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(54) ADJUSTABLE-HEIGHT BASEBOARD FOR PARTITIONS

(71) We, YOSHIDA KOGYA K.K., a corporation duly organized under the laws of Japan and existing at No. 1, Kanda Izumi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 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:—

10 The present invention relates to an adjustable-height baseboard for partitions.

The present invention seeks to provide an adjustable height baseboard for partitions which can be constructed to be relatively
15 easy to assemble and adjust.

According to the invention there is provided an adjustable height baseboard for a partition formed with panels, the baseboard comprising a rail for mounting on a foundation, floor or other base member and having a pair of opposed spaced lips extending there along, a jointing adapter mounted on the rail by oppositely positioned grooves therein receiving the pair of opposed spaced
20 lips, an elongate connector extending into the jointing adapter for longitudinal height adjustment thereon and a baseboard cover having means for supporting a panel and connected to the connector.

30 Preferably the jointing adapter has a tapped hole therein and the elongate connector has at one end an externally threaded portion which threadedly extends into the tapped hole.

35 The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example, with reference to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of partitions incorporating adjustable-height
40 baseboards constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical cross-sectional view taken along line II-II of Figure 1;

45 Figure 3 is an enlarged perspective view

of a jointing adapter with a connector screwed in;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view showing the jointing adapter just before installation onto a rail member;

Figure 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the jointing adapter attached to the rail member; and

Figure 6 is an exploded vertical cross-sectional view showing the way in which a 55 baseboard covering is assembled and connected to the connector.

Figure 1 shows a plurality of partitions 10 extending vertically between a floor 11 and a ceiling 12. Each partition 10 includes 60 a panel 13 such as a board or a sheet of glass, and a baseboard or skirting 14 disposed between the panel 13 and the floor 11, the baseboard 14 being fixed to the floor 11 and supporting thereon the panel 13. A 65 top rail 15 extends between the ceiling 12 and the panels 13 and is secured to the ceiling 12, the top rail 15 holding the panels 13 in position. The panels 13 are spaced side by side and their side edges are protected by spacers 16 mounted thereon. 70

As shown in Figure 2, the baseboard 14 includes a rail member 17 of generally channel-shaped cross-section having a bottom 18, a pair of spaced side flanges 19, 20 75 each extending at a right angle from the bottom 18, and a pair of lips 21, 22 projecting from the side flanges 19, 20, respectively, toward each other. The rail member 17 is an extrusion and hence the lips 21, 80 22 extend the length of the rail member 17. The bottom 18 is supported by a pair of sealing members 23, 23 on the floor 11 and is fixed to the floor 11 by screws 24 threaded through the bottom 18 into the 85 floor 11.

As best shown in Figure 3, a jointing adapter 25 made of a resilient material such as synthetic resin or hard rubber is in the form of a rectangular plate having a pair 90

of upper projections 26,27 extending one along each side thereof and a pair of lower projections 28,29 extending one along each side thereof. A pair of opposite grooves 5 30,31 are provided between the upper and lower projections 26,28 and between the upper and lower projections 27,29, respectively. The grooves 30,31 receive therein the lips 21,22 respectively. The 10 lower projections 28,29 have a pair of tapered surfaces or bevels 32,33, respectively, flaring towards the grooves 30,31. The jointing adapter 25 has a central tapped hole 34 extending transversely there- 15 through.

An elongate connector 35 has at its one end an externally threaded portion 36 which threadedly extends into the tapped hole 34 in the jointing adapter 25. The connector 20 35 has at the other end a cylindrical portion 37 having therein a coaxial tapped hole 38. Between the externally threaded portion 36 and the cylindrical portion 37, there is a wrench-engaging portion 39 of hexagonal 25 cross-section for being gripped and turning by the jaws of a wrench.

Figure 2 also shows a baseboard covering 40 comprising a first facing member 41 on one side of the rail member 17 and a second 30 facing member 42 on the other side. The first and facing member 41,42, when coupled together, jointly provide a first channel 43 at their upper portion, the first channel 43 opening toward and receiving 35 the lower edge of the panel 13. The first channel 43 has a bottom 44 extending laterally away from the first facing member 41, the bottom 44 carrying thereon a support 45 that bears the panel 13. A second 40 channel 46 is provided centrally in the bottom 44 of the first channel 43 and opens toward the first channel 43. The second channel 46 includes a bottom 47 and a pair of side walls 48,49. The connector 35 is 45 rotatably connected endwise to the bottom 47 of the second channel 46 by means of a screw 50 threadedly extending into the coaxial tapped hole 38 through the bottom 47.

