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PARTITION BASE

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Fig. 1.

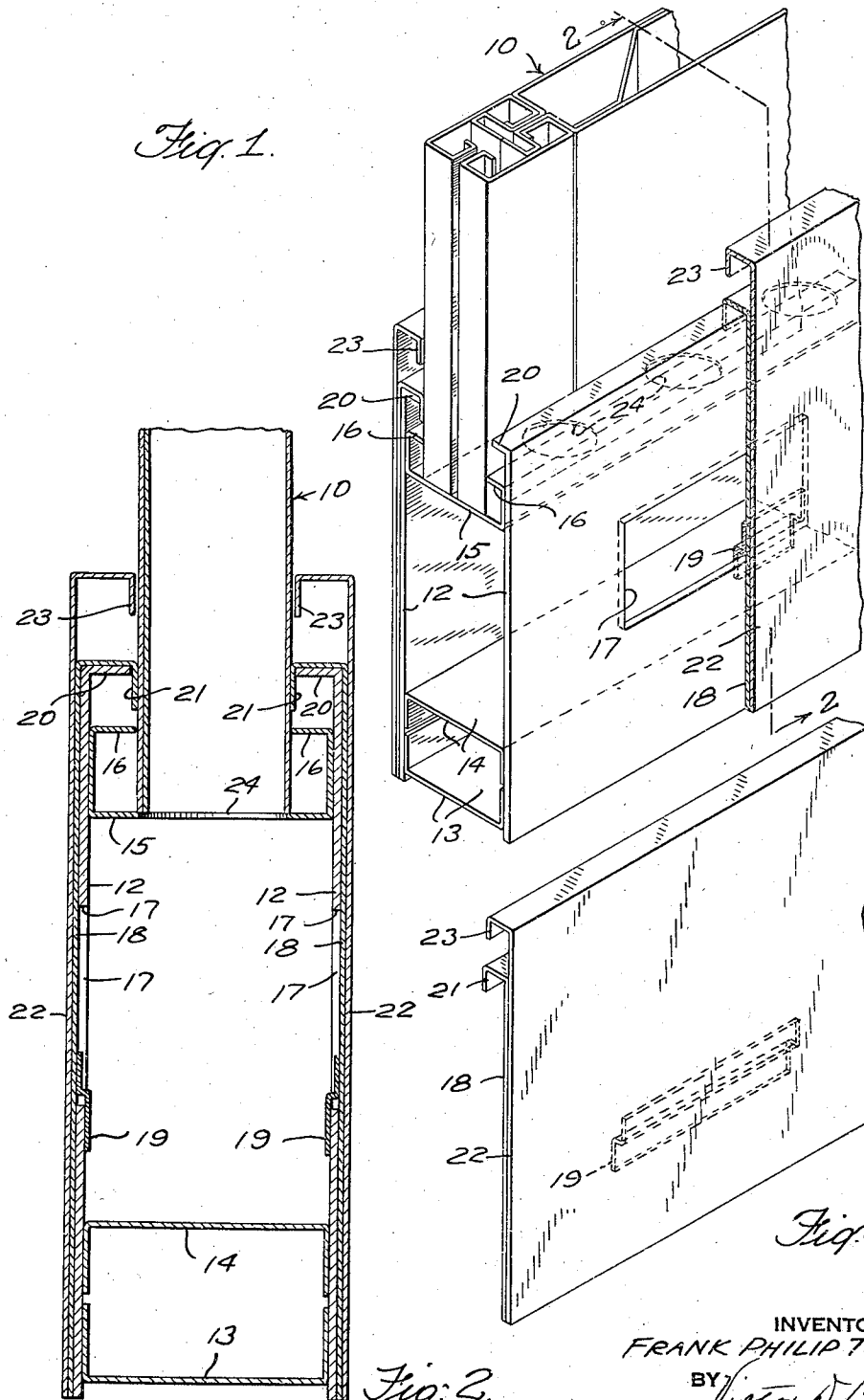


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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PARTITION BASE

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10 Claims. (Cl. 189-34)

This invention relates to bulkheads and partitions generally, particularly those of the type known as metal partitions. More especially the invention has to do with the base support for such partitions.

