

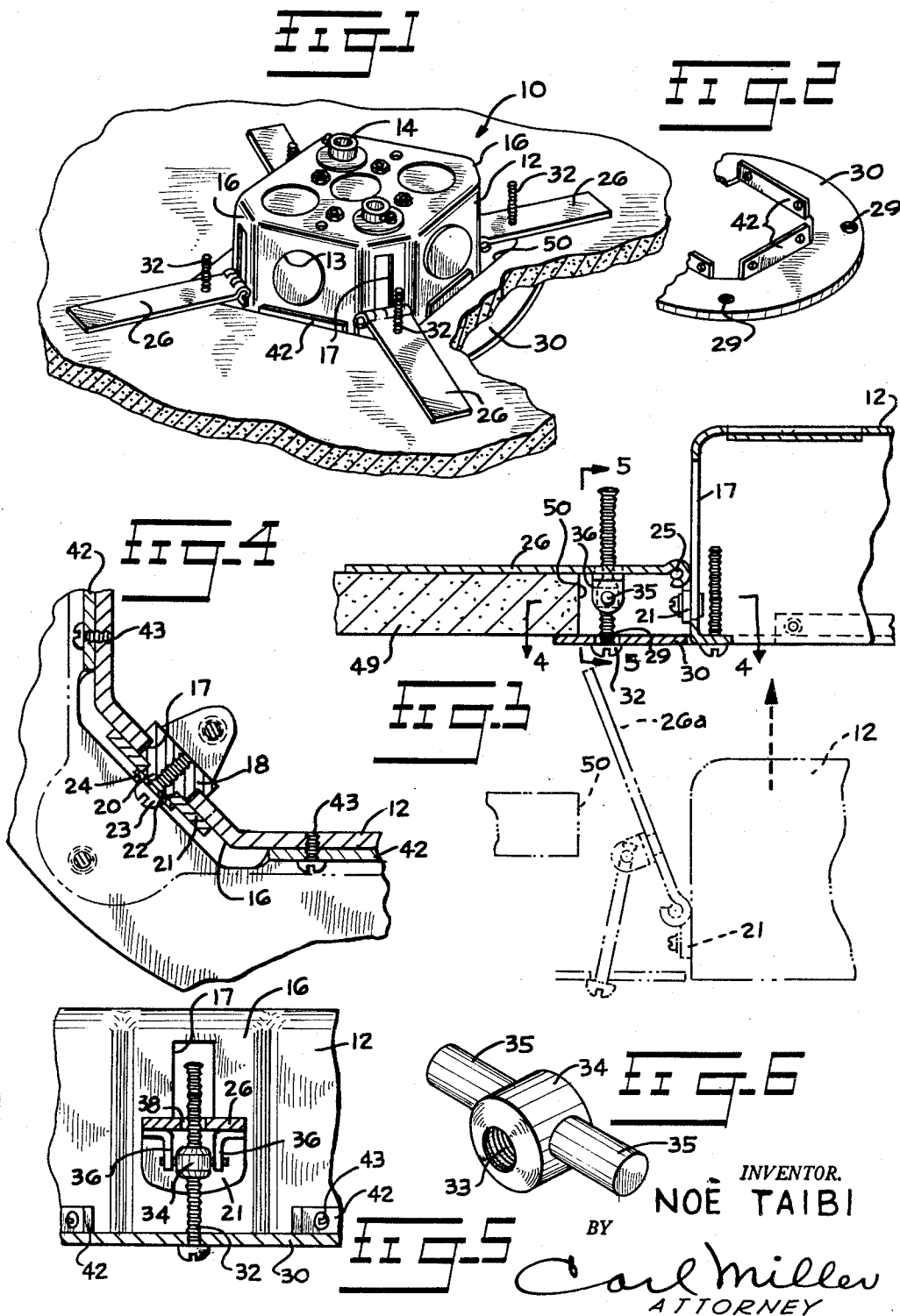
Sept. 4, 1962

N. TAIBI

3,052,369

SNAP-IN BOX FOR ELECTRIC WIRING

Filed Dec. 7, 1959



INVENTOR.

NOË TAIBI

BY

Carl Miller
ATTORNEY

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3,052,369

SNAP-IN BOX FOR ELECTRIC WIRING
Noé Taibi, 117 Central Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Filed Dec. 7, 1959, Ser. No. 857,656
3 Claims. (Cl. 220—3.6)

This invention relates to electrical apparatus and, more particularly, to electric wiring terminal boxes.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a snap-in type terminal box for electric wiring which can be readily and conveniently installed in any wall or ceiling opening with a minimum amount of damage to the structure, and without requiring the application of external fastening elements thereto.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a snap-in type terminal box which can be conveniently installed or removed, may be secured within an opening in any desired position independently of supporting structure, and which presents a neat and attractive appearance from the exposed side thereof.

