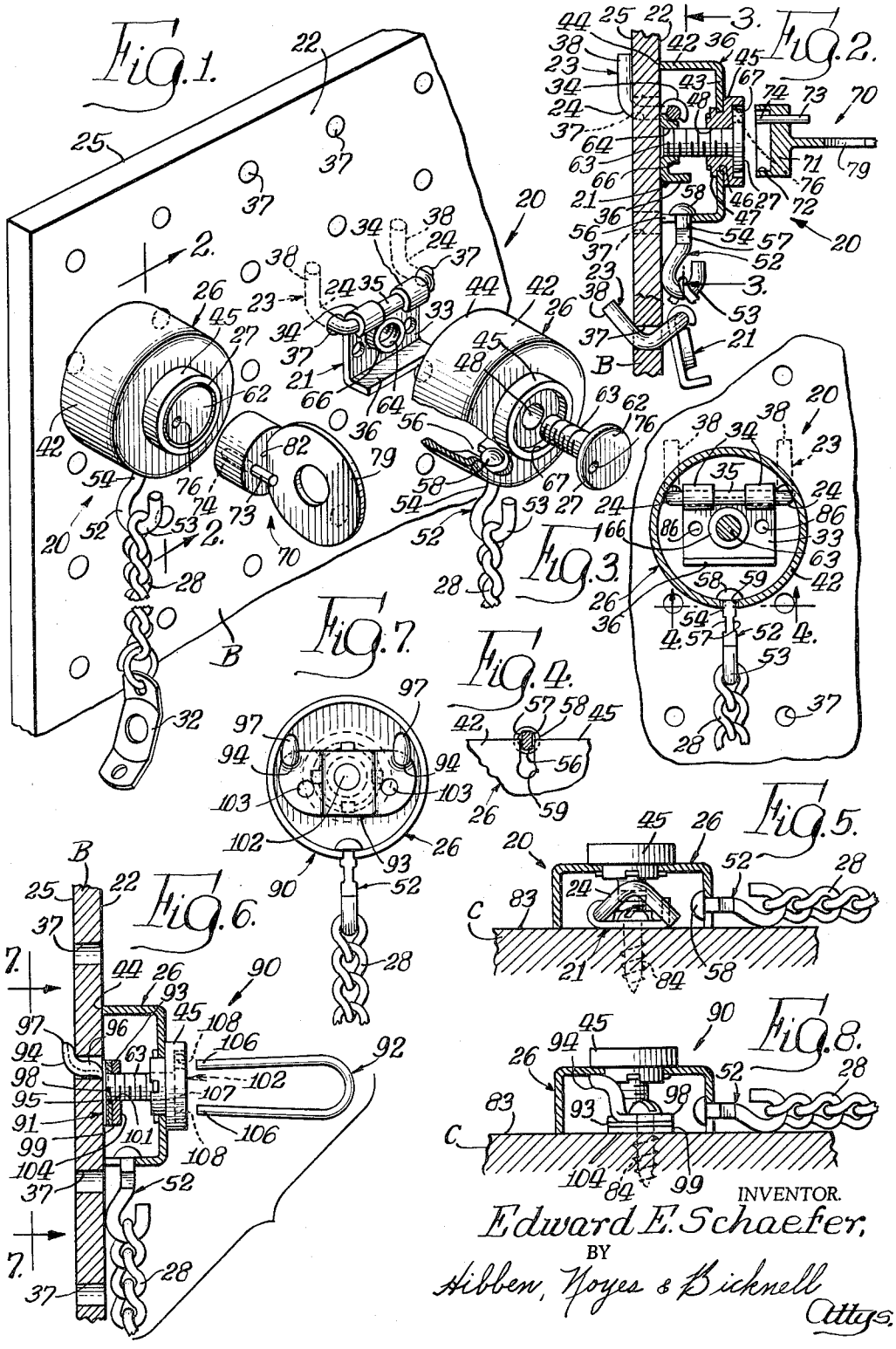
Oct. 12, 1965 E. E. SCHAEFER 3,211,408

PILFER-PROOF MOUNTING

Filed July 22, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Filed July 22, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 9.

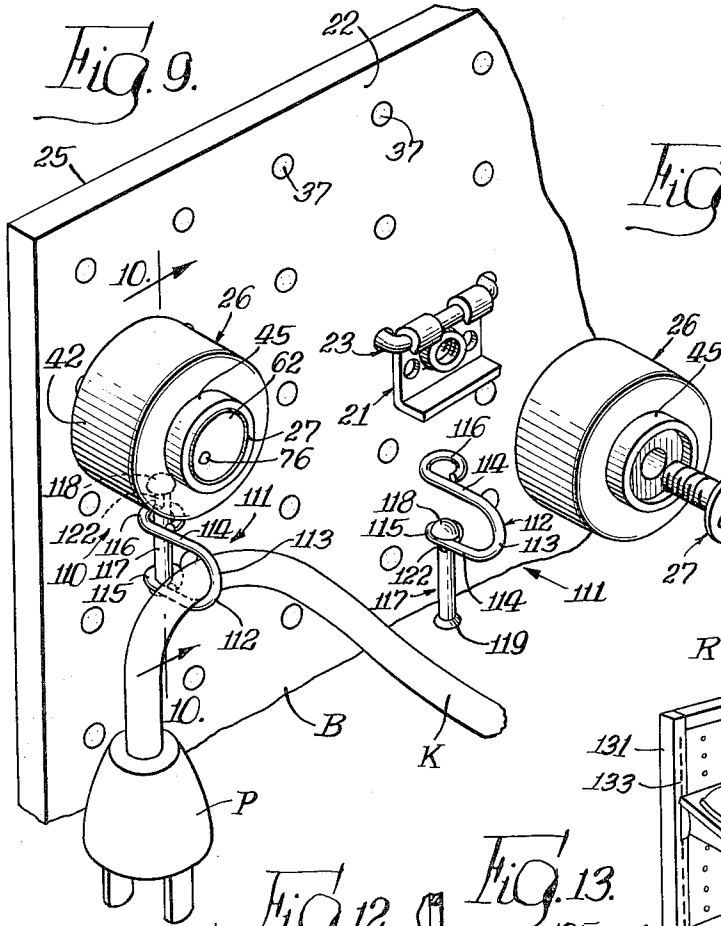


Fig. 10.

