June 21, 1955 R. G. AMES 2,711,098

MASTIC-APPLYING AND SURFACING-FINISHING TOOLS

Filed April 21, 1952 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

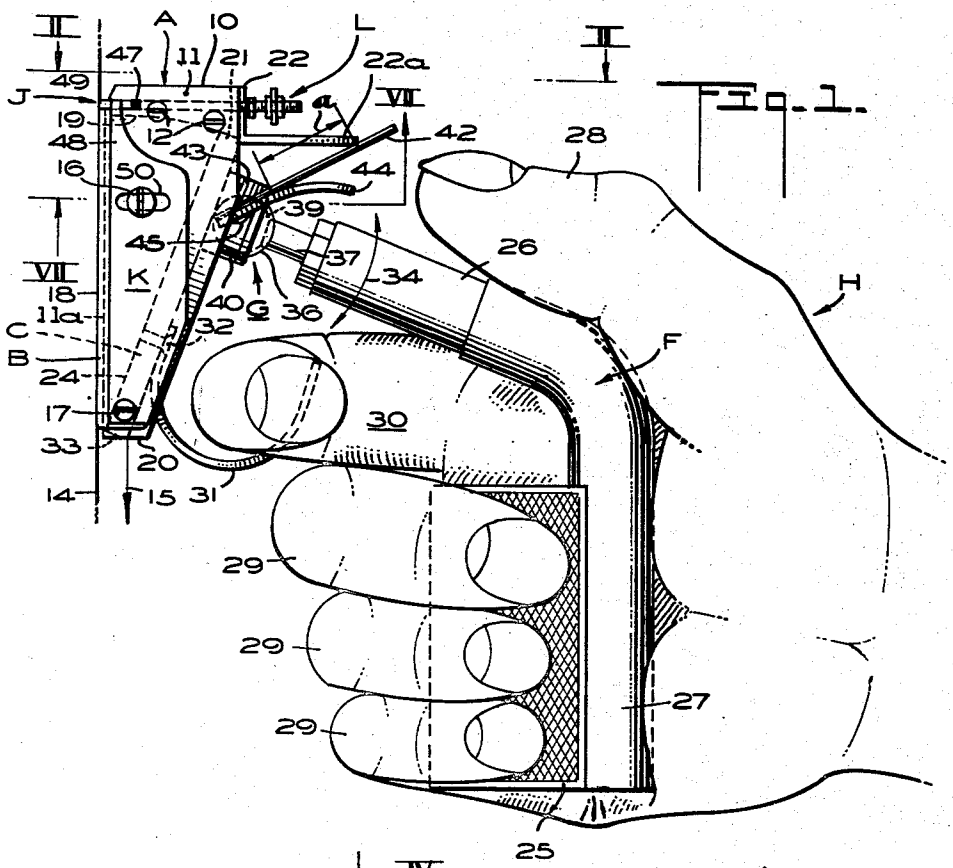

Fig. 1.

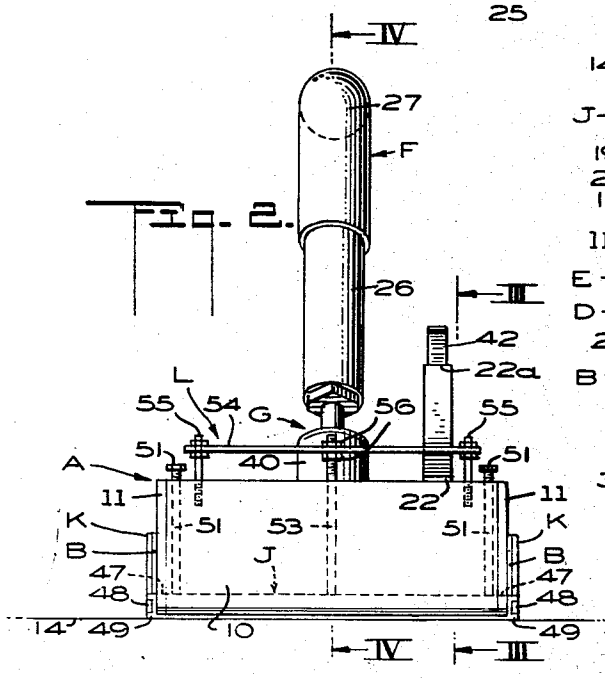

Fig. 2.

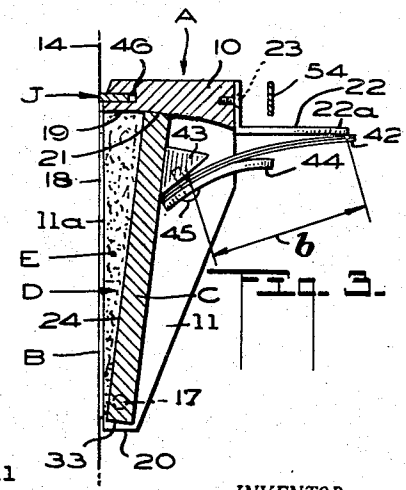

Fig. 3.

