April 2, 1957 J. H. KONEFES 2,787,035

TRIM STRIP AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

Original Filed June 29, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

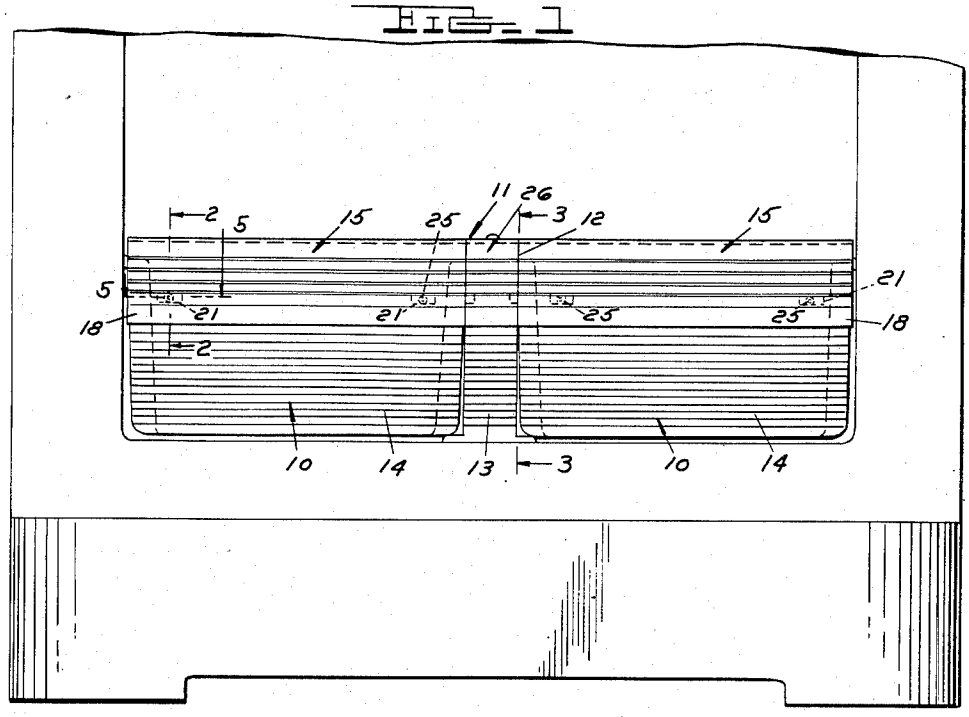


FIG. 2

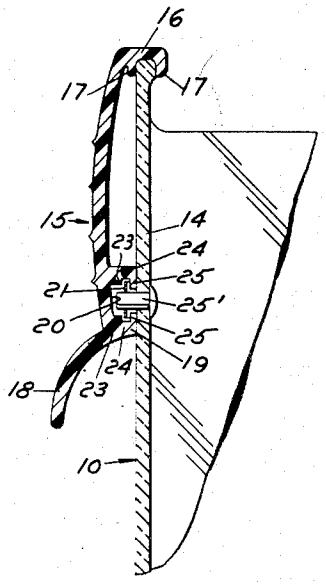
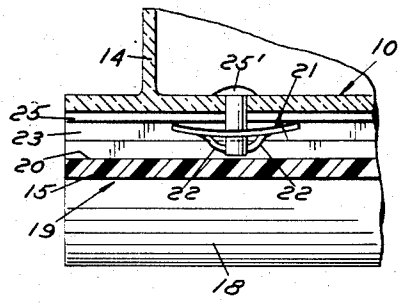


FIG. 5



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TRIM STRIP AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

