



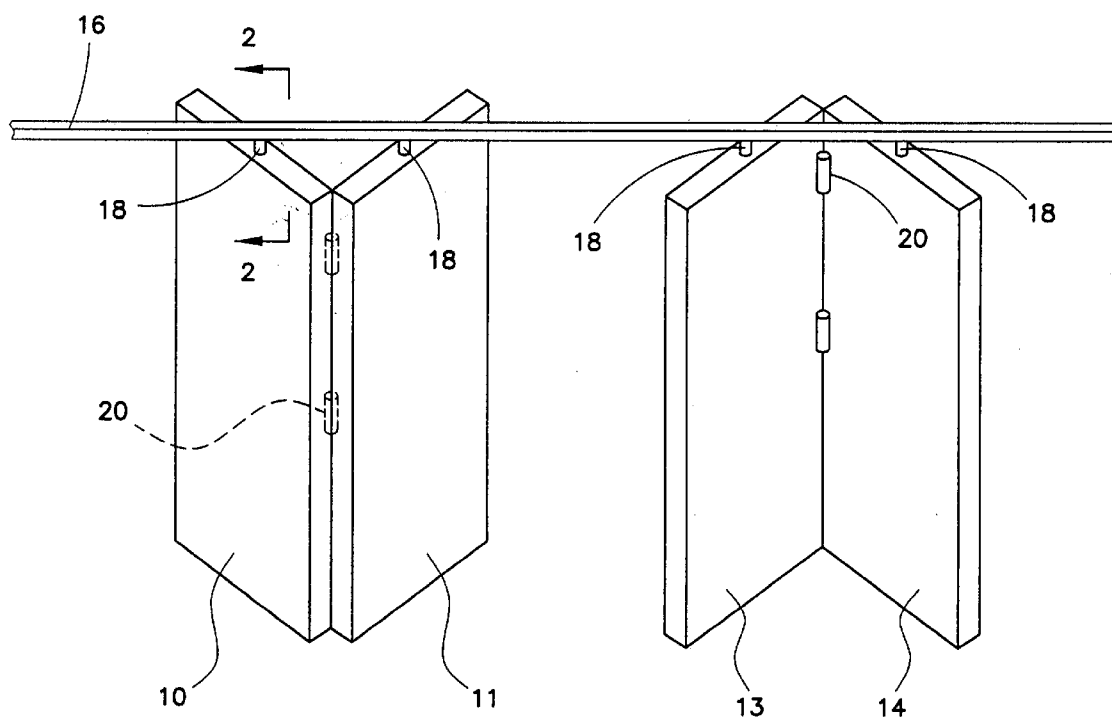
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Owens**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0248826 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 9, 2006**(54) **SOFFIT ASSEMBLY FOR MOVEABLE WALL SYSTEM AND REMOVAL TOOL THEREFOR****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.***E04H* 3/00 (2006.01)*E04H* 5/00 (2006.01)*E04H* 6/00 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** 52/243.1(76) Inventor: **N. Douglas Owens**, Lynn, IN (US)

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 (US)(21) Appl. No.: **11/125,275**(22) Filed: **May 5, 2005**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A soffit assembly is for use with a movable wall system having a track. The soffit assembly includes a soffit attachment device having a first portion and a second portion. The first portion is attachable to the track. A soffit snaps onto the second portion of the soffit attachment device such that the soffit at least partially conceals the track.



