Nov. 11, 1958 J. P. SCARDINO 2,859,606

SUPPORTS FOR WALL INSTALLED ACCESSORIES

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Fig. 1.

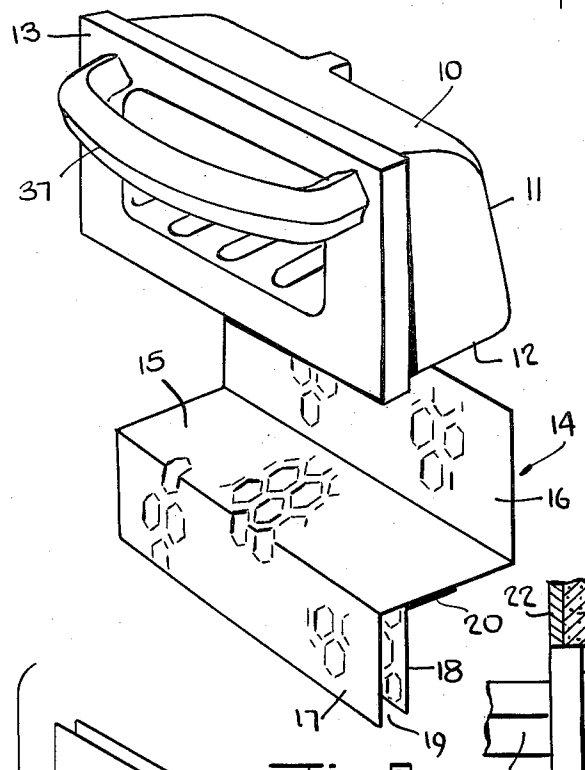


Fig. 4.

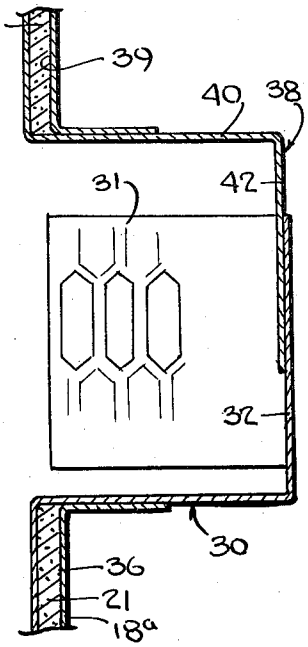


Fig. 2.

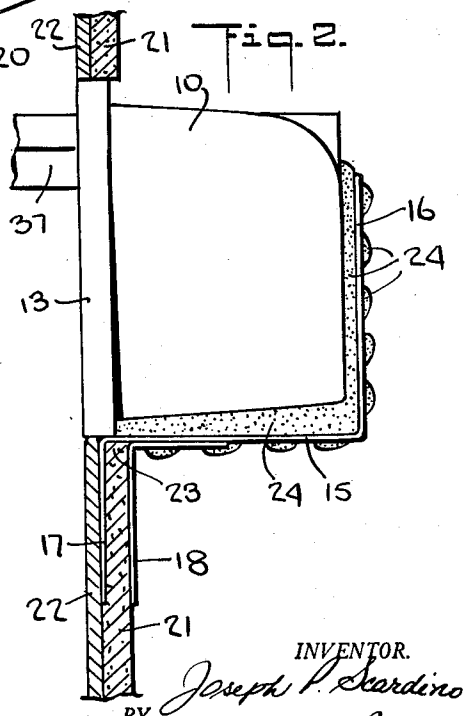
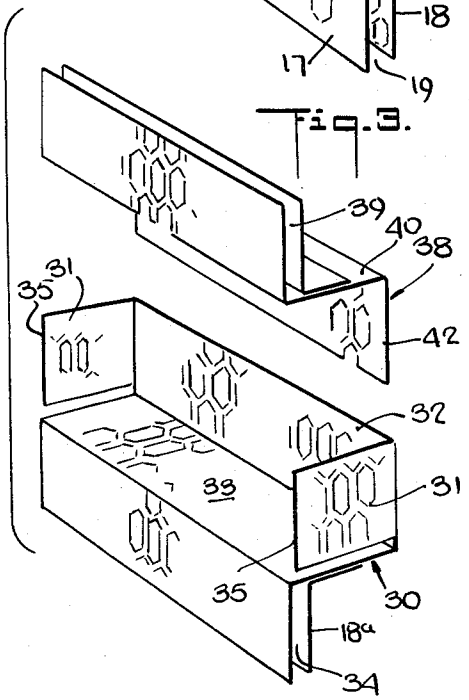


Fig. 3.



