Jan. 9, 1940. G. RITTER 2,186,684

IMITATION TILE TRIM

Filed June 22, 1939

Fig. 1.

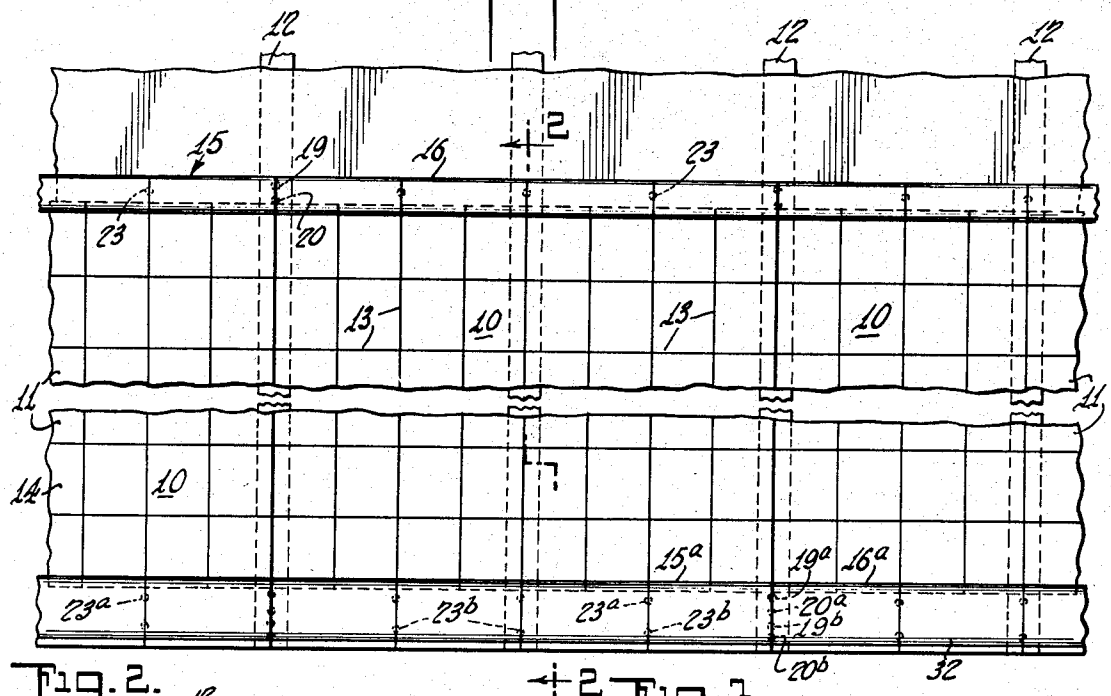


Fig. 2.

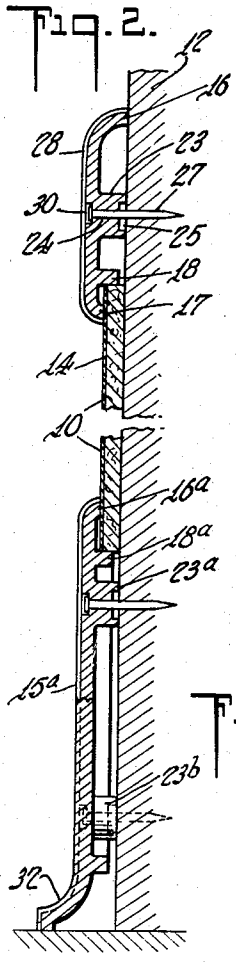


Fig. 3.

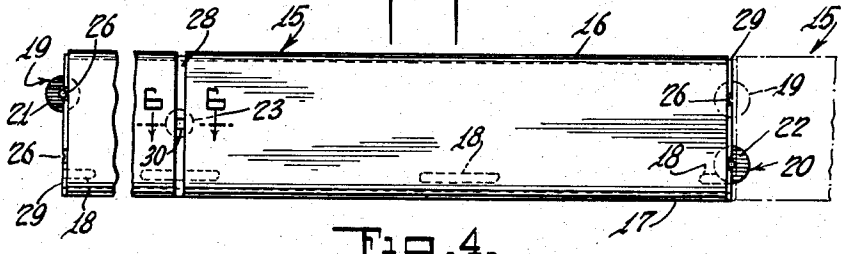


Fig. 4.