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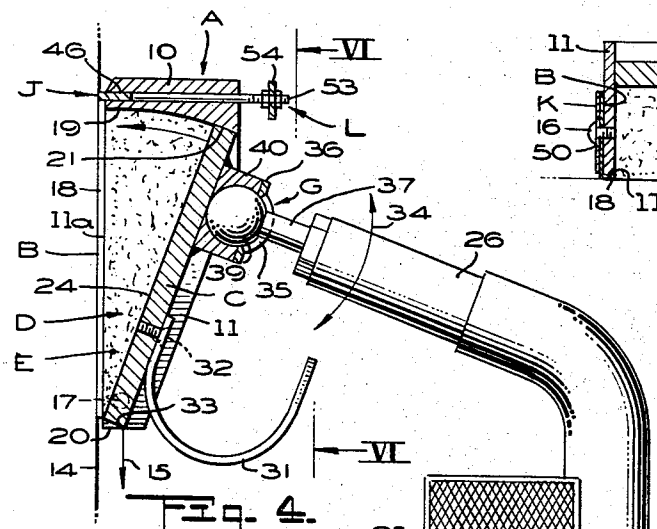


FIG. 4.

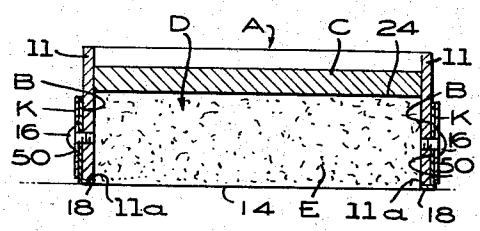


FIG. 7.

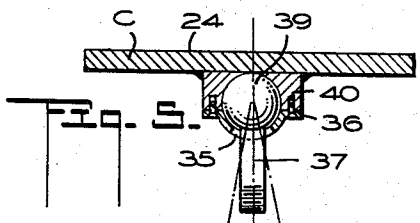
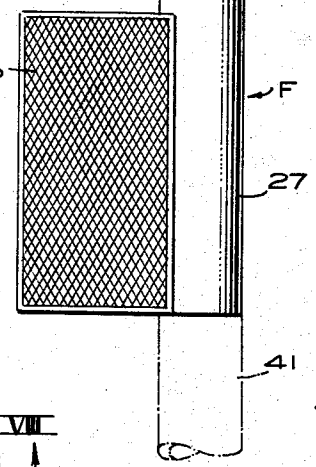


FIG. 5.



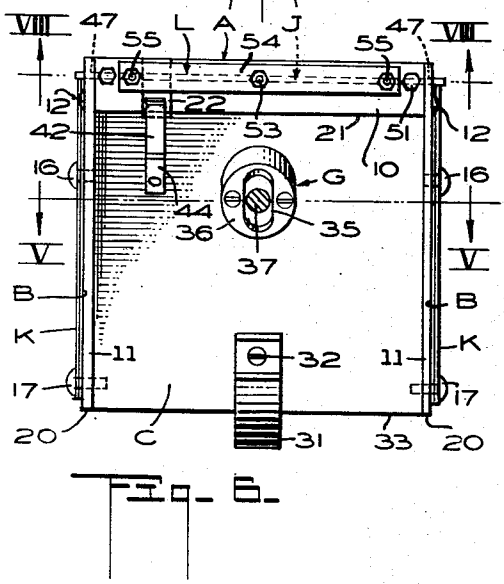


FIG. 6.

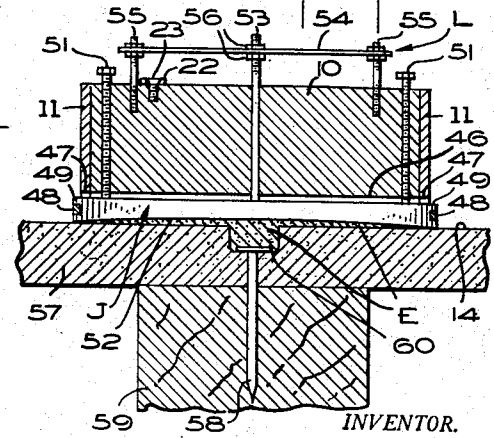


FIG. 8.

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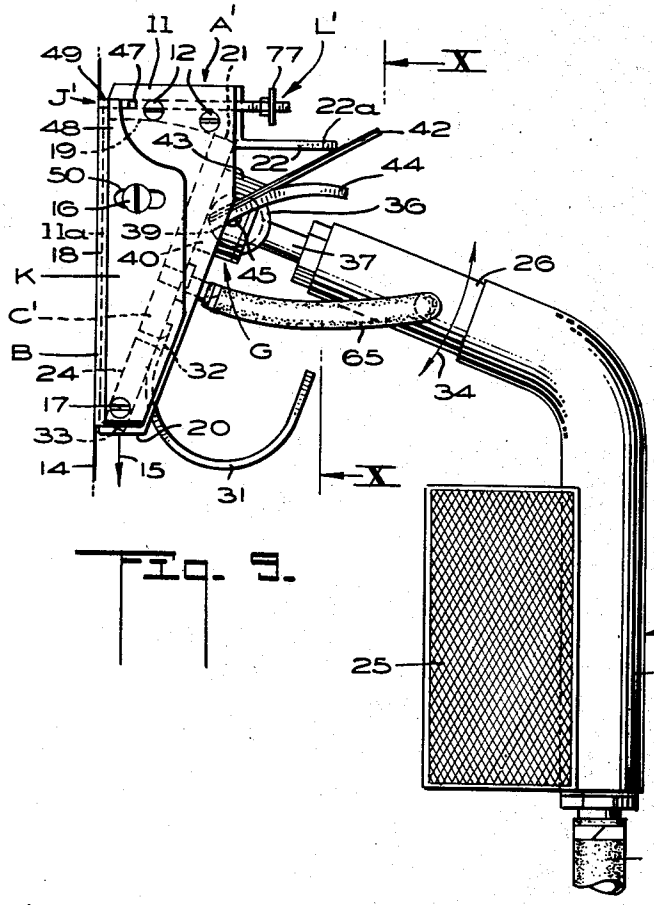

Fig. 9.