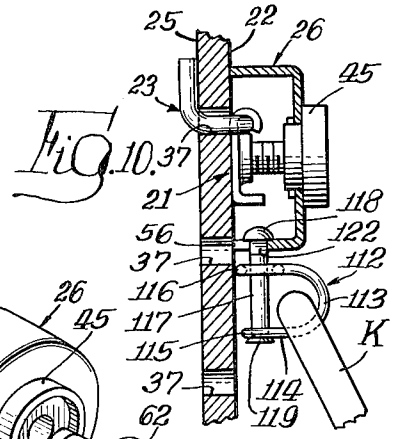


Fig. 11.

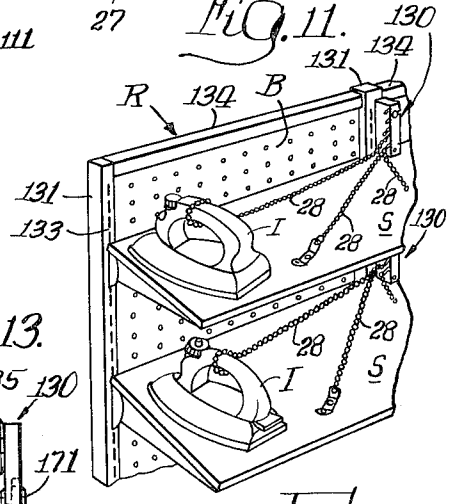


Fig. 12.

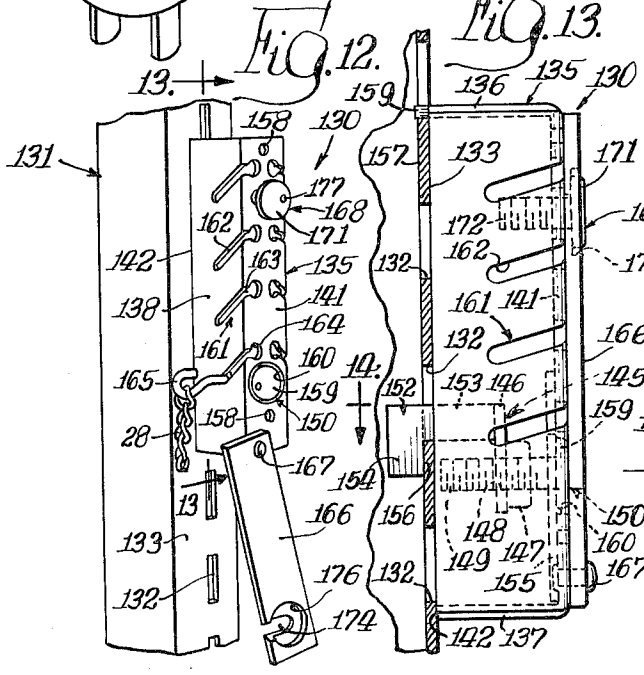
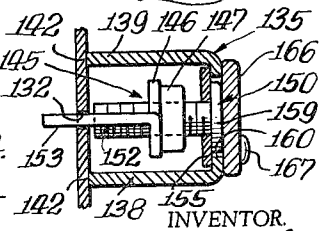


Fig. 13.

Fig. 14.



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3,211,408

PILFER-PROOF MOUNTING

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Filed July 22, 1963, Ser. No. 296,504
20 Claims. (Cl. 248—203)

This application is a continuation-in-part of my prior application entitled, Pilfer-Proof Mounting, Serial Number 56,214, filed September 15, 1960, now abandoned.

This invention relates to a mounting for securing an article to a display surface, and more particularly relates to a pilfer-proof mounting of the aforementioned type.

One of the problems experienced in department stores and other merchandising outlets where small articles such as hand tools, jewelry, and the like are displayed, is that of preventing casual theft or pilfering of such articles. It is well known that non-professional thieves and shoplifters are prone to steal such articles if they are openly displayed and left unattended. The slightest degree of attachment of the article, however, is usually sufficient to discourage theft, as this type of shoplifter does not wish to attract attention to himself. The actual restraint of the article need only be sufficint to deter the thief.

While various types of attachments or mountings have been proposed heretofore to accomplish the foregoing, such mountings have not gained general acceptance either because they detracted from the appearance and sales appeal of the article when the latter was connected thereto, or were too easily demountable from the surface to which they were attached so as to be inffective in their intended function, or were limited in use to an installation on a particular type of surface.

Accordingly, it is a general object of the present invention to provide an improved pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel pilfer-proof mounting of the foregoing type which is manipulated entirely from the exposed side of the display surface.

A further object is to provide an improved pilfer-proof mounting of the foregoing type which can be easily installed on a plurality of display surfaces and which cannot be easily removed therefrom without the use of a special tool.

Still another object is to provide an improved pilfer-proof mounting of the above-mentioned character which is attractive in appearance and which permits of rapid connection and disconnection of the article.

A further object is to provide a novel and improved pilfer-proof mounting for displaying small electrical appliances or the like having an electrical appliance cord extending therefrom and including an enlarged plug at one end thereof, said mounting being engageable with said cord.

A still further object is to provide a novel and improved pilfer-proof mounting for securing a plurality of articles having separate attaching means connected thereto to a display surface.

Another object is to provide a novel and improved pilfer-proof mounting of the foregoing character in which one or more articles may be connected to or disconnected from said mounting without demounting the latter from said display surface.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent upon making reference to the detailed description which follows and accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view showing two pilfer-proof mountings embodying the features of the present invention, one of the mountings being illustrated in exploded form to show the parts thereof, the other mounting being illustrated in an operable assembled condition on a vertical display surface of the perforated board type;

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view along the line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view of a portion of the mounting shown in FIGS. 1–3 taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 3 and showing the parts thereof as they would appear during an intermediate stage of assembly or disassembly of the mounting;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view showing the mounting of FIGS. 1–3 secured to a horizontal imperforate display surface;

FIG. 6 is a view similar to FIG. 2 showing an alternate pilfer-proof mounting construction comprising a second embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7 is a rear elevational view of the mounting of FIG. 6 as seen from the line 7—7 and as detached from its support;

FIG. 8 is a view similar to FIG. 5 showing the mounting of FIGS. 5 and 6 operably disposed on a horizontal display surface;

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view, similar to FIG. 1, showing a modification of the invention;

FIG. 10 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along the line 10—10 of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of a display rack and showing one and a portion of another pilfer-proof mounting embodying the features of the present invention, the mountings being adapted to retain a plurality of articles;

FIG. 12 is a somewhat enlarged perspective view of one of the mountings illustrated in FIG. 11 as the latter would appear when an article to be displayed is ready to be connected to or disconnected from the mounting;

FIG. 13 is a somewhat enlarged longitudinal sectional view taken substantially along the line 13—13 of FIG. 12, but with some of the parts of the mounting in a different position; and

FIG. 14 is a horizontal sectional view taken substantially along the line 14—14 of FIG. 13.

