Aug. 28, 1956 A. J. TORCIVIA 2,761,112

ELECTRICAL PLUG AND OUTLET SHIELD

Filed Oct. 18, 1954

Fig. 1

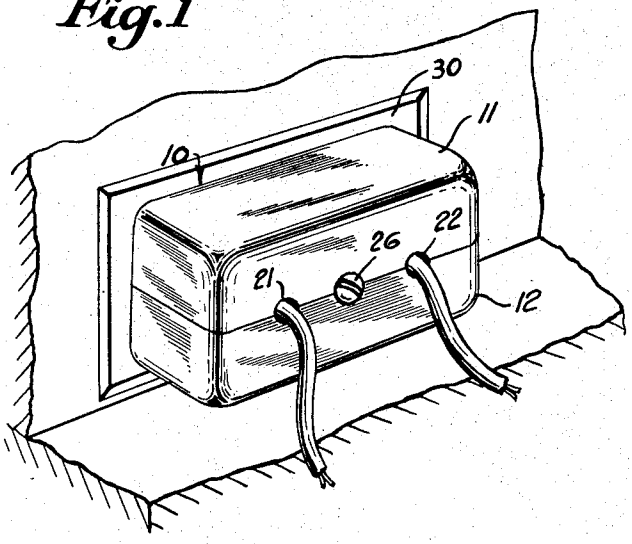


Fig. 4

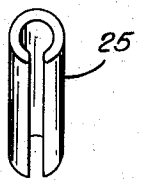
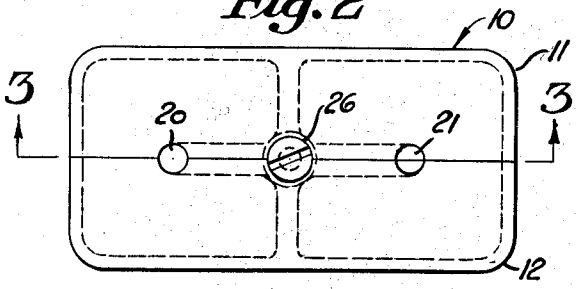


Fig. 2



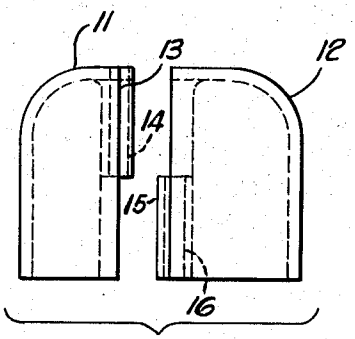


Fig. 5

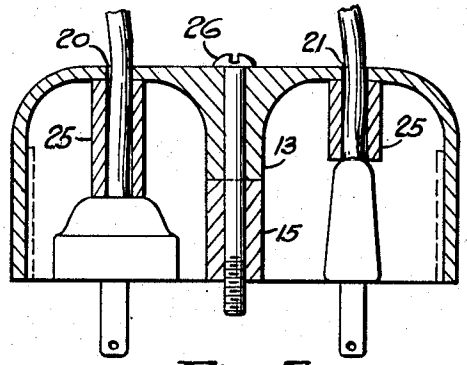


Fig. 3

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ELECTRICAL PLUG AND OUTLET SHIELD

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6 Claims. (Cl. 339—92)

This invention relates to a novel protective shield or casing, more particularly a protective shield designed for use in conjunction with conventional electrical outlets and plugs.

The conventional electrical wiring installation provides for a plurality of propitiously placed recessed wall receptacles containing sockets for the receipt of plugs electrically coupled to the appliances which it is desired to energize. It was found, however, that where the sockets are not closed up by plugs and often even when they are, there is a danger that they may be used as playthings by little children who may be severely injured by electrical shock. Therefore, where small children are present, it is necessary to provide some means to prevent them from tampering with the electrical connections so as to protect both from harm. Further difficulties are encountered in the use of conventional plug and socket connections in that the plug projecting from the wall surface is subject to breakage arising from abuses when furniture or the like is pushed thereagainst, or when the appliance is moved so as to cause the plug to be pulled out of its socket. This latter situation also engenders fire hazards as a result of arcing between the plug and socket.