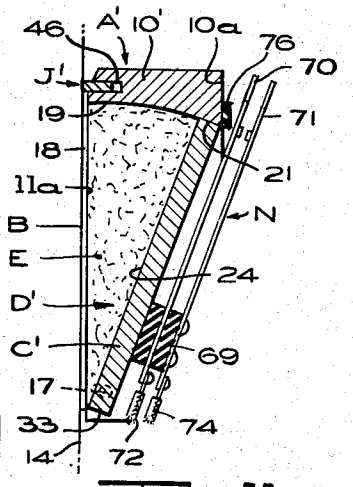

Fig. 11.

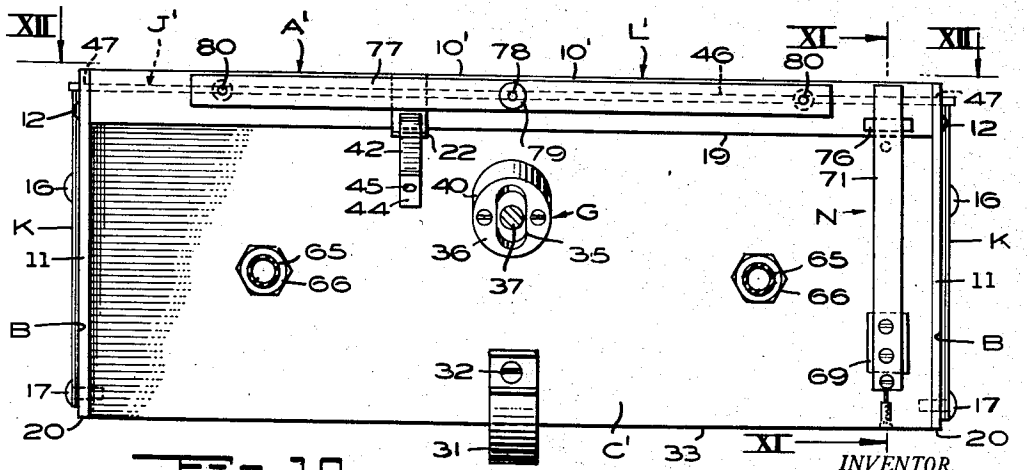

Fig. 10.

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Fig. 12.

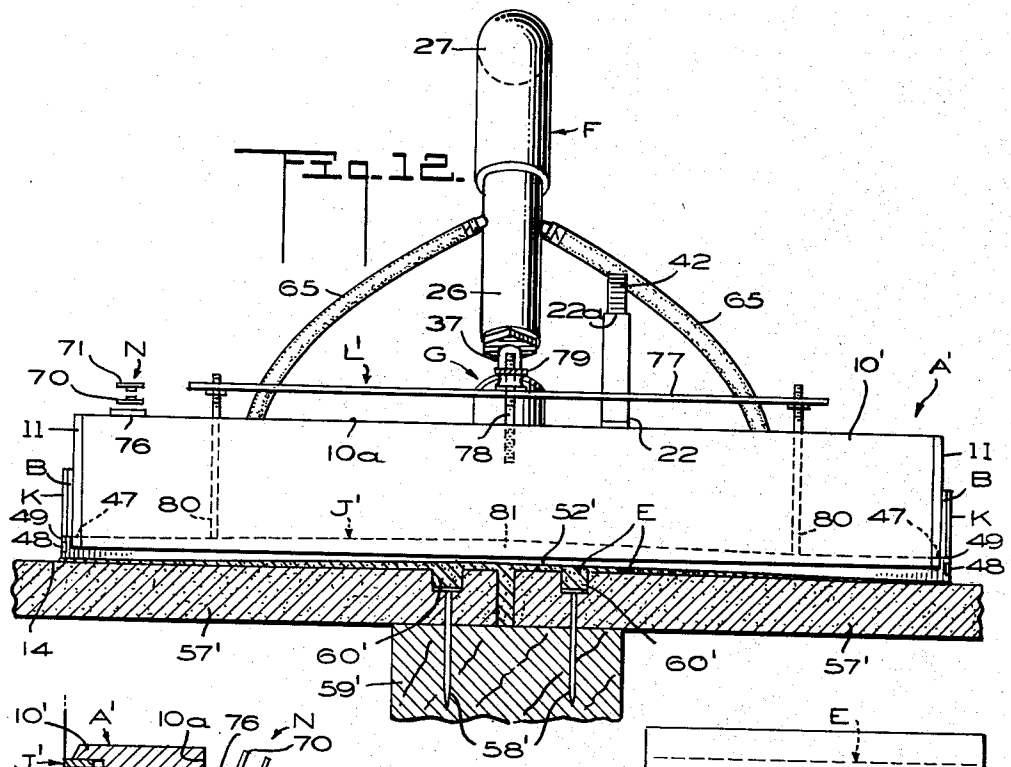
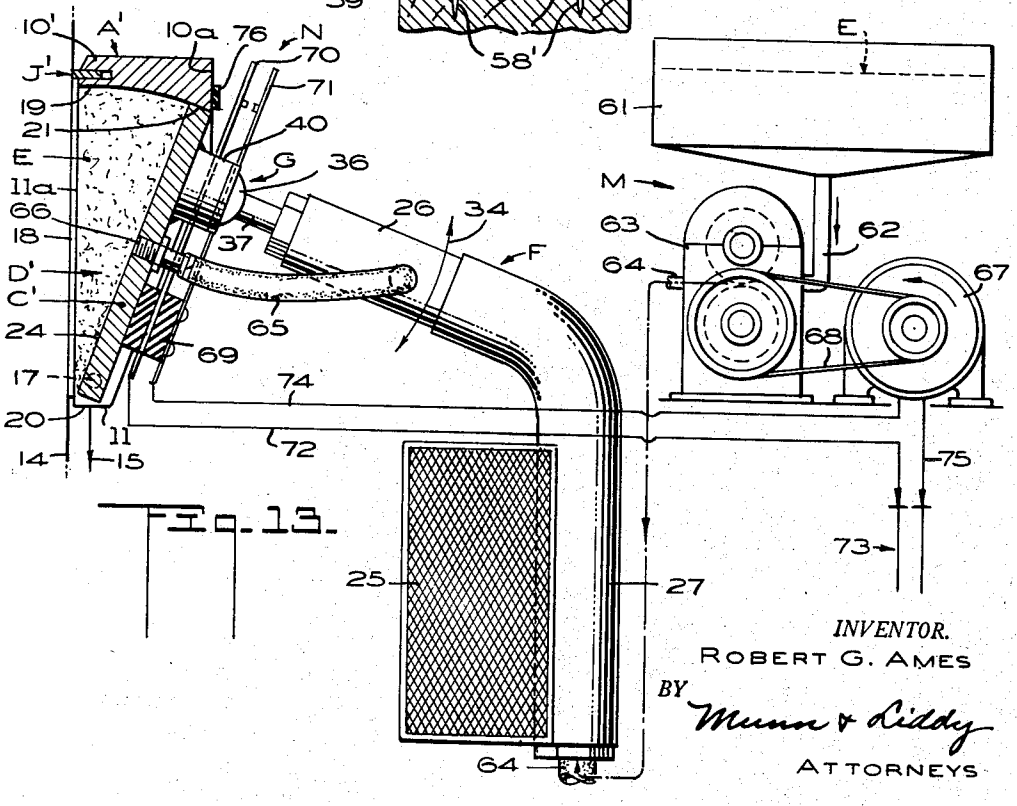