The base structure of this invention is designed to avoid the use of fastening means, such as screws or bolts, in its connection with the partition panels. An object is to provide a base construction to which the panels can be quickly and easily attached and as readily removed, and yet which will form a firm and rugged support for the wall panels. Another object is to provide a base of the above type having simplicity, cheapness and durability and having the appearance of completeness and permanency of construction.

To attain these objects I have devised a construction which in its complete state simulates a usual baseboard such as is used with plaster walls, and which is a composite of a fixed channel member and cover plates removably applied thereto which cooperate in supporting the wall panels and at the same time give the structure a finished appearance. It is fabricated from sheet metal and is internally braced to give it the necessary strength.

The fixed part of the structure comprises two properly spaced sheet metal strips with spacers at the top and bottom welded internally thereto, the upper spacer providing a seat for the wall panels. Preferably the spacers will be of channel shape and the upper channel will have its edges turned in to provide flanges of the proper width to contact the panels received between them, thus supporting the panels laterally.

The cover plates are removably attached to these fixed strips in any suitable way, preferably by means of clips on the inner faces of the plates, and these plates also have their upper edges flanged in to provide a second lateral support for the panels, spaced above those of the upper spacer.

If, as is the case in my preferred form, the clips are designed to require a relatively vertical movement of the plates to attach and remove them, the invention contemplates the provision of means to conceal any scratches on the finish of the panel caused by such vertical movement of the plate flanges over the panel surface. Specifically for this purpose the cover plate may have an extension above the inturned panel supporting flange which also terminates in an inturned flange, so proportioned, however, as not to engage and scratch the panel, the clearance being so slight as not to be obvious. This extension

may be part of a separate, outside plate. In other words, the cover plate, so-called, may be two plates welded or otherwise secured together, the outer plate being wider than the inner one and both having inturned flanges at their upper edges.

I shall now describe the illustrated embodiment of the invention and shall thereafter point out my invention in claims.

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of an end portion of a base structure embodying the invention with the immediately adjacent section of a wall panel shown in place therein, the cover plate being partly broken away on one side;

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section of the structure shown in Fig. 1, taken on line 2-2 thereof; and

Fig. 3 is an isometric view of an end of the cover plate.

The wall panel 10 is shown as of a construction that constitutes the subject matter of my copending application Serial No. 547,663 filed August 2, 1944, for Partition. Its precise construction is not material, however, to this base structure, and the wall panels will be assumed to be hollow, sheet metal structures of predetermined thickness.

The fixed part of the base structure comprises two metal strips 12 spaced apart somewhat more than the thickness of the panel 10. These strips 12 are joined by spacers at the bottom and near the top which are welded or otherwise secured to the inner faces of the strips. As shown the spacers are of channel shape. There are two at the bottom numbered 13 and 14, the upper one being inverted. The top spacer 15 has its top edges turned in to form flanges 16 of the right width to receive and contact the panel 10 therebetween.

At intervals the plates 12 are provided with rectangular openings 17, the purpose of which is to receive the clips on the cover plates and to afford access to the space within the base so as to facilitate the laying of electric cables or the like.

The cover plates are shown of the double thickness type, and are the same on both sides of the base. The inner plate 18 has a clip 19 on its inner face for each opening 17 and is designed to clip over the bottom edge of the opening when the cover plate is down in final position, which is the position shown.

The top edges of the fixed strips 12 preferably are flanged in at the top as shown, these flanges 20 terminating short of the panel wall by at least

the thickness of the plate 18. The top edges of the plates 18 are flanged in and then down so that the downwardly extending flanges 21 enter within the ends of the flanges 20 and bear against the wall panel. In this way the panel is effectively braced against lateral movement.

The plate 18 is so proportioned that its flange engages the flange 20 of the fixed strip 12 when the plate is down and in place. To apply the plate it is placed upon the strip that it is to cover, with the clips 20 in the holes 17. The plate is then moved down until stopped by the flange 20, the clips meanwhile engaging.

During this movement, the flanges 21 are apt to mar the finish of the panel surface. Therefore, in the form shown, a second cover plate 22 is used. This is welded or otherwise secured over the plate 18. The two plates have their bottom edges coincident, but the plate 22 extends above the plate 18 and has its upper edge flanged in and down to provide flanges 23 similar to flanges 21 but spaced slightly from the wall panel. Therefore the flanges 23 will not scratch the panel and will serve to conceal the scratches made by the flanges 21.