In FIGS. 1 to 4, inclusive, a pilfer-proof mounting 20 embodying the features of the present invention is illustrated, the latter being adapted to connect miscellaneous articles such as hand tools and the like to a display surface. The mounting 20, which comprises a first embodiment of the invention, is adapted to be secured either to a perforated display surface such as that formed by perforated board, indicated at B in FIGS. 1 to 3, or to an imperforate display surface such as is formed by a conventional wooden counter or table top, indicated at C in FIG. 5. Inasmuch as perforated board is widely used in the display and merchandising of small articles, the mounting 20 is particularly adapted for use on such a surface.

The mounting 20 thus includes a mounting member or bracket 21 that is adapted to engage a display surface formed by one side 22 of the perforated board B, and a generally U-shaped hook means 23 having a pair of spaced arms 24 adapted to extend through and engage the opposite or rear side, indicated at 25, of the board B. A cup-shaped, housing 26, in this instance circular in cross section, is provided for enclosing the bracket 21 while engaging the display surface 22 around the bracket 21. Releasable securing means, in this instance a removable screw 27, is provided for urging and maintaining the housing 26 engaged with the side 22 of the board B while at the same time pulling or urging the bracket 21 for-

wardly so that the arms **24** of the hook means **23** tightly engage the rear side **25** of the board B. Attaching means, including a length of chain **28**, is utilized for attaching an article to the mounting **20**. The chain **28** has one end thereof secured to the housing **26** (FIGS. 2 and 3) and its other end includes a connection, in this instance a spring clip **32**, that is adapted to engage an article or to be threaded through the article and connected to the main length of the chain to provide a closed loop on which the article may be retained.

The bracket **21** comprises a generally rectangular-shaped plate **33** having spaced portions **34** at one side thereof curled or rolled over to retain and pivotally secure the connecting or bight portion, indicated at **35**, of the hook means **23** to the plate **33**. A laterally extending flange **36** may be provided on the opposite side edge of the plate portion **33** for strengthening the latter and to limit forward pivotal movement of the bracket **21** away from the display surface **22**.

The hook means **23** in this instance is a wire bail which includes the bight portion **35** and the transversely spaced arms **24**. The arms **24** are spaced from each other by a distance substantially equal to that of the spacing between an adjacent pair of perforations, indicated at **37**, in the board B so that the arms **24** can be inserted in any convenient pair of the perforations **37**.

In order to prevent disengagement of the arms **24** after insertion through a pair of the perforations **37**, the arms have their outer ends **38** bent substantially at a right angle to provide hooks (FIG. 2) for engagement with the rear side **25** of the board B. The relative lengths of the straight portions and the bent ends **38** of the arms **24** depends on the thickness of the material of the board B and thus the arms are so proportioned as to permit their insertion through the perforations **37** at the front side of the board B in the manner shown at the bottom of FIG. 2. When fully mounted, it will be noted that the outer bent ends **38** of the arms **24** engage the rear side **25** of the board B at their remote ends, the straight portions of the arms engaging the side walls of the perforations **37** to support the plate **33**.

The housing **26** in this instance preferably comprises a cylindrical cup having an annular side wall **42** and a flat outer end wall **43** (FIG. 2), the internal diameter of the housing **26** being such as to wholly enclose the bracket **21** when the inner annular end or free edge, indicated at **44**, of the housing is engaged with the side **22** of the display surface **12**. The axial depth of the cup **13** is sufficient to accommodate the arms **24** when the latter have been pivoted toward the plate portion **33** of the bracket **21**, as shown in FIG. 5 and described hereinafter.

The end wall **43** is provided with a reinforcing boss or insert **45** mounted in an opening **46** (FIG. 2) therethrough and secured therein by staking **47** at its inner end. The insert **33** is adapted to receive the screw **27** and has an unthreaded bore **48** therethrough.

The chain **28** is secured to the housing **26** by means of an anchor member, which, in the present instance, is in the form of hook **52**. The anchor member or hook **52** may be formed from a length of heavy wire or rod, circular in cross section, and bent to provide a bight portion **53** and a shank portion **54**. The bight portion **53** is adapted to engage the end link of the chain **28** and the shank portion **54** is adapted to detchably engage the side wall **42** of the housing **26** in a novel manner, as will now be described.

Thus, as best seen in FIGS. 1 and 4, the side wall **42** of the housing **26** is provided with a slot **56** which extends inwardly or toward the front end wall **43** from the annular end edge **44** for receiving the shank portion **54** of the hook. The slot **56** has a width somewhat less than the diameter of the shank portion **54**, and the latter includes a reduced portion, which in the present instance, is formed by a pair of opposed flats **57**. The reduced portion of the shank **54** defined by the flats **57** thus permits insertion of the former in the slot **56** in the manner illustrated in FIG. 4 by shifting the flats **57** on the shank portion laterally into the slot **56**.

In order to secure the anchor **52** to the side wall **42** of the housing **26** the end of the shank portion **54** includes an abutment in the form of an enlarged head **58** that is adapted to engage the inner surface of the housing side wall **42**. Because the shank portion **54** has a greater diameter than the width of the slot **56**, the inner end of the slot is enlarged, as at **59**, to receive the shank portion **54**. The slot **56** thus has a "keyhole" shape. Thus, when the flats **57** of the anchor have been shifted into the inner end **59** of the slot **56**, the former may be shifted radially outwardly until the enlarged head **58** engages the inner surface of the sidewall **42** in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. When so engaged, the anchor **52** is free to rotate or swivel in the enlarged portion **59**, and the anchor cannot be disengaged from the housing **56** due to the interlocked relation of the shank portion **54** in the enlarged inner end **59** of the slot. The housing **26** and connected attaching means **28** may thus be readily manipulated without disengagement of the anchor and attaching means from the housing.