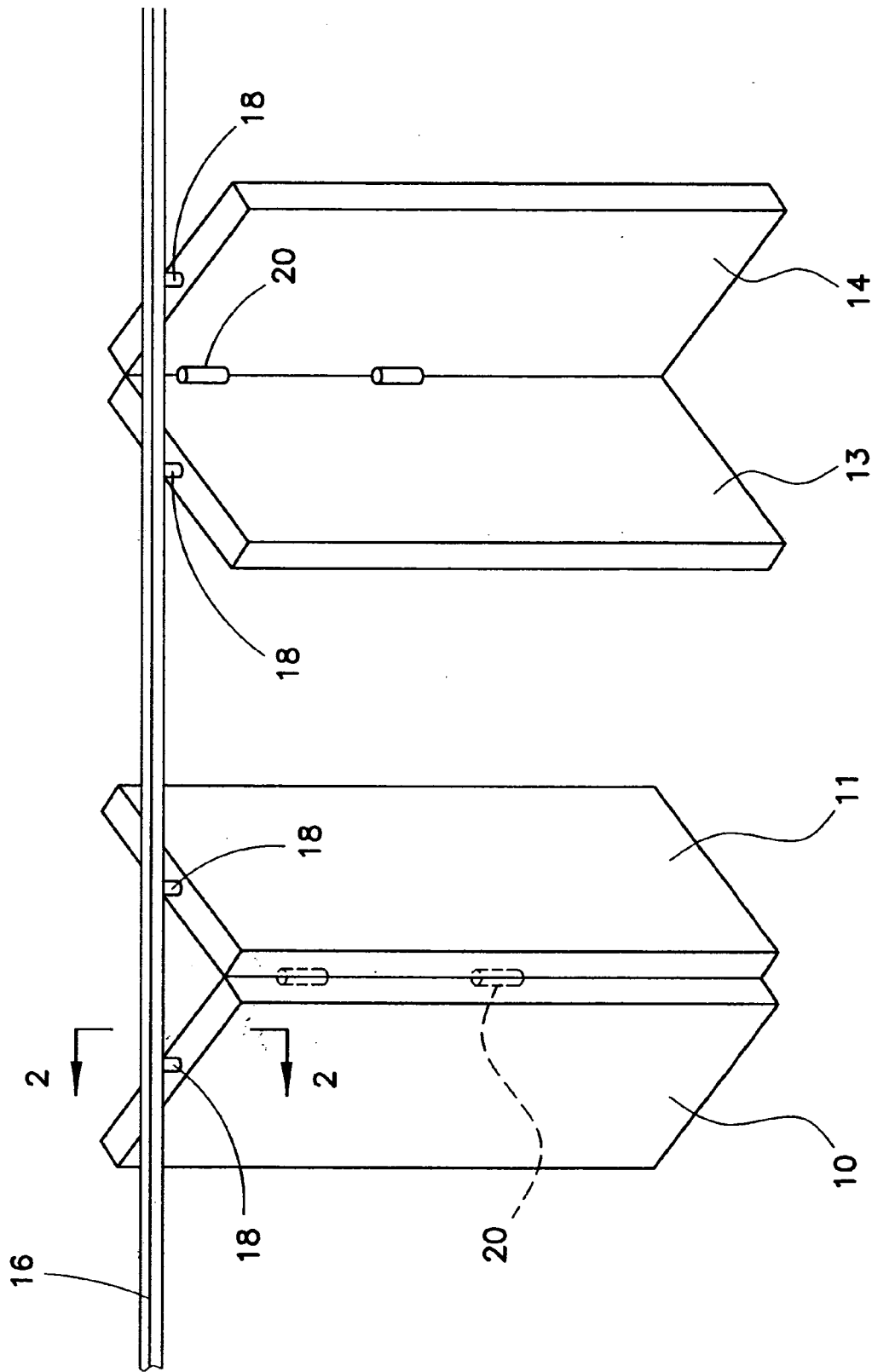


FIG. 1

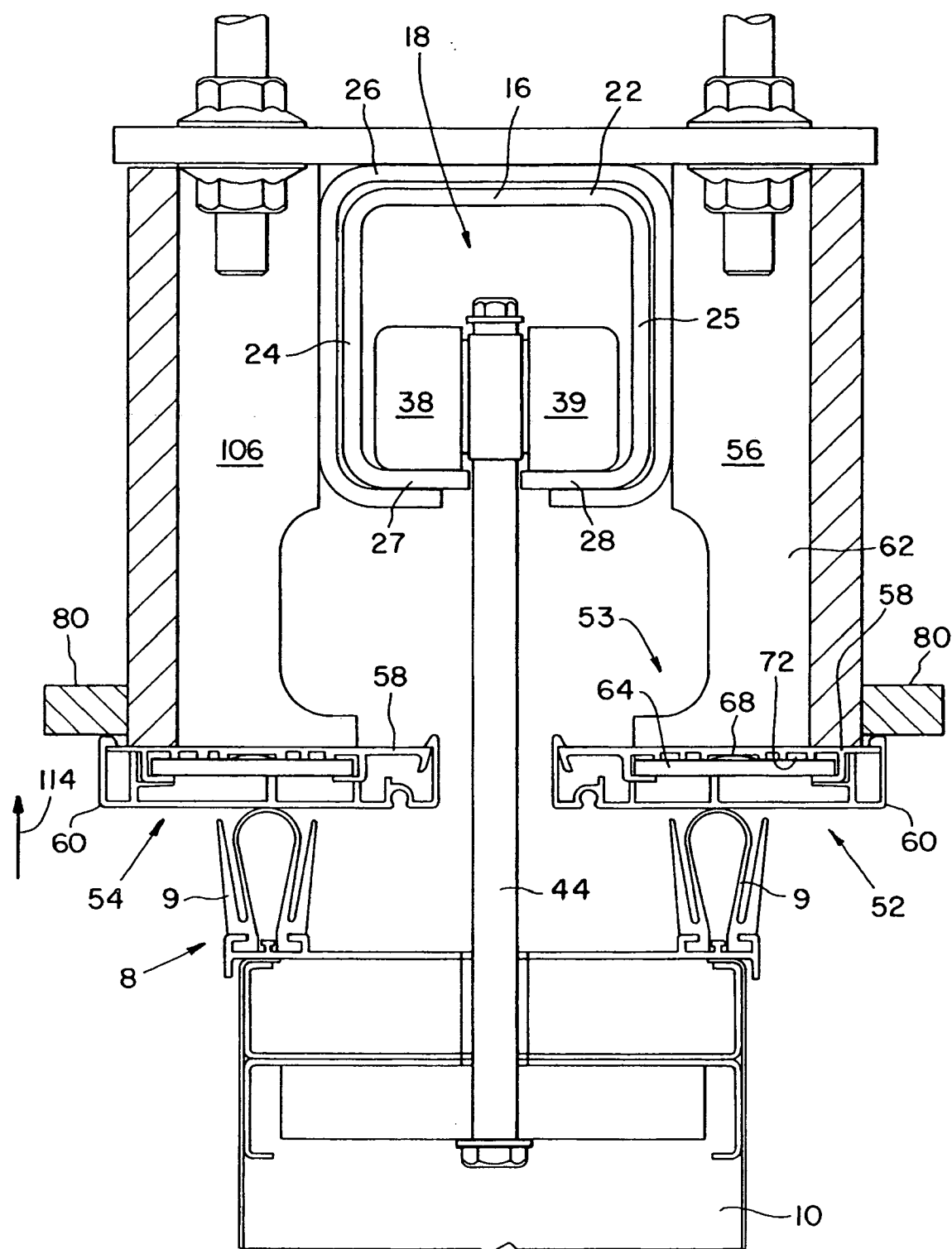


Fig. 2

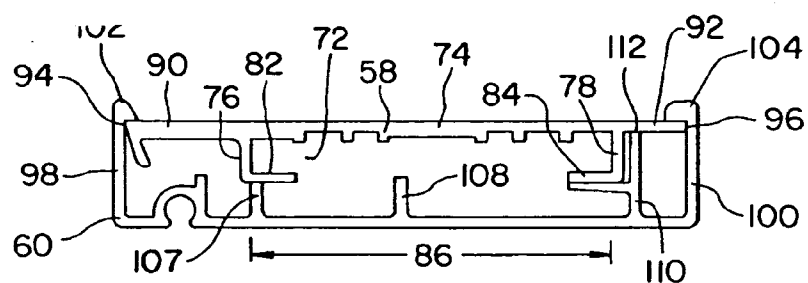


Fig. 3

