

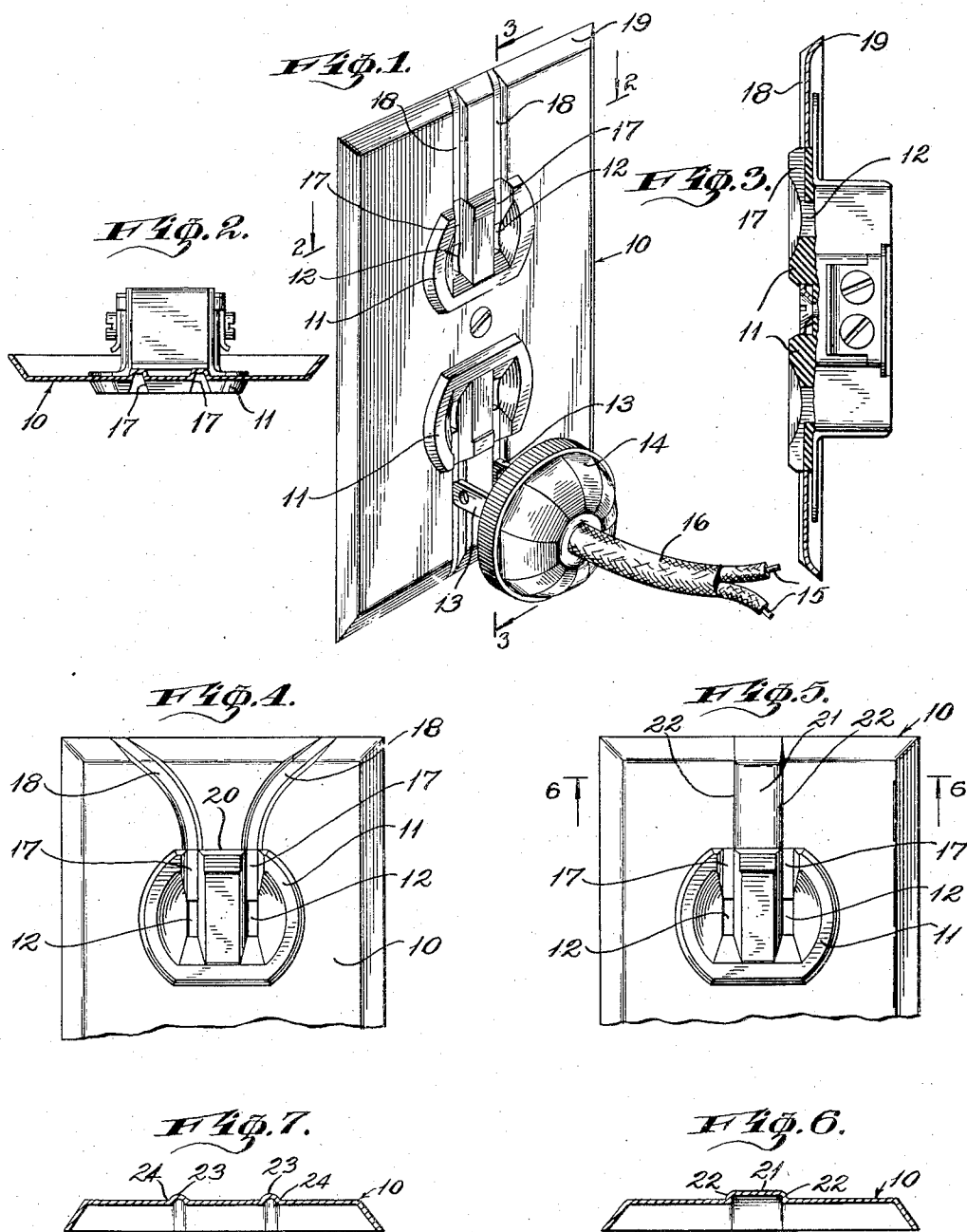
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ELECTRIC PANEL

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ELECTRIC PANEL

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3 Claims. (Cl. 247—23)