When the annular end wall **44** of the housing **26** is engaged with the side **22** of the display surface, the open end of the slot **56** is closed by the display surface. Thus, the anchor **52** cannot be disengaged from the sidewall **42** of the housing even if the flats **57** are moved into alignment with the slot **56** and the anchor shifted in the slot toward its open end.

In order to maintain the end edge **44** of the housing **26** engaged with the display surface **22** and to maintain the bent ends **38** of the arms **24** engaged with the rear side **25** of the board B, the screw **27** includes an enlarged pilfer-resistant head **62** and a threaded shank **63**, the latter being sufficiently long to extend through the bore **48** in the insert **45** and into engagement with a threaded bore **64** formed in an upstanding boss **66** (FIGS. 1, 2, and 3) in the plate portion **33** of the bracket **21**. The outer end of the insert **45** is recessed, as at **67**, to wholly receive the rounded and flattened screw head **62** (FIG. 2) so that the outer end face thereof will be flush with that of the insert **45** when the head **62** is completely received in the recess **67**. The internal diameter of the recess **67** is somewhat greater than that of the screw head **62** so that when the latter is fully nested in the former, an annular clearance space is defined therebetween. The shank **63** of the screw **27** is short enough so that its inner end remains spaced from the surface **22** when the screw is fully tightened (FIG. 2). Thus, when the screw head **62** is fully seated in the recess **67**, the pilfer-proof features of the mounting **20** are realized as the screw head **62** is inaccessible for manipulation by conventional tools.

In order to effect intentional engagement and disengagement of the screw **27**, a special tool **70** is contemplated. The tool **70**, in the present instance, comprises a shallow cup member having an end wall **71** and an annular side wall **72**. A pin **73** is mounted in the end wall **71** so as to extend axially of the cup member with one end **74** of the pin **73** disposed substantially flush with the end edge of the side wall **72**. The side wall **72** has an axial length substantially equal to that of the screw head **62** and a radial thickness substantially equal to the annular clearance space between the inner side wall of the recess **67** and the outer diameter of the screw head **62**. The screw head **62**, in the present instance, includes at least one aperture or bore **76** adjacent the perimeter thereof for receiving the end **74** of the pin **73**.

Thus, when the tool **70** is engaged with the screw head **62** by inserting the end **74** of the pin **73** into the aperture **76** with the annular side wall **72** disposed in the space between the screw head and the adjacent side wall of the recess **67**, manipulation of the screw **27** is a simple matter. Without the tool **70**, manipulation of the screw **27** is extremely difficult.

To facilitate such manipulation of the tool **70**, the latter includes a handle which, in the present instance, comprises a flat washer **79** secured at a flattened side edge **82**, as by welding, to the outer side of the end wall **71**, in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Once engaged, the screw **27** serves as an interlock to prevent withdrawal of the arms **24** and hence the bracket **21** from the display surface **22**. Any attempt to shift the housing **26** laterally is prevented by the screw **27** which rigidly connects the housing **26** and the bracket **21**. When the screw **27** is properly tightened, frictional engagement of the screw head **62** in the recess **67** and frictional engagement of the annular end edge **44** of the housing **26** with the surface **22** will normally prevent rotation of the housing. Moreover, even if extreme force is applied to the housing, rotation will be limited by engagement of the enlarged head **58** of the anchor **52** with the arms **24** because of their close proximity to the inner surface of the housing side wall **42**.

From the foregoing, it will be understood that the device is installed or dismounted from the display board B by manipulations occurring solely at the front side of the board and it is unnecessary to provide any special connections at the rear side of the board in order to prevent casual removal of the device.

In FIG. 5, the mounting **20** is illustrated in a mounted operable position on an imperforate display surface **83** such as a counter or table top, indicated at C. In such an application, the arms **24** are not used, the plate portion **33** being secured to the display surface by conventional fasteners, such as a pair of wood screws **84**. Spaced openings **86** (FIG. 3) are provided in the plate portion **33** for this purpose. In such an application, the arms **24** are, of course, inoperative and are swung to the position illustrated in FIG. 5. When thus mounted, the pilfer-proof character of the mounting **10** is the same as when secured to the perforated display board B.

In FIGS. 6 to 8, inclusive, a modified construction of the pilfer-proof mounting of the present invention is illustrated, the latter being indicated generally at **90** and comprising a second embodiment thereof. Like reference numerals have been used to identify parts identical with the mounting **20**. The mounting **90** differs from the mounting **20** in the construction of its mounting member or bracket, indicated at **91**, and the tool, indicated at **92**, employed to effect threaded engagement or disengagement of the screw which secures the mounting to the display surface.

Thus, the mounting member or bracket **91** comprises an elongated plate portion **93** having a pair of integral transversely spaced arms **94** extending from one side **95** thereof. The arms **94** include portions **96** which extend perpendicularly from the plane of the plate portion **93** and portions **97** which are bent at a right-angle to the portions **96** so as to lie in a plane generally parallel to the plate portion **93**. The portions **97** are thus adopted to engage the rear side **25** of the perforated board B when the mounting **90** is secured thereto. In the illustrated construction of the bracket **91**, a built-up or laminated arrangement is utilized in the plate portion **93**. Thus, the arms **94** are formed integrally in a separate piece **98** of a sheet of thinner gauge material (FIG. 6) as by stamping or the like, the piece **98** thereafter being secured as by welding to a congruently-shaped piece **99** to thus form the plate portion **93** of the bracket **91**. Alternatively, the arms **97** could be formed integrally with the plate portion **93** as a one-piece structure.

As in the mounting **20**, the bracket **91** is provided with a threaded opening **101** for receiving the threaded shank portion **63** of a screw **102**, and a pair of spaced holes **103** (FIG. 7) are provided for receiving wood screws **84** (FIG. 8) therethrough to facilitate mounting of the bracket on an imperforate display surface, such as the surface **83**. For such a mounting, the bracket **91** is mounted on its side **104** opposite the side **95**, so that the arms **94** extend away from the surface as shown in FIG. 8.

