C. J. DORFF.

ELECTRIC OUTLET BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 24, 1908.

928,251. **Patented July 20, 1909.**

Fig. 7.

Fig. 9.

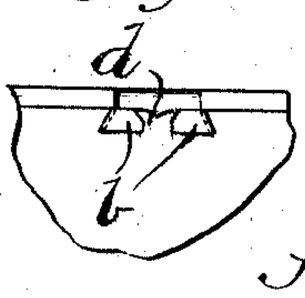


Fig. 10.

Fig. 4.

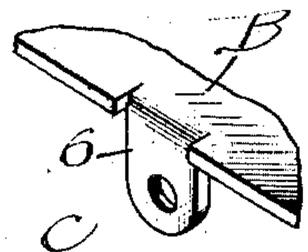


Fig. 5.

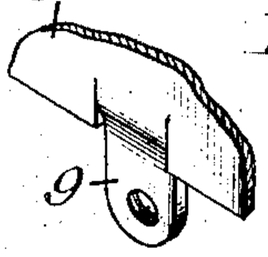


Fig. 1.

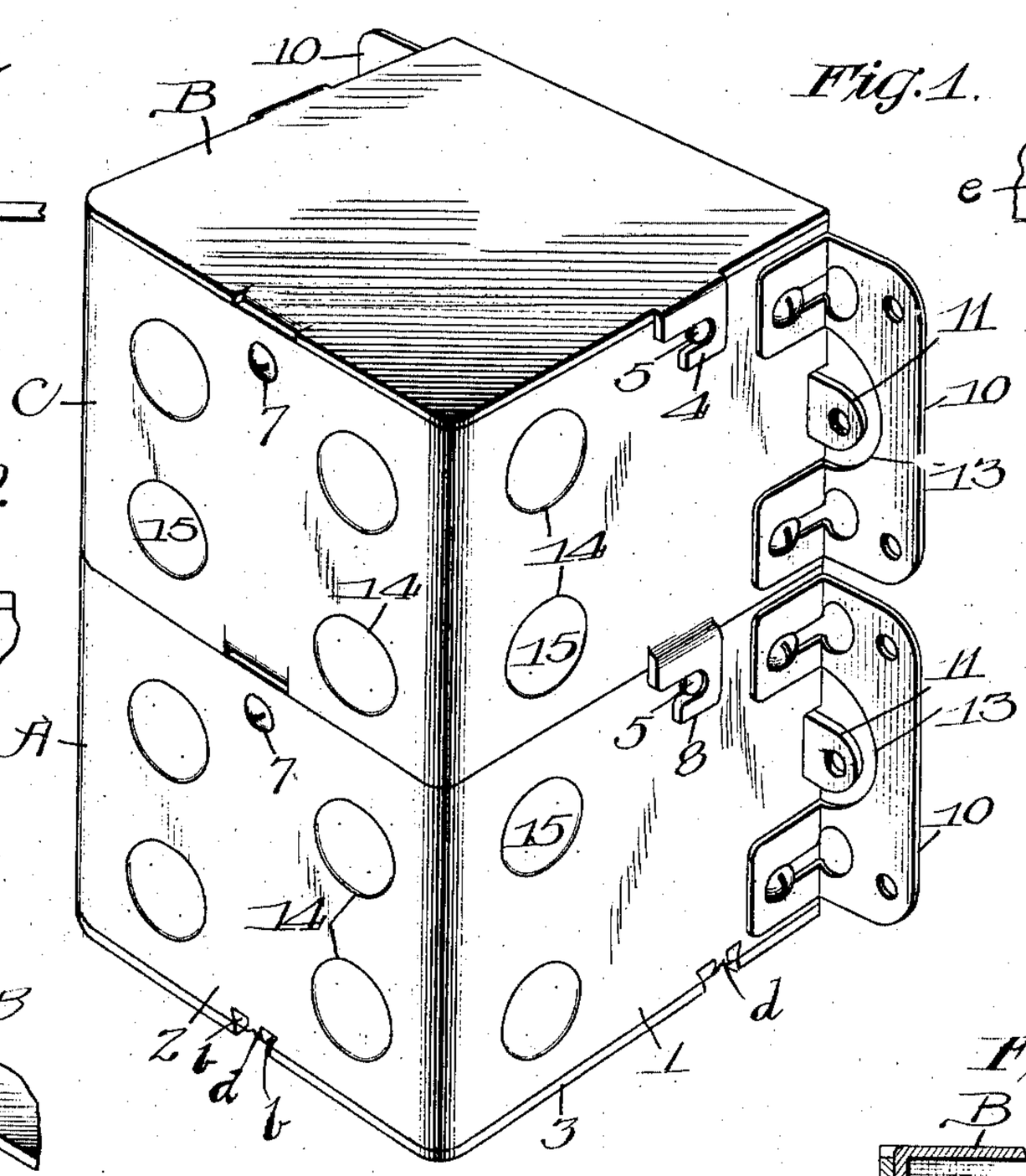


Fig. 8.

Fig. 6.

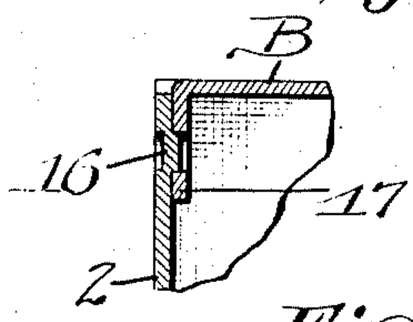


Fig. 2.

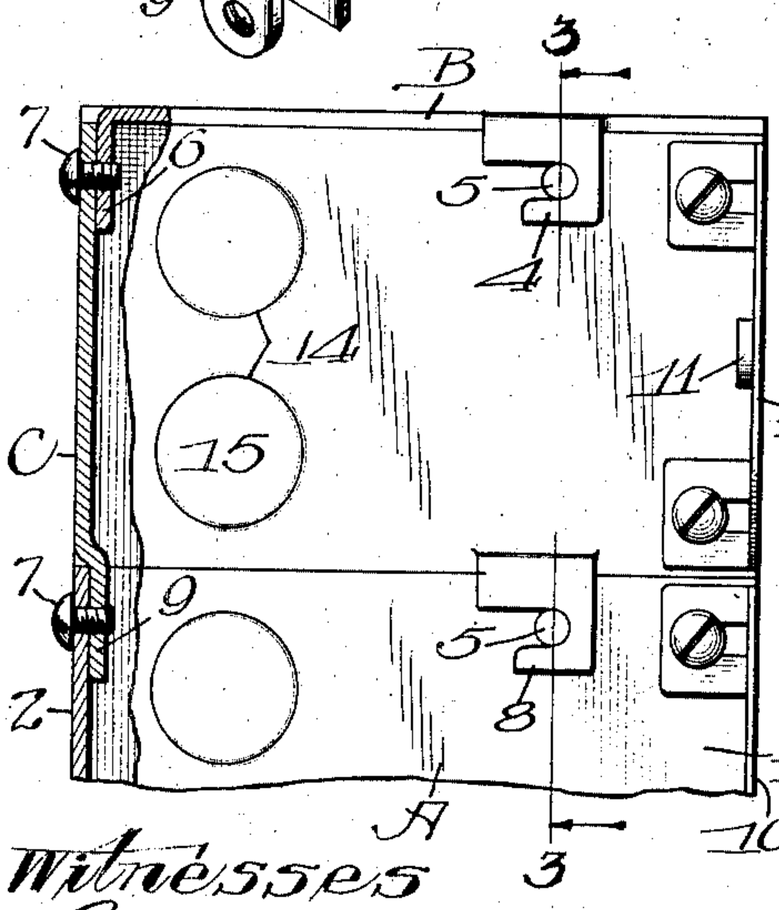
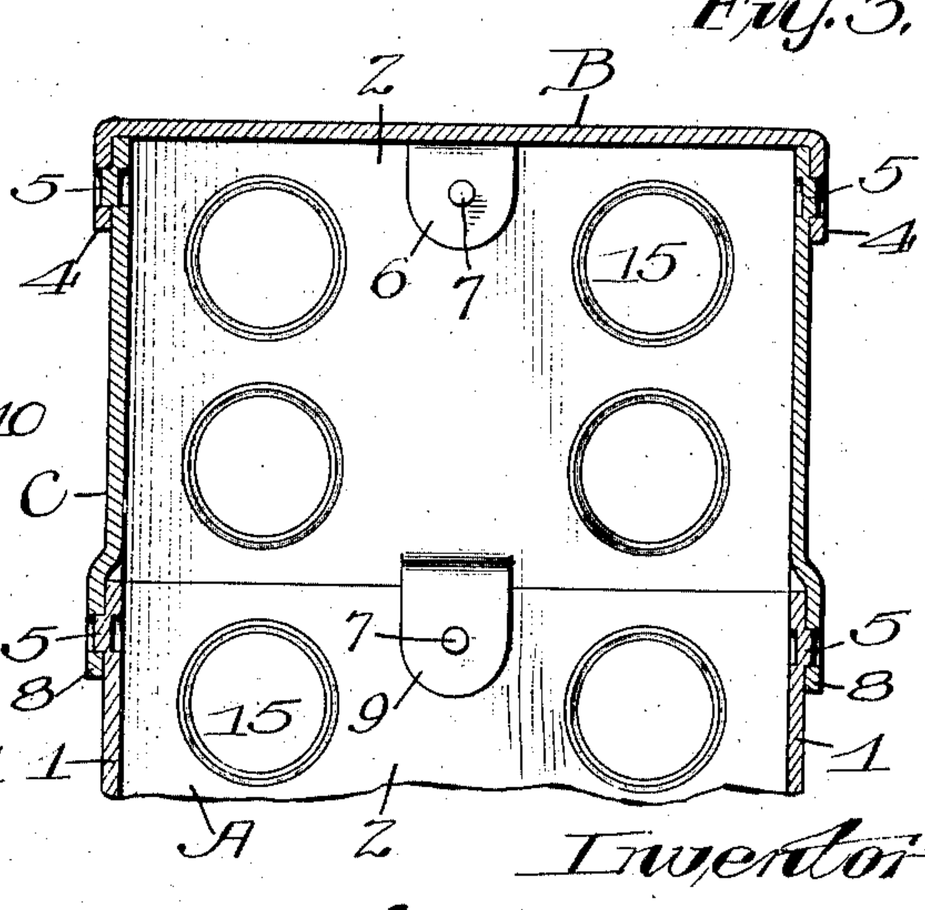