It is with the above problems in mind that the present construction has been evolved, a construction providing a protective shield for electrical outlets and plugs which will serve to protect children from harm, and to securely maintain contact between plug and socket while at the same time protecting same from abuse.

It is accordingly a primary object of this invention to provide a novel shield for electrical outlets and plugs which will prevent small children from tampering with the connections.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel shield for electrical outlets serving to maintain same in a clean, dry condition.

It is also an object of this invention to provide an electrical outlet and plug shield serving to secure the connection between plug and outlet.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel protective shield suitable for use in conjunction with conventional electrical wall outlets.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel shield for protecting electrical plugs and outlets from damage or unwarranted tampering.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a novel electrical shield, pleasing in appearance, simple in production and use, and requiring minimal maintenance.

These and other objects of the invention which will become apparent from the following disclosure and claims are attained by provision of a cover made in two portions having overlapping inner sleeves through which a screw may be passed into engagement with the cover plate or escutcheon of the electrical outlet. The cover extends over the socket of an outlet and is provided with variable spacer sleeves which provide a secure engagement between cover and plug thereby securely maintaining the plug in the socket.

The specific details of this construction will be more particularly pointed out and made most manifest in the following specification taken in conjunction with the drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the novel shield in position on a wall outlet.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the novel protective shield.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2 showing the details of the plug securing sleeves.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a plug securing sleeve.

Figure 5 is an end view of the novel shield showing the separation along its longitudinal axis prior to mounting on the escutcheon plate of an electrical wall outlet.

Referring more specifically to the drawings it will be seen that a protective shield **10** is provided, which is here illustrated as of an elongate nature such as to fit over the conventional double socket wall outlet having an escutcheon plate **30**. This shield **10** is made up of two transversely separable elongate portions **11** and **12**. Portion **11** as best seen in Figure 5 is provided with an offset **13** containing an aperture **14**, whereby this offset functions as a sleeve. Portion **12** is also provided with an offset **15**, having an aperture **16**.

Apertures **20** and **21**, as best seen in Figures 1 and 2, are symmetrically placed on the shield.

Spacer sleeves **25**, as best seen in Figures 3 and 4, are provided.

A bolt **26**, as best seen in Figure 3, is positioned to extend through apertures **14** and **16** in the offsets **13** and **15**. Such bolt replaces the screw which ordinarily extends through the escutcheon plate into threaded engagement with the body of the receptacle fixture. Bolt **26** serves to hold the escutcheon plate **30** in place, to hold the two portions **11** and **12** of the shield together, and to secure the shield to the body of the receptacle fixture.

In operation:

Where it is desired to provide protection of electrical outlets and plugs from tampering by children or damage from other sources, as well as to provide secure engagement of plug in socket, it is merely necessary to place one of the mating halves **11** and **12** in position over the escutcheon plate of a wall outlet. Then a spacer **25**, which is longitudinally split, is selected of a length equal to the distance between the top of the plug and the inner wall of the shield (Figure 3). This sleeve is separated along its slit and positioned over the wire extending from the plug. As clearly seen in the drawings, sleeves of different length may be selected to correspond to different plug shapes. Then the second mating is placed in position and the two halves are held in position by means of bolt **26** which is engaged in conventional tapped recess of the wall outlet.

The protective casing is made in two halves so as to allow its use without the necessity for removing the wires from the plugs. Furthermore, this arrangement facilitates production out of plastics by pressure casting.

It is thus seen that a novel protective shield for use in conjunction with electrical outlets and plugs has been provided which serves to prevent abuse of the socket and plugs by children tampering therewith or by breakage as a result of furniture being pushed thereagainst.

The illustrated embodiment reveals provision of a protective shield designed for use in conjunction with a conventional two socket outlet. It is to be noted, however, that modification to permit application to any type of wall outlets is readily within the scope of this invention.

