Jan. 10, 1939. E. L. SCHOFIELD 2,143,285

CASKET SKID PLATE FOR HEARSES

Filed Oct. 23, 1936

Fig. 1

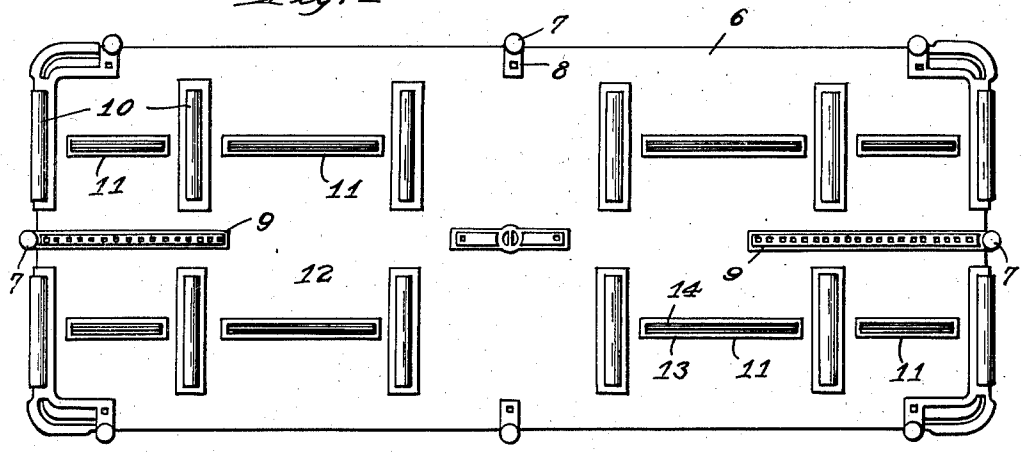


Fig. 2

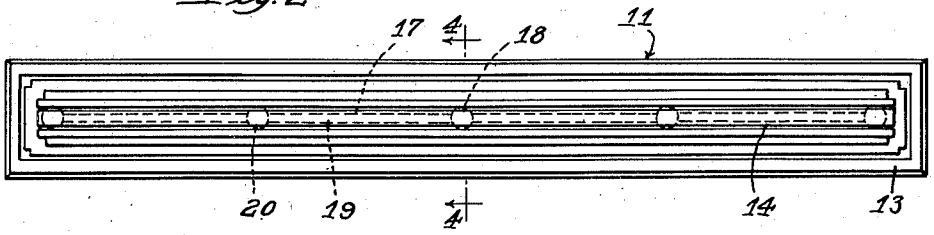


Fig. 3

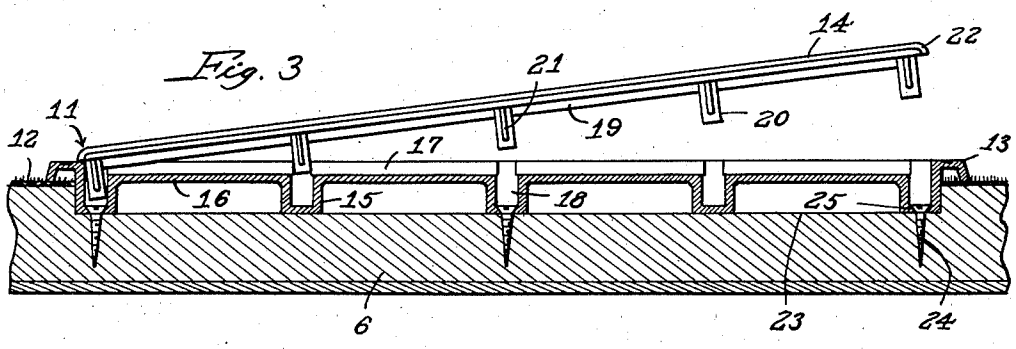


Fig. 4

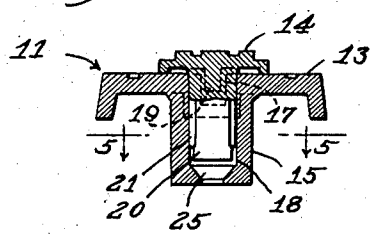
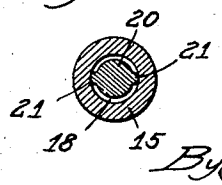


Fig. 5



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CASKET SKID PLATE FOR HEARSES

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7 Claims. (Cl. 296—41)

This invention relates to hearses, and is particularly concerned with an improved metal skid plate for the floor or casket table on which to slide the casket in loading and unloading.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a skid plate of two-piece construction consisting of a base plate arranged to be secured to the floor or table and a skid strip removably inserted in a recess in the plate and serving to conceal the fastening screws, whereby to present a neat and attractive appearance and also permit replacement of the skid strip in the event it gets scored from service.