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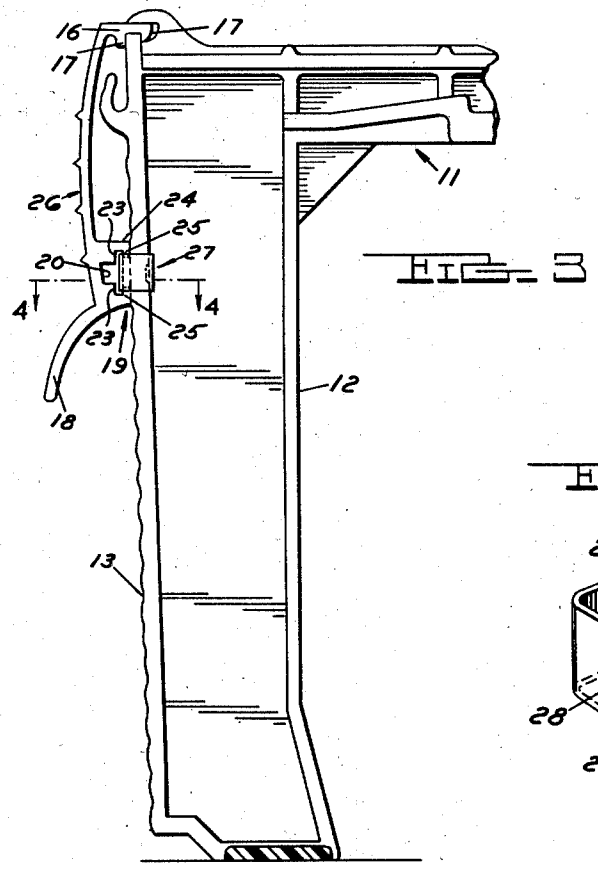


FIG. 3

FIG. 6

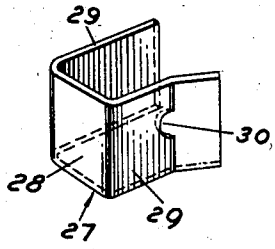
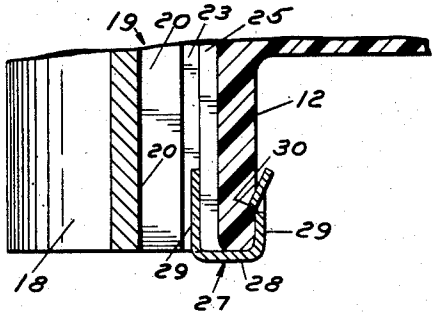


FIG. 4



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TRIM STRIP AND MOUNTING THEREFOR

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Original application June 29, 1953, Serial No. 364,538. Divided and this application August 9, 1954, Serial No. 448,693

6 Claims. (Cl. 20—74)

This invention relates to an improved trim strip and mounting therefor, and is a division of my copending application Serial No. 364,538, filed June 29, 1953, now Patent No. 2,758,748.

More particularly this invention refers to a structure especially suitable for use in connection with containers such, for example, as the crisper drawers embodied in some types of refrigerator cabinets and has as one of its objects to provide a trim strip with a part serving as a handle to facilitate manipulation of such slidable containers.

It is another object of this invention to provide a trim strip and mounting structure wherein the trim strip is not only equipped with a part which will serve as a handle for drawers, but is also of a design enabling its use on a part or parts fixed adjacent the drawers to afford a matching design of pleasing appearance.

It is still another object of this invention to provide relatively simple means for securely fastening the trim strips to either or both the drawers and parts fixed adjacent to said drawers.

The foregoing as well as other objects will be made more apparent as this description proceeds especially when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a trim strip and mounting structure showing the same applied to the crisper drawers and intervening support in a refrigerator cabinet;

Figure 2 is an enlarged cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the clip shown in Figure 3.

In Figure 1 of the drawings, the bottom portion of a refrigerator cabinet is shown with the usual door removed and the numeral **10** designates a pair of crisper drawers slidably supported within the refrigerator cabinet by a rail **11**. The rail **11** extends between the drawers **10** and is secured to the bottom of the cabinet by an upright **12** having a front wall or panel **13** forming in effect a continuation of the front walls or panels **14** of the drawers when the latter are in their closed positions.