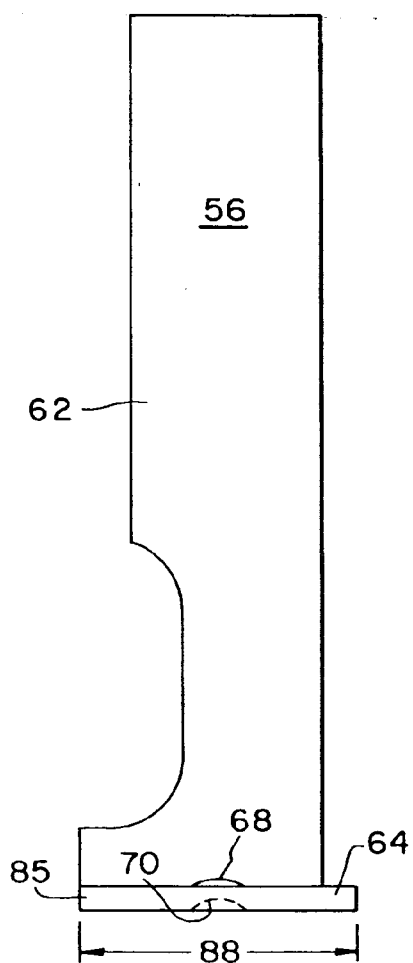


Fig. 4A

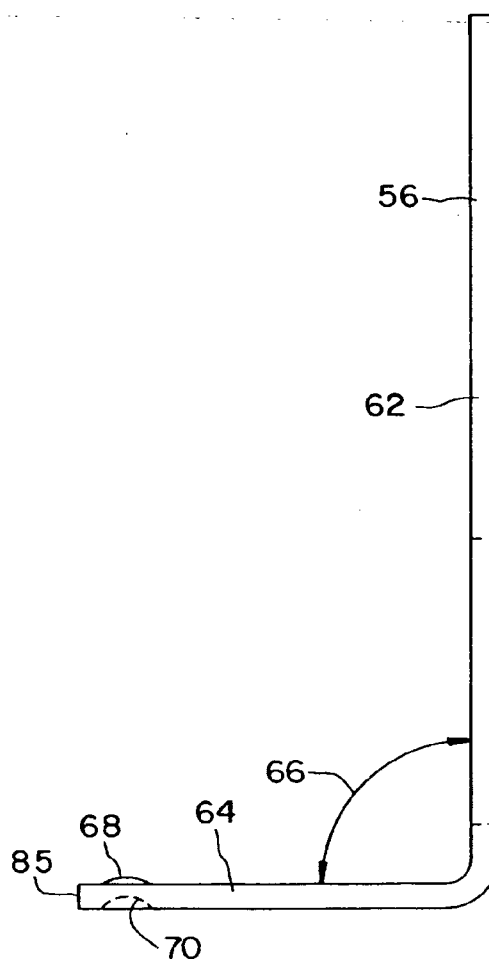
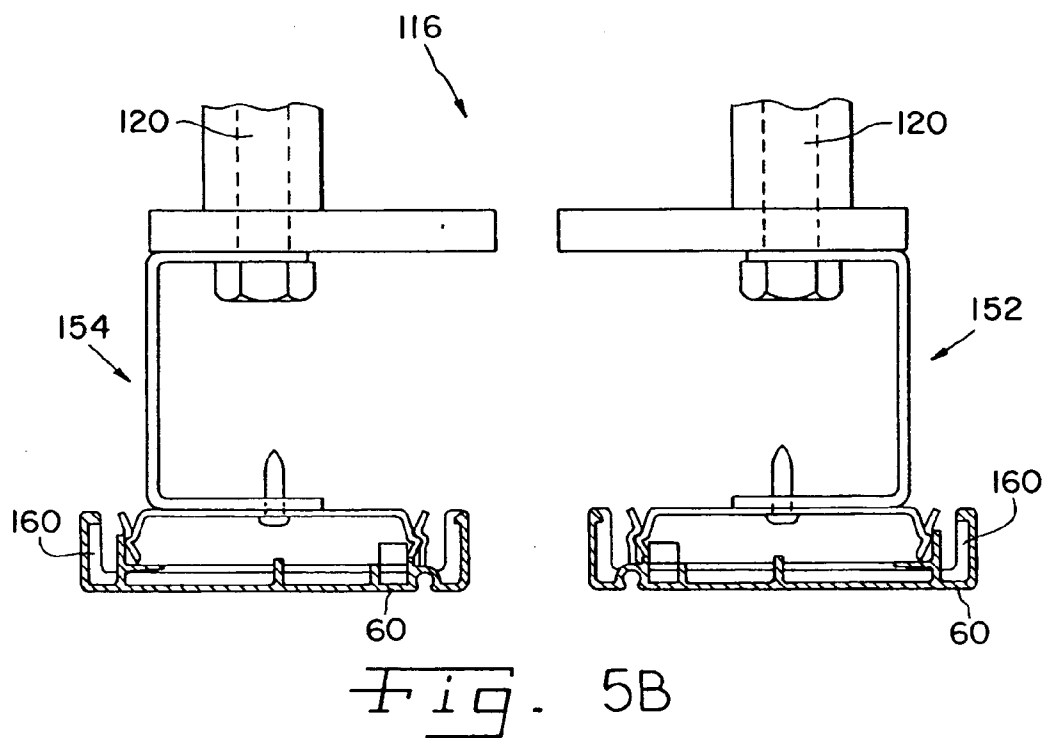
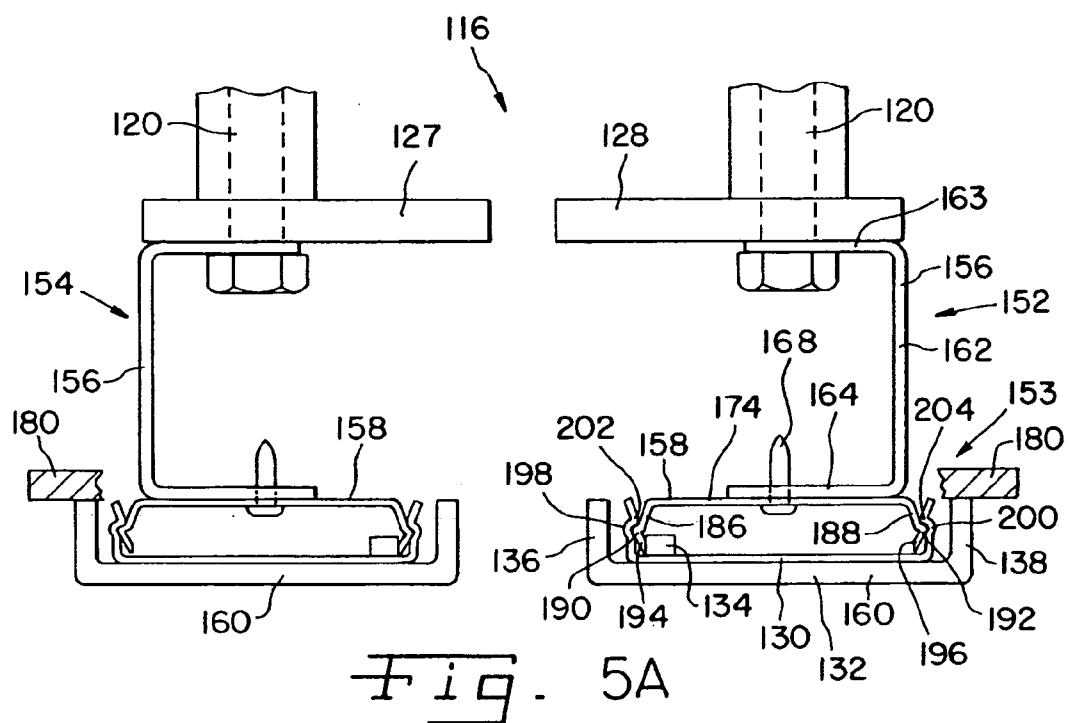