An additional object of the present invention is to provide a snap-in type terminal box of the type described which can be manufactured in large quantities at a relatively low cost, can be installed and removed in a minimum amount of time, and which can be readily salvaged for use on additional jobs so as to extend the useful life thereof.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a terminal box made in accordance with the present invention in an installed position;

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary perspective view of a bezel element forming a part of the present invention;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse cross sectional view of the assembly shown in FIGURE 1, showing the manner in which the parts are installed;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary transverse cross sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary cross sectional view taken along line 5—5 of FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 6 is an enlarged perspective view of a swivel element forming a part of the present invention.

Referring now to the drawing, an electrical terminal box 10 made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a housing 12 having a plurality of openings 13 and electrical fittings 14 for the reception of suitable wiring implements, such as cables, sockets, switches, and the like. The housing 12 is of generally rectangular configuration having bevelled corners 16 that provide a flat surface for defining slots 17 that extend parallel to the longitudinal central axis of the housing. A non-circular bushing 18 is slidably supported within each such slot 17 for adjustment relative to the front open side of the housing. A hinge plate 21 having a similar non-circular opening 22 is supported upon a reduced non-circular section 20 of each such bushing 18. A bolt 23 and washer 24 provide sufficient pressure to secure the hinge plate 21 and bushing 18 in any selected adjusted position within the slot 17 relative to the front plane of the housing. A hinge pin 25 associated with each hinge plate 21 pivotally connects an individual arm 26 to each such hinge plate for pivotal movement between a normally perpendicularly outwardly extended position as shown in FIGURE 1, and a retracted position 26a as shown in broken lines in FIGURE 3.

The assembly also includes a substantially circular bezel 30 having a plurality of perpendicularly related mounting flanges 42 which are secured to the sides of

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the housing 12, such as by screws 43. The bezel 30 is also provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart openings 29 through which bolts 32 extend into threaded engagement with an internally threaded bore 33 of a swivel member 34 having oppositely extending pintles 35 that are rotatably received within a pair of angle members 36 depending from each one of the arms 26. Each such arm 26 is further provided with an enlarged opening 38 through which the free end of the bolt 32 extends. There will now be recognized that by rotating the bolts 32, the arms 26 may be selectively moved between the outstretched position and the inwardly retracted position shown in FIGURE 3.

In actual use, the position of the arms 26 through the bushings 18 may be adjusted by loosening and tightening the securement bolts 23, so that the open side of the housing 12 may be placed substantially flush with the interior surface of the wall 49 upon which the device is to be mounted. With the arms in the retracted position 26a as shown in FIGURE 6, the housing is inserted into the opening 50 of the wall 49 so that the bezel 30 overlies the exterior surface thereof. By then tightening the bolts 32, the arms 26a may be rotated into a fully outstretched position shown in FIGURE 3, to clamp the wall section 39 between the bezel 30 and the arms 26, thus rigidly supporting the housing 12 in the desired position. The desired connections may then be made, whereby the device is properly supported in the desired section within the wall or ceiling member. Also, the device may be readily removed from such structure whenever desired, simply by rotating the mounting bolts 32 in the opposite direction to return the arms to the retracted position 26a, so that the device may be removed and installed in another structure should such be desired.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the construction shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. An electrical terminal box comprising, in combination, a housing, retractable means for securing said housing within a wall opening, slide means adjusting the position of said retractable means with respect to said housing, screw threaded bolt means selectively controlling said retractable means to secure and release said retractable means in engagement within the wall opening defining portions, said retractable means comprising a plurality of arms, hinge means pivotally connecting said arms to spaced apart portions of said housing, said hinge means being carried upon said slide means for adjustment along an axis extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal central axis of said housing, and a bezel carried by said housing, said screw threaded means acting between said bezel and said arms to control the position of said arms relative to said bezel.

2. An electrical terminal box as set forth in claim 1, wherein each said slide means comprises a bushing slidably supported upon one side of said housing for movement parallel to the longitudinal axis of said housing, and additional screw threaded means clampingly securing said bushing in an adjusted position relative to the front of said housing.

3. An electrical terminal box as set forth in claim 2, wherein said screw threaded bolt means comprises a bolt rotatably carried upon said bezel adjacent to each one of said arms, an internally threaded swivel member pivotally carried upon each said arm, and each said swivel member threadedly receiving the free end of said bolt therewithin

for controlling the angular position of each said arm
relative to said bezel.

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