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SUPPORTS FOR WALL INSTALLED ACCESSORIES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 72—.5)

This invention relates to supports for built-in, recessed fixtures of the type generally applied to housing walls. The invention is particularly directed to means for installing and supporting accessories such as soap receptacles, tooth brush holders, and towel bars or the like in the bathroom walls, particularly of tile construction although other dispositions in other rooms of the house will be evident.

To my knowledge, accessories of the above type are conventionally disposed in a pre-formed opening in the usual Sheetrock wall of, for example, the bathroom. It is further conventional to thereafter apply tiles or the like over the wall and around the accessory. Usually, an outer edge or frame of the accessory is cemented to the edges of the opening and this adhesive connection is substantially the sole support for the accessory. As a consequence, such fixtures often dislodge from their installed position resulting in a high breakage rate. Builders have been aware of this problem which is regarded as serious but notwithstanding attempts to solve the same, nothing has been developed which is of any substantial help.

With the foregoing in mind, I have devised a metal supporting bracket or anchor which, in effect, permits the fixture to apply a firm and secure grip upon the surrounding walls of the opening while anchoring it in the opening and thereby solving the above problem in a simple although most effective manner. In a preferred embodiment, I form the supporting bracket with a flat floor which serves as a load supporting member, and a downwardly directed channel extending perpendicularly from one edge of the floor, said channel being adapted to securely engage the lower lip of the wall opening. The top, closed end or back of the channel is co-planar with the floor so that they may jointly support the accessory. The bracket is perforated throughout so as to receive cement or plaster which bonds the accessory thereto.

As a modification, an embodiment is provided which forms a substantially complete enclosure for the fixture and which serves to engage not only the lower lip of the opening but the top lip as well. The fixture is further cemented to the bracket on all available sides so as to result in an extremely sturdy support.

The invention will be further understood from the following description and drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a basic form of supporting bracket together with a soap receptacle as an example of an accessory which may be supported thereby;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the installation of the support and soap receptacle;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a modified embodiment of the support; and

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the installation of the modified support.

Referring to Figure 1, a typical accessory which is to be installed in a wall is illustrated as soap receptacle **10** having a closed back **11** and a bottom wall **12**. The receptacle is, of course, hollow. It is further formed with a circumferential flange **13** serving as a frame. Other

types of accessories may be of different construction but as long as they are to be recessed in the wall, they may be anchored by the support of this invention.

The support comprises a metal bracket **14** which is formed with perforations throughout. As an example, so-called flat expanded metal or wire lath may be employed. The support is formed with a floor **15**, an upstanding back **16** at one end, and a pair of downwardly depending, horizontally spaced flanges **17** and **18** at the other end. Flanges **17** and **18** define between them a channel **19**, the top or back of which is closed and co-planar with the floor **15**. In fact, the top, closed back of channel **19** may be a part of and continuous with floor **15**. It will be observed, in the form shown in Figure 1, that flange **18** is formed with a lateral extension **20** which may be secured as by welding to the underside of floor **15**. However, many other methods may be employed to form the flanges **17** and **18**, such as by using a single piece of metal for the entire support but which is bent downwardly at flange **18** and then folded upwardly upon itself to form the flange **18** whereupon it continues forwardly to form the horizontally spaced flange **17**.

The supporting bracket **14** is employed as illustrated in Figure 2. As is well understood, conventional walls **21** comprise boards commonly designated as Sheetrock. Tiles **22** are conventionally applied to the outer or front surface thereof by suitable cement so as to form a completely tile wall. However, in order to install a tile accessory, a suitable opening is first formed in the Sheetrock wall, the opening in the instant case, being of the dimensions of frame **13**. Ordinarily, it is only this frame which is cemented to the sheetrock and tile.

In installing the accessory according to this invention, the mouth or bottom end of channel **19** is first pushed over the lower lip **23** of the wall opening. Channel **19** is of a width so as to firmly embrace such lower lip. If desired, the flanges **17** and **18** may be pressed inwardly toward each other before such installation, so as to enhance the grip. In one operating embodiment, the channel was about one inch in height so that a considerable gripping surface was provided. Thereafter, conventional plaster or cement **24** is smeared on the floor **15** as well as the back **16**. Plaster is also smeared around the back and bottom surfaces of soap receptacle **10** and the receptacle is then deposited in place over the support **14** and so that its face extends just enough forwardly of flange **17** to permit the tiles **22** to be installed around the frame **13** and provide a continuous wall surface. It will be recognized, however, that the particular method of installment may be quite diverse since, if the tiles **22** are of the same thickness as frame **13**, the channel **19** will be relatively further back, or directly behind frame **13**.

When the plaster sets, the soap receptacle **10** will be firmly anchored in place. Of course, the usual bonding plaster may be used around the frame **13** but the weight of the accessory will be principally supported by the bracket **14**, the receptacle forming a substantially unitary structure therewith which is very strong, sturdy and practically impossible to dislodge.

