

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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## DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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### (54) A CLIP FOR RETAINING A COVERING STRIP AND A COMBINATION OF THE CLIP AND COVERING STRIP

(71) We, HUNTER DOUGLAS, a Dutch body corporate of Piekstraat 2, Rotterdam, Holland, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to a clip for retaining a covering strip and to a combination of clip and a covering strip for covering gaps remaining between the end of lining, cladding or panelling elements and, an adjacent surface.

The problem in the fitting of such covering strips resides on the one hand in that, in the case of an already installed laminate cladding element, it is impossible to locate the covering strips sufficiently close up to the wall. On the other hand, it is also very difficult to first of all arrange the covering strips on the wall and then subsequently to mount the laminate cladding elements thereon. In particular in the latter procedure, either the ends of the elements or the covering strips may become damaged.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided the combination of a covering strip for covering an end of a lining, cladding of panelling comprising a plurality of juxtaposed elements, for ceilings or walls, and for at least partially covering gaps between said element and an adjacent surface, and a clip for retaining the covering strip on an element, such clip comprising an angle piece having two arms and portions disposable to engage an edge of an element and to be spread apart by such engagement, the engagement being such that the position of the clip is adjustable in a direction at right angles to said edge, and said covering strip having inwardly curved edges enabling it to be clipped onto the arms of said angle piece.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a clip for retaining a covering strip on an element edge, and comprising an L-section angle piece including

portions which can be pushed onto an element for engagement with opposite faces of the element and to be urged apart by such engagement, each arm of the angle piece having an edge portion disposed at an angle to the respective arm for receiving inwardly bent edge portions of an L-section covering strip.

In order that the present invention may more readily be understood, the following description is given, merely by way of example, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a covering strip and a first embodiment of a clip for retaining the covering strip on adjacent ends of two parallel elements;

Figure 2 shows a side elevation of the clip and strip of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows both the clip and the covering strip in end elevation;

Figures 4 and 5 are lateral views showing the initial engagement of the clip and the full engagement therewith, with the covering strip initially engaging the clip, respectively;

Figure 6 is a view corresponding to Figure 1, but showing a second embodiment of clip;

Figure 7 shows a side elevation of the clip of Figure 6, with a covering strip attached;

Figure 8 is an end elevational view showing the clip and the covering strip clipped thereon;

Figures 9 and 10 correspond to Figures 4 and 5 but show the clip of Figure 6; and

Figure 11 shows a perspective view of the covering strip arranged at the element before engagement with the clip.

The strip 1 which has a right angle bend is in both embodiments "snapped" on to a clip 6, previously pushed on to one end portion of the element 4.

In the case of the embodiment shown in Figures 1 to 5, the clip 6 comprises an L-section angle piece comprising a vertical arm 5 and a horizontal arm sub-divided into three generally parallel straps, the middle strap 9 being located at a lower level than the two

lateral straps 10 which are located at the same level as each other. The angle piece need not be in the form of an L-section but may have any angle between its arms to conform with the shape of covering strip used. The straps 10 and 9 are cranked downwardly at 11 and 13, respectively, and in the case of the middle strap 9 the edge portion 12 is bent downwardly. The vertical portion 5 of the retaining clip 6 has an upper edge portion 7 bent inwardly slightly and with a bevelled peripheral portion 8 on both sides of the middle which has a maximum width.

Figure 4 shows the retaining clip 6 about to be pushed onto an element 4 with the straps 10 disposed above the element and the inner strap 9 below the element.

Figure 5 shows the covering strip partly mounted on a clip which has already been pushed on to the element. First of all a lower, inwardly-bent edge 3 of the covering strip 1 is pushed over the edge portion 12 of the middle strap 9 of the clip, and then the covering strip 1 is pivoted in the direction of the arrow until an upper, inwardly curved edge 2 snaps over the upper edge portion 7 of the clip.

In the embodiment of Figures 6 to 10 the clip 14 has a vertical arm 15 and a horizontal arm 19 having a downwardly bent edge portion 21, the vertical and horizontal arms 15 and 19 merging by a curved portion as opposed to the angular corner of the clip of Figures 1 to 5. Two laterally spaced straps 17 are formed at the top of the vertical arm 15 and are bent to extend downwardly to such an extent that, as the clip is pushed home, the straps 17 bear on the element. The straps 17 have a bent-over edge portions 18. Furthermore the vertical arm 15 of the retaining clip 14 has an upwardly projecting middle tab portion 16 which is curved inwardly slightly so that its free edge overlies the horizontal clip arm 19.

Figure 9 shows the clip 14 partly engaging an end portion of an element 4. Figure 10 shows the covering strip 1 being snapped on to the clip, the covering strip 1 being finally pivoted in the direction of the arrow until the upper inwardly curved edge 2 snaps over the projecting tab portion 16 of the clip.