Fig. 4B



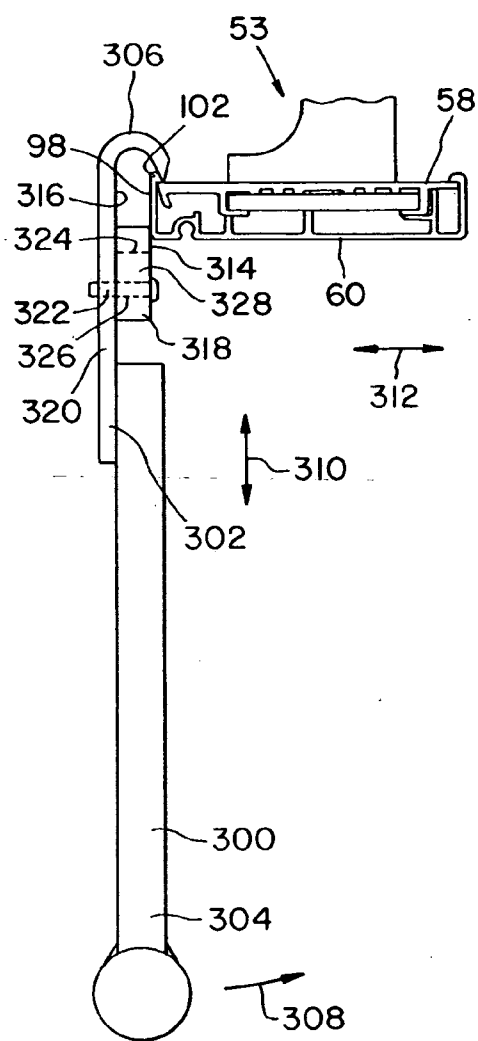


Fig. 6A

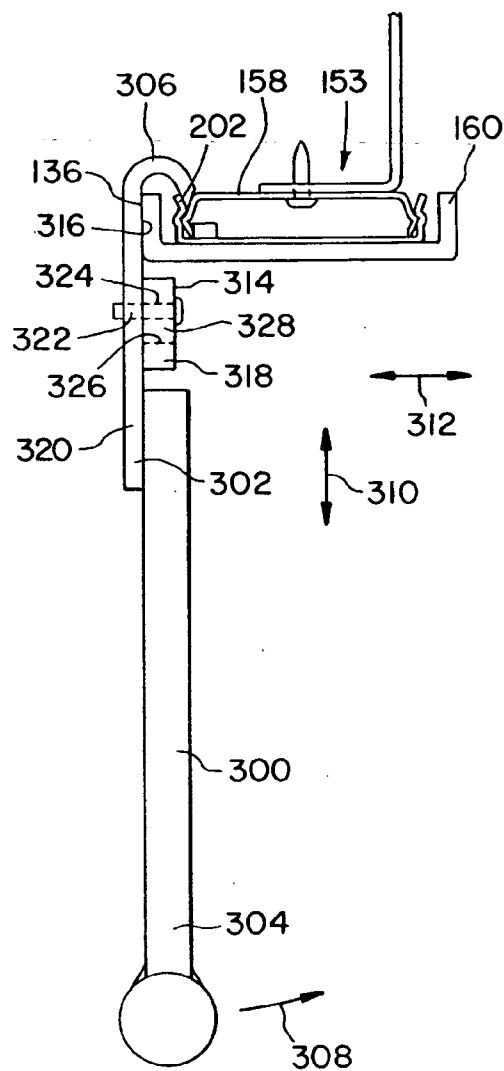


Fig. 6B

SOFFIT ASSEMBLY FOR MOVEABLE WALL SYSTEM AND REMOVAL TOOL THEREFOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention pertains to operable walls movable to partition large rooms into smaller rooms, and, in particular, to the overhead track for the operable wall.

[0002] Operable walls or partitions, also known as movable wall panel systems, find useful application in a variety of venues, such as classrooms, offices, convention facilities and hospitals. In these venues, the operable wall panels can be moved along tracks from which they are suspended to efficiently compartmentalize a larger room of interior space into a multitude of separate, smaller rooms. In particular, the operable wall panels are typically connected to trolleys that roll within an overhead track. The track is suspended from structural supports so as to be installed at a height of, or typically slightly above, the ceiling of the room being compartmentalized.

[0003] One shortcoming of existing tracks of operable walls is that many people consider their appearance to detract from the aesthetics of the room in which the operable walls are installed. In order to at least partially alleviate this problem, it is known to provide track concealing systems in order to hide the track and trolleys from view. Such track concealing systems may include soffit portions which are visible within the room and which flank both sides of the slot through which extend the bolts that span the trolleys and panels. The soffit portions also have the advantage of muffling the sounds of the trolleys rolling across the tracks.

