

No. 691,874.

Patented Jan. 28, 1902.

M. ROBINSON.

SWITCH, OUTLET, AND RECEPTACLE BOX.

(Application filed Nov. 21, 1901.)

(No Model.)

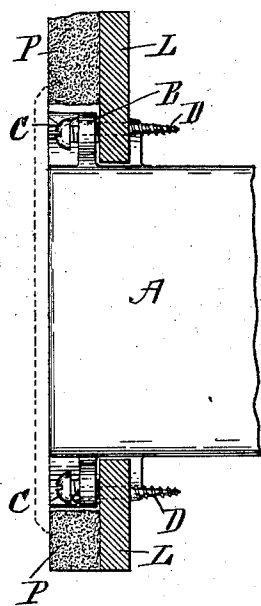


Fig. 4.

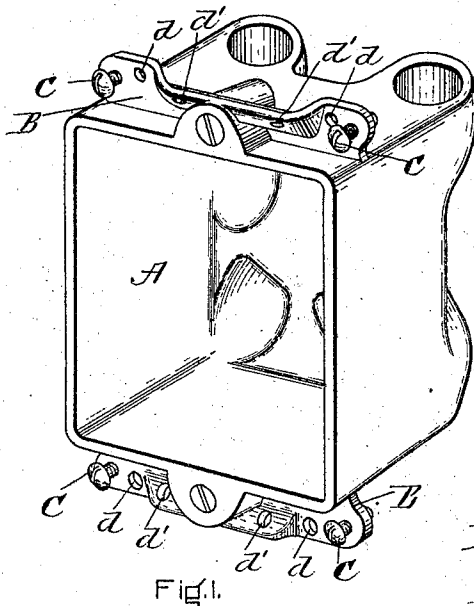


Fig. 1.

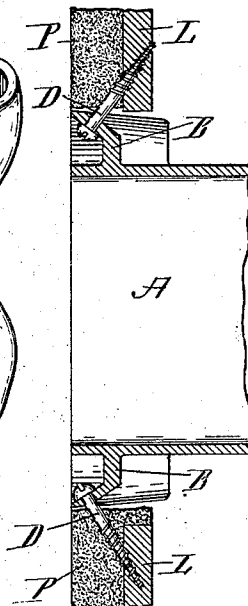


Fig. 5.

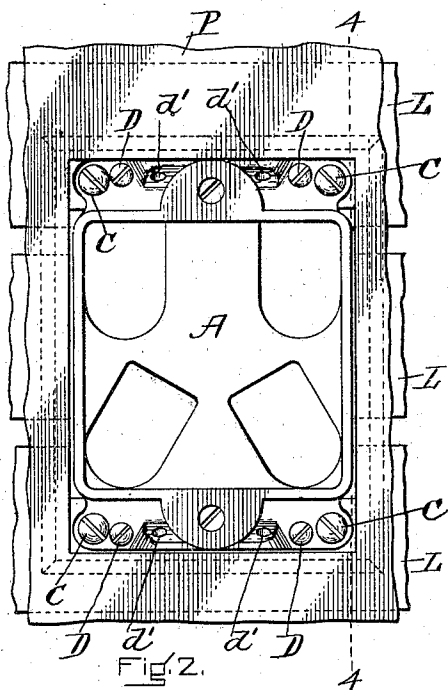


Fig. 2.

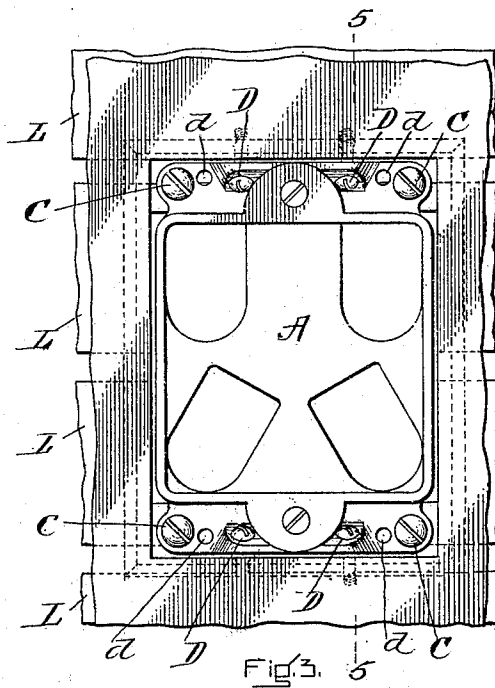


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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MINER ROBINSON, OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

SWITCH, OUTLET, OR RECEPTACLE BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 691,874, dated January 28, 1902.