Fig. 13.



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United States Patent Office 2,711,098 Patented June 21, 1955

2,711,098

MASTIC-APPLYING AND SURFACING-FINISHING TOOLS

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Application April 21, 1952, Serial No. 283,378

3 Claims. (Cl. 72—130)

The present invention relates to mastic-applying and surface-finishing tools. More particularly it embodies improvements over the finishing tool disclosed in my United States Letters Patent No. 2,571,096, dated October 16, 1951; and, also, includes further improvements with respect to my copending application on a mastic-applying and finishing tool, Serial No. 244,786, which was filed in the United States Patent Office on September 1, 1951, now Patent No. 2,666,323.

In constructing walls and ceilings from plaster boards and the like, it is necessary to fill spaces between adjacent boards with a suitable mastic. Also, it is a common practice to nail such boards to studs, and these nails are set into the boards. The heads on these nails form depressions in the applied boards, which must be filled with mastic to provide a finished surface.

Broadly speaking, I provide a tool body having a recess adapted to receive mastic, which may be placed therein manually or delivered thereto under pressure. This recess opens toward the board-engaging face of the tool to provide an outlet through which the mastic may be ejected as the tool is advanced over the boards to thereby fill spaces or depressions then existing in these boards. In connection with this body, there is provided a troweling bar disposed to smooth the mastic delivered to the boards, forming a desired crown on the troweled mastic.

This invention has reference to the mechanisms for supporting and ejecting the mastic from the tool body, in accordance with the requirements, and to withdraw any excess mastic that may have been delivered to the boards.

More specifically, this tool body has a swingably-mounted plate arranged in the mastic-receiving recess thereof. After the body has been moved into close contact with the boards to which the mastic is to be applied, this plate is moved so as to eject the proper amount of mastic into spaces or depressions defined in the boards, all excess mastic being troweled off as the tool is advanced.

As a still further object, it is proposed to attach a suitable handle to the swingable plate for moving the latter to eject mastic from the tool body, while at the same time controlling the pressure thus applied to the plate so that the body will be held firmly up against the surfaces of the wall boards.

Another object is to provide a tool of the character described, which may be conveniently held in one hand of an operator and readily manipulated while applying mastic to wall boards.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the specification continues. The novel features will be set forth in the appended claims.

DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of my invention, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of one form of the tool, disclosing it being supported by one hand of an operator and used for applying mastic to a vertical surface;

Figure 2 is an elevational view looking at the trailing end of this same tool, as seen from the plane II—II of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along the line III—III of Figure 2, illustrating the swingable plate partially depressed for ejecting mastic from the tool body;

Figure 4 is a central longitudinal sectional view taken along the plane IV—IV of Figure 2, disclosing the swingable plate in retracted position;

Figure 5 is a vertical view, partly in section, taken along the line V—V of Figure 6, omitting the tool body, and showing the limits of lateral movement of a ball-joint relative to the swingable plate;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken along the plane VI—VI of Figure 4, looking at the back of the tool;

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view taken along the plane VII—VII of Figure 1;

Figure 8 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line VIII—VIII of Figure 6, disclosing the mechanism for resisting upward curving of the troweling bar, and further showing a depression being filled with mastic;

Figure 9 is a side elevational view of a larger tool, in which mastic is fed thereto under pressure;

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken along the plane X—X of Figure 9, looking at the back of this larger tool;

Figure 11 is a sectional view illustrating a motor-controlling switch employed in the larger tool, this view being taken along the longitudinal plane XI—XI of Figure 10;

Figure 12 is a view taken along the plane XII—XII of Figure 10, looking at the trailing end of the larger tool, and illustrating mastic being applied to a joint between wall boards and in depressions in the latter; and

Figure 13 is a diagrammatic view showing a motor and pump for delivering mastic to the larger tool, and disclosing a wiring diagram.