Each crisper drawer **10** has a trim strip **15** secured to the front wall **14** thereof and extruded or otherwise formed of plastic or any other specified material. In the present instance the strips **15** on the drawers **10** are identical and hence only one strip will be described in detail herein. The strip **15** is positioned at the front side of the wall **14** and is of sufficient length to extend from one side edge of the wall **14** to the opposite side edge of the latter. As shown in Figure 2, the strip **15** is transversely curved in a forward direction and is turned

laterally at the top to provide a rearwardly extending flange **16** which overlies the top edge of the front wall **14** of the drawer **10**. The flange **16** is formed with laterally spaced depending ribs or projections **17** which extend for the full length of the flange **16** and respectively engage opposite sides of the front wall **14** of the drawer **10** to hold the top of the strip **15** in assembled relationship with the drawer.

The bottom of the strip **15** is offset laterally from the front wall **14** of the drawer **10** in a forward direction to provide a finger engaging piece or handle **18** rendering it possible for the user to readily manipulate the drawer. Projecting rearwardly from the portion of the trim strip **15** immediately above the handle **18** is an enlargement **19** which extends for the full length of the strip **15** and is formed with a rearwardly opening groove **20** therein. The groove **20** is coextensive with the enlargement **19** and forms a channel for receiving fastener elements in the form of spring metal speed nuts **21**. The nuts **21** are transversely bowed and are struckout to provide stud engaging fingers **22**.

The top and bottom edges of the nuts **21** respectively project into grooves **23** formed in the flanges **24** of the channel, and the rear edges of the flanges **24** are turned laterally inwardly with respect to the channel to form bearing flanges **25**. The rear surfaces of the bearing flanges **25** abut the front surface of the wall **14** of the drawer **10** and the front surfaces of the bearing flanges engage the speed nuts **21** to retain the latter in assembled relationship with the groove **20** or channel in the trim strip **15**. The grooves **23** extend for the full length of the flanges **24** and the speed nuts **21** are installed in the groove or channel **20** from either end of the strip **15**. The construction is such that the speed nuts **21** are slidable lengthwise of the groove **20** or channel in the strip **15** to enable readily registering the nuts with cooperating fastener elements in the form of studs **25'** extending in a forward direction through holes formed in the front wall **14** of the drawer **10**. The fingers **22** of the nuts **21** grip the shanks of the studs **25'** to place the nuts under tension against the front surfaces of the flanges **25** and thereby clamp the rear surfaces of the flanges **25** to the wall **14** of the drawer **10**.

In order to improve the appearance of the assembly when installed in a refrigerator cabinet, for example, a trim strip **26** is secured to the front face of the wall **13** of the upright **12**. The trim strip **26** is identical to the strips **15** and, when the drawers **10** are in their closed positions, forms in effect a continuation of the trim strips **15**. Since the trim strip **26** is identical in construction to the trim strips **15**, the same reference characters are used to designate corresponding parts.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings the top of the trim strip **26** is mounted on the wall **13** of the upright **12** in the same manner previously described for mounting the trim strips **15** on the front walls **14** of the drawers **10**. However, the enlargement **19** on the trim strip **26** adjacent the offset portion **18** is clamped to the wall **13** of the upright **12** by a pair of spring metal U-shaped clips **27** having a base part **28** and legs **29**. The clips **27** respectively straddle opposite side edges of the wall **13** and the front legs **29** of the clips project into opposite ends of the channel or groove **20** in the enlargement **19**. More particularly the front legs **29** of the clips **27** extend into the grooves **23** in the flanges **24** and respectively engage the front surfaces of the bearing flanges **25**. The rear legs **29** on the U-shaped clips **27** engage the adjacent rear surface of the wall **13** of the upright **12** and cooperate with the front legs to securely clamp the trim strip **26** to the wall **13**. As shown in Figure 6 of the drawings the inner end of the rear leg **29** of the clip is tapered rearwardly to serve as a pilot for

guiding the clip in assembled relationship with the upright member 12. In order to assure securely fastening the trim strip 26 in place, the rear leg 29 of each clip 27 has a struck out lug 30 that has a biting engagement with the wall 13 of the upright 12.