50 The first facing member 41 also has a third channel 51 opening laterally toward the second facing member 42 and including a bottom 52 and a pair of upper and lower legs 53,54, the upper leg 53 being a part of 55 the bottom 44 of the first channel 43.

The legs 53,54 have a first pair of spaced hooks 55,56, respectively, projecting toward each other into the third channel 51. The second facing member 42 includes a pair of 60 legs 57,58 extending laterally toward the first facing member 41, the legs 57,58 projecting into the third channel 51 of the first facing member 41. The legs 57,58 have a second pair of spaced hooks 59,60, 65 respectively, projecting away from each

other and held in interengagement with the first hooks 55,56, respectively. Upon inter-fitting engagement of the first hooks 55,56 with the second hooks 59,60, the first and second facing members 41,42 are retained 70 together against separation.

The side wall 49 of the second channel 46 has an extension 61 projecting beyond the bottom 47 of the channel 46 and which, 75 together with the side wall 49, constitutes the bottom 52 of the third channel 51. The side wall 48 of the second channel 46 has an extension 62 projecting beyond the bottom 47 of the channel 46, the extension 62 being shorter than the extension 61. The 80 cylindrical portion 37 of the connector 35 is interposed between and held in engagement with the extensions 61,62.

The top rail 15 includes an attachment channel 63 having a bottom 64 fixed to the 85 ceiling 12 by means of screws 65. The attachment channel 63 includes a pair of legs 66,67 having a pair of inwardly directed hooks 68,69, respectively. The top rail 15 has a panel-holding member 70 including 90 a pair of legs 71,72, having a pair of outwardly directed hooks 73,74, respectively, that are held in meshing engagement with the inwardly directed hooks 68,69, respectively. The member 70 has a pair of 95 opposed flanges 75,76 that grip therebetween the upper edge of the panel 13.

For installation of the partition 10, the rail member 17 and the attachment channel 63 are screwed to the floor 11 and the 100 ceiling 12, respectively, the rail member 17 and the attachment channel 63 being in vertical registration with each other. The jointing adapter 25 with the connector 35 threaded in is pressed down transversely 105 into the channel-shaped rail member 17 in the direction of the arrow 77 as shown in Figure 4. While the jointing adapter 25 is forcibly depressed, the lower projections 28,29 are engaged at the tapered surfaces 32,33 and shoved by the lips 21,22 yieldingly 110 back into the grooves 30,31, respectively. Continued depression of the jointing adapter 25 causes the tapered surfaces 32,33 to slide over the free ends of the lips 21,22, 115 respectively, and when the tapered surfaces 32,33 are squeezed down out of engagement with lips 21,22, the projections 28,29 spring back into original shape. At this time, the lips 21,22 are snappingly inserted in the 120 grooves 30,31, respectively, with the upper projections 26,27 above the lips 21,22 and the lower projections 28,29 under the lips 21,22 (Figure 5). Accordingly, the jointing adapter 25 is retained on the rail member 17 125 against removal therefrom, but is slidable along the rail member 17. The jointing adapter 25 is thus mounted, and as many jointing adapters as required can be installed on the rail member 17. 130

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The jointing adapter 25 is moved along to
a desired position on the rail member 17.
Then, the first facing member 41 is attached
with the cylindrical portion 37 of the con-
nector 35 interposed between the extensions
61,62, as shown in Figure 6. The connector
35 is turned by a wrench until the first
facing member 41 is adjusted to a required
height. Since the cylindrical portion 37 of
the connector 35 frictionally engages the
extensions 61,62, the first facing member 41
is supported stably during adjustment. The
first facing member 41 is connected to the
connector 35 by the screw 50.

The panel-holding member 70 is snapped
onto the attachment channel 63 and the
panel 13 with the support 45 is installed
between the member 70 and the first facing
member 41. Finally, the second facing
member 42 is connected to the first facing
member 41 by bringing the hooks 59,60
snappingly into interfitting engagement with
the hooks 55,56, respectively, as illustrated
in Figure 6.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An adjustable height baseboard for a
partition formed with panels, the baseboard
comprising a rail for mounting on a founda-
tion, floor or other base member and having
a pair of opposed spaced lips extending
therealong, a jointing adapter mounted on
the rail by oppositely positioned grooves
therein receiving the pair of opposed spaced
lips, an elongate connector extending into
the jointing adapter for longitudinal height
adjustment thereon and a baseboard cover
having means for supporting a panel and
connected to the connector.

