

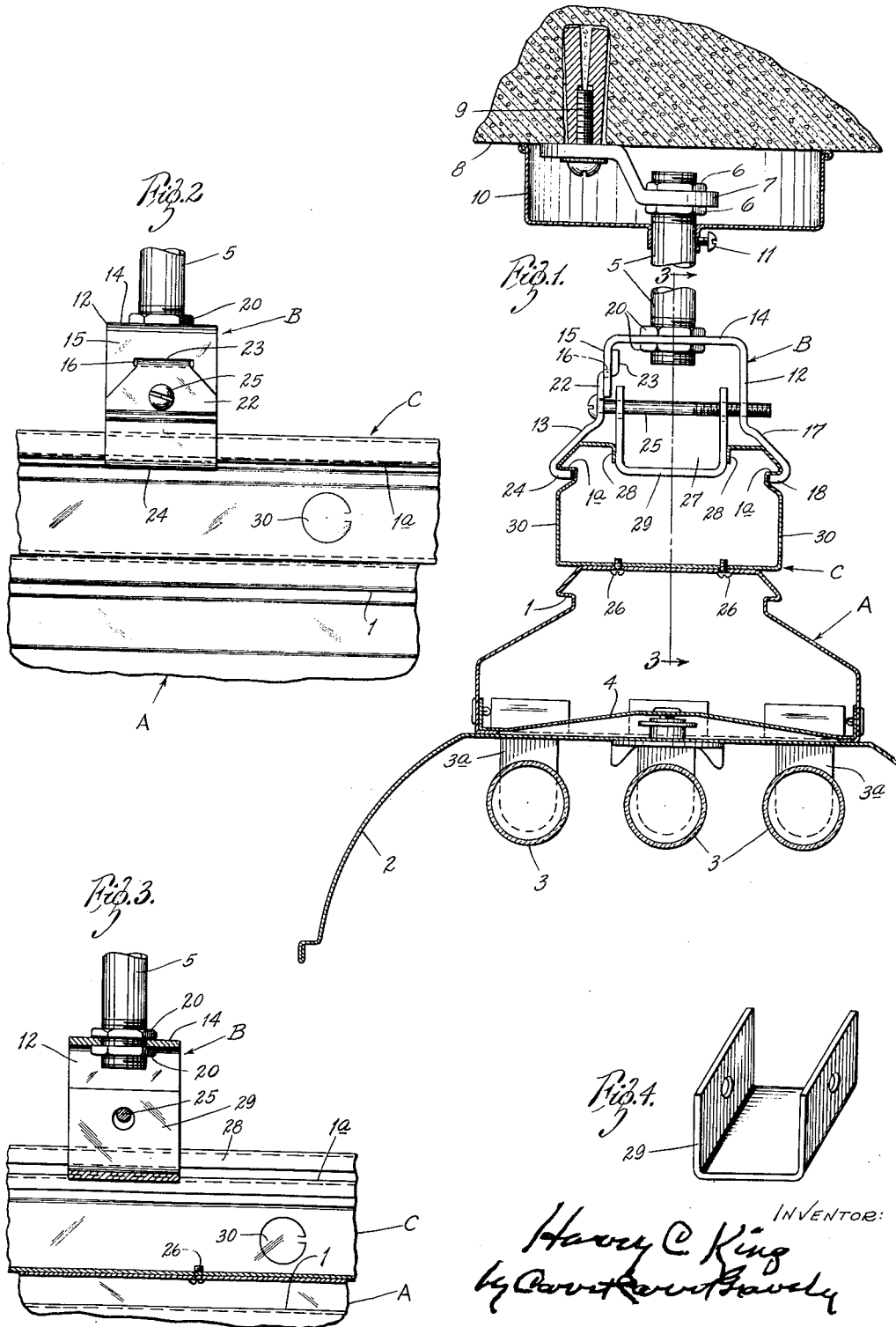
April 18, 1944.

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2,347,113

ELECTRIC LIGHTING FIXTURE

Filed Dec. 24, 1942



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,347,113

ELECTRIC LIGHTING FIXTURE

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Application December 24, 1942, Serial No. 469,981

4 Claims. (Cl. 248-343)

This invention relates to electric lighting fixtures, particularly continuous overhead fluorescent lighting fixtures of the kind having a continuous wiring housing along the top thereof and that is supported by a hanger engageable with said housing. The invention has for its principal object to combine a separable supplemental wiring housing with the usual wiring housing; to provide each of said housings with portions mutually adapted for engagement by the fixture hanger, whereby said housings may be used together, or the usual housing used alone, with said hanger; to provide access to said supplemental housing through the top thereof; and to provide a transverse strut member for said supplemental housing. The invention consists in the fixture and the construction, combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification and wherein like symbols refer to like parts wherever they occur,

Fig. 1 is a vertical cross-sectional view of a continuous overhead fluorescent lighting fixture embodying my invention,

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevational view of said fixture,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary central longitudinal section on the line 3-3 in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the channel-shaped strut member for the supplemental wiring housing.