[0004] The soffit portions frequently are quite wide and naturally run the length of the track and therefore of the room being compartmentalized. Some soffit designs include laterally extending flanges integrally formed with the steel channel that forms the continuous track. Other known soffit designs include pans that are secured to the hanger brackets by which the continuous track is suspended from the structural support. Soffits are typically fastened to the brackets using bolts or screws. However, such screws and bolts may themselves be unappealing to the eye, thus negating the primary purpose of the soffit. Another problem is that the installation and removal of the screws and bolts are time consuming processes. Yet another problem is that the screws and bolts are subject to loosening and falling out of their holes and thus becoming lost or allowing the soffit to fall.

[0005] What is needed in the art is a soffit that may be quickly installed and removed without the use of screws or bolts.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention provides a snap-on soffit assembly for use with a movable wall system having movable walls, a track and a trolley. The soffit assembly may be easily removed with a novel tool of the present invention.

[0007] The invention comprises, in one form thereof, a soffit assembly for use with a movable wall system having a track. The soffit assembly includes a soffit attachment device having a first portion and a second portion. The first portion is attachable to the track. A soffit snaps onto the second portion of the soffit attachment device such that the soffit at least partially conceals the track.

[0008] The invention comprises, in another form thereof, a soffit assembly for use with a movable wall system having a track. The soffit assembly includes a soffit bracket attachable to the track. A soffit clip is coupled to the soffit bracket. A soffit snaps onto the soffit clip such that the soffit at least partially conceals the track.

[0009] The invention comprises, in yet another form thereof, a soffit arrangement for use with a movable wall system having a track. The soffit arrangement includes a soffit attachment device coupleable to the track. A soffit includes a side wall and a latch snapped onto the soffit attachment device such that the soffit at least partially conceals the track. An elongate soffit removal tool includes a body disposed between a handle end and a hooked end. The hooked end engages the latch of the soffit while the body engages the side wall such that torque applied to the handle end may pry the latch of the soffit away from the soffit attachment device.

[0010] An advantage of the present invention is that the soffit may be quickly and easily installed without any screws or bolts being visible.

[0011] Another advantage is that the soffit may be formed of a material that is less expensive than the steel material of which soffits have conventionally been made.

[0012] Yet another advantage of the present invention is that the soffit may be adapted to have some freedom of movement relative to the soffit bracket in a latitudinal direction. Thus, the soffit clip and the soffit bracket do not need to be formed with tight tolerances, and may be easily assembled together due to the play therebetween.

[0013] Still another advantage is that a single tool may be used to remove either of the two embodiments of a soffit that are disclosed herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] The above mentioned and other advantages and objects of this invention, and the manner of attaining them, will become more apparent and the invention itself will be better understood by reference to the following descriptions of embodiments of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0015] **FIG. 1** is a diagrammatic perspective view of a movable wall system with which the various embodiments of the soffit arrangement of the present invention may be employed;

[0016] **FIG. 2** is a fragmentary view of the moveable wall system along line 2-2 of **FIG. 1**, further illustrating a first embodiment of a soffit assembly of the present invention in use, wherein the room ceiling not shown in **FIG. 1** is now shown, and wherein the trolley is connected to an abstractly shown operable wall panel;

[0017] **FIG. 3** is a cross-sectional view of the soffit and soffit clip of the soffit assembly of **FIG. 2**;

[0018] **FIG. 4A** is a plan view of the soffit bracket of **FIG. 2**;

[0019] **FIG. 4B** is a cross-sectional view of the soffit bracket of **FIG. 2**;

[0020] FIG. 5A is a sectional view of an alternate embodiment of a soffit assembly of the present invention for use with a curved, planar track of a switch section rather than with the linear, tubular track of FIG. 2;

[0021] FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view of the soffit of FIG. 3 abutted against the soffit assembly of FIG. 5A;

[0022] FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional view of a soffit removal tool of the present invention in a first configuration for removing the soffit of the soffit assembly of FIG. 2; and

[0023] FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view of the soffit removal tool of FIG. 6A in a second configuration for removing the soffit of the soffit assembly of FIG. 5A.

[0024] Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views. Although the drawings represent embodiments of the invention, the drawings are not necessarily to scale and certain features may be exaggerated or omitted in order to better illustrate and explain the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0025] Referring now to FIG. 1, there is diagrammatically shown a movable wall system which may be equipped with any of the soffit assemblies of the present invention. The movable wall system is shown as a paired panel system and includes operable partitions or movable wall panels 10, 11 and 13, 14 suspended from track 16 by trolleys 18. The term trolley is used generally herein and is intended to encompass devices, including wheeled carriages and carriers, of all types that are operably connected to and movable along the track. Wall panel 10 is linked to panel 11, and panel 13 is linked to panel 14, by multiple hinges 20 arranged along the panel height. Track 16 is mountable to a support structure above the room to be compartmentalized in a well known fashion, and the track parts along which the trolleys 18 ride is located above the ceiling of the room (not shown in FIG. 1) as further described below. Panels 10, 11 and 13, 14 may be moved along the track in any known fashion in wall stacking and wall extending directions. The wall panels may be of any conventional design. Furthermore, although shown as being employed with a paired panel system, the soffit arrangements described herein may be employed with different panel systems, including single panel systems, and with different or non-linear track layouts.

[0026] With reference now to FIGS. 2-4, one configuration of the track, trolley and a first embodiment of a soffit assembly of the present invention is further described. Track 16 is of a known design and is made of hardened cold-rolled steel in a generally square tubed shape including a top wall 22, vertical side walls 24 and 25, and bottom wall portions 27 and 28. Track 16 may be mounted to the ceiling support structure by any means known in the art, such as by hanger brackets 26, one of which is shown in FIG. 2. Hanger brackets 26 may be positioned at spaced intervals along the length of the track. For example, in one embodiment, hanger brackets 26 are each approximately 5 inches long in a direction into the page of FIG. 2 and are provided at 24 inch intervals along the length of track 16.

