Jan. 13, 1931. F. J. HAHN 1,788,831

TELEPHONE NICHE

Filed Nov. 13, 1928

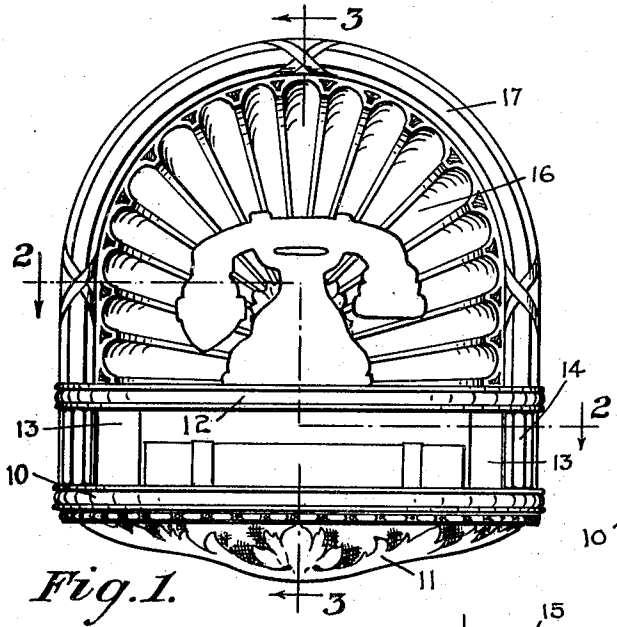


Fig. 1.

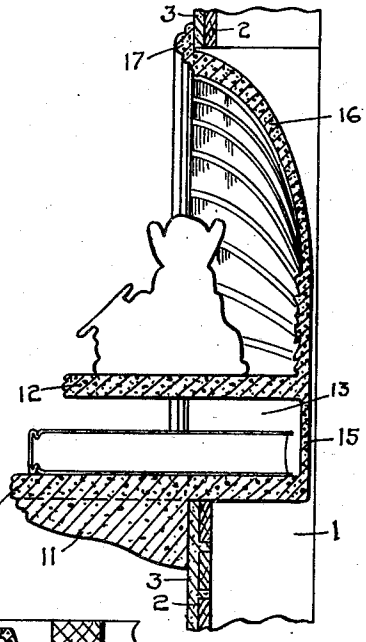


Fig. 3.

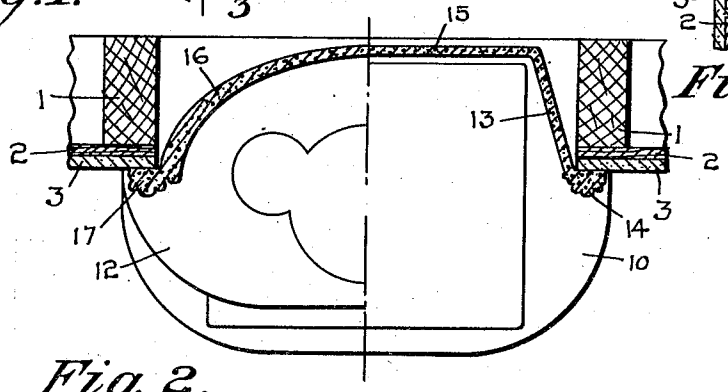


Fig. 2.

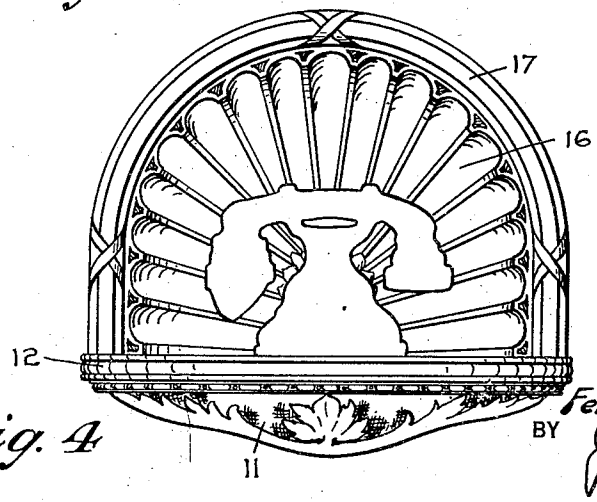


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TELEPHONE NICHE

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My invention has reference to a niche designed to be mounted in a wall, or the like, and providing a convenient seat for a telephone of the portable variety, and also a repository for the directory utilized therewith.