In both embodiments of clip, the cranked portions 11 or 20 on the generally horizontal straps 10 or arm 19, respectively, make it possible for the inwardly curved upper edge portion 2 of the covering strip 1 to snap over the projecting upper edge part 7 of tab portion 16, respectively, or the clip 6 or 14 has shown in Figures 2 and 7. This would be impossible if the horizontal portion of the covering strip were planar and bear on a flat, horizontal portion of the horizontal clip portion, since then no upwardly-directed movement would be possible. If the clip is manufactured from a resilient material, the elasticity of the cranked sections enables them to urge the covering strip

1 downwardly, after the upper edge 2 of the covering strip 1 has snapped over the upper edge portion 7 or tab portion 16, respectively, thereby holding the covering strip 1 in position. In the embodiment illustrated, the dimensions are so selected that the vertical spacing between the upper edge portion 7, or tab portion 16 of the vertical clip arm 5, 15 respectively, and the lowermost point along the cranked horizontal clip portion corresponds substantially to the inner height of the vertical section of the covering strip. By this arrangement the covering strip 1 may be engaged with the clip with the perpendicular arm of the covering strip unstressed and remaining in a pendicular configuration.

A further feature of the clip 14 of Figures 6 to 10 consists in that the clip may be used also on bent-over or rolled longitudinal edges of the element 4. Such as profiled edge of the element may then be located in that space of the clip bounded by the horizontal portion 19, the vertical portion 15 and the inwardly bent lateral strap 17. This permits assembly of the covering strip 1 between the longitudinal edge of such an element and the nearby wall.

Due to the resilience of the covering strip 1, the gap between the end of the element 4 and the wall needs to be only slightly wider than the cross-sectional dimension of the upper edge portion of the covering strip 1.

Cladding elements 4 may first of all be mounted or assembled contiguously and subsequently the covering strip 1 may be attached. Alternatively the clip is initially jammed on to the end portion of one element 4 and the element mounted in a predetermined position between the other elements. After completion of assembly of the element cladding, the covering strips 1 are then clamped on to the clips by engagement and pivoting. Finally, by displacement of the clips outwardly of the elements 4 of the assembly the covering strips 1 may be pushed against the wall to the extent permitted by the dimensions of the element-engaging straps of the clip. In this way the gap between the elements and the wall may be filled or nearly filled without detaching the clips from the elements.

The clips do not need to be arranged on each element of the assembly since, if desired, the end of every second, third or further element may be provided with a clip. The covering strip 1 consists of a thin resilient material, for example metal, and the dimensions of the edges of the covering strip 1 are preferably extremely small, so that the gap between the element ends and the wall may be kept extremely small, thereby requiring only a small degree of displacement of the covering strip. This also provides the advantage that the elements are able to terminate as close as possible to the nearby wall.

**WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—**

1. The combination of a covering strip for covering an end of a lining, cladding or panelling, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed elements, for ceilings or walls, and for at least partially covering gaps between said elements and an adjacent surface, and a clip for retaining the covering strip on an element, such clip comprising an angle piece having two arms and portions disposable to engage an edge of an element and to be spread-apart by such engagement the engagement being such that the position of the clip is adjustable in a direction at right angles to said edge, and said covering strip having inwardly curved edges enabling it to be clipped onto the arms of said angle piece.

2. A combination according to claim 1, wherein the said element-engageable portions of the clip consist of two lateral straps and a middle strap, the lateral straps being adapted to engage the outer face of the element, and having outwardly bent portions.

3. A combination according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the said element engageable portions of the clip are formed in one arm of the angle piece and the other arm of the angle piece has lateral bevel portions at its free edge.

4. A combination according to claim 1, wherein the clip includes three said element-engageable portions, one portion being formed as one of the arms of the angle piece and the other two portions formed as lateral straps bent at an acute angle to the other arm of said angle piece to bear on the inner face of an element on which the clip is mounted when in use, the said other arm having a middle portion extending away from said straps for receiving one edge of the covering strip, and said one element-engageable portion having an outwardly bent free edge portion.

5. A combination according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the arms of the angle piece are perpendicular to each other.

6. A combination according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the free end of that arm of the clip angle piece which in use extends perpendicularly to the element is bent-over towards the other arm of the angle piece.

7. A combination according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein some or all of the said element-engageable portions have outwardly-extending cranked portions in spaced relationship relative to the juncture of the arms of the angle piece.

8. A combination according to claim 7, when appendant to claim 5 wherein the covering strip is an L-section channel and when mounted on the clip has its two arms substantially perpendicular.

9. A clip for retaining a covering strip on an element edge, and comprising an L-section angle piece including portions which can be pushed onto an element for engagement with opposite faces of the element and to be urged apart by such engagement, each arm of the angle piece having an edge portion disposed at an angle to the respective arm for receiving inwardly bent edge portions of an L-section covering strip.

10. A clip substantially as described herein with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

11. The combination of a clip according to claim 10 with a covering strip substantially as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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2. A combination according to claim 1, wherein the said element-engageable portions of the clip consist of two lateral straps and a middle strap, the lateral straps being adapted to engage the outer face of the element, and having outwardly bent portions.

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5. A combination according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the arms of the angle piece are perpendicular to each other.

6. A combination according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the free end of that arm of the clip angle piece which in use extends perpendicularly to the element is bent-over towards the other arm of the angle piece.

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