Application filed November 21, 1901. Serial No. 83,182. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MINER ROBINSON, of Newton, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Switch, Outlet, or Receptacle Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has special reference to arrangements for attaching switch, outlet, and receptacle boxes to the wall. It has been customary to attach the boxes by means of metal "ears," which bear upon the plastering and are held in place by screws passing through the plastering and into the lath or wood-work. Boxes attached in this manner are liable to work loose from the constant jar as the switch is operated, causing the plastering between the switch-ear and the lath or other woodwork to crumble away, thereby removing the support from under the switch-ears. In cases where there is no plaster it has been necessary to use extreme care in cutting the mortise the right depth for the attaching-ear. In order to overcome this difficulty and also to provide a means of adjustment to allow for varying thickness of plastering, &c., I adopt an improved form of construction whereby, as hereinafter described, my switch-box is firmly attached to the lath or other wood-work without the intervention of the plaster, at the same time being readily adjustable.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved box. Figs. 2 and 3 are plan views of the same attached to the wall, Fig. 2 showing perpendicular and Fig. 3 angular attaching-screws in place. Fig. 4 is a section on 4 4, Fig. 2; and Fig. 5 is a section on 5 5, Fig. 3.

I provide the switch-box A, as shown in the drawings, with projections or ears B, said projections being placed a short distance back from the front edge of the box at such a distance that when the box is cut into the partition, as shown in Fig. 4, this projecting portion or ear will allow the front edge of the box to go in slightly below the plane of the plaster-surface. As it is necessary to have the front edge of the box in the same plane with the plaster-surface when the switch is put on, I provide four leveling-screws C, as shown.

Attaching-screw holes *d*, Fig. 1, are drilled through the lug or projecting ear B perpendicular to the plane of the front edges of the box, and also attaching-screw holes *d'* are drilled through the side of the projecting ear at an angle, so that in case the screws inserted through the perpendicular holes should fail to strike a lath or other woodwork or should strike so near the edge as to split the lath the screws inserted in the angular holes would undoubtedly reach a firm hold in a lath or adjacent woodwork.

The box is installed as follows: A hole of sufficient size to admit the body of the box is cut through both plaster and woodwork in the wall, and outside of this hole plastering only is removed for sufficient distance to admit the attaching-ear B, as best shown in Fig. 4. In case the wall is entirely of wood a hole, of approximately the same shape as above described is cut, removing a layer of wood instead of plaster to accommodate the attaching-ear. The four leveling-screws C are then turned until the edges of the box are flush with the surface of the wall. Finally, the attaching-screws D in either the perpendicular holes *d* or the angular holes *d'*, as may be necessary to secure a hold on the lath or other woodwork, are screwed firmly in place. It will be found that the box is held securely in this position and supported entirely independent from the plastering. By using the angular holes *d'* for attaching the box a slight vertical adjustment may be easily obtained.

Some of the advantages of my invention might be stated briefly as follows: Less time is required in securely attaching the box to the partition, therefore making a saving in labor. Ease of adjustment of the box for varying thicknesses of plastering is secured, or in case the box is set in woodwork less pains is required in cutting the mortise for the attaching-ear, as any discrepancy in the depth of the mortise may be readily compensated for by the adjusting-screws. Also by using the attaching-screws through the angular holes quite a vertical adjustment may be obtained, which under certain conditions would prove valuable. In case, for instance, the covering-plate did not quite cover a little break in the

plastering, by means of this adjustment the whole box could be either raised or lowered slightly, as might be necessary, facility being afforded for permitting equally good work
5 done by less skilled labor. Also double provision is made for obtaining a secure fastening.

It is my intention to adapt this invention to several different styles of boxes known as "gang-boxes," where two or more switches
10 are grouped together under one plate.

Having now described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A switch, receptacle or outlet box having ears or lugs, provided with leveling-screws
15 and attaching-screws for securing the box di-

rectly to the lath or other woodwork entirely independent of the plaster.

2. A switch, receptacle or outlet box having the ears or lugs B substantially as described, provided with leveling-screws C and
20 attaching-holes *d'* drilled on an angle in combination with the screws D substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MINER ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

SUMNER ROBINSON,
GERTRUDE GUNTHER.