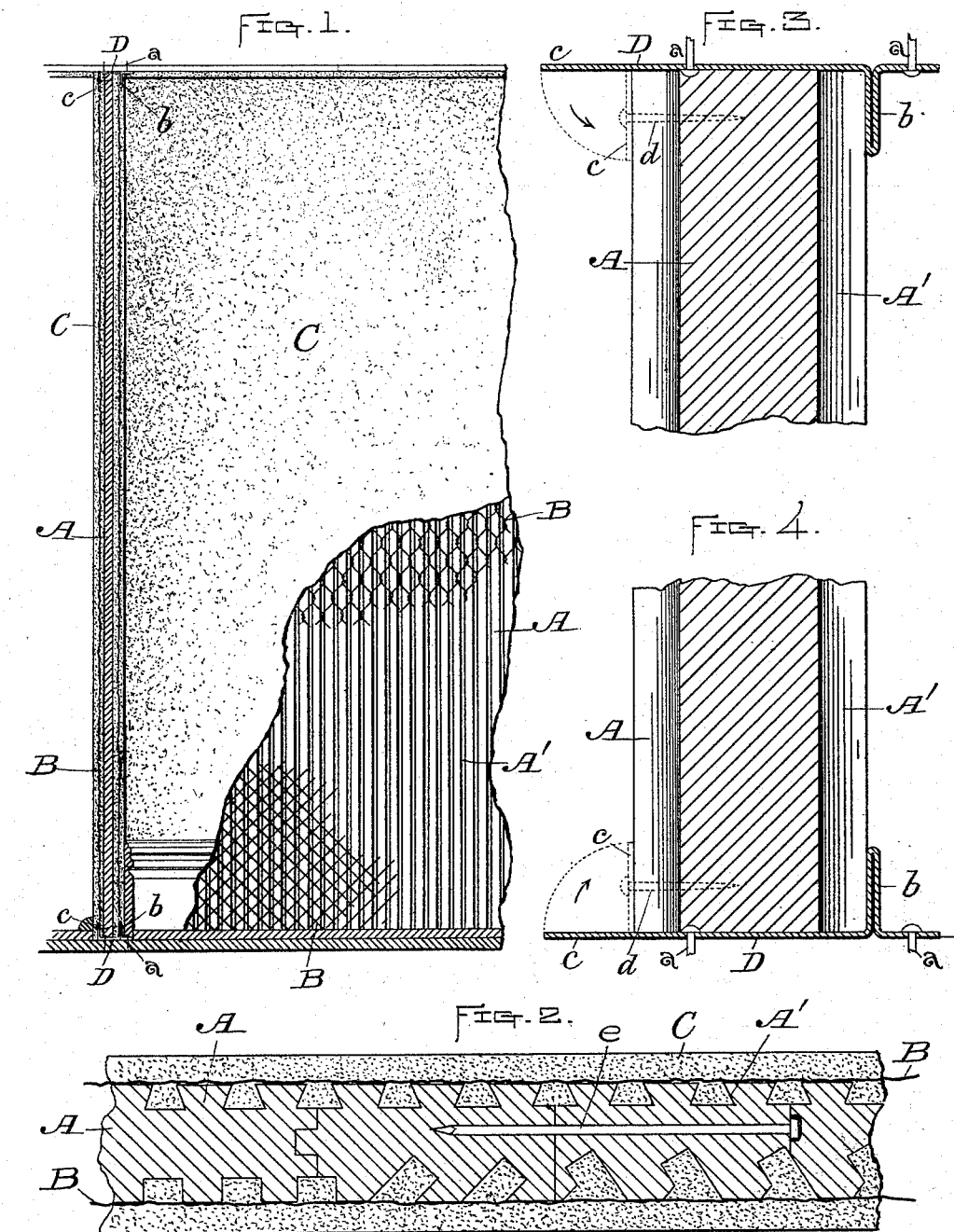


(No Model.)

O. W. NORCROSS.  
FIREPROOF PARTITION.

No. 526,730.

Patented Oct. 2, 1894.



Witnesses,

Walter B. Nourse,  
Fred E. Buss.

Inventor,

Orlando W. Norcross.  
By A. A. Parker Atty.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ORLANDO W. NORCROSS, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## FIREPROOF PARTITION.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 526,730, dated October 2, 1894.

