Sept. 2, 1969 C. J. HAUCK 3,464,067

INTEGRAL COPING AND WALK FOR SWIMMING POOLS

Filed June 30, 1967

Fig. 1.

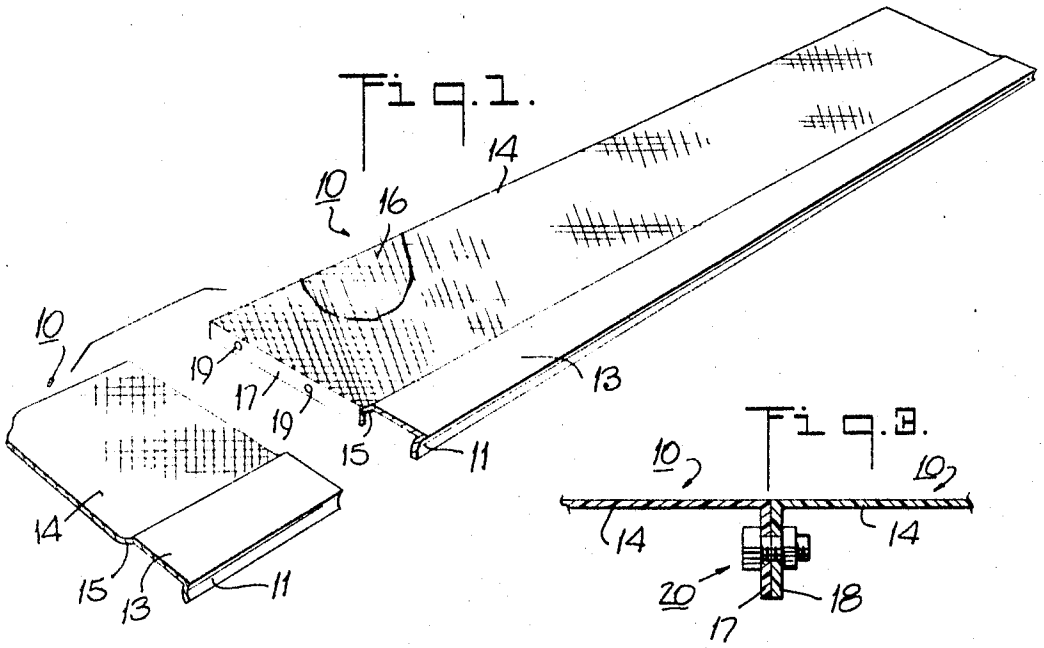


Fig. 3.

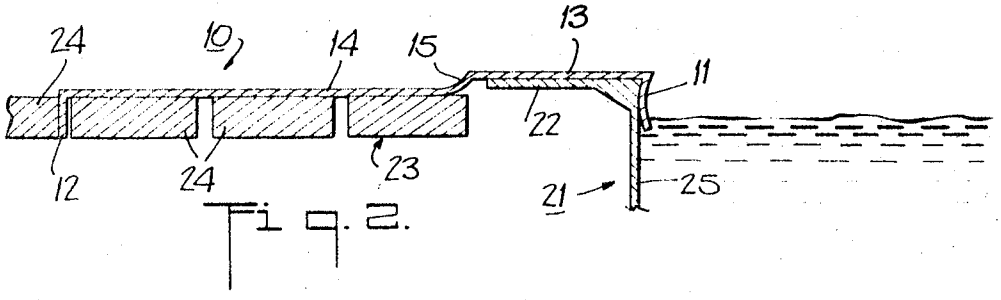


Fig. 2.

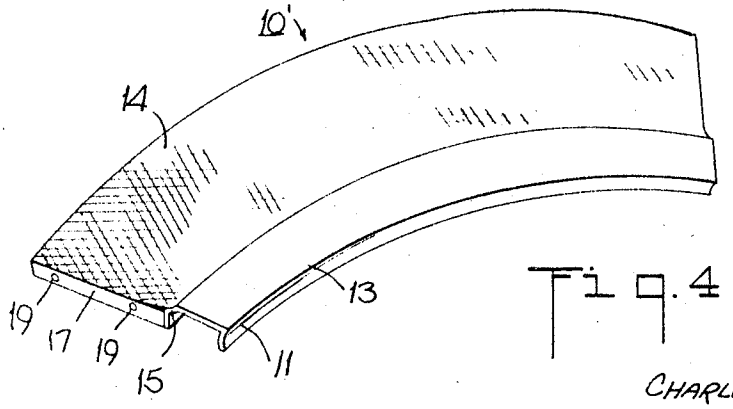


Fig. 4.

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INTEGRAL COPING AND WALK FOR SWIMMING POOLS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The coping and walk strip is made of sections which have integral coping and roughened walk positions. The sections have depending flanges to abut the side wall of a swimming pool and to anchor the section between the planks of a surrounding walkway. The sections are made of fiber glass and are secured end-to-end through depending plates.

This invention relates to an integral coping and wall. More particularly, this invention relates to an integral coping and walk for pools, and still more particularly, to an integral coping and walk strip made of resin impregnated glass fiber.