[0027] The upper surfaces of bottom wall portions 27 and 28 are the surfaces along which the wheels of trolley 18 roll when the wall panel is moved. The inward facing edges of

bottom wall portions 27 and 28 are horizontally spaced to provide a slot or gap through which vertically extends trolley bolt 44. The cross-sectional configuration of track 16 shown in FIG. 2 generally corresponds to its configuration along its entire axial length.

[0028] Trolley 18 is of a conventional, four-wheel design and is intended to be illustrative and not limiting, as other trolleys may be employed. Trolley 18 includes a pair of wheels 38 that roll along track portion 27 and a pair of wheels 39 that roll along track portion 28. Portions of the axles that mount the wheels are not shown to facilitate illustration. Wheels 38 and 39 may be rotatably mounted to a steel trolley bolt 44 by any conventional means. In FIG. 2, the bolt head is shown as a nut which is attached to a threaded section of a rod that serves as the bolt. Other bolt heads can be formed as well. The distal or lower end of trolley bolt 44 is attached to the top end of operable partition 10, which is abstractly shown. The method of attachment of trolley bolt 44 to panel 10 is not fully shown or fully described herein as it may be of any type that is known in the art, as the particular form of the connection is not material to the present invention. Panel 10 is shown including a top seal 8 having resilient sweeps 9 which engage for acoustical reasons the bottom surfaces of the soffits described further below.

[0029] Attached to hanger brackets 26 are soffit assemblies generally designated 52 and 54. Soffit assembly 52 includes a soffit attachment device 53 and a soffit 60. Soffit attachment device 53 includes a first portion in the form of an L-shaped soffit bracket 56 and a second portion in the form of a soffit clip 58. Soffit clip 58 and soffit 60 are best illustrated in FIG. 3, while soffit bracket 56 is best illustrated in FIGS. 4A and 4B.

[0030] Soffit bracket 56 may include a vertically-oriented section 62 which may be welded or otherwise fixedly attached to track 16 via hanger bracket 26. Soffit bracket 56 may include a horizontally-oriented section 64 which may extend from section 62 at an angle 66 of approximately 90 degrees. Section 64 may include a hump 68 which may be formed by creating an indentation 70 on an opposite side of section 64. Soffit bracket 56 may be formed of steel, for example.

[0031] Soffit clip 58 may include a slot 72 defined by a top wall 74, side walls 76, 78, and bottom ledges 82, 84. Slot 72 may slidably receive horizontally-oriented section 64 of soffit bracket 56. More particularly, soffit clip 58 may be manually slid over a distal edge 85 of section 64 and past hump 68. Although soffit clip 58 may be slid past hump 68 with manual force, hump 68 may retain soffit clip 58 on section 64. That is, hump 68 may prevent soffit clip 58 from inadvertently sliding off of section 64 after assembly. Slot 72 may have a width 86 that is greater than a width 88 of section 64 to thereby allow some side-to-side movement of soffit clip 58 relative to section 64. For example, in one embodiment, width 86 of slot 72 is 2.06 inches, and width 88 of section 64 is 2.00 inches.

[0032] Top wall 74 includes opposite arms 90, 92 extending past respective side walls 76, 78. On the distal ends of opposite arms 90, 92 are respective opposite edges 94, 96. Soffit clip 58 may be formed of a resilient material, such as plastic, for example.

[0033] Soffit 60 may include two opposite side walls 98, 100 each having a respective latch 102, 104 on its distal end.

Latches **102**, **104** may be snapped onto opposite edges **94**, **96** of soffit clip **58** to thereby secure soffit **60** to soffit clip **58**. The width of latch **102** in the lateral direction may be less than the width of latch **104** in the lateral direction, as best shown in **FIG. 3**, such that latch **102** is somewhat easier to snap onto and unsnap from soffit clip **58** than is latch **104**. Thus, during assembly, latch **104** may be engaged with edge **96** before latch **102** is snapped onto edge **94**. During disassembly, a removal tool may be applied to unsnap latch **102**, as will be described in more detail below. When soffit **60** is snapped onto soffit clip **58**, soffit **60** at least partially conceals track **16** from the view of a person standing below soffit **60** and adjacent to wall **10**. In particular, soffit **60** may at least partially conceal the opening at the bottom of track **16**, which may otherwise appear as a noticeably dark strip across a light colored ceiling.

[0034] A top surface of latch **104** may engage a bottom surface of a ceiling element, generally designated **80**, as shown in **FIG. 2**. More particularly, the upper surface of latch **104** may function as a ledge that supports the edge of the ceiling element installed thereon. Ceiling element **80** may be of the same material as the rest of the ceiling adjacent the track and of the room in which the movable wall system is installed. For example, ceiling element **80** may be tiles of a suspended ceiling, or possibly plasterboard, also known as drywall or gypsum. Ceiling element **80** may be disposed directly below portions of the trolley, as well as the track.

[0035] Soffit **60** may include projections **107**, **108**, **110** (**FIG. 3**) that engage bottom ledge **82**, horizontal section **64** and bottom ledge **84**, respectively. A distal tip **112** of projection **110** may engage top wall **74**. Projections **107**, **108**, **110** bias soffit clip **58** in a generally upward direction **114** (**FIG. 2**) and thus bias opposite edges **94**, **96** of soffit clip **58** into engagement with distal ends **102**, **104** of side walls **98**, **100** of soffit **60**. Projection **108** may support section **64** and thus bias soffit clip **58** via section **64**. The support provided by projection **108** may protect ledges **82**, **84** from being broken by any upward force exerted on soffit **60**. Soffit **60** may be formed in one-piece from a flexible material, such as of aluminum, in an extrusion molding process.

[0036] Soffit assembly **54** includes a soffit bracket **106** that may be a mirror image of soffit bracket **56**. Soffit assembly **54** also includes a soffit clip **58** and a soffit **60**. However, as can be seen in **FIG. 2**, the orientations of soffit clip **58** and soffit **60** are rotated 180 degrees in soffit assembly **54** as compared to their orientations in soffit assembly **52**. The details of soffit assembly **54** are substantially similar to those of soffit assembly **52**, and thus are not described in detail herein.