Other objects of the invention will appear as reference is made to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a casket table of a hearse, showing skid plates thereon made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a top view of one of the skid plates shown on a larger scale;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section through the base of a skid plate, showing how it is fastened to the casket table by concealed screws, the skid strip appearing in side elevation in this view in an inclined position, as when being inserted or removed;

Fig. 4 is a cross-section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, on a still further enlarged scale, and

Fig. 5 is a sectional detail on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

The same reference numerals are applied to corresponding parts throughout the views.

Referring to Fig. 1, the casket table 6 is intended for use in a side delivery hearse in which the table is movable forwardly and to either side for loading and unloading, and also usually movable rearwardly from the hearse for the same purpose, such hearses being known as the three-way service type. In loading and unloading, pins 7 in side plates 8 serve mainly as guides, and when the casket has been placed on the table approximately centrally, other pins 7 are entered in the proper holes in plates 9 at opposite ends of the table to serve as stays and prevent objectionable movement of the casket. There are twelve rubber rollers 10 mounted on the table 6 in pairs in longitudinally spaced relation, as shown, and these support the casket for easy movement and at the same time absorb the noise that otherwise accompanied the rolling of caskets over metal rollers. It is between these pairs of rollers that the skid plates 11 of my invention are provided. They extend longitudinally between the rollers, as shown, and serve to prevent scraping or gouging the upholstered surface 12 of the table in case the casket is lowered unevenly on the table. Now, of course, in an ordinary hearse not equipped with a movable table 6, the floor of the hearse is equipped with rollers like the rollers 10, similarly located, and, in such hearses, skid plates 11 are fastened directly to the floor between the rollers similarly located with respect thereto, as herein shown, whereby to protect the upholstered surface of the hearse floor in the event the casket is lowered unevenly onto the floor or is not removed from the hearse carefully. In either type of hearse, the skid plates will extend close up to the rollers so that the edges of the casket cannot come in contact with the hardware on the table or floor of the hearse, as the case may be. Obviously, these plates will be set high enough to prevent the casket from touching the upholstered surface of the table or floor between the rollers, the rollers themselves being relied upon to support the casket in its travel and afterward when retained by the bier pins.

Referring now to Figs. 2 to 5, each skid plate 11 comprises a base plate 13 and a skid strip 14. The base plate 13 is preferably, though not necessarily, a die casting and has a plurality of longitudinally spaced hollow cylindrical bosses 15 formed on the bottom thereof interconnected by a longitudinal rib 16. A longitudinal groove 17 in the rib 16 interconnects the vertical bores 18 of the bosses 15. Now, the skid strip 14 has a complementary longitudinal rib 19 on the bottom thereof interconnecting a plurality of longitudinally spaced pin projections 20, and the rib 19 is arranged to fit in the groove 17 while the pin projections 20 are arranged to enter the bores 18, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 4. The rib 19 is purposely made under size with relation to the groove 17, and the same is true of the pin projection 20 with relation to the bores 18, so that the skid strip will be assured of easy assembling or disassembling. However, a close enough fit to prevent side or end play of the skid strip 14 relative to the base plate 13 is assured by the provision of diametrically opposed longitudinal beads 21 on the sides of the pin projections 20. These beads project sufficiently to have an easy sliding fit in the bores 18 of the bosses 15, thereby keeping the skid strip 14 nicely located centrally with relation to the base plate 13, but at the same time permitting the raising up of one end of the strip, as by entry of a knife blade or finger nail under one end of the strip, when it is desired to remove the skid strip, as, for example, to replace a worn or scored one with a new one. The skid strip is also prefer-

ably, though not necessarily, a die casting. The ends of the strip are rounded, as at 22, to prevent snagging in the event the end of a casket should come into abutment with the end of the strip. The rounded surfaces 22 will cause the casket to ride up on top of the strip and avoid damage either to the casket or skid plate. The casket table 6 is grooved, as at 23, to accommodate the bosses 15 while the rest of the plate 13 rests on the upholstered surface 12 of the table. In a similar way, the floor of a hearse will be grooved to take skid plates. Screws 24 entered through holes 25 in the bottoms of the bosses 15 serve to fasten the base plate 13 securely in place, and, of course, the heads of these screws will be covered by the projections 20 when the skid strip 14 is in place, and in that way no screws are left visible. The plated surfaces of the base plate 13 and skid strip 14 present an unusually neat and attractive appearance, and one cannot tell from even close inspection of the skid plates that the strips 14 thereof are separable; the skid plates appear to be of one-piece construction.