The use of family-size swimming pools have come into popular use, especially those of the transportable type which are either set in place in a suitable excavation or set partially on the ground above the ground surface. Generally, in the construction of the facilities for these swimming pools, after the swimming pools have been set in place, a walkway has been constructed around the periphery of the pools. In most instances, the edge of the walkways have been brought close to the periphery of the pools such that a minimum of space is allowed to exist between the walkway and pool. This avoids any large spaces between the walkway and pool in which the swimmers using the pool might catch a toe or foot. However, in most cases, the adjacent surfaces of the pools and walkways have not had an uninterrupted cover over the space between the pools and walkways.

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to cover the adjacent surfaces of a swimming pool and a walkway around the pool.

It is another object of the invention to provide an integral coping and walk strip to cover a portion of sidewall of a swimming pool and the adjacent surfaces between a walkway and the swimming pool.

It is another object of the invention to provide a cover between a transportable swimming pool and adjacent walkway with a non-skid surface.

It is another object of the invention to provide an integral coping and walk strip which is easily installed in place.

It is another object of the invention to provide a lightweight water-resistant coping and walk strip for a transportable swimming pool.

Briefly, the invention provides an integral coping and walk strip for a transportable swimming pool which is constructed of a plurality of sections. Each section is formed with a generally channel shaped cross-section with one leg of the section being rounded in a manner to overlie and abut the top of the side wall of the swimming pool. The other leg of each section is substantially vertical so as to act as an anchor for the section. The sections of the integral coping and walk strip are made of water-resistant material such as resin-impregnated glass fibers and are of relatively high strength while being of relatively low weight. In addition, the walk portion of the sections are provided with a roughened surface to lie alongside the perimeter of the swimming pool to act as a non-skid walk surface.

In one embodiment of the invention where the sections of the strip are to be placed over a swimming pool and a surrounding peripheral walkway formed of wooden planks, the legs of each section are positioned in abutment with the inside sidewall of the swimming pool and between the planks of the walkways so as to bridge the space between the swimming pool and walkway. Succeeding sections of the strip are placed together along the periphery of the swimming pool and secured to each other by means of nuts and bolts in water-tight relation. For this purpose, the sections have depending flanges which are provided with holes for passage of the bolts when two adjacent sections are in alignment.

When in place, the integral coping and walk strip forms a cover over the space between the edge of the swimming pool and the surrounding walkway. In addition, the surfaces of the strip are such as to retain the water in the swimming pool while also being able to direct any water which is splashed out of the pool off the strip.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description and appended claims taken in conjunction with the accomanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a section of the integral coping and walk strip of the invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the strip of FIG. 1 in place over a swimming pool and walkway;

FIG. 3 illustartes a cross-sectional view of a pair of depending flanges of adjacent strip sections bolted together, and

FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a coping and walk strip section of curved configuration.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, integral coping and walk section **10** is formed with a pair of longitudinally disposed depending flanges **11, 12** along the edges so as to define a substantially channel-shaped cross-section. One of the flanges **11** is of rounded shape and defines the outer edge of a raised coping portion **13** of the section **10**, whereas the other flange **12** is of flat shape and defines the outer edge of a walk portion **14** of the section **10**. The coping portion **13** and walk portion **14** which are disposed in different elevational planes from each other are joined at adjacent edges by a rounded shoulder **15** of smooth transitional contour which is capable of maintaining water on the walk portion **14** away from the coping portion **13**.

The surface of the coping portion **13** is substantially smooth and even to act as a suitable cover for the peripheral edge of a swimming pool, for instance, of the transportable type. However, the surface of the walk portion **14** is roughened so as to facilitate the formation of a non-skid surface for footing purposes. In addition, the

surfaces of the section **10** are coated as with a gel coating **16** in order to have a color and permanent finish imparted to the section **10**.

The flange **11** of the coping portion **13** is rounded on an arc having a center disposed away from the section **10** and is of a length which are suitable to act as a splashback, that is, the flange **11** is adapted to direct an upward surge of water from a swimming pool along the surface of the flange in a reversed direction back into the swimming pool. The flange **12** of the walk portion **14**, on the other hand, is substantially straight so as, for example, to pass between the planks of a walkway scaffold surrounding a swimming pool.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 3, in order to secure adjacent sections **10** together, each section **10** is provided with a pair of transversely disposed depending plates **17**, **18**, which extend substantially across the walk portion. Each plate **17**, **18** is provided with a plurality of holes **19** which are arranged so as to be in aligned position with corresponding holes in the plate of the adjacent section **10**. A suitable nut and bolt assembly **20** is provided for each pair of aligned holes **19** to fasten the plates **17**, **18**, of adjacent sections **10** together as shown in FIG. 3.

