Dec. 18, 1945. H. A. HAUPTLI 2,391,052

WALLBOARD CONSTRUCTION

Filed Aug. 21, 1941

Fig. 1.

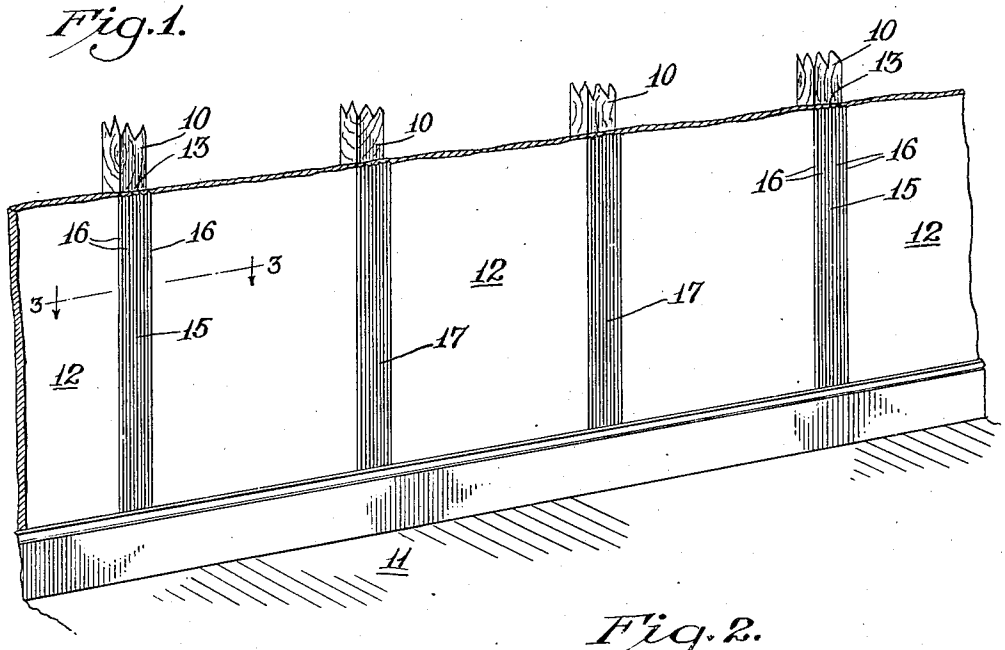


Fig. 2.

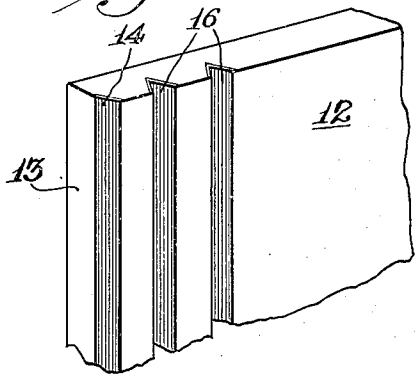


Fig. 3.

Inventor
Herbert A. Hauptli
BY
Parker, Carlson, Pitzner & Hubbard
Attorneys.

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WALLBOARD CONSTRUCTION

Herbert A. Hauptli, Dubuque, Iowa, assignor to Maizewood Insulation Company, Dubuque, Iowa, a corporation of Iowa

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1 Claim. (Cl. 20—4)

The invention relates to wallboard constructions of the type composed of a plurality of wallboard panels customarily marketed in large sizes ready for use and dimensioned conventionally to extend in upright position from the floor of a room to the ceiling in edgewise abutting relation to serve the place of plaster or other internal room-finishing materials.

One of the outstanding visual features of a wallboard construction of this type is the appearance of the abutting edges or joints between adjacent panels. Conventionally, panels of this general type are constructed of a cheap material in relatively wide dimensions; and the concealing or masking of the joints between the panels is a difficult problem. Because of the cheap construction of many of the conventional wallboard panels on the market, and frequently because of their large and cumbersome size, it has been impractical to form a smooth and carefully concealed joint, the result being in many instances an unsightly appearance. Even where the abutting edges of adjacent panels are skillfully matched, the objectionable appearance of a joint remains. Many schemes, such as the use of furring strips, have been proposed and used, all of which have been unsatisfactory either because the added expense of material and labor entailed is too great or because the object has not been effectively achieved.

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a new and improved panel wallboard construction which, when secured to a wall, not only completely disguises and conceals the joint between the abutting edges of the respective panels, but in addition gives a definitely ornamental appearance to the wall as a whole.

In connection with the foregoing, it is a further object of the invention to provide a novel construction of this type in which the nails or securing members employed for attaching the panels to the upright structural members of a wall may be simply and effectually concealed.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a plurality of panels secured to the upright studding of a wall construction and illustrating the features of my invention.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary detailed perspective view on an enlarged scale showing a portion of one panel.

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view on an enlarged scale and taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

While the invention is susceptible of various modifications and alternative constructions, I have shown in the drawing and will herein describe in detail the preferred embodiment, but it is to be understood that I do not thereby intend to limit the invention to the specific form disclosed, but intend to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claim.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 1 of the drawing wherein I have illustrated one exemplary embodiment of the invention, suitable structural members, such as conventional timber studding 10, are arranged in evenly spaced relation to extend vertically from the edge of a floor construction 11. A plurality of wallboard panels 12, in the present instance three being illustrated fragmentarily, are arranged on the studding so that their adjacent edges 13 are in registered abutment forming a joint.