As previously mentioned, the mounting **90** employs a tool **92** which differs from the tool **70** of the previous embodiment. Thus, as best seen in FIG. 6, the tool **92** in the present instance is bifurcated in the nature of a spanner wrench and may be formed from a length of heavy wire which is bent into the shape of a U to provide a pair of spaced ends **106**. Because of the bifurcated ends **106** utilized in the tool **92**, the pilfer-resistant head, indicated at **107**, of the screw **102** is provided with a pair of radially spaced bores or apertures **108** for receiving the ends **106** when it is desired to manipulate the screw **102**.

Referring now to FIGS. 9 and 10, another pilfer proof mounting **110** is illustrated, the latter being adapted to connect articles such as small hand tools and/or appliances having an appliance cord extending therefrom to a display surface. As with the previous mountings, the mounting **110** is adapted to be secured either to a perforated board type display surface, such as that formed by the perforated board B, or to an imperforate display surface such as is formed by a conventional wooden counter or table top C. Like reference numerals have been used to identify parts of the mounting **110** identical with the previous embodiments.

As will be apparent from FIG. 9, the mounting **110** includes a mounting member or bracket **21** such as is employed in the mounting **20**, and a cup-shaped housing **26**, circular in cross section, which encloses the bracket **21** and engages the side **22** of a perforated board type display surface. A screw, such as the screw **27** holds the housing engaged with the display surface.

The annular side wall **42** is provided with a slot **56** extending inwardly from the annular end edge **44** thereof, the inner end of which is enlarged in the same manner as in the housing **26** of the mounting **20**.

The mounting **110** differs from the previous embodiments in that the attaching means thereof, indicated at **111**, is particularly adapted to embrace and retain an appliance cord K, such as is employed in small power tools and appliances (not shown). It will be understood that one end of the cord K is connected to a power tool or appliance and that the other end thereof is provided with a typical outlet plug P for supplying current to the appliance.

The attaching means **111** thus comprises a yoke or U-shaped bail member **112** having a bight portion **113** and spaced arms **114**, the ends of which are bent into loops **115** and **116** disposed in parallel planes perpendicular to the plane of the yoke **112**. The opening in the loop **115** is somewhat smaller than that of the loop **116** and an elongated anchor member **117** is shiftably mounted in the loop **115**.

The anchor **117**, in the present instance, comprises an elongated pin, circular in cross section, and having an abutment in the form of an enlarged domed head **118** at one end thereof, and another radially enlarged abutment **119** at its other end. The head **118** is small enough to pass through the opening in the loop **116**, as indicated in FIG. 10, but will not pass through the opening in the loop **115**. The abutment **119** will not pass through the loop **115** so that the pin **117** is permanently loosely mounted in the loop **115**.

The major portion of the pin **117** has a diameter somewhat greater than the width of the slot **56**. Thus, in order to permit engagement of the anchor or pin **117** in the slot **56** of the housing **26**, the former is provided with a reduced portion, in this instance a pair of flats **122** formed immediately below the head **118**. The flats **122** permit lateral shifting of the pin **117** into the slot **56** in the housing **26** in the manner of the previous embodiment. The pin has a length somewhat greater than the spacing of the arms **114** of the yoke **112** to permit the flats **122** to be shifted to a position outwardly of the loop **116**, as shown in FIG. 10. Such position is ob-

tained when the head **118** has been axially shifted through the opening in the loop **116** and the abutment **119** engages the loop **115**.

Thus, when it is desired to display an article such as a power tool or appliance having a cord, such as the cord K having the plug P at one end thereof, from a display surface such as the side **22** of the perforated board B, the user proceeds as follows.

Initially, the bracket **21** of the mounting **110** is mounted in a spaced pair of perforations **37** in the board B in the manner of the previous embodiments. Thereafter, the pin **117** is shifted in the yoke **112** so that the head **118** engages the loop **115**. The open yoke **112** is then fitted around the cord K at any convenient point along its length until the cord is generally disposed adjacent the bight portion **113** of the yoke, and the pin **117** is then shifted axially until the head **118** extends through the opening in the loop **116** with the abutment **119** engaging the loop **115**. The cord K is thus wholly enclosed by the yoke **112** and pin **117**. Thereafter, the flats **122** on the projecting end of the pin **117** are aligned with the slot **56** in the side wall **42** of the housing **26** and the pin and yoke are shifted into the slot. The housing **26** is then secured to the display surface **22** of the board B in the same manner as in the previous embodiments by the threading of the screw **27** into the bracket **21**. When thus installed, the anchor member or pin **117** serves the dual function of securing the yoke to the housing **26** and also serves as a closure for the open end of the yoke. In addition, because of the loose fit of the anchor pin **117** in the loops **115** and **117** of the yoke **112**, the latter is free to rotate about the pin. Because the usual applicance cord, such as the cord K, is provided with an outlet plug P of substantially greater size than the diameter of the cord, the plug cannot be pulled through the opening in the yoke. The tool or appliance at the other end of the cord is thus effectively secured to the display surface **22** and casual theft thereof is discouraged.

It will be understood that the mounting **110** could employ a mounting member or bracket such as the bracket **91** of the mounting **90**, if desired, and that the mounting **110** could be mounted on an imperforate display surface such as a counter or table top C.

Referring now to FIGS. 11–14, inclusive, another pilfer proof mounting **130** is illustrated, the latter comprising a fourth embodiment of the invention. The mounting **130** differs from the previous embodiments in that it is adapted to receive and retain a plurality of attaching means, such as the chain **28** or the yoke and pin means **111** of the previous embodiment, for displaying a plurality of articles therefrom. The mounting **130** further differs from the previous embodiments in that it is particularly adapted for installation on an upright, elongated member or hollow post **131** of the type having a plurality of spaced perforations or slots **132** formed in at least one of its wall portions, in this instance the front wall **133**. In the present instance, a plurality of the posts **131** are arranged in laterally spaced relation and are connected by a series of laterally extending frame members **134** to provide a rack R. The rack R may be provided with one or more shelves S for supporting articles to be displayed, and the open areas of the rack R may be closed by perforated board type panels, indicated at B.