I claim:

1. A casket skid plate for hearses comprising a base plate adapted to be secured to a casket support, said base plate having a plurality of substantially circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of at least some of said recesses, adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having pin-like projections thereon in longitudinally spaced relation on the bottom thereof adapted to be detachably slidably engaged substantially their full lengths in said recesses, whereby frictionally to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws besides preventing longitudinal displacement of the skid member relative to the base plate under the end thrust imposed thereon when a casket is slid along the same.

2. A skid plate comprising a base plate adapted to be secured to a support, said base plate having a plurality of circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of said recesses adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having substantially cylindrical pin projections thereon arranged to be detachably engaged in said recesses to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws, said projections being of smaller diameter than said recesses but having longitudinal beads provided on diametrically opposite sides thereof on lines transversely relative to said skid member adapted slidably to engage the opposite sides of said recesses.

3. A casket skid plate for hearses comprising a base plate adapted to be secured to a casket support, said base plate having a plurality of substantially circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of at least some of said recesses adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having pin-like projections thereon in longitudinally spaced relation on the bottom thereof adapted to be detachably slidably engaged substantially their full lengths in said recesses, whereby frictionally to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws besides preventing longitudinal displacement of the skid member relative to the base plate under the end thrust imposed thereon when a casket is slid along the same, said base plate also having a longitudinal groove provided in the top thereof interconnecting said recesses, and said skid member having a longitudinal rib on the bottom thereof interconnecting and laterally reenforcing said projections at the points of their connection to the bottom of the skid member, said rib being entered in said groove.

4. A skid plate comprising a base plate adapted to be secured to a support, said base plate having a plurality of circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of said recesses adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having substantially cylindrical pin projections thereon arranged to be detachably engaged in said recesses to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws, said projections being of smaller diameter than said recesses but having longitudinal beads provided on diametrically opposite sides thereof on lines transversely relative to said skid member adapted slidably to engage the opposite sides of said recesses, said base plate also having a longitudinal groove provided in the top thereof interconnecting said recesses, and said skid member having a longitudinal rib on the bottom thereof interconnecting said projections, said rib adapted to be entered in said groove.

5. In a skid plate, the combination of a base plate adapted to be secured to a support, and a skid member arranged to be supported removably on top of said base plate while held against endwise movement with respect thereto, the base plate having a plurality of longitudinally spaced recesses provided therein and the skid member having a plurality of correspondingly longitudinally spaced projections for slidable entry in said recesses, the projections and recesses being so constructed to permit pivotal movement of the skid member about one end thereof as a fulcrum upwardly from its operative position on the base plate prior to withdrawal of the adjacent endmost projection from the endmost recess so as to facilitate withdrawal of the projections from the recesses and removal of the skid member from the base plate.

6. A skid plate comprising a base plate adapted to be secured to a support, said base plate having a plurality of circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of said recesses adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having substantially cylindrical pin projections thereon arranged to be detachably engaged in said recesses to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws, said projections being of smaller diameter than said recesses but having longitudinal beads provided on the sides thereof adapted slidably to engage the sides of said recesses, the beads terminating short of the lower ends of the projections.

7. A skid plate comprising a base plate adapted

to be secured to a support, said base plate having a plurality of circular recesses provided therein in longitudinally spaced relation, said base plate having screw holes provided therein in the bottoms of said recesses adapted to receive fastening screws for securing the base plate to the support, and a skid member supported on top of said base plate, the same having substantially cylindrical pin projections thereon arranged to be detachably engaged in said recesses to hold said skid member in place on said base plate and also conceal said fastening screws, said projections being of smaller diameter than said recesses but having longitudinal beads provided on the sides thereof adapted slidably to engage the sides of said recesses, said base plate also having a longitudinal groove provided in the top thereof interconnecting said recesses, and said skid member having a longitudinal rib on the bottom thereof interconnecting said projections, said rib adapted to be entered in said groove.

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