It is to be understood that the cover plates 18 and 22 may be formed as a single plate if desired, in which case the flange 21 may constitute a separate piece welded or otherwise secured to the inner face thereof similarly to the clips 19.

If desired the bottom of the spacer 15 may be provided with holes 24 to provide convenient openings for cables and to lighten the construction. Cables may thus be strung through the hollow base and up through the holes 24 and through the hollow panels 10 by removing the cover plates so as to expose the openings 17. This may be done without otherwise disturbing the base or panel structure.

It will be understood that the invention may be otherwise embodied and that various changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. The base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, transverse members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, the bottom of said partition resting on one of said members and a removable cover plate for each side strip having a down turned flange to extend between the strip and partition to lock the plate to said strip and to grip the sides of partition.

2. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween having clip engaging portions, transverse members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, the bottom of said partition resting on one of said members and a removable cover plate for each side strip having spaced upper and lower flanges forming clips to engage said strip and secure the cover plate thereto, at least one of said flanges extending between the strip and partition to grip the sides of the partition.

3. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween having clip engaging portions, transverse members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, the bottom of said partition resting on one of said members and a removable cover plate for each side strip having spaced upper and lower flanges forming clips to engage said strip and secure the cover plate

thereto, the upper flange extending over the top of said strip and between the strip and partition to grip the sides of the partition.

4. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, upper and lower transverse spacing members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, the upper spacing member forming a seat on which the partition rests, and a removable cover plate for each side strip having a down turned flange to extend between the strip and partition to lock the plate to said strip and to grip the sides of the partition.

5. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, upper and lower transverse spacing members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, the upper spacing member forming a seat on which the partition rests, 20 turned flanges on said side strips of a width to engage and support the sides of the partition, and a removable cover plate for each side strip having a down turned flange to extend between the strip and partition to lock the plate to said strip and 25 to grip the sides of the partition.

6. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, upper and lower spacing members joining said side strips to form a rigid 30 structure, the upper spacing member forming a seat on which the partition rests, and having in-turned flanges of a width to engage and support the sides of the partition, said side strips having a top inturned flange spaced from the partition to 35 receive a clip, and a removable cover plate for each side strip having an upper flange extending over said last flange and downward between said last flange and partition to form a clip to secure the cover plate to the side strip and to grip and 40 secure the partition.

7. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, upper and lower spacing members joining said side strips to form a rigid 45 structure, the upper spacing member forming a seat on which the partition rests, and having in-turned flanges of a width to engage and support the sides of the partition, said side strips having a top inturned flange spaced from the partition to 50 receive a clip, a removable cover plate for each side strip having an upper flange extending over said last flange and downward between said last flange and partition to form a clip to secure the cover plate to the side strip and to grip and secure the partition, and an upward extension on said 55 cover plate to conceal the partition surface adjacent said last panel.

8. A base structure for metallic partitions, comprising two spaced metallic strips, joined by a 60 channel member adapted to receive and support the bottom edge of a wall panel, the strips having clip engaging portions, and a removable cover plate for each strip having a clip on its face adapted to lock on the side strips as the plates 65 are applied and having at its upper edge an in-turned flange adapted to engage the wall panel above the channel member.

9. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the 70 partition therebetween, members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, said side strips having openings to receive clips, and a removable cover plate for each side strip having clips to enter said openings and having top flanges ex- 75 tending over the top of said side strips and be-

tween the side strips and the partition to secure the cover plate and to grip the partition, said clip and flange being frictionally engageable by downward movement of said cover plate and being releasable by upward movement thereof.

10. A base structure for a metal partition, comprising a pair of side strips spaced to receive the partition therebetween, members joining said side strips to form a rigid structure, said side strips having openings to receive clips, a removable cover plate for each side strip having clips to

5 enter said openings and having top flanges extending over the top of said side strips and between the side strips and the partition to secure the cover plate and to grip the partition, said clip and flange being frictionally engageable by downward movement of said cover plate and being releasable by upward movement thereof, and an upward extension on said cover plate to conceal the partition surface adjacent said flange.

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