Since each panel has a relatively large width dimension and is fabricated of a cheap material, the problem of effectually disaguising or masking the joint formed by the abutting edges 13 so as to overcome the unsightliness of a crack is difficult in the absence of such means as furring strips and moldings. Such construction requires additional labor and expense and frequently fails to create the desired visual effect. The alternative expedient of skillfully matching the abutting edges has been employed in more expensive constructions to the end that the appearance of joints between the respective panels be minimized. Complete elimination of such appearance, however, has been impossible heretofore even with the exercise of great care and skill.

The present invention contemplates the use of a simple, yet highly effective, device for completely disguising the presence of a joint between the abutting edges 13, although neither eliminating nor actually hiding the joint. In other words, the use of furring strips or similar expedients for hiding the joint is dispensed with and the necessity for careful and skillful matching of the abutting edges to minimize the appearance of a crack or joint is likewise obviated. In accordance with my invention, use is made of at least a partial optical illusion to disguise the presence of a joint although the joint in fact is neither eliminated nor hidden. To this end, the front corners of each of the abutting edges 13 of the panels are beveled, as at 14 (Fig. 2), to a depth less than the full thickness dimension

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of the panel and at a suitable angle, in the present instance approximately forty-five degrees. When the adjacent edges of the panels are mounted in registered abutment during assembly these abutting, beveled edges will constitute a groove 15 (Figs. 1 and 3). Each panel is further provided with at least one groove 16 preferably of a depth and angularity conforming to the beveled edge 14 and located closely adjacent and parallel to each of its beveled edges 14 adjacent the respective opposite edges of the panel. In the present instance, two such grooves 16 are provided along each upright edge of each panel and, as illustrated in Fig. 1, this expedient provides with the groove 15 a set of at least three, and in the present instance five, matching parallel grooves of the same width and depth at each line of juncture between adjacent wallboard panels. The plain, broad expanse of the panel is thus interrupted by an ornamental configuration rather than by an unsightly joint or crack, the joint in fact forming the nucleus or starting point from which the ornamentation is developed.

To more thoroughly disguise the joint and further enhance the definitely ornamental appearance produced by the grooves 15 and 16, the front face of each of the panels 12 is formed intermediate its abutting edges with evenly spaced sets or groups of similar grooves matching in shape, size and number the set of grooves appearing at the abutting edges of two adjacent panels. Thus, in the present instance, two sets 17 of five grooves each are provided intermediate the edges of each panel 12 and are equally spaced from the edges to divide the panel visually into three equal sections. It will be apparent that in the absence of an extremely careful examination of the wallboard construction, the groove 15, having the joint between the abutting edges 13 disguised by the beveled surfaces 14 and by the matching parallel grooves 16 and 17, is indistinguishable from the plain grooves 16 and 17 intermediate the edges of the panels and having no such joints. Thus the grooves are grouped to form vertical stripes which are spaced apart and which provide a recurring pattern on the wall surface.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 3 of the drawing, it will be seen that the parallel groove 16 formed nearest the beveled abutting edge 14 of each panel is positioned, with respect to said abutting edge, within the width dimension of a studding 10, the joint 15 between two adjacent panels being located substantially centrally of the studding. Securing means, in the present instance comprising rows of finishing nails 18, are driven through the grooves 16 nearest the beveled edges and into the studding 10, the heads being counter-sunk below the bottom of each groove. As shown, the groove is of greater width than the diameter of the nail heads so that the nail heads when set below the surface will not widen the groove. The securing means are thus substantially concealed from view within the shadows of the grooves 16.

To provide a color contrast which further emphasizes the sets of grooves and thus further disguises the joint between abutting panels, the grooves are provided with a coat of paint 19 which serves the additional purpose of concealing the heads of the finishing nails 18 used in securing the panels to the studding.

It will be apparent from a consideration of the foregoing that I have provided a novel wallboard construction having a recurring pattern which not only completely disguises the joint between adjacent panels as well as the rows of nails, but in addition produces a definitely ornamental appearance in the wall structure as a whole. No extra material is required, and the labor for attaining these advantages is negligible. The installation operation is extremely simple. Accordingly, the invention constitutes a simple yet highly effective solution to a hitherto troublesome problem.

I claim as my invention:

A wallboard construction comprising upright studs, and a plurality of panels in edgewise abutting relation, with the abutting edges of the panels extending vertically and overlying studs, said panels forming a continuous wall surface and having grooves grouped to form vertical stripes spaced apart and providing a recurring pattern on the wall surface with a stripe located at each pair of abutting edges and formed partially on each of the adjoining panels, each of the stripes so located and formed including a groove formed by beveled surfaces on the abutting edges of the adjoining panels, one of the grooves in each of the adjoining panels adjacent the edge of the panel being spaced from the edge a distance less than one-half the width dimension of the stud whereby to receive a row of nails in the groove entering the stud, the width of the nail-receiving grooves being greater than the diameter of the nail heads whereby the nail heads may be set below the surface of the panel without widening the groove, said recurring pattern of stripes substantially concealing the adjoining edges of the panels and the rows of nails.

HERBERT A. HAUPTLI.

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