The present invention is concerned with electrical panel structures having means for holding one or more prong receiving sockets in appropriate electrical association with a suitable source of electrical energy. Hitherto difficulty has been experienced in the matter of conveniently and readily locating conventional and spaced prongs of a disconnectable plug in a prong receiving socket carried by an electrical panel. Thus the object of the invention is to provide a panel or face plate for an electrical outlet box having means for quickly positioning spaced prong members of a detachable plug for leading such prongs into a complementary prong receiving socket on the panel. The invention has as a further object the provision of a novel and improved panel having spaced prong guide means in communication with spaced prong guide means of a prong receiving member or socket electrically associated with a source of electrical energy. Specifically however another object of the invention is realized in the provision of a panel structure having spaced prong guide slots leading to correspondingly spaced and communicating prong receiving grooves in a prong receiving member mounted on the panel whereby the prongs carried by a detachable plug may be readily positioned in the guide slots of the panel and conveniently led into the guide grooves and subsequently into cooperating openings of the plug receiving member. The invention further comprehends as an object the provision of a serviceable electrical panel having embossed struck out means for appropriately guiding the prongs of a detachable plug into grooves of a prong receiving member and into the prong receiving openings thereof. Other objects, advantages, and features of the invention will be more readily appreciated from the following detailed description considered in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view in elevation of one embodiment according to my invention.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary but front elevational view of another panel according to the invention.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but illustrating a modified but embossed panel.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5 and

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 but illustrating another embossed embodiment.

Illustrative of the several forms disclosed, the

panel or face plate according to the invention is generally denoted 10 and is usually provided with one or more prong receiving members or sockets 11 connected to a suitable electrical source of energy in a manner well understood in the art. Each socket or element 11 includes spaced openings 12 for disconnectably receiving the electrically conducting prongs 13 carried by a plug 14 in electrical association with conductors 15 of a cable 16 leading to a source to be applied with electrical energy.

Each prong receiving member 11 also includes spaced grooves 17 in communication with the prong receiving openings 12 and the spaced grooves 17 which in turn are in alinement with and communicate with prong receiving slots 18 extending longitudinally of the panel. Thus when it is desired to locate prongs 13 in openings 12, these prongs may be readily positioned in a pair of vertically arranged slots 18 which extend into and terminate in an end beveled face 19 of the panel. Having located the prongs in the slots 18, the prongs are movably guided towards and into the prong receiving grooves 17 and from the latter into the prong receiving openings 12 to provide the appropriate electrical connection as is well understood. It is thus appreciated that the prongs may be conveniently and simultaneously positioned on the panel and directly led into the socket without the need of resorting to first locating one prong then another in the prong receiving openings 12.

In the form according to Fig. 4, the prong guide slots 18 are curved as shown although portions thereof lead to and communicate directly with the prong receiving openings 17. Thus with the form illustrated in Fig. 4, one prong of the plug may be readily located in one of the curved slots 18 and led directly to a peripheral face 20 of the socket where portions of slots 18 are disposed substantially in parallelism. Subsequently the remaining prong is readily located in the other slot 18 and it follows that both prongs may be led into guide grooves 17 and from the latter into the prong receiving openings of the socket 11. In other aspects, the form according to Fig. 4 is along the lines of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

According to the form illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, panel 10 is appropriately embossed to provide a forwardly extending and vertically arranged rib 21 having spaced sides 22 serving as spaced prong guide means which lead directly to the prong guide grooves 17 in the prong receiving socket 11. By this arrangement, the prongs

are readily located on the panel by merely permitting the prongs to straddle sides 22 which are utilized to guide the prongs into grooves 17 and from the latter into openings 12. In the embodiment according to Fig. 7, two ribs 23 are struck out of the front wall of the panel in place of the single rib in Figs. 5 and 6 and the sides 24 of the spaced ribs are employed to guide the prongs into the socket in a manner disclosed in connection with the form shown in Fig. 5.

Without further analysis, the foregoing disclosure will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can by applying current knowledge readily adapt it to various applications without omitting certain features that from the standpoint of the prior art fairly constitute the essential characteristics of the generic and specific aspects of the invention and therefore such adaptations are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalency of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A face plate for an electrical outlet box carrying a prong receiving element having spaced openings, said plate having spaced prong guide means extending from an edge thereof and to said prong receiving element, the latter having spaced grooves communicating with said openings and leading to said prong guide means of said plate.

2. A face plate for an electrical outlet box carrying a prong receiving element having spaced openings, said plate having spaced prong guide slots extending from an edge thereof and to said prong receiving element, the latter having spaced grooves communicating with said openings and said slots.

3. A face plate for an electrical outlet box carrying a prong receiving element having spaced openings, spaced means projecting forwardly of said plate and extending from an edge thereof and leading to said prong receiving element, the latter having spaced grooves leading to said means projecting forwardly of said plate and communicating with said openings.

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