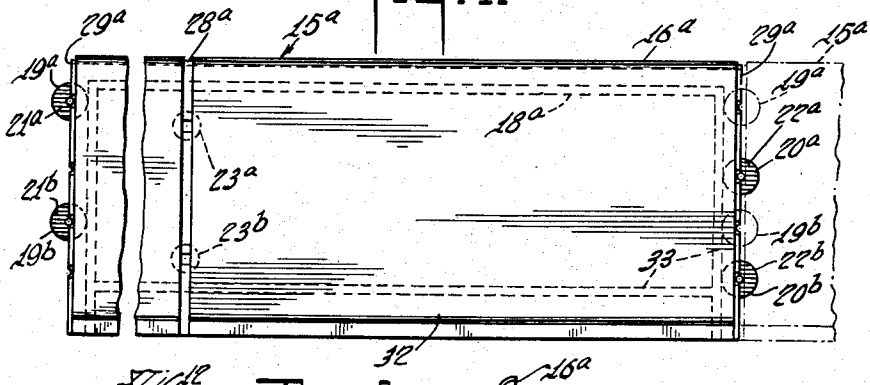


Fig. 7.

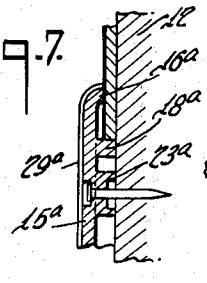


Fig. 6.

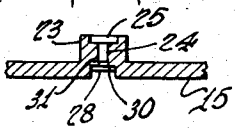
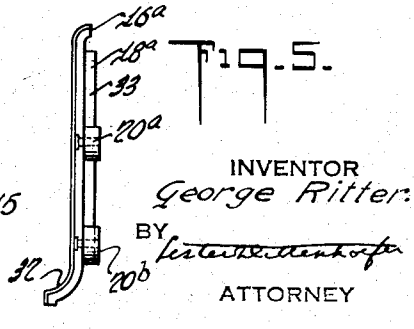


Fig. 5.



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IMITATION TILE TRIM

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Application June 22, 1939, Serial No. 280,455

8 Claims. (Cl. 72—18)

This invention relates to imitation tile trim, and more particularly to trim or moldings for use with imitation tile walls or wallboard.

Imitation tile board is extensively used in low cost housing construction for covering or wainscoating the walls of bathrooms, kitchens, pantries, and other rooms, because of its low cost and ease of application. Frequently the imitation tile is used without trim but the result is not satisfactory as the tiling has an unfinished appearance. In the case of real tile walls, the top and bottom ars generally finished with ceramic cap and base pieces. Various attempts have been made, but with indifferent success, to provide imitation caps and bases for use with imitation tile or wall board. The caps and bases now used are but poor imitations of the real ceramic trim and lack the sanitary cove, generally provided in ceramic bases, at the juncture between the floor and base.

Manufacturers of imitation tiling or wallboard have been confronted with the problem of supplying an inexpensive trim for use with the product but have heretofore been unable to solve it in a satisfactory manner.

The trim now used is generally made of strips or moldings of asbestos board, wood, or fibre board, rabbeted and scored, and coated on the face with lacquer. Such trim is relatively expensive to manufacture and is unsatisfactory in appearance; furthermore, the lacquer coating, particularly on the base, is very likely to chip or wear off in use. The cost of the trim to the consumer is out of all proportion to the whole cost of installation of the imitation tiling and in many instances has barred the use of such tiling.

With these defects in mind, the objects of this invention are to provide a trim of molded plastic material that is simple and inexpensive to manufacture, that may be easily applied to the wall construction, and that closely simulates the appearance of real tile trim.

Another object is to provide a molded trim having a smooth, polished finish produced without the use of lacquers.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a wall covering formed of imitation tile, including the molded plastic trim of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof on an enlarged scale taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Fig. 3 is a front elevation, partly broken, of a trim unit or cap molding for trimming the top of the wall covering;

Fig. 4 is a similar view of a base molding for trimming the bottom of the wall covering;

Fig. 5 is an end view, viewed from the right hand end, of the unit shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged cross-sectional view through one of the nail bosses, taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a modification of the boss.

Referring to the drawing, 10 indicates generally an ornamental wall covering of imitation tile or wallboard. The tiling is formed of a plurality of rectangular slabs or sheets 11 of asbestos-cement, composition board, or the like, which sheets are nailed or secured in butt-joint relation to the plaster covering the wall studs 12 or directly to the studs. The face of each sheet has vertical and horizontal grooves or scores 13 formed therein and is provided wtih a coating layer 14 of lacquer or other suitable coating composition that will give an effect imitating real ceramic tiling. In some instances the wall covering may be formed of unscored slabs or sheets of wallboard. The slabs generally measure about 4' x 4' and about $\frac{3}{16}$'' or $\frac{1}{8}$'' thick. The construction of such imitation tiling or wallboard is old in the art and is described herein merely to define the field of application of the present invention.