In order to make an integral coping and wall section **10**, a plurality of layers of glass fiber cloth are laid on a suitable mold form having a mold surface which is generally of the contour of the inner surface of a finished section. As each layer of glass fiber cloth is laid in place, a suitable resin is coated over the cloth to saturate and impregnate the fibers of the cloth. After a desired thickness of resin-impregnated glass fiber cloth has been built up on the mold form, the mold form is placed within a suitable mold. Then, a mold die which has a contour complementary to the surface of the finished section **10** is brought down onto the exposed surfaces of the resin-impregnated glass fiber cloth. Next, sufficient pressure is applied between the mold form and mold die to shape the glass fibers and sufficient heat is imparted to the resin by a suitable heating means as is known, to cure the resin and set the glass fibers in place. Thereafter, the mold is opened and the molding is removed. After removal from the mold, the holes for the nut and bolt assemblies are cut or otherwise formed in the transverse plates of the molding. The gel coating **16** is then applied to the molding to complete the making of the coping and walk section **10**.

Alternatively, instead of using glass fiber cloth to make the coping and walk section, bundles of glass fiber rovings or filaments can be used. In such instances, the rovings or filaments are disposed in a manner so as to impart sufficient strength to the depending flanges and surfaces of the finished section.

Referring to FIG. 2, when put in place about a swimming pool **21** having, for example, an outwardly extending lip **22** and a surrounding walkway **23** made of spaced wooden planks **24**, the coping and walk strip **10** is laid over adjacent portions of the pool **21** and walkway **23**. That is, the depending rounded flange **11** of the coping portion **13** is abutted against the side wall **25** of the pool **21** while the surface of the coping portion **13** is disposed over and on the lip **22** of the pool **21**. Also, the depending flange **12** of the walk portion **14** is inserted between a pair of spaced planks **24** of the walkway **23**. Preferably, the sections **10** are about as long as the sections of planks used in constructing the walkway **23** so that the transverse plates **17**, **18** of adjacent sections fit between the ends of these plank sections. Once a pair of adjacent sections **10** have been put in place and aligned, the nut and bolt assemblies are utilized to secure the sections **10** together to provide stability.

Referring to FIG. 4, an integral coping and walk section **10'** is made of arcuate configuration to conform to the rounded corners of a swimming pool structure as above. The coping and walk section **10'** is similar in structure to the above described straight section **10** and like reference characters have been used to designate like parts.

It is noted that the integral coping and walk sections can be of any configuration so as to conform to differently shaped segments of variously designed swimming pools.

Also, it is noted that when the coping and walk strip is used with an inground pool, the strip can be supported on any means such as earth, a bed of sand or set into concrete. In the latter case, the strip provides the advantage that the concrete does not require any finishing such that the swimming pool can be used immediately after setting of the strip sections.

The invention provides an integral coping and walk strip which is made in sections for placement around swimming pools. The sections of the strip are made of lengths and weights so as to be manually handled in an easy and rapid manner. Further, the sections are made of water-resistant high strength glass fiber reinforced plastic materials so as to be relatively long lasting. In those instances when it is desirable to take up the coping and walk strip, such can easily be accomplished in a simple manner.

What is claimed is:

1. An integral coping and walk strip for a swimming pool comprising a plurality of sections, each of said sections having a first depending flange and a second depending flange at the opposite ends thereof, said first flange being rounded on an arc having a center disposed away from said walk strip to act as a splashback, a raised coping portion adjacent said first flange, a walk portion adjacent said second flange and a shoulder intermediately of said first and second flanges joining said coping portion and walk portion to each other; and means connecting adjacent sections together.

2. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **1**, wherein said walk portion of said section has a roughened surface.

3. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **1**, wherein said shoulder is rounded to maintain water on said walk portion away from said coping portion.

4. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **1**, wherein each of said sections further has a pair of depending plates disposed across the ends of said walk portion, and said means connects one of said plates of one section to another of said plates of another section.

5. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **4**, wherein said means includes at least one nut and bolt assembly.

6. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **1**, wherein each of said sections is composed of resin-impregnated fiber glass.

7. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **6**, wherein said section is of generally channel-shaped cross-section, and said walk portion has a roughened surface.

8. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **7**, wherein at least one of said sections is of straight configuration.

9. An integral coping and walk strip as set forth in claim **7**, wherein at least one of said sections is of arcuate configuration.

10. In combination with a swimming pool having an upstanding peripheral side wall; an integral coping and walk strip surrounding the periphery of said swimming pool, said strip comprising a plurality of sections, each of said sections having a first depending flange of rounded shape with a center disposed away from said walk strip at one end thereof overlying and in abutment with said side wall to act as a splashback, a raised coping portion adjacent said first flange and extending outwardly from said

side wall, a walk portion having a roughened surface adjacent said raised coping portion, an intermediately disposed shoulder connecting said coping portion and walk portions together and a second flange depending from said walk portion at the opposite end of said section, and means connecting adjacent sections together in water-tight relation.

11. The combination as set forth in claim **10** wherein said sections are each composed of resin-impregnated fiber glass.

12. The combination as set forth in claim **10** further comprising a walkway about said side wall in spaced relation thereto, said walkway including a plurality of spaced planks wherein each said section is supported on said walkway and each said second flange depends between adjacent planks of said walkway.

13. The combination as set forth in claim **10** further comprising means about the periphery of said side wall supporting said sections of said coping and walk strip.

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52—177, 300