July 21, 1953 R. G. MARCHISIO 2,646,498

SUPPORTING LATCH FOR LIGHTING FIXTURES

Filed June 30, 1950

Fig. 1

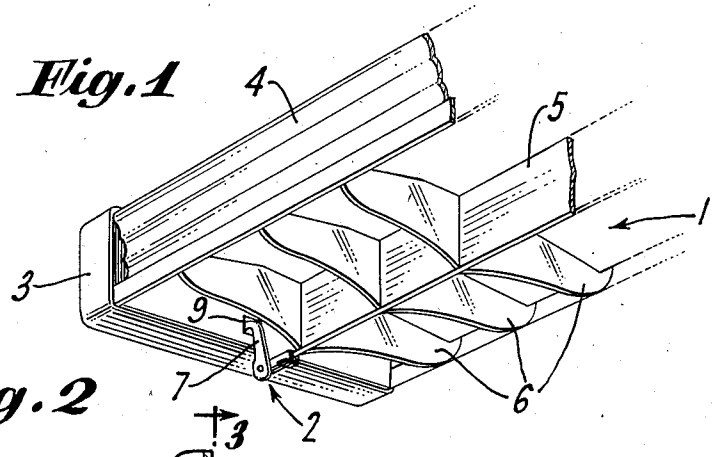


Fig. 2

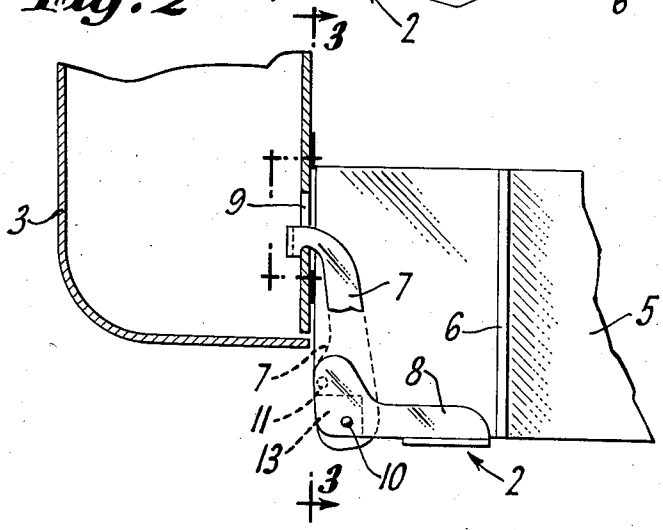
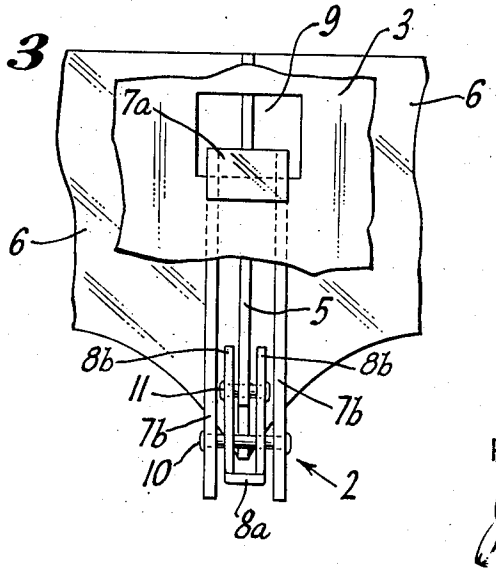


Fig. 3



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SUPPORTING LATCH FOR LIGHTING FIXTURES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 240—51.11)

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This invention relates to electric lighting fixtures and more particularly to fixtures employing elongated tubular light sources, such as fluorescent lamps for example.

In the manufacture of fluorescent lighting fixtures, one of the problems has been to develop a satisfactory mechanism for supporting a light-controlling member disposed beneath the fluorescent lamps. Not only should the mechanism or device be relatively simple in construction for speed and cheapness in manufacturing as well as positive in its action for safety in operation, but it also should be easily accessible to simplify maintenance problems. More specifically, the device should be one which will enable an operator to quickly and easily remove the light-controlling member. Removal of the light-controling member may be desirable for relamping the fixture as well as for cleaning the member itself.