While I have shown only the preferred forms of my invention, it should be understood that various changes, or modifications, may be made within the scope of the annexed claims without departing from the spirit thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

First embodiment

Referring now to the first form of my invention, as shown in Figures 1 to 8, inclusive, I have shown a tool body indicated generally at A. This body includes an elongated trailing wall **10** having a pair of parallel upright plates **11** secured to opposing sides thereof by screws **12**, or other suitable fastening means. As clearly shown in Figure 6, the wall **10** and plates **11** form the body A into a channel-shaped structure, which may be moved toward a wall surface **14** in the manner suggested in Figures 1–4 and 7 of the drawings, and advanced thereover as indicated by the arrows **15** (see Figures 1 and 4). Broadly speaking, the side plates **11** and wear shoes B constitute runners, which are adapted to slide over a wall surface.

In order to prevent the bottom edges **11***a* of the side plates **11** from wearing as the tool is advanced over the wall surface **14**, I make use of a pair of wear shoes B. These shoes are secured by screws **16** and **17** to outermost faces of the side plates. Flanges **18** are provided on the bottom of the shoes, and project inwardly under the edges **11***a* of the side plates, as clearly shown in Figure 7, to preclude these edges from contacting directly with the surface **14** of wall board or the like. These wear shoes may be made from hardened material so as

to withstand considerable use, and may be replaced from time to time.

It will be noted that a rectangular-shaped mastic-moving plate C is mounted in the channel defined by the trailing wall **10** and the parallel side plates **11**. This plate C has a width coextensive with the distance between the innermost faces of the side plates and has a sliding fit with the latter, and a length to extend from an inner curved face **19** of the trailing wall **10** to leading edges **20** of the side plates.

Furthermore, the plate C is supported for swinging movement on the screws **17**, the latter being arranged near the leading edges **20** provided by side plates **11**. The curved face **19**, previously mentioned, defines an arc, whose center coincides with the aligned axis of the opposing screws **17**. Thus, when the plate C is moved toward or away from the wall surface **14** during use of the tool, a rear edge **21** of this plate will maintain a sliding contact with the curved face **19** at all times.

The trailing wall **10**, side plates **11**, and the plate C coact to define a mastic-receiving recess D, which has an outlet mouth opening toward the front of the tool so that mastic E disposed in this recess may be ejected therefrom against the wall surface **14** along which the tool is advanced. When the plate C is fully retracted, as in Figures 1 and 4, it extends upwardly and rearwardly from the pivot screws **17** in angular relation with respect to the wall-engaging flanges **18** of the wear shoes B. At this time, the rear edge **21** of the plate C abuts a limit stop **22**, which is anchored by a screw **23** to the back of the trailing wall **10** (see Figures 3 and 8). This stop projects from the wall **10** so as to overlie the curved face **19** of the plate C, and prevents the latter from accidentally swinging rearwardly out of the recess D of the tool.

As shown in Figure 3, the plate C has been partially depressed, and thus part of the mastic E has been forced thereahead upon the wall surface **14**. When this plate is fully depressed, its forward face **24** will be disposed substantially flush with the wear shoe flanges **18**, resulting in ejecting practically all of the mastic from the recess.

For the purposes of supporting the tool and actuating the plate C, I have provided a handle designated generally at F, which is fastened to this plate by a ball-joint G. This handle may be provided with a grip **25** so that it may be grasped in one hand H of an operator, as suggested in Figure 1. It will be observed that the inner section **26** of the handle, upon which the ball-joint G is mounted, extends at an angle relative to the outer section **27** to which the grip **25** is attached.

The entire handle F is proportioned so that it may be grasped firmly by the operator, and the tool body A moved up against the wall surface **14**, followed by advancement of the tool in the direction of the arrows **15**, all movements being under control of the operator.

As shown in Figure 1, the operator's thumb **28** may be placed on the inner section **26** of the handle, the fingers **29** wrapped around the grip **25**, and the index finger **30** (or other digit) extended to engage with a curved bracket **31** projecting from the plate C. This bracket is secured by a screw **32** to the rear face of the plate C at a point ahead the joint G and adjacent to the leading edge **33** of the plate C.

Quite obviously, the operator may press on the handle F so as to depress the swingable plate C, and thereby eject mastic E from the recess D. Also, the operator may retract the plate C to withdraw excess mastic from the wall surface **14** upon which the mastic has been applied. The operator has complete control over the movement of the tool body A toward the wall surface, advancement of the tool over this surface, and depressing or retracting of the swingable plate, even though only one hand is employed for these combined steps.

The ball-joint G has been constructed in such a manner as to allow the handle F to be freely swung up and down with respect to the plate C, as suggested by the arrows **34** in Figures 1 and 4. This is accomplished by providing an elongated slot **35** in a cap **36** through which a shank **37** on the handle section **26** projects. The length of this slot extends longitudinally in the direction of the trailing and leading edges **21** and **33**, respectively, of the plate C (see Figure 6). However, the width of this slot permits only limited lateral swinging of the shank **37**, as suggested by the arrow **38** in Figure 5. The ball **39** of this joint is confined in a socket member **40** by the cap **36**, and this member in turn is fastened to the plate C by any suitable means, such as by welding.

