

Sections Used In Modular Furniture Systems

AS Shetty

In this Twentyfifth series of articles on Rollforming we will discuss about the sections used in Modular Furniture systems. This is also one of the fastest growing field all over the world and especially in the advanced countries. There are hundreds of industries in the advanced countries involved in producing various types of modular furniture systems. During the early years furnitures were made individually to ones specific requirements and taste. In modular concept all units are standardised, made easy to fit and take apart, so if you want to expand or relocate the system it is very easy.

In modular concept the things are a collection of separate, free standing units that link to form a seamless working system. With the growing demand for quality furnitures it was increasingly realised that unless they were produced in knocked down condition and mass produced, attaining the required quality at an economical price was not possible. Also producing knocked down furnitures makes it easier and economical to transport and easy to assemble. Because they are manufactured in factories high quality could be maintained.

In India the knock down furniture industry hasn't made progress that fast because the general perception had been that it is not sturdy enough. Especially in the case of cup-boards till a few years ago it used to be felt that they were also not safe enough and prone to theft if they were made in knock down condition.

The furniture industry can be subdivided into smaller sectors such as business and institutional furniture, office room furniture, dining room furniture, living room furniture, bathroom furniture, bedroom furniture, music & TV furniture, outdoor/ garden furniture, children furniture etc.

Considering the ever increasing office furniture requirements of computer work- stations, file server racks, rack cabinets, computer cabinets, storage cabinets, enclosures, book cases, computer desks, office partitions etc. the future growth of modular furniture industry is going to be very bright. Here, a large number of parts of furniture could be converted to

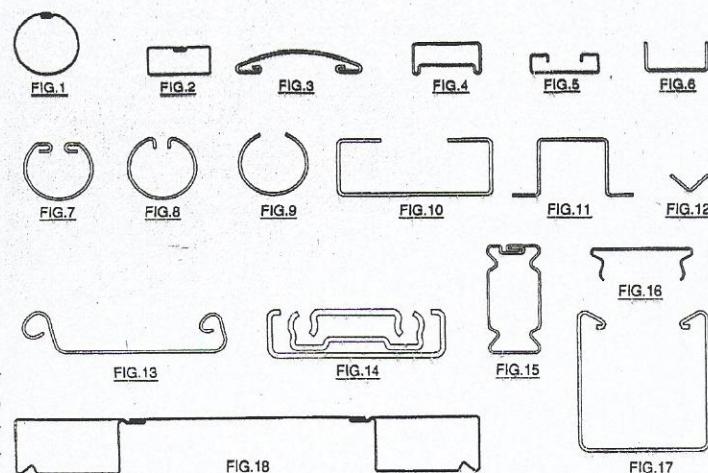
Rollformed Sections. For example, if you take filing cabinets, the drawer slides use specially shaped rollformed sections. Drawer slides allow you to easily pull a drawer out from a cabinet, desk, dresser either $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way out or to fully pull out. Simple drawer slides have nylon roller wheels but heavy duty drawer slides use ball bearings between the rollformed sections for easier and smooth operation.

Nowadays people are opting for slick ward robes with shutters to minimise space. They find ready made furnitures comparatively cheaper, easy-to-install and chic at the same time. Executives who are on the move want some lightweight furniture that they can sell if they get transferred.

In the advanced countries, especially in USA many of the modular furniture system parts are readily available in knock down condition at "Home Stores" which could be self assembled and used. Especially in USA practically every town, small or big have at least one "Home Store" where ready to assemble do-it-yourself furniture systems are sold. Because of the huge demand for such items they are able to mass produce good quality furniture systems economically.

Some of the typical Rollformed Sections used for the modular furnitures are office storage systems. Some of these sections and many more have been developed by Sedvik Industries, Bangalore.

shown in Fig.1 to Fig.18. Many more sections according to one's specific requirements could be rollformed. Fig.1,2,&15



are lock-joint tubes which are used for making tables, chairs, desks and hospital beds and partition sections. The three sections shown in Fig.14 are used for making telescopic rails using ball bearings. Section shown in Fig.13 are used for shutters of shelves.

Sections shown in Fig.4,5,6,10,11&12 are used for cup-boards and shelving systems. Sections shown in Fig.16 & 17 are used in combination, Fig.17 as the main load carrying section and Fig.16 as capping section. They could be used for concealing the electrical wiring. Sections shown in Fig.18 are used for mobile office storage systems. Some of these sections and many more have been developed by Sedvik Industries, Bangalore.

Using knock down furniture with modular concept is going to be the future global trend in the coming days all over the world.

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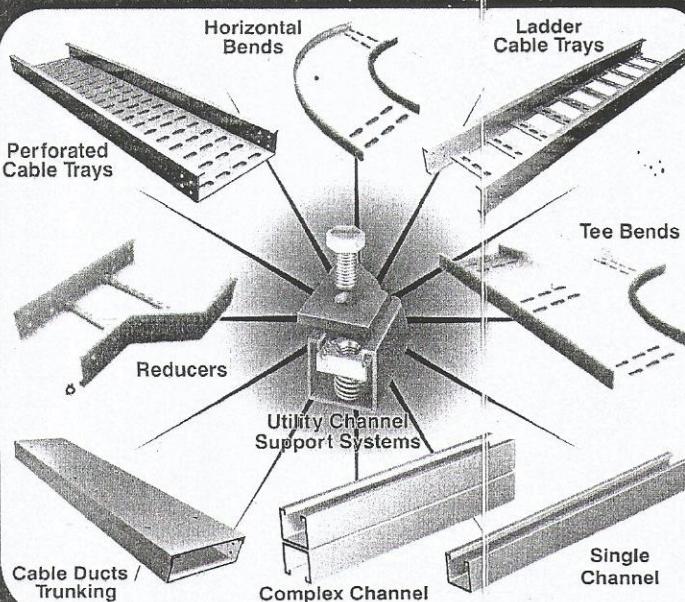


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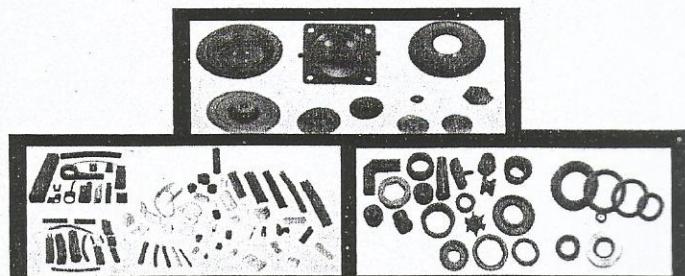
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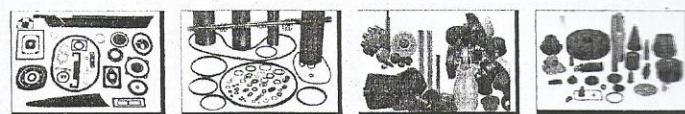
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