In FIG. 11, the mountings **130** are shown mounted on the posts **131** immediately above the shelves S so that one or more articles to be displayed, such as an electric iron I, or the like, may be supported on the shelves S while secured to the mountings **130**. In certain applications, the articles to be displayed could hang freely from the mountings **130**, such as when comparatively light weight articles are to be displayed.

Referring now to FIGS. 12 and 13 in conjunction with FIG. 11, the mounting **130** comprises a cup-shaped housing **135** which in the present instance, is elongated and rectangular in cross section. The housing **135** thus includes upper and lower longitudinally spaced end walls **136** and **137**, respectively, laterally spaced side walls **138** and **139**, respectively, and a front wall **141**. The housing **135** is adapted to be mounted with the free end edges, indicated at **142**, of the walls **136–139** engaging a display or mounting surface, in this instance the front wall **133** of the post **131**.

In order to secure the housing **135** in a desired position on the post **131**, a mounting member **145** is provided. The mounting member **145**, in the present instance, comprises a plate member **146** disposed in the housing **135** so as to lie in a plane parallel to the front wall **141**. A boss portion **147** is provided on the front or right side face of the plate member **146**, the former being provided with a threaded bore **148** therethrough for receiving the threaded shank, indicated at **149**, of a screw **150**. The plate member **146** is bored to receive the shank **149** of the screw **150** which is similar to the screw **27**. The boss portion **147** is preferably a nut secured as by welding to the front side face of the plate member **146**, but could be formed integrally therewith.

Secured to and extending laterally from the rear or left side face of the plate member **146** is a generally L-shaped arm **152**. The arm **152** is arranged with its longer leg **153** extending laterally from the inner or left face of the place member **146** and outwardly of the open side of the housing **135**. The shorter leg, indicated at **154**, of the arm **152** extends laterally of the leg **153** and in the present instance, downwardly or toward the lower end wall **137**. The portion **154**, which forms a hook, is adapted to extend through a slot **132** in the post **131** to permit the longitudinal inner side thereof, indicated at **156**, to engage the inner side, indicated at **157**, of the wall **133** of the post **131**.

Thus, when it is desired to mount the housing **135** at a particular location on the post **131**, the screw **150** is backed off a sufficient amount to permit the hook portion **154** of the arm **152** to be inserted through a particular slot **132** in the post **131** so that the inner side **156** of the leg **154** will engage the inner side **157** of the wall **133** when the housing **135** and the mounting member **145** are shifted downwardly to the position illustrated in FIG. 13. Thereafter, the screw **150** is drawn up to hold the housing engaged with the front wall **133** of the post **131**.

The housing **133** may also be mounted on an imperforate surface, such as a counter, or table top C (FIGS. 5 and 8). To this end, the front wall **141** of the housing **135** is provided with openings **158** (FIGS. 12 and 13) which are adapted to receive wood screws, or the like (not shown), for securing the housing to the imperforate surface C. In such an installation the mounting member **145** and screw **150** are unnecessary, and would be omitted from the housing **135**.

In order to prevent rotation of the housing **135** and possible loosening of the screw **150**, a lug **159** is provided on the edge **142** of the upper wall **136**, the lug **159** being adapted to extend into another slot **132** in the post **131**. Thus, when the lug **159** is engaged in a slot **132** and the screw **150** drawn up, the housing **135** is rigidly and non-rotatably secured to the front wall **133** of the post **131**.

In order to render manipulation of the head, indicated at **159**, of the screw **150** difficult and thus to provide one of the pilfer resistant features to the mounting **130**, the front wall **141** is provided with an opening **160** for receiving the screw head **159** therein. Because the material of the front wall **141** has a thickness substantially equal to that of the screw head **159**, the outer end face of the latter will lie substantially flush with the outer surface of the front wall **141** when the inner or left face of the screw head **159** is flush with the inner side of the front wall **141**. To assure this relation, a plate **155** having an opening therein substantially equal to the diameter of the screw shank **149** is secured as by welding to the rear side of the front wall **141** with the opening in the plate **155** concentric to the opening **160**. The plate **155** thus provides

an abutment for the inner face of the screw head **159**. The opening **160** has a diameter somewhat greater than that of the screw head **159** to provide an annular space therebetween, and the screw head **159** is provided with a bore or aperture, such as aperture **68** in the head **62** of the screw **27**, which facilitates manipulation thereof by a special tool, such as the tool **70**.

According to the present invention, the housing **135** of the mounting **130** is provided with a plurality of longitudinally extending slots **161** which are adapted to receive the ends of at least one and preferably a plurality of elongated attaching means, such as the chains **28** having anchor members **165** at one end thereof so that a plurality of articles may be displayed from the mounting **130**. Each anchor member **165** is adapted to coact with a slot **161** in a manner similar to that of the anchor member **52** and slot **56**. Thus, each anchor member **165** is in the form of a hook bent to provide a bight portion and a shank portion. The shank portion of the anchor member **165** is also provided with an abutment in the form of an enlarged head but does not include a reduced portion such as is formed by the flats **57** on the anchor member **52**.

Each slot **161**, in the present instance, includes a portion **162** disposed in one or the other of the side walls **138** or **139** and another portion **163** disposed in the front wall **141** so that the slots are continuous. The major portion of the slots have a width substantially equal to that of the shank portion of an anchor member **165** so that the shank portion thereof is freely shiftable in the slots. The inner ends of the slot portions **163** in the front wall **141** are enlarged as at **164** to accommodate passage of the enlarged head of an anchor member **165**.

Thus, when it is desired to connect one or more of the attaching means **28** to the housing **135**, the shank portion of an anchor member **165** is inserted into a slot **161** by shifting the enlarged head through the enlarged portion **164** and thereafter shifting the anchor into the side wall portion **162** of the slot. When so positioned, the anchor member **165**, and consequently an article secured to the other end of the chain **28**, is connected to the housing. It will be understood that more than one anchor member **165** and chain **28** could be mounted in any one slot **161**.