Its objects, generally stated, are, to provide a ready-built telephone niche, which, when a proper opening is made therefor in a wall, for instance, may be easily mounted therein, and is so constructed that any defacement to the wall, caused by said opening, will be covered up by the device, and the niche will present a finished and pleasing appearance in connection with the wall; to afford a niche which may be of integral construction and molded from plastic material so that it may be produced and ornamented at a relatively low cost; and, to make available a device of this character which may be quickly detached in its entirety from said wall and likewise remounted in another location, thus distinguishing it essentially, in this particular, from a built-in niche.

Other objects, advantages and capabilities of the device will later and more fully appear.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the device as the same appears when mounted in a wall, indicating a portable telephone and said directory disposed therein;

Fig. 2, a cross section drawn along the line 2—2, of Fig. 1, illustrating the positions of some of the portions of the device in relation to said wall;

Fig. 3, a vertical section drawn along the line 3—3, of Fig. 1, showing said device and the disposition of certain other of its portions in connection with the wall; and,

Fig. 4, a modified form of the device.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the sections of wall, illustrated as an example, comprise a pair of studs, extending in spaced parallel relation, lath 2 and plaster 3, all obviously representing construction common in walls.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the niche consists of a horizontal base 10, of a length which will permit the device, constructed as hereinafter described, to be inserted between a pair of studs, which, in architectural construction, are usually spaced in a standard way, and of a width, intermediately of its rounded front end portions, slightly exceeding the width of an ordinary telephone directory as used in cities. A thickened and dependent portion 11 extends along the base for a little more than half its width and diverges into the front edge of the base.

A seat 12 for the telephone is disposed in spaced parallel relation with the base, the same being in outline practically the same as the base, but somewhat narrower in width. Said seat and base are enclosed at each end, in their rearward sections, by converging portions 13, each of said portions terminating at its outer end in an angular and outwardly disposed edge portion 14, and the seat and base are also enclosed at their rear edges by a straight portion 15. As it may be noted in Fig. 2, the sections and edges of the base and seat so enclosed conform in outline to the cross-sectional forms of the portions 13, 14 and 15, as arranged. The structure just described will provide a compartment into which the telephone director may be deposited, the seat being reduced in width to facilitate the removal of the directory from said compartment. A shell-like body portion 16, having a rim 17 extending throughout its edge portion, is located directly above the portions 13 and 15 and said body portion and rim are disposed on the seat for about the full length of said seat and half of its width, and the body portion provides, in connection with the seat, a recess in which to place said telephone.

The parts described, as will presently appear, all possess features of utility, and while the particular ornamentation shown will meet the requirements of a molding operation and adds to the appearance of the niche, it obviously may be varied for commercial purposes or to suit the artistic ideas of the maker.

The plastic composition out of which I pre-

fer to make the niche consists of a mixture of magnesium oxide, asbestos fibre, diatomaceous earth, grated marble aggregates, powdered talc, and magnesium chloride, diluted.

In preparing the composition, I use the ingredients in about the following proportions—viz., twenty-five parts of magnesium oxide, five parts of asbestos fibre, ten parts of diamtomaceous earth, twenty-five parts of grated marble aggregates, five parts of powdered talc, and thirty parts of a 19 degree Baumé solution of magnesium chloride.

The magnesium oxide, asbestos fibre, diatomaceous earth, grated marble aggregates, and the powdered talc are thoroughly mixed, when the diluted magnesium chloride is gradually added to the mixture under steady agitation. When the composition has a cream-like appearance and consistency it is ready for use.