Fig. 3.



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ELECTRIC OUTLET-BOX.

No. 928,251. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 20, 1909.

Application filed December 24, 1908. Serial No. 469,127.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CONRAD J. DORFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric Outlet-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to junction or outlet boxes such as are used in wiring buildings and intended to receive switches, fuse blocks, and the like; and it refers especially to the type of outlet box which is made in sections, in order that when installing the box the workman may adjust its size to accommodate the required number of switches or other devices.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide improved means for conveniently and rigidly securing together the sections of such a box.

Another object of the invention is to provide improved means for connecting the end wall of a box-section to the side walls thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a two-section outlet box embodying the features of my invention. Fig. 2 is a fragmental side elevation of said box. Fig. 3 is a section on line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Figs. 4 and 5 are perspective views of a portion of the means for connecting together the sections of the box. Fig. 6 is a detail of a modified form of connection. Fig. 7 is a fragmental edge view of one of the end plates of the box. Fig. 8 is a fragmental plan view of said end plate. Fig. 9 is a fragmentary elevation of the side wall of the box. Fig. 10 illustrates a completed connection between said end plate and said side wall.

The sectional outlet box herein illustrated comprises two parts constituting a single-section or unit box, and any desired number of duplicate sections adapted to be interposed between the two box-parts alluded to. A refers to one of said box parts and B to the other, the part B constituting one end wall of a unit or single-section outlet box. C is an intermediate or spacer section.

The section A comprises the two side walls 1, the rear wall 2 and the end wall 3, the rear and side walls preferably being integral, and the end wall 3 being permanently attached to the walls 1 and 2. As herein shown, the end wall 3 is secured to each of the walls 1 and 2 by means comprising a lug *a* pressed out of the plane of the end wall, said lug being bifurcated to provide two tongues *b* adapted to enter two recesses *c* in the edge of the walls 1 or 2. The recesses *c* are preferably undercut as shown in Fig. 9, and the tongues *b* are long enough to project from the recesses *c*.