Application filed March 8, 1894. Serial No. 502,878. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ORLANDO W. NORCROSS, of the city and county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fireproof Partitions; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents so much of a building-partition as is necessary to illustrate my invention. Fig. 2 represents upon an enlarged scale a horizontal section through part of said partition, and Figs. 3 and 4 are vertical sections through the top and bottom ends thereof respectively, shown upon a still larger scale, with the wire netting or open metal covering and plaster left off to illustrate the manner of fastening said partition in place, as hereinafter described.

Said invention relates to partitions for dividing what are commonly termed "fire-proof" buildings into separate compartments or rooms, and consists in making the central supporting part thereof of planking grooved upon both sides and covered with suitable wire netting, cloth, or other similar open metal covering, prior to plastering said surfaces.

It also consists of the means employed for fastening said partitions in place, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order that others may better understand the nature and purpose of said invention I will now proceed to describe it more in detail.

In the drawings, A represents the central, grooved planking above alluded to; B, the wire-netting or open, metal-covering attached to the outer surfaces thereof and C the plaster spread thereon as usual.

In constructing the partitions the planking is preferably tongued and grooved at the edges and put up vertically but I do not limit myself thereto. Both sides are grooved as aforesaid, and for convenience and economy in manufacture, preferably in a longitudinal direction, thus bringing the grooves A' vertically as is shown in Fig. 1 when the planking is secured in place. Said grooves A' may be made of various shapes; as for instance of dove-tail shape as shown at the top of Fig. 2;

of square form as shown at the lower, left hand corner; of angular form as shown at the lower, right hand corner, or of any other shapes suitable for the purpose of receiving and holding the mortar or plaster C. The top and bottom ends of the planking A may be securely fastened by means of suitable metal, angle-strips D adapted to be fastened in position to the floor and ceiling by means of nails *a*. Said strips are each provided with a longitudinal flange or projection *b* near one edge against which the top and bottom ends of the planking may be fitted as is shown in Figs. 3 and 4. After thus fitting said planking in position, it may be securely held by bending the edges *c* of the strips D against the sides thereof, and driving nails *d* through said bent edges into the planking as is shown by full and dotted lines in said Figs. 3 and 4. Although I prefer said mode of fastening in practice, for the reason that the partitions may thus be placed in position in a true, easy and expeditious manner and also securely held from displacement, I do not limit myself thereto, as other modes may be adopted to produce the same result without departing from the principle of my invention.

If desired, the different grooved planks of which the center of the partition is composed may be fastened laterally by means of long wire nails *e* driven through the same (as shown in Fig. 2), at short distances apart. The planking having been thus fitted and fastened in position, I then cover the surfaces thereof with the wire netting, cloth or other suitable open metal covering B, fastened at proper distances apart to hold it in position; after which said surfaces may be plastered as usual with ordinary mortar, or any other suitable "fire-proof" material, as is shown in Fig. 2. By thus constructing the partitions of buildings, it will at once be apparent that they are rendered very firm and strong and also serve as an effective barrier to the progress of fire, except in general conflagrations, as the same affords no egress or passage of said fire between the plastering upon each side, or at the top or bottom thereof.

Said invention also embodies the following advantageous features: A partition thus made occupies less room than ordinary partitions;

is practically self-supporting between its ends; the cheaper grades of lumber may be used in its construction; openings may be cut at any point without material detriment to other parts; affords an opportunity for fastening finish or moldings at any point; may be plastered without the use of ordinary separate lathing; and affords a better protection against sound passing through than ordinary partitions.

The thickness of the grooved planking is of course varied in practice to conform to the lateral or vertical strain that the partitions are to be subjected to. Two inch planking is ordinarily sufficient for light partitions, and from three to four inches thick for those dividing the building into larger rooms.

I am well aware that it is not new to use wire netting or what is commonly known as "wire-lathing," and also other open, metal-coverings to plaster upon, and make no claim broadly thereto.

What I do claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A building partition comprising in combination the following three elements, to wit; a central wooden support consisting of planking grooved upon both sides to receive the plastering; an open or perforated metal covering applied and secured to said grooved surfaces prior to plastering, and said plastering, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of the central planking support A grooved upon both sides to receive the plastering and means for securing the top and bottom edges thereof, with an open or perforated metal covering B applied and secured to said grooved surfaces prior to plastering, and said plastering, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

ORLANDO W. NORCROSS.

Witnesses:

ALBERT J. PARK,  
WALTER B. NOURSE.