

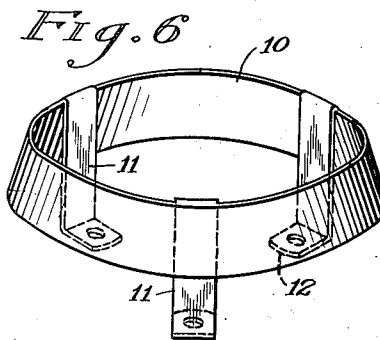
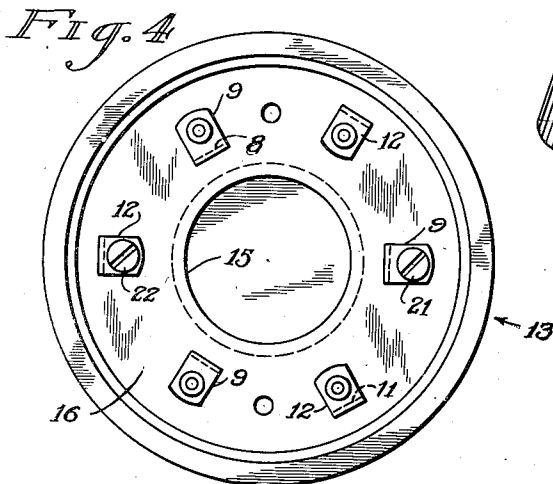
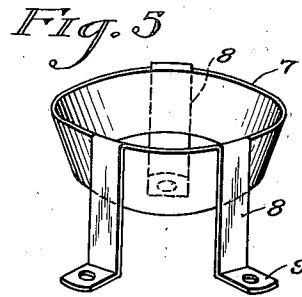
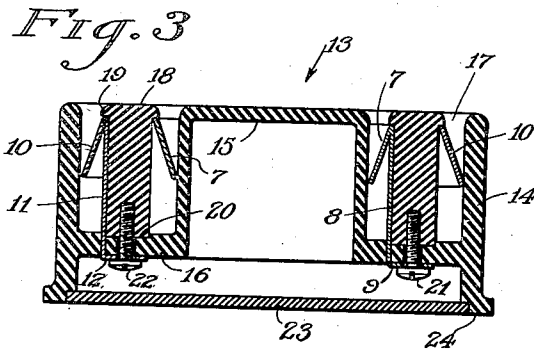
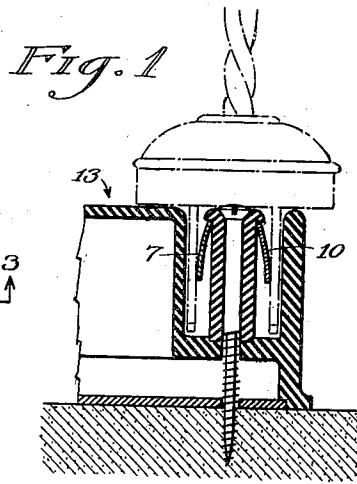
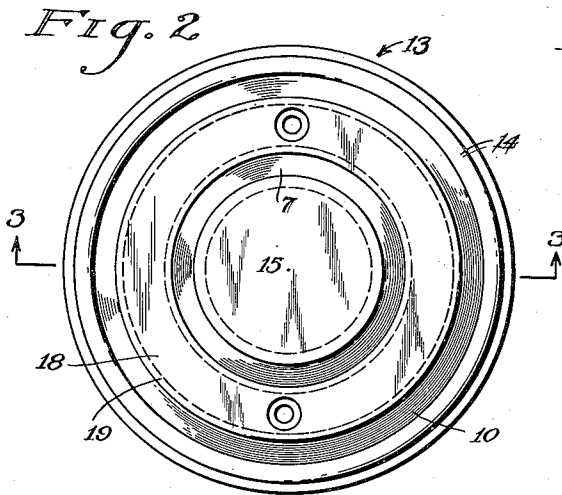
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2,093,358

UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC OUTLET

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC OUTLET

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2 Claims. (Cl. 173-338)

This invention relates to electric outlets or receptacles in which provision is made for the connection of a plurality of electric plugs for household appliances and the like.

Devices of the character indicated heretofore in use which provide for connection of a number of electric plugs have necessarily required a great number of contact members resulting in a costly and intricate construction and arrangement of the component parts. In view of the above, it is the primary object of my invention to provide a convenient outlet or receptacle for the connection of a plurality of electrical appliance plugs of a particularly neat and simple arrangement requiring only two contact members, namely, one for each corresponding prong of the plugs.

A further object of my invention is to provide in such devices contact members of a particularly simple and practical arrangement which in use will make contact onto the prongs of the plug over an appreciable area.