It will be appreciated, of course, that an extension **41** (see Figure 4) may be provided on the handle F, if desired. This will allow the operator to reach upper portions of a wall or apply the tool A upon a ceiling, in the manner shown in my Patent No. 2,571,096 and the copending case, Ser. No. 244,786.

As an important structural feature of my improved tool, a leaf spring **42** is secured by a lug **43**, a curved guard **44** and screw **45** to the back of the plate C (see Figure 3). This spring projects rearwardly from the plate C, and abuts against the outer end **22***a* of the limit stop **22** when the plate C is fully retracted, as in Figure 1. As shown in this view, the spring **42** extends at an angle relative to the plate C, and yieldingly urges the latter into retracted position whenever pressure is relaxed on the handle F. The purpose of the guard **44** is to bear against and support the spring, preventing the latter from breaking as the plate C approaches the bottom of its stroke.

Comparison of Figures 1 and 3 will disclose the fact that the leaf spring **42** is stiffer, or stronger, during initial depressing of the plate C than it will be in the latter part of the movement of the plate C toward the wall surface **14**. This may be readily understood by observing the lever *a* existing along the length of the spring from the lug **43** to the point of contact between the spring and the outer end **22***a* of the stop **22** in Figure 1, and then noting a relatively longer lever *b* along the length of the spring in Figure 3.

Accordingly, as pressure is applied initially to the handle F, the greater part of this pressure will be utilized in holding the tool body A up against the wall surface **14**, and precluding the mastic E from escaping from underneath the tool body. However, as further pressure is applied to the handle, the spring **42** will become progressively weaker and a greater portion of this pressure will be exerted upon the mastic.

After the tool has been advanced in the direction of the arrow **15** for a predetermined distance, it may be raised away from the wall surface **14**. As the handle F is retracted, the plate C will return therewith, and this will draw any excess mastic back into the recess D from the wall surface. This is aided by the spring **42**, and is accomplished before the wear shoe flanges **18** clear the surface of the walls so as to preclude smearing of the mastic.

Any suitable means may be employed for placing the mastic E in the recess D. For instance, the open face of the tool onto which the recess opens may be scooped into a supply of mastic or the latter placed therein by using a trowel. Furthermore, mastic may be delivered to this recess under pressure, in the manner to be set forth in detail with reference to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 9 to 13, inclusive. As a further method, a quantity of the mastic may be placed on the wall board, and then the tool employed for containing and spreading this mastic.

At the trailing end of the tool body A I provide an elongated troweling bar indicated generally at J. This bar is accommodated in a groove **46** extending transversely of the trailing wall **10** in the forward surface of the latter. Furthermore, the bottom edges **11***a* of the side plates **11** are fashioned with notches **47** through

which the end section of this bar projects (see Figures 1 and 2).

For the purpose of adjustably anchoring the troweling bar to the side plates **11**, the latter are provided with bar-retaining plates K of the shape shown in Figures 1 and 7. These plates are butted flatwise against the outermost surface of the wear shoes B, and have fingers **48** adapted for fitting into bifurcated ends **49** of the troweling bar (see Figures 1, 2 and 8).

In Figures 1 and 6, I show the screws **16** and **17** as passing through the bar-retaining plates K and into the side plates **11**. As clearly shown in Figures 1 and 7, the screws **16** are inserted through slots **50** formed in the plates K. The screws **16—17** may be loosened so that the plates K can be tilted for the purpose of projecting the troweling bar J to a greater or less extent relative to the trailing wall **10**. Thus, this bar may be adjusted to compensate for wear thereon. Upon tightening the screws **16—17**, the ends of the troweling bar are held in position relative to the side plates **11**, while the intermediate portion of the bar may be flexed upwardly.

As a further means of regulating the troweling bar from time to time, I make use of a pair of adjusting screws **51**, which are threaded forwardly through the trailing wall **10** so as to bear against end sections of this bar (see Figures 2, 6 and 8). These screws are adapted to be turned so as to project the troweling bar as the latter wears down.

The troweling bar J is semi-flexible and may be flexed under pressure so as to produce a crown **52** on the troweled mastic (see Figure 8). However, in order to reduce the amount of curvature on this crown, I provide a bar-pressure-regulator L. The latter included a slidable pressure-adjusting pin **53** arranged to apply forward force to the bar J at the center of the latter to resist rearward curving of intermediate portion of this troweling bar (see Figures 2, 4, 6 and 8).

For varying the amount of forward pressure exerted upon the pin **53**, and thereby control the flexing of the troweling bar, a leaf spring **54** is mounted to extend lengthwise of the bar J, and is positioned rearwardly beyond the trailing wall **10**. Posts **55** extend from this trailing wall and adjustably support the ends of the spring **54**. Also, nuts **56** are mounted on the pin **53** to adjust the latter relative to the spring **54** (see Figures 2 and 8).

While I do not wish to be limited with respect to the many uses to which this tool may be placed, reference to Figure 8 will disclose one use by way of example. As shown therein, a wall board **57** has been secured by a nail **58** to a wall stud **59**. The head of this nail has been set below the board surface **14**, which has resulted in forming a depression **60** in the board. However, advancement of the tool has filled this depression with mastic E. At the same time, the troweling bar J has provided a crowned surface on this mastic, which feathers laterally into the surface **14** of the wall board without interruption.

