporting panel members and the like comprising:

first and second elongated batten strips each having a substantially flat central portion for embracing the marginal edges of panel members therebetween;

said first batten strip being of the type described in claim **1**;

fastening means for rigidly securing said batten strips to one another;

said first battern strip having first and second flanges along the opposite elongated sides of said batten strip said flanges being a spaced distance away from the exterior surface of adjacent panels;

caulking means being inserted between said flanges the exterior surface of the panels to seal the region therebetween; said flanges substantially concealing all of said caulking means to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the assembly.

8. The assembly of claim **7** wherein said first batten strip exterior surface is provided with a second pair of spaced parallel projections extending outwardly from the exterior surface; a first and second grooves each being adjacent one of said flanges;

a flat elongated feature strip positioned within said grooves for enhancing the aesthetic appearance of said batten assembly.

9. A universal clip for securing exterior batten assemblies, of the type described in claim 1, to the superstruction of a building, said clip being:

a substantially L-shaped clip formed from a flat sheet of metal;

first and second elongated openings being provided in one of said arms, the longitudinal axes of said openings being transverse to the length of the clip;

said openings being offset relative to one another so that at least a portion of one of the openings overlies the space between the projections of said first elongated batten strip;

a third elongated opening provided in said second arm; the longitudinal axis of said third opening being substantially in alignment with the length of the clip.

10. The clip of claim 9 wherein said sheet is ⅛ inch steel.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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