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CONSTRUCTION FOR RECESS IN PLASTER WALL

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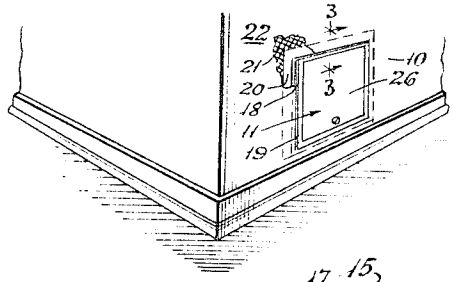


Fig. 1.

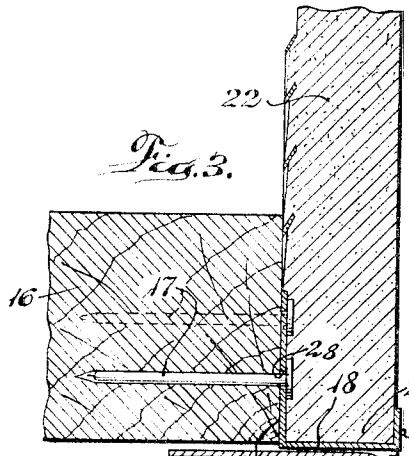


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Inventors:
Donald A. Ellis
Albert P. Krueger
By Merriam, Smith & Marshall
Attorneys.

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CONSTRUCTION FOR RECESS IN PLASTER WALL

Donald A. Ellis, Waukesha, and Albert T. Krueger, Milwaukee, Wis., assignors to Inland Steel Products Company, Milwaukee, Wis., a corporation of Delaware

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The present invention relates generally to wall recess constructions, and more particularly to a prefabricated construction for a recess in a plaster wall.

The prefabricated recess construction of the present invention is mounted on the framing members of a wall, prior to plastering, to define a recess which may include plumbing or electrical connections, etc. The construction includes casing means for defining the side walls of a recess in a plaster wall, the casing means having open front and back ends; a lip extending outwardly at the front of the casing means around the periphery thereof; a flange extending outwardly at the back of the casing means around the periphery thereof, the flange and lip lying in respective substantially parallel planes with the flange extending substantially further outwardly than the lip.

The casing and lip and flange define a recess-surrounding outwardly facing trough into which the plaster is applied, and the parallel lip and flange are spaced apart a predetermined distance equal to the desired thickness of the plaster. These features make plastering easier by furnishing plaster grounds or inner and outer limits for the plaster surfaces, and assure the desired thickness of plaster. A more attractive, finished installation is also provided because the lip constitutes a protective terminal for the plaster inner edge portions surrounding the recess construction, thereby preventing chipping of the plaster around the recess. Furthermore, expansion and contraction of the plaster inner edge portions around the recess construction is concealed by the lip, which overlaps the inner edge portions in an outward direction.

The flange extending outwardly at the back of the casing reinforces and rigidifies the plaster wall. The relatively large width of this flange facilitates installation because it is relatively easy to attach the wide flange to wall framing members upon which the recess construction is to be mounted.

The recess construction of the instant invention may additionally include expanded metal means extending integrally outwardly from a metallic back flange around the periphery thereof. This expanded metal means serves the same function as conventional lath, and because the expanded metal means is integral with the flange, the usual defects present when such expanded metal is welded to the casing defining the recess are eliminated. More particularly, there are no burrs or sharp edges associated with the expanded metal lath of the instant invention. In addition, broken welds are eliminated. The expanded metal lath provides an excellent reinforcement for the plaster which is applied around the recess.

Other features and advantages are inherent in the construction claimed and disclosed, or will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view illustrating a wall including a recess construction in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary view, partially in section, of a recess construction for a plaster wall and in accordance with the present invention; and

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIGURE 1.

Referring initially to FIGURE 1, there is illustrated a

plaster wall **10** including a prefabricated construction **11** for a recess in the plaster wall, said construction constituting an embodiment of the present invention.

FIGURES 2 and 3 illustrate construction **11** in greater detail. In a typical situation, construction **11** is mounted on vertically and horizontally extending framing members **15, 16** respectively by nails **17**. In the illustrated embodiment, the framing members are wooden. However, other material, such as steel studs and channels, masonry, etc., may be used.

Construction **11** includes casing means **18** composed of substantially flat material, said casing means **18** defining the side walls of the recess. As shown in the drawings, casing means **18** has open front and back ends.