SUMMARY OF OPERATION

First embodiment

Assuming that the recess D of the tool body A has been filled with mastic E, as disclosed in Figure 4, an operator grasps the handle F in one hand H (see Figure 1), and then moves the open face of the tool against the wall surface **14** upon which the mastic is to be applied. This will bring the flanges **18** of the wear shoes B and the troweling bar J firmly against the surface of the wall board.

As the operator continues to apply forward pressure to the handle, that is, toward the left in Figure 1, the leaf spring **42** will commence to yield and the plate C will swing toward the wall surface **14**, forcing mastic E against the latter. However, during the forward movement of the plate C, the shoe flanges **18** and troweling bar will be maintained in contact with the wall board.

Now the tool is advanced over the wall board, as suggested by the arrows **15** in Figures 1 and 4. This will result in forming a crown **52** on the troweled mastic and at the same time filling any depressions **60** with mastic, as in Figure 8. The curvature of the crown may be controlled by adjusting the leaf spring **54** of the bar-pressure-regulator L on the pin **53** and posts **55**. The troweled mastic will be feathered laterally, merging into the wall board surface.

As further pressure is exerted upon the plate C by the operator pressing against the handle F, thereby moving the front face **24** of this plate toward the wall board surface **14**, the effect of the leaf spring **42** will lessen, bringing greater pressure upon the mastic E and less upon the tool body A. However, the flanges **18** and the troweling bar J are held flush up against the wall board surface, preventing the mastic from escaping under the side plates **11**.

From time to time the bar-retaining plates K and the screws **51** may be adjusted so as to project the troweling bar J from the trailing wall **10** to compensate for wear on this bar. It is desired that the troweling bar be made of sufficiently resilient material that it will yield prior to the leaf spring **42**.

When reaching the end of a stroke, pressure may be relaxed upon the handle F. The spring **42** will cause the plate C to retract, thereby removing any excess mastic from the surface of the wall board.

The tool may be moved over a row of depressions **60**, which have been formed by nails **58**, and all of these depressions filled with mastic, as shown in Figure 8. Of course, other spaces in a wall board may be filled in a similar manner.

Second embodiment

In Figures 9 to 13, inclusive, I have shown a modified form of my mastic-applying and surface-finishing tool. This embodiment differs from the first principally by the addition of a mastic-feeding mechanism M (see Figure 13), which is actuated by a motor-controlling switch N (see Figures 10–12) so as to feed mastic automatically to the tool, and by the substitution of a different type of troweling bar-pressure regulator L'. Also, in the second embodiment, the tool body A', the swingable plate C' and troweling bar J' are somewhat wider than in the form previously described in connection with Figures 1–8.

The side plates **11**, wear shoes B, handle F, bar-retaining plates K and spring **42** are identical in both tools. Accordingly, like numerals have been employed to designate corresponding parts in the two embodiments of the invention.

As shown in Figure 13, a hopper **61** is provided for holding a supply of the mastic E. The latter is conveyed from the hopper through a conduit **62** to the intake of a pump **63**. A flexible hose **64** connects the outlet of this pump with the interior of the handle F. The sections **26—27** defined by this handle are hollow so that mastic may be conveyed therethrough to branch hoses **65**. The latter lead to fittings **66**, which are threaded into the plate C' so as to discharge mastic under pressure to the enlarged recess D' of the modified tool.

It will be noted that the pump **63** is operated from an electric motor **67** by a belt and pulley drive **68**. Whenever this motor is rotating, mastic E will be withdrawn by the pump **63** from the hopper **61**, and forced through the hose **64**, handle sections **27—26**, branch hoses **65** and fittings **66** to the mastic-receiving recess D'.

For the purpose of operating the motor **67** so that mastic will be delivered automatically to the recess D' at the proper pressure, the switch N is mounted on an insulated block **69** carried by the back of the swingable plate C'. Generally speaking, the switch is opened when the plate C' is retracted, as in Figures 11 and 13. How-

ever, when the plate C' is depressed for ejecting mastic from the recess D', the switch is closed so as to set the motor in motion and thereby replenish the supply of mastic in this recess.

In its structural features, the switch N includes a pair of resilient terminal strips **70** and **71**, which are separated one from the other when the switch N is opened. Figure 13 shows the strip **70** as being connected by a wire **72** to one side of a source of electrical current **73**, while the strip **71** has a wire **74** leading therefrom to the motor **67**. Another wire **75** runs from this motor to the other side of the current source **73**, thus completing the circuit. Obviously, the switch N must be closed in order to set the motor in operation and thereby deliver mastic under pressure to the recess D' of the modified tool.

Referring to Figures 10 to 13, inclusive, it will be seen that an insulated block **76** is mounted on the rear face **10***a* of the trailing wall **10'**. The free ends of the terminal strips **70—71** overlie and normally are spaced from the block **76** when the swingable plate C' is fully retracted, as in Figures 11 and 13. However, during initial depressing of the plate C' to eject mastic from the recess D', the block **76** will cause the strips **70—71** to move into contact with one another, and hold the switch N closed during further depressing of the plate C'. Accordingly, mastic will be delivered to the recess D' until such time as the plate C' has been retracted sufficiently to allow the terminal strips **70—71** to separate and open the electrical circuit.