In order to prevent accidental disengagement of an anchor member **165** after insertion in a slot **161**, such as when other anchors are being engaged or disengaged from adjacent slots, the portions **162** of the slots in the side walls **138** and **139** may extend angularly downwardly in the housing **135**, as viewed in FIGS. 12 and 13. The anchors **165** thus tend to gravitate to the lower end of the slot portions **162** in the side walls **138** and **139**.

Assuming that one or more attaching means **28** have been mounted in the slots **161** in the manner illustrated in FIGS. 11 and 12, means must be provided for closing or otherwise covering the enlarged end portions **164** of the slots in order to prevent disengagement of the attaching means and possible pilfering of an article secured thereto. Such means, in the present instance, comprises a cover member in the form of elongated rectangular-shaped plate **166** pivotally secured to the front wall **141** adjacent the lower end wall **137** by a pin or rivet **167**. The plate **166** could also be secured to the front wall **141** adjacent the upper end wall **136**, if desired. The plate **166** has a length and width substantially equal to that of the front wall **141** such that when the former is pivoted to a position overlying the enlarged portions **164** of the slots **161**, the plate **166** will congruently engage and overlie the front wall **141** in the manner illustrated in FIGS. **11, 13** and **14**. The provision of the cover plate **166** thus permits the addition or removal of one or more attaching means **28** and articles secured thereto without demounting the housing **135** from the post **131** or a similar display surface.

For holding the plate **166** in the aforementioned position, releasable securing means in the form of a screw **168** having an enlarged pilfer-resistant head **171** and a threaded shank **172** is provided. The screw **168** is threaded into the front wall **141** in the manner illustrated in FIG. 12. The plate **166** is provided with a laterally extending slot **174** having a width substantially equal to that of the threaded shank **172** of the screw **168** to permit the shank **172** to be received in the slot **174** on pivotal movement of the plate **166** into congruent engagement with the end wall **141** without removal of the screw. To render manipulation of the screw head **171** difficult, the inner end of the slot **174** is provided with an enlarged recess **176** for receiving the enlarged head **171** of the screw **168** in nested engagement, in the manner of the previous embodiments. The screw head **171** is also provided with a bore or aperture **177** which permits manipulation thereof by a tool, such as the tool **70**, illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2.

While the slots **161** of the mounting **130** have been illustrated and described as being formed in the side walls **138** and **134**, and front wall **141**, they could also be arranged solely in the side walls **138** and **139** in the manner of the slots **56** in the mountings **20, 90** and **110**. If the latter arrangement were employed, it would be advantageous to incline the slots angularly downwardly from the edges **142** of the side walls **138** and **139**, as viewed in FIGS. 12 and 13, to prevent accidental disengagement of the anchor members **165** during installation of the mounting. This latter arrangement would also eliminate the need for the pivotal cover plate **166** and screw **168**.

In addition, the multiple slot and closure arrangement of the mounting **130** could also be employed in the housings **26** of the mountings **20, 90** and **110**. Thus, a plurality of circumferentially spaced radially extending slots could be formed in the annular side wall **42** and front wall **43** of the housing **26**, in the manner of the slots **161**. The portions of the slots in the front wall **43** would include enlarged portions for accommodating insertion of the enlarged heads of the anchor members, and a circular cover plate would be provided to cover the enlarged portions of the slots. Such cover plate could be recessed or employ a boss or insert, similar to the insert **45**, for receiving the pilfer resistant head of a screw such as the screw **27**.

While four embodiments of the invention have been herein illustrated and described, it will be understood that modifications and variations thereof may be effected without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface or the like, comprising a mounting member adapted to be secured to said surface, a cup-shaped housing adapted to enclose said member and engage said surface, said housing having an outer wall, screw means having a pilfer-resistant end portion and a threaded shank adapted to extend through said outer wall and engage said mounting member, and attaching means connected to and freely rotatable in said housing and adapted to engage said article to be displayed to prevent casual theft thereof.

2. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface or the like, comprising a mounting member adapted to be secured to said surface, a cup-shaped housing adapted to enclose said member and engage said surface, said housing having an outer wall with a recess, screw means having a pilfer-resistant end portion and a threaded shank adapted to extend through said wall and engage said mounting member with said end portion in said recess, and elongated flexible attaching means connected at one end to said housing and having its other end adapted to be connected to said article, whereby casual theft of said article is prevented.

3. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface or the like, comprising a mounting mem-

ber adapted to be secured to said surface, a cup-shaped housing adapted to enclose said mounting member and engage said surface, said housing having a side wall and an outer wall and a slot formed in at least one of said walls, screw means having a pilfer-resistant end portion and a threaded shank adapted to extend through said outer wall and engage said mounting member, an elongated anchor member having a portion at one end thereof of greater size than the width of said slot for preventing disengagement of said anchor member when the latter is disposed in said slot with said portion in said housing, and attaching means connected at one end to said anchor member and having its other end adapted to be connected to said article to be displayed, whereby casual theft of said article is prevented.

4. An anti-pilfer device for securing an article to a display surface or the like, comprising a mounting member adapted to be secured to said surface, a cup-shaped housing adapted to enclose said mounting member, said housing having a side wall with a free edge portion adapted to engage said surface and an outer wall connected to the opposite edge portion of said side wall, screw means having a pilfer-resistant end portion and a threaded shank extending through said outer wall and engaging said mounting member, said side wall being provided with at least one slot having one end thereof opening in one of said edge portions, a detachable anchor member slidably insertable in said slot through the open end thereof and having an end portion of greater size than the width of said slot for preventing disengagement of said anchor member from said housing, means for obstructing the open end of said slot when the device is installed, and attaching means connected to said anchor member and adapted to be disposed exteriorly of said housing for connection to said article.

5. The device of claim 4 further characterized in that said attaching means comprises a length of chain connected to the opposite end of said anchor member.

6. The device of claim 4 further characterized in that said attaching means comprises a yoke having spaced legs with a pair of aligned openings therethrough, and said anchor member comprises a pin of greater length than the spacing between said openings and extending loosely through said openings with enlarged abutments at both ends thereof, one of said openings being smaller than said abutments for retaining said yoke and pin in loosely connected relation, and the other of said openings being larger than the abutment on the adjacent end of the pin to permit the latter to be retracted from said other opening for attaching the yoke to an article such as an electrical appliance cord and thereafter to be projected through said other opening for insertion of the projecting end of the pin in said slot.