[0037] Each soffit **60** may have a length into the page of **FIG. 2** of approximately twenty-four inches to match the spacing between hanger brackets **26**. Thus, soffits **60** may be aligned in abutting, end-to-end relationship with each other on opposite sides of track **16** and along the length of track **16**. Soffits **60** may extend the entire length of track **16**, and the shown cross-sectional configuration of soffits **60** generally corresponds to the configuration of each soffit along its entire axial length.

[0038] Referring now to **FIG. 5A**, there is shown a second embodiment of a soffit assembly **152** of a movable wall system of the present invention. Track **116** may be part of an

arcuate switch section of a movable wall system rather than a linear track section as shown in the embodiment of **FIGS. 1-2**. Because the track may curve in the switch section, and a curving square tube track may be difficult to manufacture, track **116** may not have a square tube design. Rather, track **116** may be planar with flat track sections **127**, **128**. The trolley is not shown in **FIG. 5A**, but trolley **18** may be suitable for use in the embodiment of **FIG. 5A**. Track **116** may be mounted to the ceiling support structure by bolts **120**. Bolts **120** also mount soffit assemblies **152**, **154** to track sections **127**, **128**.

[0039] Soffit assembly **152** includes a soffit attachment device **153** and a soffit **160**. Soffit attachment device **153** includes a first portion in the form of a U-shaped soffit bracket **156** and a second portion in the form of a soffit clip **158**.

[0040] Soffit bracket **156** may include an upper horizontally-oriented leg section **163** which may be bolted by bolt **120** or otherwise fixedly attached to track **116**. Soffit bracket **156** may also include a vertically-oriented section **162** and a lower horizontally-oriented leg section **164**. Section **164** may be screwed to soffit clip **158** by a screw **168** or otherwise fixedly attached to soffit clip **158**. Soffit bracket **156** may be formed of steel, for example.

[0041] Soffit clip **158** may include a top wall **174** having opposite downwardly extending legs **186**, **188**. Each of legs **186**, **188** includes a respective catch **190**, **192** on which soffit **160** may latch onto. On the distal ends of opposite legs **186**, **188** are respective distal tips **194**, **196**. Soffit clip **158** may be formed of a resilient material, such as plastic, for example.

[0042] Soffit **160** may include an inner retainer **130** which may be bonded or otherwise attached to an outer soffit shell **132**. In one embodiment, retainer **130** is formed of aluminum, and shell **132** is formed of plastic. Retainer **130** may include two opposite side walls **198**, **200** each having a respective latch **202**, **204** on its distal end. Latches **202**, **204** may be snapped onto respective catches **190**, **192** of soffit clip **158** to thereby secure soffit **160** to soffit clip **158**. When soffit **160** is snapped onto soffit clip **158** in this manner, soffit **160** at least partially conceals track **116** from the view of a person standing below soffit **160** and adjacent to the movable walls. In particular, soffit **160** may at least partially conceal the opening at the bottom of track **116**, which may otherwise appear as a noticeably dark strip across a light colored ceiling.

[0043] An alignment bar **134** may be bonded to soffit shell **132** and may extend through a throughhole (not shown) in retainer **130** to thereby align retainer **130** relative to soffit shell **132** for bonding. Bar **134** may engage distal tip **194** of leg **186** and thus bias catch **190** of soffit clip **158** into engagement with latch **202** of retainer **130**.

[0044] Soffit shell **132** may include opposite upstanding side walls **136**, **138**. A top surface of side wall **138** may engage a bottom surface of a ceiling element, generally designated **180**, as shown in **FIG. 5A**. More particularly, the upper surface of side wall **138** may function as a ledge that supports the edge of the ceiling element installed thereon. Ceiling element **180** may be of the same material as the rest of the ceiling adjacent the track and of the room in which the movable wall system is installed. For example, ceiling

element **180** may be tiles of a suspended ceiling, or possibly plasterboard, also known as drywall or gypsum. Ceiling element **180** may be disposed directly below portions of the trolley, as well as the track.

[0045] Soffit assembly **154** includes a soffit bracket **156**, a soffit clip **158** and a soffit **160**. However, as can be seen in **FIG. 5A**, the orientations of soffit bracket **156**, soffit clip **158** and soffit **160** are rotated 180 degrees in soffit assembly **154** as compared to their orientations in soffit assembly **152**. The details of soffit assembly **154** are substantially similar to those of soffit assembly **152**, and thus are not described in detail herein.

[0046] Each soffit **160** may have a length into the page of **FIG. 5A** that matches the distance between adjacent bolts **120** along track **116**. Thus, soffits **160** may be aligned in abutting, end-to-end relationship with each other on opposite sides of track **116** and along the length of track **116**. Soffits **160** may extend the entire length of track **116**, and the shown cross-sectional configuration of soffits **160** may generally correspond to the configuration of each soffit along its entire axial length.

[0047] At the transition point between track **16** and track **116**, i.e., at the transition between a linear track section and an arcuate switch section of a movable wall system, soffits **60** may abut against soffits **160**, as shown in **FIG. 5B**. Soffits **60** and **160** may have substantially the same widths and heights, as is evident in **FIG. 5B**, such that an observer near the walls may discern no visual distinction or transition between soffits **60**, **160**.

[0048] In another aspect of the present invention illustrated in **FIGS. 6A and 6B**, an elongate soffit removal tool **300** is provided for quickly removing soffits **60**, **160** from respective soffit clips **58**, **158**. Tool **300** includes a body **302** disposed between a handle end **304** and a hooked end **306**. As shown in **FIG. 6A**, hooked end **306** may engage latch **102** of soffit **60** while body **302** engages side wall **98** such that torque applied to handle end **304** in the direction of arrow **308** may pry latch **102** away from soffit attachment device **53**. Similarly, as shown in **FIG. 6B**, hooked end **306** may engage latch **202** of soffit **160** while body **302** engages side wall **136** such that torque applied to handle end **304** in the direction of arrow **308** may pry latch **202** away from soffit attachment device **153**. The torque applied to handle end **304** in direction **308** may be in the plane of the page of **FIGS. 6A, 6B** as defined by hooked end **306**.