The end wall 3 is connected to the remainder of the box section A by forcing the tongues *b* into the recesses (said end wall overlying the edges of the walls 1 and 2), and then bending or splitting the tongues *d* to crowd the tongues *b* into the undercut portions of the recesses *c*, and riveting the outer ends of the tongues *b* against the outer faces of the walls 1 or 2. The tongues *b* lying in the undercut recesses *c*, and the riveted tongue *d* prevent lateral separating movement of the end wall away from the walls 1 and 2; the tongue *d* lying against the end wall *e* of the bifurcation in the lug *a* prevents inward buckling of the walls 1 or 2; and the riveted outer ends of the tongues *b* prevent outward buckling of said walls 1 or 2.

The box section B may be attached to or detached from the box section A by operating a single screw. Upon the opposite sides of the section B are formed rearwardly facing hooks 4 arranged to lie upon the outer sides of the side walls of an adjacent box-section A or C, and to engage studs 5 on said side walls. The studs 5 may be pressed up from said side walls. Upon the rear edge of the box section B is a perforated ear 6 bent to lie against the inner face of the rear wall of an adjacent box-section. Each of the sections A and C is provided with a screw 7 adapted to engage the ear 6.

The section B is secured to the adjacent box section by simply slipping the hooks 4 into engagement with the studs 5, and turning the screw 7 into the ear 6.

Each box-section C is provided with hooks 8 and a perforated ear 9 which are identical with the hooks 4 and the ear 6 of the section B.

The box is mounted in the wall or upon any other suitable support in any convenient way, as by means of the ears 10. Claims to said ears will be made in a companion application.

It will be seen that the box sections may be assembled to form complete boxes of any desired length, and that the sections may be taken apart or secured together without with-

drawing the screws 7 and reinserting them in their openings, the arrangement shown resulting in a great saving of time.

The switches, fuse blocks, or other devices to be placed in the box are supported therein, in this instance, by means of ears 11 having threaded openings therein. The box-supporting ears 10 are cut away at 13 to accommodate the ears 11.

Any common or preferred means may be provided for entering conduits into the box, as, for example, openings 14 which are closed by plugs 15 until they are needed to receive conduits.

If desired, the screw 7 may be dispensed with, and a stud 16 (Fig. 6) substituted therefor, said stud being arranged to enter a perforated ear 17 upon the section B or C. The ear 17 may be identical with the ears 6 and 9, except of course that it need not be tapped. With the construction illustrated in Fig. 6, the sections will be held against separation when the box is fixed to its support.

I claim as my invention:

1. An electric outlet box comprising two sections, and means for connecting said sections together comprising studs on opposite side walls of one section, and an inwardly extending screw in the rear wall of said section, rearwardly facing hooks upon the other section adapted to receive said studs, and a perforated ear upon the rear edge of the last mentioned section adapted to lie at the inner side of said rear wall and receive said screw.

2. In an electric outlet box, in combination, a wall having an undercut recess therein, a wall having a tongue lying in said recess and overlying the face of the recessed wall, and coöperating portions on said walls arranged to prevent relative movement between said walls in one direction.

3. In an electric outlet box, in combination, an end wall having a bifurcated lug thereon, and a wall having two recesses therein containing the bifurcated portion of said lug, the portion between said recesses being in engagement with said lug-portions.

4. In an electric outlet box, in combination, a wall having two recesses in its edge, and a wall overlying the edge of the other wall, the second mentioned wall having a bifurcated lug thereon which extends into said recesses and is fixed therein.

5. In an electric outlet box, in combination, an end wall having a lug thereon which is out of the plane of said wall, said lug being bifurcated to provide two tongues, and a wall having two undercut recesses therein to receive said tongues, the portion between said recesses being riveted to overlie said tongues, said tongues being riveted to overlie the face of the recessed wall, and the portion between the recesses lying against the end wall of the bifurcation in said lug.

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