7. A pilfer-proof mounting according to claim 4 further characterized in that said slot has an enlarged portion at the closed end thereof remote from said open end, and said anchor member comprises a pin having a diameter greater than the width of said slot but less than the size of the enlarged closed end portion of the slot, and said pin has a reduced portion fittable in said slot, whereby said pin may be inserted in said slot when the reduced portion of said pin is aligned with said slot and said pin thereafter being shiftable axially when disposed at said enlarged closed end portion of said slot to permit said end portion to engage said housing and to prevent unintentional movement of the pin out of the slot.

8. The device of claim 4 further characterized in that the open end of said slot is adjacent the free edge portion of said side wall so that said open end is closed by said display surface when the housing is engaged therewith.

9. The device of claim 4 further characterized in that the open end of said slot is adjacent the opposite edge portion of said side wall, and said means for obstructing the open end of the slot comprises a movable cover member securable to said outer wall and adapted to overlie said opposite edge portion of said side wall.

10. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface or the like, comprising a mounting member adapted to be secured to said surface, a cup-shaped housing having a flat end wall with an opening therethrough and an annular side wall adapted to enclose said mounting member with an annular end edge adapted to engage said display surface, screw means having an end portion and a threaded shank extending through said opening in said end wall with said threaded shank engaging said mounting member, said end portion coacting with said end wall to hold said annular end edge of said housing engaged with said display surface, said housing also having an opening in the side wall thereof, and article attaching means having an end thereof extending through the opening in the side wall of said housing and having means for engaging the inner surface of said side wall for securing said attaching means to said housing, said last-named means being adapted to engage said mounting member upon rotation of said housing to limit rotation thereof.

11. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display panel of the type comprising a sheet of material having a plurality of spaced perforations therethrough, said mounting comprising a bracket having a pair of transversely spaced parallel arms extending therefrom, said arms having their outer ends bent for engagement with one side of said panel and being insertable into an adjacent pair of perforations at the opposite side of said panel, a cup-shaped housing having a flat end wall and an annular side wall enclosing said bracket and engaging said opposite side of said panel, said end wall having a recess formed therein, screw means having an end portion and a threaded shank extending through said end wall with said end portion in said recess and said threaded shank engaging said bracket to maintain said housing engaged with the opposite side of said panel, said recess receiving said end portion of said screw means so that only a limited portion of said screw means is accessible for manipulation thereof, and attaching means extending from said annular side wall of said housing for attaching said article thereto, whereby casual removal of said housing and an article secured thereto is prevented.

12. A pilfer-proof mounting according to claim 11 further characterized in that said arms are rigid with said bracket.

13. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display panel of the type comprising a sheet of material having a plurality of spaced perforations therethrough, said mounting comprising a bracket having a plate portion adapted to be secured to an imperforate surface and also having a generally U-shaped bail member pivotally connected to said plate portion, said bail member providing a pair of transversely spaced parallel arms having their outer ends bent for engagement with one side of said panel and being insertable into an adjacent pair of perforations at the opposite side of said panel, said bail member being pivotally foldable into an inoperative position adjacent said plate portion when said plate portion is secured to an imperforate surface, a housing enclosing said bracket and engaging said opposite side of said panel, means extending through said housing and into engagement with said bracket for maintaining said housing engaged with said opposite side of said panel, and attaching means extending from said housing for attaching said article thereto, whereby casual removal of said housing and an article secured thereto is prevented.

14. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing at least one article to a display surface comprising a cup-shaped housing adapted to be mounted on said display surface, said housing having an outer wall and at least one side wall having an edge engageable with said display surface, said side wall and said outer wall having at least one continuous slot therein, the portion of said slot in said outer wall

including an enlarged portion, elongated attaching means having an enlarged portion at one end thereof insertable through said enlarged portion of said slot, said one end of said attaching means thereafter being shiftable in said slot to a position in the side wall portion thereof, a cover member movable to a position covering said enlarged portion of said slot to prevent disengagement of said attaching means from said slot, said cover member also being movable to a position remote from said enlarged portion of said slot to permit engagement and disengagement of one or more attaching means in said slot without demounting said housing from said display surface, and pilfer-resistant screw means releasably securing said cover member in said position covering said enlarged portion of said slot, whereby casual theft of an article secured to the other end of said attaching means is prevented.

15. A pilfer-proof mounting according to claim **14** further characterized in that a plurality of said slots are provided in said housing.

16. A pilfer-proof mounting according to claim **14** further characterized in that said housing is of an elongated rectangular shape, and the portion of said slot in said side wall extends diagonally, whereby said attaching means is prevented from shifting in said slot toward the enlarged portion thereof when said housing is mounted on a vertical display surface.

17. The combination of claim **14** further characterized in that said cover member comprises a plate pivotally secured to said outer wall of said housing adjacent said side wall thereof.

18. A pilfer-proof mounting for securing an article to a display surface having a plurality of spaced perforations therethrough, comprising a generally rectangular cup-shaped housing having a flat outer wall and spaced side walls having edges adapted to engage said display surface at one side thereof, said outer wall and one of said side

walls having at least one continuous slot therein, the portion of said slot in said outer wall including an enlarged portion, elongated attaching means having an enlarged portion at one end thereof insertable into said housing through said enlarged portion of said slot, a cover member movable to a position covering said enlarged portion of said slot for retaining said attaching means in said slot, a mounting member adapted to be enclosed by said housing and having a portion adapted to extend through one of the perforations in said display surface and into engagement with the opposite side thereof, and pilfer-resistant screw means engaging said mounting member and holding said housing engaged with said one side of said display surface, whereby casual theft of an article secured to the other end of said attaching means is prevented.

19. The combination of claim **18** further characterized in that said cover member comprises a rectangular-shaped plate pivotally mounted on said outer wall of said housing and having an opening therein, and pilfer-resistant screw means is provided extending through said opening into said outer wall for holding said plate in position covering the enlarged portion of said slot.

20. The combination of claim **19** further characterized in that said opening in said plate comprises a slot extending substantially laterally inwardly from a longitudinal side edge of said plate, whereby said plate may be pivotally moved to uncover said slot without removing said screw means from said outer wall.

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