The invention will be fully and comprehensively understood from a consideration of the following detailed description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing which forms part of the application, with the understanding, however, that the improvement is capable of extended application and is not confined to the exact showing of the drawing nor to the precise construction described and, therefore, such changes and modifications may be made therein as do not affect the spirit of the invention nor exceed the scope thereof as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary central sectional view illustrating my device installed for use.

Fig. 2 is a top elevational view of the entire device.

Fig. 3 is a central sectional view taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a bottom elevational view with the cover of the device removed; and

Figs. 5 and 6 are perspective views of the respective positive and negative contact members apart from the device.

Referring to the drawing for a more detailed description thereof with particular reference to Figs. 2 and 3, it will be noted that my improved electric outlet receptacle comprises in brief two annular contact rings arranged concentrically and insulated from each other, the same being suitably supported on an appropriate circular base. This arrangement provides for the connection of a plurality of electric plugs about the

contact circle substantially as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The just mentioned contact rings are illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. Fig. 5 illustrates the inner contact member which comprises a skirt-like contact ring 7 resembling in shape a truncated cone, the apex of which is downward. The inner surface of the ring, tapering inwardly, embodies the contact portion of this member. Integral with the upper edge of the ring 7 and extending vertically downwardly therefrom are arranged a plurality of legs 8, preferably three equally spaced. Each of the legs 8 are bent at right angles to form a foot 9. Fig. 6 illustrates the outer contact member which comprises a skirt-like contact ring 10 shaped substantially to that of a truncated cone with the apex upward. The outer surface of the ring embodies the portion of this member coming in contact with the prongs of the electric plug. Integral with the upper edge of the ring 10, and extending vertically downwardly therefrom are arranged three legs 11 at the lower ends of which are formed feet 12.

To appropriately support the inner and outer contact rings concentrically with each other, I have provided a circular base 13 which comprises a cylindrical vertical wall 14 and a central dome-like structure 15 joined near the bottom of the base 13 by the annular ring 16. The members 14, 15 and 16 are of a composite integral structure formed of an insulating material such as bakelite. The annular trough 17 embodies the recess in which the contact rings 7 and 10 are suitably arranged, the latter being insulated from each other by a cylindrical ring 18. At the upper edges of the ring 18 and extending outwardly therefrom are formed shoulders 19 by which the more secure retention of the contact rings 7 and 10 is effected during the withdrawal of an electric plug. The ring 18 is secured in a recessed annular groove 20 cut in the member 16 and fastened thereto by means hereinafter described.

Reference is now directed to Fig. 4 in which is illustrated clearly the arrangement of the respective supporting members of the rings 7 and 10. In the preferred construction of these rings they are each provided with three legs which, as shown in Fig. 4, are disposed in annular formation, the respective legs of each ring alternating with each other. One of each of the feet 9 and 12, preferably those diametrically opposite each other are to be used as terminals, for which purpose suitable contact screws 21 and 22 are provided, the latter being threadedly engaged in tapped holes in the ring 18. Clearance holes in

the member 16 and the feet 8 and 12 are formed so that the screws 21 and 22 may be adjusted independently. The remaining four feet 8 and 12 provide additional support for their corresponding contact rings 7 and 10 in that each of these feet are riveted or otherwise suitably attached thru the member 16 to the ring 18. It will be noted that this means of support for the rings 7 and 10 also effect the secure holding of the ring 18 in its place. To protect the terminals 21 and 22 and the other electrical structure, a cover 23 is secured in an annular recess 24 to the base 14 of the device.

It is likewise to be noted that the tripod support for each of the rings 7 and 10 as well as the formation of these rings assures the desirable resilience of structure by which a more suitable contact is made to the prongs of an inserted electric plug. This feature of my device will be more apparent upon reference to Fig. 1 wherein the flexure of the contacting portion of the rings 7 and 8 to effect contact of an appreciable area will be apparent.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A receptacle for electric attachment plugs

comprising a base having an annular groove defined by vertical concentric walls integral with the base and a top member integral with the inner walls, an insulator positioned within said groove, an inner contact ring located between the inner vertical wall and the insulator in the groove, an outer contact ring encircling said insulator and arms depending from said inner and outer contact rings for attachment to the base of said groove and insulator.

2. A receptacle for electric attachment plugs comprising a base having cylindrical concentric walls and a top member integral with the inner cylinder, the structure thus defining an annular groove between the inner and outer cylinders, an insulator positioned within said groove and spaced from said vertical walls, an inner contact ring encircling said top member, an outer contact ring encircling said insulator, said contact rings being supported in shoulder portions in the insulator, and arms depending from said inner and outer contact rings for attachment to the base of said groove and insulator.

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