2. An adjustable height baseboard
according to claim 1, wherein the jointing
adapter has a tapped hole therein and the
elongate connector having at one end an
externally threaded portion which threadably
extends into the tapped hole.

3. An adjustable height baseboard
according to claim 2, wherein the connector
has at its other end a coaxial tapped hole,

and a screw extends into the coaxial tapped
hole through a portion of the baseboard
covering. 50

4. An adjustable height baseboard
according to claim 3 wherein the connector
has a wrench-engaging portion between its
ends.

5. An adjustable height baseboard 55
according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the
baseboard covering includes a first facing
member on one side of the rail member
and a second facing member on the other
side, the first and second facing members,
when joined, providing a first channel for
the reception of the lower edge of the panel,
and the first facing member having a second
channel having a bottom through which the
screw extends. 60

6. An adjustable height baseboard 65
according to claim 5, wherein first channel
has a bottom for carrying thereon the lower
edge of the panel, and the second channel
1 is provided in the bottom of the first 70
channel.

7. An adjustable height baseboard
according to claim 5 or 6, wherein first
facing member has a first pair of spaced
hooks, and the second facing member has
a second pair of spaced hooks interengaging
with the first pair of spaced hooks. 75

8. An adjustable height baseboard
according to anyone of claims 1 to 7,
wherein the jointing adapter is made of re-
siliant material, and has a pair of tapered
surfaces flaring toward the grooves which
allow the lips to snap into the grooves dur-
ing installation of the jointing adapter
transversely onto the rail member. 80

9. An adjustable height baseboard sub-
stantially as herein described with reference
to the drawings. 85

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The jointing adapter 25 is moved along to a desired position on the rail member 17. Then, the first facing member 41 is attached with the cylindrical portion 37 of the connector 35 interposed between the extensions 61,62, as shown in Figure 6. The connector 35 is turned by a wrench until the first facing member 41 is adjusted to a required height. Since the cylindrical portion 37 of the connector 35 frictionally engages the extensions 61,62, the first facing member 41 is supported stably during adjustment. The first facing member 41 is connected to the connector 35 by the screw 50.

15 The panel-holding member 70 is snapped onto the attachment channel 63 and the panel 13 with the support 45 is installed between the member 70 and the first facing member 41. Finally, the second facing member 42 is connected to the first facing member 41 by bringing the hooks 59,60 snappingly into interfitting engagement with the hooks 55,56, respectively, as illustrated in Figure 6.

25 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An adjustable height baseboard for a partition formed with panels, the baseboard comprising a rail for mounting on a foundation, floor or other base member and having a pair of opposed spaced lips extending therealong, a jointing adapter mounted on the rail by oppositely positioned grooves therein receiving the pair of opposed spaced lips, an elongate connector extending into the jointing adapter for longitudinal height adjustment thereon and a baseboard cover having means for supporting a panel and connected to the connector.

2. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 1, wherein the jointing adapter has a tapped hole therein and the elongate connector having at one end an externally threaded portion which threadedly extends into the tapped hole.

45 3. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 2, wherein the connector has at its other end a coaxial tapped hole,

and a screw extends into the coaxial tapped hole through a portion of the baseboard covering.

4. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 3 wherein the connector has a wrench-engaging portion between its ends.

5. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the baseboard covering includes a first facing member on one side of the rail member and a second facing member on the other side, the first and second facing members, when joined, providing a first channel for the reception of the lower edge of the panel, and the first facing member having a second channel having a bottom through which the screw extends.

6. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 5, wherein first channel has a bottom for carrying thereon the lower edge of the panel, and the second channel 1 is provided in the bottom of the first 70 channel.

7. An adjustable height baseboard according to claim 5 or 6, wherein first facing member has a first pair of spaced hooks, and the second facing member has a second pair of spaced hooks interengaging with the first pair of spaced hooks.

8. An adjustable height baseboard according to anyone of claims 1 to 7, wherein the jointing adapter is made of resilient material, and has a pair of tapered surfaces flaring toward the grooves which allow the lips to snap into the grooves during installation of the jointing adapter transversely onto the rail member.

9. An adjustable height baseboard substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings.

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