

Certified Translation from the German

Covering device for recesses in tiled walls

The invention refers to a covering device for recesses in tiled walls, consisting of a cover covering the recess and equipped with fixing braces on the back, which are made up of one bending spring each, with one free spring leg as a supporting tongue, running transverse to the assigned cover edge and, when the cover is closed, supported inside the recess via a deformation prestressing the bending spring.

Such a covering device is known from EP 0 498 789 B, where the fixing braces are combined with holding elements of a cover holder inserted into the recess, and where the holding elements constitute supporting edges, which supporting edges, together with the supporting tongues of the fixing braces, form a kind of open hinge, permitting, on the one hand, a certain tilting or shifting movement of the cover relative to the cover holder, and, on the other hand, easy removal or insertion of the cover from the and/or into the cover holder. However, this known covering device requires separate setting braces in addition to the fixing braces with the supporting tongues and/or the holding braces with the supporting edges, which setting braces usually consist of setting magnets and ferromagnetic holding plates or of spring-loaded catches or similar. Thus, due to these setting braces, expenditure of fabrication of the covering device is higher and fitting more complicated.

According to FR 2 079 889 A a covering device has been suggested, the covers of which are inserted into the recesses via spring clasps fixed at the back side of the cover, with the spring clasps forming a free spring leg, which is run back to the front side of the cover

laterally beside the edge of the cover. One end of this spring leg is crooked outward for hooking in at the edge of the recess. This means, however, that a sufficiently large edge gap must be left between the cover and the edge of the recess for passing through of the spring legs, and the ends of the spring legs, overlapping at the outside of the edge of the recess, are visibly projecting over the tiled wall surface or similar. Moreover, due to the spring legs hooked at the edges of the recess, the closing position of the cover is not determined by a stop, but depends on the deformation of the spring clasps, so that the cover cannot be seated in the recess properly and in a secured position.

Therefore, the invention has the task to create a covering device of the above mentioned kind, which is characterised not only by easy fitting and economic fabrication, but also by its perfect positioning and its further usability.

The invention solves the task by designing the free spring leg of the bending spring in such a way that its full length stretches backward from the back side of the cover, and that it is provided with a camber, projecting laterally over the cover edge, to constitute a clamping support at the soffit or similar. On part of the recess, this covering device does not require any holding braces assigned to the fixing braces, since the bending springs are supported at the unfinished soffit of the recess via their crooked spring legs, or catch behind a thin wall in the area of the recess, so that a sufficiently fast seat of the cover in the recess is ensured. The spring legs may as well be designed differently, provided they remain behind the back side of the cover and perform their supporting function. Therefore, for closing the recess, the cover with its supporting tongues needs only be pressed into the recess, with the spring legs being crooked accordingly and prestressed to hold the cover. An opposite arrangement of the bending springs provides for self-centering and an increased clamping effect, while the spring legs projecting into the recess remain invisible from the outside and do not demand an edge gap between the cover and the edge of the recess. Therefore, the cover, whose edge area is not affected by the bending springs, can be inserted into the recess either with or without a gap, and for a proper seat of the cover an edge shoulder as a stop for the cover can be easily prepared or utilized. Covering of the recess is ensured in a secured position, and the cover can be easily positioned by directed insertion of the supporting tongues into

the recess, and can be kept in closing position under spring load and/or removed by simply pulling it out, so that the covering device is extremely easy to handle.

In order to facilitate insertion of the spring legs along the soffit of the recess when closing the cover, as well as to prevent jamming of the spring legs, the end of the spring leg is crooked inward, which has the effect of a guide shoe.

The drawing depicts an example of the subject matter of the application.

Fig. 1 shows a recess in a tiled wall with a covering device according to the invention in a horizontal projection,

Fig. 2 shows the cover of this covering device in a rear sight, and

Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 show a vertical cross section following line III-III of Fig. 1 with closed and opened cover, respectively.

A tiled wall 1 has a recess 2 and a covering device for this recess 2, which covering device consists of a cover 3 and at least two, preferably three fixing braces 4 arranged at opposite cover edges at the back side of the cover. The fixing braces are made up of one bending spring 5 each, with a free spring leg 6 as a supporting tongue. The spring leg 6, stretching backward from the cover back side over its full length, is provided with a camber 7 projecting over the cover edge, as well as with an inwardly crooked end 8. These projecting spring legs 6 provide for a clamping support directly at the unfinished soffit 9 of the recess 2, so that the fixing braces need not be combined with holding elements in the recess. For closing the cover 3, it needs simply be pressed into the recess 2 with the spring legs 6 first. Thus the spring legs get crooked and prestressed more strongly, and the cover 3, pushed down to a stop face 10 determining the closing position, is fixedly seated in the recess 2 via the bending springs 5 being clamped against the soffit of the recess. The crooked end 8 of the spring legs 6 constitutes a guide shoe, preventing, if necessary, that the spring legs get blocked or jammed when inserting the cover 3. To remove the cover 3, it can simply be pulled out by means of common contrivances.



Claims:

1. Covering device for recesses (2) of tiled walls (1), consisting of a cover (3) covering the recess (2), equipped with fixing braces (4) on its back, which are made up of one bending spring (5) each, with one free spring leg (6) as a supporting tongue running transverse to the assigned cover edge and, when the cover (3) is closed, supported inside the recess (2) via a deformation prestressing the bending spring (5), characterised by the fact that the free spring leg (6) of the bending springs (5) stretches backward from the cover back over its full length, and that the free spring leg (6) is provided with a camber (7) projecting laterally over the cover edge, which provides for a clamping support at the soffit (9) of the recess or similar.
2. Covering device according to Claim 1, characterised by the fact that the end (8) of the spring leg (6) is crooked inward.