[0049] Tool **300** defines a longitudinal direction **310** and a latitudinal direction **312** that is toward the soffit and that is oriented perpendicular to longitudinal direction **310**. Body **302** has two surfaces **314**, **316** at different respective positions in latitudinal direction **312**. Surface **314** is provided on an engagement element **318**, while surface **316** is provided on a base **320**. Engagement element **318** may be slidably connected to base **320**. In the embodiment shown, engagement element **318** is coupled to base **320** via a rivet **322** or by some other suitable fastener. Element **318** may be slid in longitudinal directions **310** relative to base **320**, with the movement being limited by the engagement of rivet **322** with opposite ends **324**, **326** of a slot **328** in element **318**.

[0050] In one embodiment, base **320** and engagement element **318** each have a width in the direction into the page of **FIGS. 6A, 6B** of four inches, and handle end **304** has a

width in the same direction of less than one-half inch. In this embodiment, engagement element **318** may have two slots **328** near respective opposite ends of element **318**, i.e., slots **328** may be aligned with each other in a direction into the page of **FIGS. 6A, 6B**. A respective rivet **322** may be disposed within each of slots **328**.

[0051] Surfaces **314**, **316** may be selectively engageable with the side wall of the soffit. That is, as illustrated in **FIGS. 6A, 6B**, surface **314** may be selected for engagement with side wall **98**, and surface **316** may be selected for engagement with side wall **136**. More particularly, surfaces **314**, **316** are selectively engageable with side walls **98**, **136** dependent upon a distance in latitudinal direction **312** between side walls **98**, **136** and their corresponding latches **102**, **202**. Surface **314**, being very close to the distal tip of hooked end **306** in latitudinal direction **312**, may be more appropriate for engagement with side wall **98**, which is very close to latch **102** in latitudinal direction **312**. Conversely, surface **316**, being farther from the distal tip of hooked end **306** in latitudinal direction **312**, may be more appropriate for engagement with side wall **136**, which is farther from a corresponding latch **202** in latitudinal direction **312**.

[0052] Although this invention has been shown and described as concealing a track installed in a ceiling support structure, it is contemplated that this invention can also be used to conceal tracks installed in other structures, such as walls and floors.

[0053] While this invention has been shown and described as having multiple designs, the present invention may be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains.

What is claimed is:

1. A soffit assembly for use with a movable wall system, the movable wall system having a track, said soffit assembly comprising:

a soffit attachment device having a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being attachable to the track; and

a soffit configured to be snapped onto said second portion of said soffit attachment device such that said soffit at least partially conceals the track.

2. The soffit assembly of claim 1, wherein said first portion of said soffit attachment device includes a substantially horizontally-oriented section, said second portion of said soffit attachment device having a slot configured to slidably receive said substantially horizontally-oriented section of said first portion.

3. The soffit assembly of claim 2, wherein said substantially horizontally-oriented section of said first portion of said soffit attachment device includes a hump configured to retain said second portion on said first portion.

4. The soffit assembly of claim 1, wherein said second portion of said soffit attachment device includes two opposite edges, said soffit including two opposite side walls each having a respective distal end configured to be snapped onto a respective one of said opposite edges.

5. The soffit assembly of claim 4, wherein said second portion of said soffit attachment device includes two opposite arms, said two opposite edges being on respective distal ends of said opposite arms.

6. The soffit assembly of claim 4, wherein said soffit includes at least one projection configured to bias said opposite edges of said second portion of said soffit attachment device into engagement with said distal ends of said side walls of said soffit.

7. The soffit assembly of claim 1, further comprising a resilient sweep configured to be attached to a movable wall and to be biased thereby against a bottom surface of said soffit.

8. A soffit assembly for use with a movable wall system, the movable wall system having a track, said soffit assembly comprising:

a soffit bracket attachable to the track;

a soffit clip coupled to said soffit bracket; and

a soffit configured to be snapped onto said soffit clip such that said soffit at least partially conceals the track.

9. The soffit assembly of claim 8 wherein said soffit bracket includes a substantially horizontally-oriented section, said soffit clip having a slot configured to slidably receive said substantially horizontally-oriented section of said soffit bracket.

10. The soffit assembly of claim 9, wherein said substantially horizontally-oriented section of said soffit bracket device includes a hump configured to retain said soffit clip on said soffit bracket.

11. The soffit assembly of claim 8, wherein said soffit clip includes two opposite edges, said soffit including two opposite side walls each having a respective distal end configured to be snapped onto a respective one of said opposite edges.

12. The soffit assembly of claim 11, wherein said soffit clip includes two opposite arms, said two opposite edges being on respective distal ends of said opposite arms.

13. The soffit assembly of claim 11, wherein said soffit includes at least one projection configured to bias said opposite edges of said soffit clip into engagement with said distal ends of said side walls of said soffit.

14. The soffit assembly of claim 8, further comprising a resilient sweep configured to be attached to a movable wall and to be biased thereby against a bottom surface of said soffit.

15. A soffit arrangement for use with a movable wall system, the movable wall system having a track, said soffit arrangement comprising:

a soffit attachment device coupleable to the track;

a soffit including a side wall and a latch configured to be snapped onto said soffit attachment device such that said soffit at least partially conceals the track; and

an elongate soffit removal tool including a body disposed between a handle end and a hooked end, said hooked end being configured to engage said latch of said soffit while said body engages said side wall such that torque applied to said handle end may pry said latch of said soffit away from said soffit attachment device.

16. The soffit arrangement of claim 15, wherein the torque is applied to said handle end in a plane defined by said hooked end.

17. The soffit arrangement of claim 15, wherein said tool defines a longitudinal direction and a latitudinal direction oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, said body of said tool having a plurality of surfaces at different respective positions in the latitudinal direction, said surfaces being selectively engageable with said side wall of said soffit.

18. The soffit arrangement of claim 17, wherein said surfaces of said body of said tool are selectively engageable with said side wall of said soffit dependent upon a distance in the latitudinal direction between said latch of said soffit and said side wall of said soffit.

19. The soffit arrangement of claim 17, wherein said body of said tool includes:

a base having a first of the surfaces; and

an engagement element having a second of said surfaces, said engagement element being movable relative to said base in the longitudinal direction.

20. The soffit arrangement of claim 19, wherein said engagement element is slidably connected to said base.

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