In making the niche, a pattern is first made and a negative mold is taken therefrom, in a manner which will be well known to those skilled in the art, and constructed so that said plastic material may be freely poured into the mold and the niche cast as an integral structure. It requires, under usual conditions, from twelve to twenty-four hours for the cast material to become sufficiently hardened for handling, when the mold can then be separated from the casting, and the casting is ready for dry curing. The casting may be thus cured by drying in the sun, or, if conditions require it, the same may be placed in a dry kiln, where, under a temperature of at least 100 degrees Fahrenheit and within a period of from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, the casting will be dry-cured and ready for the next step in its manufacture. After it is dry-cured, its surface is etched and then washed with a solution consisting of water and five per cent. by weight of sulphuric acid. After the solution so used becomes dry, the device is sprayed with a heavy coat of liquid celluloid lacquer, which renders it water-proof and prepares it for the final finish. This finish, as is evident, may include decorative effects in paint, varnish or any other suitable material.

In mounting the device in a wall, such as illustrated, an opening is made therein between a pair of studs which will accommodate the rear portions of the device designed to fit in said opening, said portions including sections of the compartment and recess. When the device is placed in the opening the converging portions 13 serve to facilitate its entrance therein, and when it is properly positioned in said opening, the base 10 rests on the lath and plaster and is braced by the portion 11, and the portions 11, 14 and 17 rest on the plaster and cover any spaces which may exist between the opening and the portions of the device located therein, as indicated in Fig. 3. Said spaces may be filled with suitable plastic material, which, when hardened will secure the device to the wall in a stable manner, or, if deemed desirable, a transverse support of wood may be secured between the suds to provide a seat for the device, and to which it may be secured by screws or other fastenings, in which event the use of the plastic material as last-mentioned may be dispensed with.

In the modified form of the divice, the repository for said directory is eliminated, the seat 12 serving as the base and the portion 11 contacting therewith in the same manner as it is connected with the base of the preferred form. As is evident it may be likewise secured to the wall, as heretofore described relative to said preferred form, and will function, in a like way, as a device in which to keep a telephone.

This device, aside from its desirability as an ornamental article, affords the user definite, readily accessible and conspicuously displayed instrumentalities for keeping a portable telephone where it will not be easily knocked over or injured, and also for keeping neatly and conveniently at hand the directory, which is such a necessary adjunct to the telephone and constantly utilized therewith.

The manner in which the niche is made, as described, permits it to be produced and ornamented at a minimum cost, to be installed cheaply and quickly in view of its integral construction, and the fact that it can be detached from the wall, as heretofore referred to, and used in other locations adds to its utility.

While I have shown a preferred and a modified form of the invention, I may, however, provide other arrangements and constructions for carrying out the invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the same as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A telephone niche, comprising in combination with a wall having an opening for receiving the niche, a base, a seat for a portable telephone disposed in spaced parallel relation with the base, the base and seat having their rear sections enclosed to provide a compartment for a telephone directory, a shell-like body portion surmounting the seat to provide a recess for the telephone, a rim for the body portion and portions extending from the compartment and base and portions of the base and seat cooperating therewith, having their rear faces located in the same plane, adapted to cover the interstices between the niche and wall when the niche is mounted in said opening.

2. A telephone niche, molded from plastic material, comprising a base, a seat for a portable telephone disposed in spaced parallel relation with the base, the base and seat having their rear sections enclosed to provide

a compartment for a telephone directory, a shell-like body portion surmounting the seat to provide a recess for the telephone, a rim for the body portion, a thickened and depending portion extending along the base, spaced from the rear edge thereof and diverging forwardly, and edge portions of the compartment, providing in cooperation with the rim and depending portion, a continuous and outwardly extending frame for the niche, the rear faces of the elements composing the frame being disposed in the same plane.

3. A telephone niche, molded from plastic material, comprising a compartment for a telephone directory adapted to provide a base for the niche and a seat for a portable telephone, a shell-like recess for the telephone surmounting the base, a thickened and depending portion extending along the base, spaced from the rear edge thereof and diverging forwardly, said portion having a rear face disposed in right angular relation with the base, and outwardly extending border portions for the compartment and recess having rear faces located in the same plane as the rear face of said depending portion.

4. A telephone niche, molded as an integral structure from plastic material, comprising a base, including a compartment for a telephone directory, a body portion surmounting the base adapted to provide a recess for a portable telephone, an outstanding rim for the portion having a rear face located in right angular relation with the portion, and portions extending from the base having rear faces located in the same plane as said face of the rim and contiguous therewith.

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