In the accompanying drawing, my invention is shown embodied in a continuous overhead fluorescent lighting fixture of the kind shown in Biller Patent No. 2,297,869 wherein the wiring, ballast and other auxiliaries (not shown) of the lamp circuit are enclosed in a continuous housing A of substantially inverted channel-shaped section having outstanding ribs or ledges 1 along opposite sides thereof, and the reflector 2, lamps 3 and lampholders 3a are sustained by a bridge plate 4 seated in the bottom of said housing. The fixture is suspended from the ceiling at points spaced apart along the length thereof by means of suspension supports. Each of the suspension supports comprises an upright pipe 5 that is removably secured by nuts 6 to one end of a hanger plate 7 whose other end is secured to the ceiling 8 by means of a vertical screw or bolt 9. The hanger plate 7 is concealed in a cup-shaped canopy 10, which is sleeved on the hanger pipe 5 and is held in abutting relation to the ceiling 8 by means of a set screw 11. Fixed to the lower end of the hanger pipe 5 is a fixture holder or

support B comprising two sections 12 and 13, respectively, that are separable in directions crosswise of the fixture. The section 12 of the fixture support B comprises a substantially inverted channel-shaped body portion having a horizontal web 14, a relatively shallow depending side flange 15 with a horizontally elongated slot 16 extended therethrough, and a relatively deep depending flange 17 that terminates in an inwardly extending flange or hook 18. The lower end of the hanger pipe 5 extends downwardly through the web portion 14 of the section 12, which is removably secured to said pipe by nuts 20 threaded thereon. The other or opposite section 13 of the support or holder B comprises a vertically disposed portion 22 that is disposed alongside of the depending shallow side flange 15 of the section 12 in lapping relation to the lower marginal portion of said shallow flange and has a tongue 23 at its upper end that extends inwardly through the slot 16 in said shallow side flange and thence upwardly alongside the inner face thereof. The holder section 13, like the section 12, terminates at its lower end in an inwardly extending flange or hook 24 that extends beneath the overhanging rib or ledge along the adjacent side of the wiring housing. The slot-and-tongue connection 16, 23 between the two sections 12 and 13 of the fixture holder or support serves to prevent accidental disengagement of said sections. The two sections, however, may be readily disengaged by swinging the section 13 upwardly into a position that will permit the tongue 23 thereof to be withdrawn outwardly through the slot 16 in the section 12. The two sections of the holder B are drawn together to rigidly clamp the fixture therebetween by means of a clamping screw 25 that extends through a horizontal opening provided therefor in the vertical portion 22 of the section 13 and is threaded through a horizontal opening provided therefor in the deep side flange 17 of the section 12.

According to the present invention, the herebefore described lighting fixture is provided with a supplemental wiring housing or channel C, which seats on and is separably secured by screws 26 flatwise to the top of the main or usual wiring housing A of said fixture. The supplemental wiring channel C has outstanding longitudinal ribs or shoulders 1a on opposite sides thereof of substantially the same size and shape as the outstanding ledges or ribs 1 of the main housing A, whereby the outstanding ribs of each of said housings and the hooks 18, 24 of the fixture holder or support B are mutually adapted

for engagement by said support. Thus, the housings A and C may be used together and the holder B clamped to the upper housing C to support the fixture, or the housing A may be used alone and said holder clamped thereto to support said fixture. Access may be had to the interior of the supplemental housing C through a central longitudinal opening 27 in the top wall thereof, the sides of said opening being defined by flanges 28 depending from said top wall. A channel-shaped member 29 is disposed crosswise of the opening 27 in the top of the supplemental wiring housing C and is supported by the clamp screw 25, which extends through registering openings provided therefor in the upstanding side flanges of said member which serves as a cross-brace or strut to prevent sidewise collapse of said housing under the clamping action of support or holder B.

By the arrangement described, when it is desired to install telephones in buildings where no conduits are provided for concealing the telephone wires, such conduits may be readily provided by attaching the supplemental wiring housing C to the usual wiring housing A of the fixture and clamping the fixture support B to housing C instead of the housing A, the proper fixture height being obtained merely by shortening the hanger pipe 5. Access may be had to the supplemental housing through the open top thereof for installing and inserting the wires therein; and knockouts 30 may be provided in the side walls of said housing to provide side outlets for take-off wires. The strut member 29 stiffens and strengthens the open-top supplemental housing C against the clamping action of the holder B, and the clamping screw 25 of said holder serves as a support for said strut member.

Obviously, numerous changes may be made without departing from the invention and I do not wish to be limited to the precise construction shown.

What I claim is:

1. A continuous overhead type electric lighting fixture comprising a suspension support, a main longitudinal wiring housing and a supplemental longitudinal wiring housing seated on top of said main housing and separably secured thereto, each of said housings having outstanding ribs on opposite sides thereof of substantially identical size and shape, said support having depending portions that are adapted for engage-

ment with the ribs of said supplemental housing when said main and supplemental housings are used together and are adapted for engagement with the ribs of said main housing when said supplemental housing is dispensed with, said support including screw means for drawing the depending portions thereof towards each other into clamping engagement with ribs of said housings, said supplemental housing having an opening in the top thereof, and a strut member disposed in and extending from side to side of said opening and supported by said screw means.

2. A continuous overhead type electric lighting fixture comprising a longitudinal wiring housing having an access opening in the top thereof and longitudinal outstanding ribs along the sides thereof, and a suspension support for said fixture comprising spaced clamp elements with hooks adapted for engagement with said ribs, a screw cooperating with said clamp elements for drawing the same toward one another to retain the hooks thereof beneath said ribs, and a strut member located in and extending from side to side of the access opening in said housing and supported by said screw.

3. An overhead type electric lighting fixture comprising a wiring housing having an access opening in the top thereof, a suspension support for said housing having portions disposed on opposite sides of said housing, said support including screw means for drawing said portions into clamping engagement with the sides of said housing, and a strut member disposed in and extending from side to side of said opening and supported by said screw means.

4. A continuous overhead type electric lighting fixture comprising a self-contained longitudinal lower wiring housing having a closed top, a self-contained longitudinal upper wiring housing having a closed bottom seated on said closed top of said lower housing and separably secured thereto, each of said housings having undercut side portions of substantially identical size and shape, and a suspension support for said housing having depending portions that are adapted for engagement with said undercut side portions of said upper housing when said lower and upper housings are secured together and are adapted for engagement with said undercut side portions of said lower housing when said upper housing is dispensed with.

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