This invention relates particularly to the trim for the top and bottom of such imitation tile wall to give the tiling a finished appearance.

In Fig. 3 is shown a trim unit or cap molding for the top of the covering. This unit consists of a relatively thin strip 15 molded of a suitable thermosetting or a thermoplastic material, such for example as plastic resins, with or without fillers. The plastic material is of such character that when the product is molded the face of the strip will have a smooth, polished, glossy appearance simulating tile. The plastic molding composition may include any suitable coloring matter.

The upper edge 16 of the strip is molded in convexly curved form and of a lengh to abut the wall, when applied, as seen in Fig. 2. The lower edge 17 is also molded convexly curved but of shorter length than the upper edge to permit of reception thereunder of the upper edge of the wall covering 10.

Seating lugs 18 are molded on the back of the strip along a longitudinal line parallel to the lower edge and extend rearwardly about $\frac{3}{16}$'' fur-

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ther than said edge. These lugs rest on the upper edge of the wall covering and serve to support the strips 15 thereon. While the lugs 18 are shown as discontinuous, it will be understood that they may be formed continuous. The strips are generally formed about 32" long while the individual lugs are about 1" long and are spaced about 4" from center to center.

At one end of the strip there is molded a nail boss 19 and at the other end a similar boss 20. The two bosses are spaced vertically with respect to each other and each has a portion that protrudes beyond the relative end of the strip. On inspection of Fig. 3 it will be seen that the boss 19 is disposed adjacent to the upper edge and has a portion 21 that protrudes beyond the end of the strip, while the boss 20 at the opposite end is disposed adjacent to the lower edge of the strip and also has a portion 22 protruding beyond said end. The purpose of this arrangement is that when two strips are assembled with their ends butting, as indicated by the dot-and-dash lines at the right of Fig. 3, there will be two nail bosses under the joint with a part of each boss underlying the adjacent strip thus effectually aligning the strips and supporting them at the joint.

Other nail bosses 23, similar to the bosses 19 and 20, are formed at intervals throughout the length of the strip, preferably along the longitudinal center line. Bosses 19, 20 and 23 are each molded with a preformed nail hole 24 and a countersunk or recessed rear end 25. The bosses 23 are generally spaced 8" from center to center, and all of the bosses extend rearwardly about $\frac{1}{16}$" further than the lugs 18. The bosses 19, 20 and 23 serve not only to receive the securing nails but also to space the strip properly from the wall.

At each end of the strip are formed two approximately semi-circular notches 26, through which, when the strips are butted, nails 27 are driven. The face of the strip is preferably formed with vertical grooves 28 positioned above the centers of the bosses 23 and with a groove 29, of half the width of the groove 28, at each end above the lugs 19 and 20, respectively. The portion of the groove 28 directly above the nail hole 24 is indented at 30 to receive the head of the nail. In molding the strip a thin web 31 of the plastic material may be left between the nail hole and the indentation 30 so as to conceal the hole in the event that a nail is not driven through any particular hole. The web, however, is so thin, that it may be easily broken by a nail driven therethrough.

In Fig. 4 is shown a trim unit or base molding for trimming the bottom of the wall covering. This unit, indicated by the reference character 15*a*, is made of the same material and in the same manner as the cap unit 15 previously described. The base molding is wider than the cap molding and is formed with a convexly curved upper edge 16*a*, similar to the edge 16, but is molded with a concavely curved lower edge 32 that provides a sanitary cove at the juncture of the floor and molding.

A longitudinal lug 18*a*, similar to the lugs 18, but which in this instance is preferably continuous, is molded at the back of the strip adjacent and parallel to the upper edge. The lug 18*a* abuts the lower edge of the wall covering 10, as seen in Fig. 2. Additional longitudinal and transverse ribs 33 and 34 may be provided for reenforcing the strip.

Because of its greater width, the base molding is provided with two bosses 19*a*, 19*b* and 20*a*, 20*b* at each end which bosses have protruding portions 21*a*, 21*b* and 22*a*, 22*b* that interfit with corresponding portions of the end bosses of the adjoining strip when laid as indicated by the dot-and-dash lines at the right of Fig. 4.

Additional nail bosses are formed on the back of the strip 15*a* similar to the bosses 23. However, in this instance the strip is preferably provided with two rows of such additional bosses 23*a* and 23*b* instead of one. The bosses on the cap and the base molding are all of substantially the same construction and size, and accordingly it is unnecessary to repeat the details of their construction. The base molding may be molded with face grooves 28*a* of full width and grooves 29*a* of half width at each end.