In Figures 3 and 4, is illustrated a modified embodiment offering a greater degree of support. Thus, the lower bracket **30** is substantially the same as bracket **14** save that it is provided with side wings **31** which are integral with back **32**. Of course, such side wings may just as well be integral with the floor **33**. Lower bracket **30** may of itself be used in place of bracket **14**, the side wings **31** being plastered to the sides of the receptacle so as to offer further support therefor. It may also be noted that side wings **31** may be advantageously made longer than the distance between the rearmost flange **18***a* and the back **32** so as to extend further forwardly than said flange **18***a* as illustrated in Figure 3. Accordingly,

when the open mouth of channel **34** is deposited over the lower lip of the wall opening, the wings **31** will tend to protrude slightly forwardly from the wall opening. The builder will then push the wings into the opening spreading them by hand somewhat, until the front edges **35** of the wings **31** bite into the rear surface **36** (Figure 4) of the wall **21** and thereby afford a considerably greater support for the accessory, particularly against a tendency to tilt. It will be recognized that this might very well occur should a person rest a portion of his weight upon cross bar **37** of accessory **10**. However, the action of wings **31** against the wall **21** would resist any tendency of the accessory to tilt out of position.

In conjunction with the lower bracket **30**, illustrated in Figure 3, it is desirable in instances where a greater degree of support is necessary, to employ the upper supporting bracket **38**. Upper supporting bracket may in fact be exactly of the same construction as bracket **14**, it being merely reversed so that the channel **39** has its mouth at the upper end and its back or closed end co-planar with the ceiling **40**.

The installation of the composite bracket as illustrated in Figure 3 is shown in Figure 4. The back of the bracket of the composite device is now formed from back section **32** of the lower bracket and back section **42** of the upper bracket which are slidably vertically upon each other so as to adjust the over-all height of the composite bracket in accordance with the height of the wall opening. In actual practice, the lower bracket **30** is installed as hereinabove explained and the upper bracket **38** is likewise installed by pushing it upwardly on the upper lip of the wall opening, the ceiling **40** being then parallel to the floor **33**. While it is being pushed upwardly the back section **42** slides vertically against back section **32**. If wings **31** have been constructed, as above explained, so as to be slightly longer than the distance between lower flange **18***a* and back section **32**, the builder will push in the wings as aforesaid so that the front edges of the wings will bite against the rear wall surface.

Thereafter the builder will apply plaster over all outside surfaces of the accessory (except of course the front face) and will also apply such plaster completely over the supporting bracket so as to substantially fill the perforations and extend therethrough. He then will install the accessory as above set forth and permit the plaster to harden. He will thereafter apply the tiles as usual over the Sheetrock and over the foremost of the flanges as illustrated in Figure 2. It may further be noted that should the foremost flange cause the tile covering it to jut out objectionably, this may be overcome by simply stripping off a portion of the usual paper sheeting on the Sheetrock so that the flange is effectively recessed or countersunk in the Sheetrock whereupon the tile will lie flat over both the flange and the Sheetrock.

There has been shown what is now considered a preferred embodiment of the invention but it is obvious that changes and omissions may be made without departing from its spirit.

For example, whereas I have shown the channels as being applied over both the upper and lower lips of the wall opening, it is evident that brackets may be employed wherein the channels are applied over the side edges of the opening. Thus, the lower bracket **30** may be employed as a side bracket, the channel **34** being pushed over the side edges or lips of the opening whereupon one of the wings **31** may serve as a floor. It is further evident that the upper bracket **38** may be used on the other side to form a composite bracket.

In the embodiment of Figures 3 and 4, it is considered preferable to make the back section **42** of the upper bracket somewhat shorter than the back section **32** of the lower bracket **30** so as to facilitate installation, only a very slight degree overlap of these sections being required to form a composite back. It may further be noted that whereas both of the wings **31** are shown as formed on the lower bracket section **30**, it is equally satisfactory to form one of the wings on the lower bracket section **30** and the other on the upper bracket section **38**.

What is claimed is:

A support for recessed wall fixtures to be installed in a wall opening, said support comprising a metal bracket having a planar floor and a pair of spaced flanges depending downwardly from one end of said floor and defining a channel having a downwardly directed mouth adapted to embrace the lower lip of the wall opening, an upstanding back formed at the other end of said floor, the top of the channel being closed and co-planar with said floor, said floor flanges and back all being formed with perforations throughout whereby they may receive cement for bonding the fixture thereto, said pair of spaced flanges being fixed in position at said one end of said floor and being bendable inwardly toward each other for adjusting the mutual spacing thereof, said bracket including bendable sides which extend along the width of said floor from said back to a point forwardly of the rearward one of said spaced flanges, said sides having bottom edges which are free of said floor.

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