It follows from the foregoing that the trim strips not only impart a neat and pleasing appearance to structures of the type disclosed herein but, in addition, provide a handle or grip capable of being conveniently engaged by the user to manipulate containers such as the crisper drawers of a refrigerator. It is also apparent from the above that the trim strips are readily and securely attached to adjacent supporting structure in a manner such that the fastening elements are concealed from view.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A trim strip and mounting therefor comprising an upright member, a trim strip extending along the front side of the member and having a part bearing against said member, said part having a recess extending lengthwise of the strip from one end to the other of the latter and said recess having opposed front and rear walls, means for securing the strip to the upright member including a substantially U-shaped clip straddling one edge of the member with the rear leg yieldably engaging the rear side of the member and with the front leg projecting into the adjacent end of the recess between said walls and yieldably engageable with the rear wall of the recess in opposed relationship to the said rear leg for clamping the strip to the upright member.

2. The structure defined in claim 1 wherein the bearing part and recess therein are located adjacent the bottom edge of the trim strip and wherein the top of the trim strip has a flange which projects rearwardly in overlying relationship to the top of the upright member, and projections depending from the flange at opposite sides of the upright member to cooperate with one another to hold the top of the trim strip in assembled relationship with the upright member.

3. A trim strip and mounting therefor comprising an upright member of predetermined width, a trim strip having a length corresponding to the width of the upright member and having a part adjacent the bottom of the strip extending for the full length of the strip at the rear side of said strip for bearing engagement with the front side of the upright member, said part having a recess extending from one end to the other of the strip and said recess having front and rear walls, spring metal U-shaped clips respectively straddling the opposite vertical edges of the upright member with the rear legs respectively yieldably engaging the rear side of the member and with the front legs projecting into the adjacent ends of the recess between the walls aforesaid of the recess and yieldably engageable with the rear wall of said recess in opposed relationship to the rear legs for clamping the strip to the upright member.

4. The structure defined in claim 3 comprising a flange extending rearwardly from the top of the trim strip in overlying relationship to the top edge of the upright member, and having laterally spaced projections extending downwardly from the flange at opposite sides of the upright member to hold the top of the trim strip in place on the upright member.

5. In combination, an upright having an upright wall portion, and a horizontally extending elongated trim strip upon the front of said upright wall portion, said strip being provided at its upper edge with a rearwardly extending flange overlying the upper edge of said upright wall portion and provided below said flange with a rearwardly projecting enlargement engaging the forward surface of said upright wall portion, said flange having spaced depending ribs engaging opposite sides of said upright wall portion at the upper edge thereof, and means for clamping said enlargement against the forward surface of said upright wall portion to hold the ribs aforesaid against displacement from opposite sides of said upright wall portion, including a substantially U-shaped clip straddling an upright edge of said wall portion, one leg of said U-shaped clip extending into said enlargement, the other leg of said U-shaped clip overlying the rear surface of said wall portion.

6. In combination, an upright having an upright wall portion, and a horizontally extending elongated trim strip upon the front of said upright wall portion, said strip being provided at its upper edge with a rearwardly extending flange overlying the upper edge of said upright wall portion and provided below said flange with a rearwardly projecting enlargement engaging the forward surface of said upright wall portion, said flange having a depending rib engaging the rear side of said upright wall portion at the upper edge thereof, said enlargement having openings in opposite ends thereof, and means for clamping said enlargement against the forward surface of said upright wall portion to hold the rib aforesaid against displacement from the rear side of said upright wall, including two substantially U-shaped clips straddling opposite upright edges of said wall portion, one leg of each U-shaped clip extending into an opening aforesaid in said enlargement, the other leg of each clip overlying the rear surface of said wall portion.

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