As previously noted, wallboards or slabs 11 are generally made either $\frac{3}{16}$" or $\frac{1}{8}$" thick. The strips are preferably originally molded for use with slabs of $\frac{3}{16}$" thickness. However, they may be used with slabs of $\frac{1}{8}$" thickness as shown in Fig. 7 by grinding or cutting off about $\frac{1}{16}$" of the material of the rear ends of the bosses. Since these ends are countersunk and have relatively thin walls this may be easily done. Of course, the bosses may be initially molded of different lengths for use with slabs of different thicknesses by merely changing the length of the pins controlling the length of the bosses in the mold.

In the foregoing specification, I have described certain dimensions. It is to be understood, however, that these dimensions are merely for the purpose of illustration and are subject to proportionate variation. It is also understood that modifications in the details of construction illustrated and described may be made within the scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. An imitation tile trim for a wall structure formed of wall board or imitation tiling, comprising a strip of molded plastic material having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, an edge for contacting the face of the wall, a lug on the rear face parallel to and projecting rearwardly beyond said edge for contacting an edge of the wall, and nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said lug functioning to position the trim along the edge of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load.

2. An imitation tile trim for a wall structure formed of wall board or imitation tiling, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, an edge for contacting the face of the wall, a lug on the rear face parallel to and projecting rearwardly beyond said edge for contacting an edge of the wall, nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said lug functioning to position the trim along an edge of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load, the nail bosses being arranged in a line throughout the length of the strip except at the ends thereof, a boss at each end of the strip partly protruding beyond the end, said end bosses being arranged out of line with the intermediate bosses and with their protruding portions adapted to

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fit under the rear face of an adjoining strip to aline and interfit the strips.

3. An imitation tile trim for a wall structure formed of wallboard or imitation tiling, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, an edge for contacting the face of the wall, a lug on the rear face parallel to and projecting rearwardly beyond said edge for contacting an edge of the wall, nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load, the nail bosses arranged in a line throughout the length of the strip except at the ends thereof, a boss at each end of the strip partly protruding beyond the end, the boss at one end of the strip being arranged on one side of the line of the intermediate bosses and the boss at the other end of the strip being arranged on the other side of the line of the intermediate bosses, the protruding portions of the end bosses of each strip being adapted to fit under the rear face of an adjoining strip to aline and interfit the strips.

4. In a wall construction, a wall having exposed top and bottom edges, an imitation tile trim for both edges, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip of the top trim having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, a longitudinal edge contacting the face of the wall, a second longitudinal edge contacting the wall backing, lugs extending rearwardly from the rear face and resting on the top and bottom edges of the wall, respectively, nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said nail bosses function to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load.

5. In a wall construction, a wall having exposed top and bottom edges, an imitation tile trim for both edges, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip of the top trim having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, a bottom edge contacting the face of the wall, a top edge contacting the wall backing, lugs near the bottom edge extending rearwardly beyond said edge and resting on the top edge of the wall, nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim above the lugs and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load.

6. In a wall construction, a wall having exposed top and bottom edges, an imitation tile trim for both edges, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip of the top trim having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, a bottom edge contacting the face of the wall, a top edge contacting the wall backing, lugs near the bottom edge extending beyond said edge and resting on the top edge of the wall, nail bosses spaced along the rear face of the trim and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load, the nail bosses being arranged in a line throughout the length of the strip except at the ends thereof, a boss at each end of the strip partly protruding beyond the end, the boss at one end of the strip being arranged on one side of the line of the intermediate bosses and the boss on the other end of the strip being arranged on the other side of the line of the intermediate bosses, the protruding portions of the end bosses of each strip fitting under the rear face of an adjoining strip to aline and cause interfitting of the adjoining strips.

7. In a wall construction, a wall having exposed top and bottom edges, an imitation tile trim for both edges, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip of the bottom trim having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, a top edge contacting the face of the wall, a bottom edge contacting the floor at the bottom of the wall, a lug near the top edge extending rearwardly beyond the top edge and fitting under the bottom edge of the wall, and nail bosses along the rear face of the strip for securing it to and spacing it from the wall backing.

8. In a wall construction, a wall having exposed top and bottom edges, an imitation tile trim for both edges, the trim comprising strips of molded plastic material, each strip of the bottom trim having a front face simulating tile, a rear face, a top edge contacting the face of the wall, a concave bottom edge contacting the floor at the bottom of the wall, a lug near the top edge extending rearwardly beyond the top edge and fitting under the bottom edge of the wall, and nail bosses on the rear face of the strip and projecting rearwardly a distance not less than the thickness of the wall, said nail bosses functioning to space the trim from the wall backing and to take the nailing load.

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