It is, therefore, an object of my invention to provide a mechanism for supporting a light-controlling member in a lighting fixture which is simple in construction, readiy accessible, easy to operate and positive in its action.

The supporting mechanism of my invention is a latch pivotally mounted on the light-controlling member with the hook portion thereof interlocking with the end cap of the fixture.

In the following description and in the accompanying drawing, a specific embodiment of the latch is described and illustrated with reference to a specific type of fluorescent lighting fixture and a specific type of light-controlling member. Other modifications of the latch and their adaptability to fixtures and light-controlling members other than the specific ones shown and described will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Further objects, advantages and features will be apparent from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a fluorescent lighting fixture with which the latch of my invention may be employed.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary side elevational view of an end of the fixture of Figure 1 showing the latch of my invention.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary end view taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

In Figure 1, that portion of the fluorescent lighting fixture shown comprises a louver assembly 1 supported by a latch 2 from an end plate 3 and a side panel 4 supported by the end plate 3. The end plate 3 may be attached in any

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convenient manner to a chassis (not shown). Fluorescent lamps which extend parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fixture have not been illustrated for purposes of clarity. These lamps may be supported in suitable holders therefore mounted on the end plates 3 and are disposed above the louver assembly 1. The louver assembly 1 comprises a longitudinal louver 5 and a plurality of transverse louvers 6 attached thereto.

Referring now to Figures 2 and 3, the latch 2 which supports the louver assembly 1 from the end plate 3 comprises a latch hook 7 and a latch lever 8. The latch hook 7 has a channeled portion 7*a* and a bifurcated portion 7*b*. The latch lever 8 has a channeled portion 8*a* and a bifurcated portion 8*b*. The channeled portion 7*a* of the latch hook 7 interlocks with the end plate 3 through an aperture 9 therein. The bifurcated portion 7*b* of the latch hook 7 is connected to the bifurcated portion 8*b* of the latch lever 8 through pin 10. The bifurcated portion 8*b* of the latch lever 8 is pivotally mounted on the longitudinal louver 5 through pin 11. The end of the longitudinal louver 5 is provided with a cut-out portion 13 to permit free movement of the pin 10 during operation of the latch 2.

In Figure 2, the latch 2 is shown in the locked position with the louver assembly 1 supported thereby from the end cap 3. Removal of the louver assembly 1 from the fixture is accomplished by rotation of the latch lever 8 in a clockwise direction. Since the latch lever 8 is pivotally mounted on the longitudinal louver 5 through pin 11 and since the latch hook 7 is connected to the latch lever 8 by pin 10, clockwise rotational movement of the latch lever 8, pivoting about pin 11 effects an upward and then a clockwise rotational movement of the latch hook 7. This movement of the latch hook 7 results in disengagement thereof from its interlocking with the end plate 3 and withdrawal thereof through the aperture 9 in the end plate.

Mounting of the louver assembly 1 is accomplished by threading the free end of the latch hook 7 through the aperture 9 in the end plate 3 and then rotating the latch lever 2 in a counterclockwise direction until it assumes the locked position shown in Figure 2.

Although only one of the latches of my invention is shown in the drawing and described above, it will be readily understood that there is a similar device at the other end of the fixture.

Although the latch has been described in connection with a louver type of light-controlling member, its adaptability for use with other types

of light-controlling members will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art.

What I claim is:

A lighting fixture comprising an end plate having an aperture therein, a light-controlling member having a longitudinal louver substantially perpendicular to the end plate, and means for securing the longitudinal louver of said light-controlling member to said end plate, said means comprising a lever having a channeled portion and a bifurcated portion, said bifurcated portion being pivotally mounted on the longitudinal louver of said light-controlling member and the longitudinal louver of said light-controlling member being seated in said channeled portion, and a hook having a channeled portion and a bifurcated portion, said channeled portion lying within the aperture in said end plate and interlocking with said end plate and said bifurcated portion enclosing the bifurcated portion of said lever and pivotally mounted thereon.

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