With respect to the bar-pressure-regulator L' for controlling the flexing of the troweling bar J', I make use of a resilient lever **77**, which is arranged to extend substantially parallel to the troweling bar J' and the rear face **10***a* of the trailing wall **10'**. This lever is slidably mounted on a centrally-disposed post **78**, and may be adjusted toward or away from the face **10***a* by a nut **79** threaded onto this post (see Figure 12).

A pair of pressure-adjusting pins **80** are interposed between the lever **77** and the troweling bar J' at separated points along the length of the latter, thus resisting rearward curving of the troweling bar. It will be noted from Figure 12 that these pins are slidably mounted in the trailing wall **10'**, with the innermost or lower ends of the pins abutting the outer sections of the troweling bar.

When this tool is advanced over a wall surface **14**, the intermediate portion **81** of the troweling bar will yield, causing a crown **52'** to be fashioned on the mastic E, as in Figure 12. For the purpose of illustration, this mastic has been shown as filling and covering a joint provided between two adjacent wall boards **57'**. Also, the mastic disclosed in Figure 12 fills depressions **60'**, which have been formed by nails **58'** used for securing these wall boards to a stud **59'**. The curvature of the crown **52'** is such that the applied mastic feathers laterally into the surface **14** of the boards. This curvature may be controlled by regulating the adjusting nut **79** to meet the requirements.

Summary of operation—second embodiment

In applying mastic E to the surface **14** of wall boards **57'**, for instance, the operator grasps the handle F in the same manner as shown in Figure 1, and moves the flanges **18** of the wear shoes B up against the wall surface. As the handle F is pushed toward the wall, the leaf spring **42** will yield, allowing the swingable plate C' to be depressed and thereby forcing mastic from the tool recess D' upon the wall boards. During the initial depressing of this plate, the switch N is closed automatically, resulting in starting the motor **67** and thereafter pumping additional mastic E to the recess D' to replenish and maintain the proper supply of mastic therein. When the plate C' is retracted, the switch N will open, cutting off further delivery of mastic to the tool at this time.

When this tool is advanced over the joint formed by the adjacent wall boards **57'**, for instance, the mastic will be delivered to fill the space between these boards and any depressions **60'** in the board surfaces, and at the same time provide a crowned surface **52'** on the delivered mastic. The pressure-regulator L' may be adjusted to impart the desired curvature to the troweled mastic.

Of course, the length of the handle section **27** may be extended, if desired, to permit an operator to reach high points on walls and ceilings. Quite obviously, the mastic-feeding mechanism M, and the tubular handle F, together with its branch hoses **65** and fittings **66**, could be applied to the tool shown in Figures 1–8. In this event, an end elevation of such a tool would be exactly the same as that shown in Figure 9 of the drawings.

I claim:

1. In a mastic-applying and surface-finishing tool of the character described: a tool body movable over a surface and having a leading end and a trailing end; this body being provided with a recess adapted for receiving mastic; the recess having an outlet mouth opening toward the surface when the tool body is placed against the latter; a movable plate disposed in this recess, and having a leading edge hinged to the leading end of the body and being depressible to eject mastic against the surface as the tool body is advanced thereover; a limit stop secured to the tool body to extend therefrom, and having an outer end; and a leaf spring having an inner end connected to the movable plate to move therewith and having an outer section bearing against the outer end of the limit stop; the portion of the leaf spring extending from the inner connected end to the part that contacts with the outer end of the stop, constituting a lever for returning the plate into a retracted position away from the outlet mouth when depressing pressure on the plate is relaxed; the length of the lever existing along the leaf spring from the inner end of the spring to that portion that contacts with the stop, increasing as the plate is depressed, thereby rendering the spring progressively weaker.

2. In a mastic-applying and finishing tool: a tool body movable over a surface and provided with a recess for receiving mastic; the recess having an outlet mouth opening toward the surface when the tool body is placed against the latter; a swingable plate disposed in the recess and having leading and trailing edges; means pivotally mounting the leading portion of the plate to the tool body for swinging of the plate toward the surface to thereby eject mastic below the plate and through the outlet mouth and against the surface as the tool body is advanced thereover; the plate having a rear face; a handle swingably connected to the rear face of the plate to extend rearwardly therefrom; the handle being disposed entirely to the rear of the tool body and spaced from the surface for unobstructed grasping by an operator for depressing the plate as the tool body is advanced over the surface; and yielding means connected only between the plate and the tool body for returning the plate to retracted position away from the outlet mouth when the depressing pressure on the plate is relaxed; the swingable connection between the handle and plate permitting the plate to swing in the body without the handle swinging with the plate as a rigid unit.

3. In a mastic-applying and surface-finishing tool: a tool body movable over a surface and provided with a recess for receiving mastic; the recess having an outlet mouth opening toward the surface when the tool body is placed against the latter; a swingably mounted plate disposed in the recess and being depressible to eject mastic against the surface as the tool body is advanced thereover; a handle dimensioned to be grasped in one hand by an operator; the plate having a rear face; said handle being connected to the rear face of the plate to extend rearwardly therefrom; the handle being disposed entirely to the rear of the tool body and spaced from the surface for unobstructed grasping by an operator for depressing the plate as the tool body is advanced over the surface; yielding means connected only between the plate and the

tool body for returning the plate to retracted position away from the outlet mouth when the depressing pressure on the plate is relaxed; and a curved bracket fixed to the plate to move therewith and positioned for engagement by an extended digit of the operator's same hand; the swingable connection between the handle and plate permitting the plate to swing in the body without the handle swinging with the plate as a rigid unit.

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