The above disclosure has been given by way of illustration and elucidation and not by way of limitation and it

is desired to protect all the embodiments of the herein disclosed inventive concept within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with an escutcheon plate for an electrical receptacle having outlets and at least two plugs in said outlets, a shield comprising: two casing halves, an apertured offset on each half, one of said offsets lying over the other, said offsets being located in the middle of the casing and separating the interior of the casing into two plug-containing compartments, means extending through the apertures of said offsets and through the escutcheon plate into fastening engagement with the body of the receptacle to maintain said halves and said plate in assembled relationship on the receptacle, and means extending between the casing and the plugs securely to maintain the latter in the respective outlets.

2. In combination with an escutcheon plate for an electrical receptacle having outlets and at least two plugs in said outlets each plug having a wire connected thereto, a shield comprising: a casing having two separable portions, an offset on each portion, one offset overlying the other, said offsets being located in the middle of the casing and separating the interior of the casing into two plug-containing compartments, means engaging said offsets to maintain the portions together, said casing portions including covers having openings formed therein in alignment with the plugs, and spacer sleeves extending about the wires connected to the plugs in the casing and between the plugs and said openings.

3. In combination with an escutcheon plate for an electrical receptacle having outlets and at least two plugs in said outlets, each plug having a wire connected thereto, a shield comprising: a casing adapted to surround the plugs and to engage the escutcheon plate of the outlet, said casing having apertures in alignment with the outlet through which the wires leading to the respective plugs may pass, means located in the center of the casing for securing the casing to the receptacle body and against the escutcheon plate, and extending between the plugs and the casing apertures serving securely to maintain the plugs in the outlets.

4. In combination with an escutcheon plate for an electrical receptacle having outlets and at least two plugs in said outlets each plug having a wire connected thereto, a shield comprising: a hollow casing member having one opening adapted to lie over the escutcheon plate, said casing member comprising a top having openings in alignment with the outlets to accommodate the wires leading from the plugs inserted in the outlets, a bolt passing through the center of the casing through the escutcheon plate and into threaded engagement with the body of the receptacle to maintain the casing and plate on the receptacle body, and spacer sleeves each having a slit therein, permitting said sleeves to be spread to permit application to a wire, said sleeves extending on the wires between the plugs and the top of the casing, whereby when the casing is positioned on the escutcheon plate the plugs will be secured in the outlets.

5. In combination with an escutcheon plate for an electrical receptacle having outlets and at least two plugs in said outlets, each plug having a wire connected thereto, a shield comprising: two interengaging elongated casing portions, each of said casing portions having a tubular offset, one of said offsets lying over the other, said offsets being located in the middle of the casing and separating the interior of the casing into two plug-containing compartments, and a bolt passing through the two offsets and through the escutcheon plate into threaded engagement with the body of the receptacle to maintain the shield and escutcheon plate assembled on such body and the casing in engagement with the plate, each of the casing portions having formed therein a separate opening for the wire leading from the plugs inserted in the respective outlets, said openings being in alignment with the respective outlets.

6. In combination with an escutcheon plate having outlets and two plugs of different heights in said outlets, a shield comprising two interengaging elongated substantially rectangular casing portions, one of said portions having a tubular offset located in the middle thereof opposite the other portion and extending downwardly from the top of said one portion, the other one of said portions having a tubular offset extending upwardly from the bottom thereof in alinement with the first-mentioned offset, a bolt passing through the two offsets and engaging the escutcheon plate to maintain the casing on the plate, each of the casing portions having formed therein a separate opening for the wire leading from a plug inserted in a socket, the opening being in alinement with the plug, and two flexible spacer sleeves having a slit therein, permitting said sleeves to be spread to permit application to a wire, said sleeves being of different lengths and extending on the wires between the plugs and the top of the casing, whereby when the casing is positioned on the escutcheon plate, the plugs will be secured in the sockets.

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