Projecting outwardly at the front of casing means **18** is a lip **19**, and projecting outwardly at the back of casing means **18** is a flange **20**, both lip **19** and flange **20** extending outwardly around the entire periphery of casing means **18**. Lip **19** and flange **20** lie in respective substantially parallel planes, with the flange extending substantially further outwardly than the lip. Lip **19** is imperforate, and flange **20** is imperforate in the area of projection of lip **19** on flange **20**, when the lip is projected in a direction perpendicular to the flange. Flange **20** is provided with openings **28** (FIG. 3) for receiving nails **17** to mount construction **11** on wooden framing members **15, 16**. All the flange openings **28** are located further outwardly than any portion of lip **19**. Thus, all of the openings are located outwardly of the area of projection of the lip on the flange.

In the illustrated embodiment, all of construction **11** is metallic and lip **19** and flange **20** are integral with casing means **18**. In other embodiments, all or part of construction **11** may be constructed of other materials such as plastics.

After construction **11** is mounted on the framing members, plaster is applied therearound. Casing means **18**, lip **19** and flange **20** define a trough for receiving the innermost edge portions **23** of the plaster wall **22** (FIGURE 3). Lip **19** provides a protective terminal for innermost edge portions **23** to protect them against chipping, breakage and other undesirable occurrences which would otherwise happen if the innermost edge portions were not protected by means such as lip **19**.

Lip **19** also hides the unattractive construction gap which occurs between plaster innermost edge portions **23** and casing means **18**, said contraction occurring as the plaster wall dries after application of the plaster.

As another feature of the subject recess construction, the distance between parallel lip **19** and flange **20** is predetermined in accordance with the desired thickness of plaster wall **22**. Lip **19** and flange **20** define the inner and outer surfaces of the plaster wall **22** and thereby enable the desired thickness to be obtained with a greater degree of accuracy than would be possible if means such as parallel lip **19** and flange **20** were not so provided.

As indicated in the drawings, flange **20** is substantially wider than lip **19**, said relatively wide flange providing rigidity to the entire construction **11**. The width of flange **20** and the outward location of openings **28** relative to lip **19** also facilitates the attachment of the construction **11** to the wooden framing members **15, 16**, because there is ample room for access of a securing tool to be used on securing means **17** without any interference by lip **19**.

In the illustrated embodiment, extending integrally outwardly from flange **20**, around the entire periphery thereof, is expanded material or metal means or lath **21**. Inasmuch as lath **21** is integral with flange **20**, rather than welded thereto, there are no burrs or sharp edges at the location where the flange **20** and lath **21** join. Accordingly, there is less danger of cuts or injuries to a workman installing construction **11**. Furthermore, since

there are no weldments, there is less danger of broken welds, which may occur during shipment or handling, and thus render the construction **11** unsuitable for installation by the time it arrives at the installation location. Lath **21** serves the additional function of reinforcing the plaster of which wall **22** is composed.

Casing **11** receives therewithin door means including a door frame **25** and a door **26**. Door **26** may be opened to provide access to the interior of the recess, which may contain electrical or plumbing connections. The ready access provided by the instant construction simplifies and facilitates maintenance procedures for plumbing or electrical equipment in the building in which the recess construction is installed.

The foregoing detailed description has been given for clearness of understanding only, and no unnecessary limitations should be understood therefrom, as modifications will be obvious to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A prefabricated construction for a recess in a plaster wall, said construction comprising:

casing means defining the side walls of said recess;

said casing means having a pair of opposite open ends;

imperforate lip means extending outwardly at one end of said casing means around the periphery of and substantially perpendicular to the casing means;

flange means extending outwardly at the other end of the casing means around the periphery of and substantially perpendicular to the casing means;

said flange means and said lip means lying in respective substantially parallel, spaced-apart planes;

said flange means extending further outwardly than said lip means;

said flange means being imperforate in the area of projection of said lip means on the flange means, when the lip means are projected in a direction perpendicular to said flange means;

said flange means including, as an integral part thereof, expanded material means extending outwardly around the periphery of said imperforate area;

and a plurality of openings in said flange means;

all of said openings being located outwardly of said area of projection of the lip means on the flange means.

2. A construction as recited in claim **1** wherein said openings are located in a planar perforate area of said flange means, said perforate area lying between said imperforate area and said expanded material means;

said perforate area being integral and coplanar with both the imperforate area of the flange means and the expanded material means.

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FRANK L. ABBOTT, *Primary Examiner.*

WILLIAM I. MUSHAKE, HENRY C. SUTHERLAND, *Examiners.*

J. L. RIDGILL, *Assistant Examiner.*