May 16, 1967 G. G. CHRISTENSEN 3,319,922

TROPHY MOUNT

Filed July 22, 1965

Fig. 1.

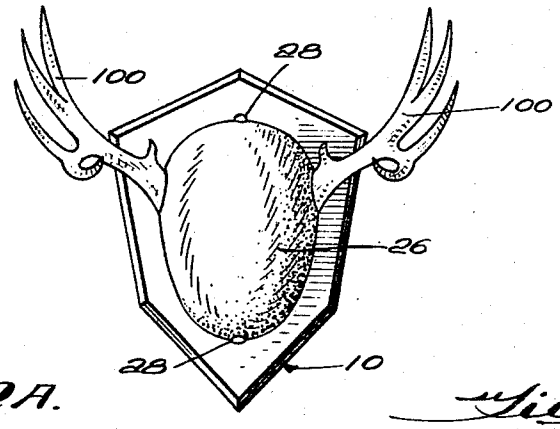


Fig. 2A.

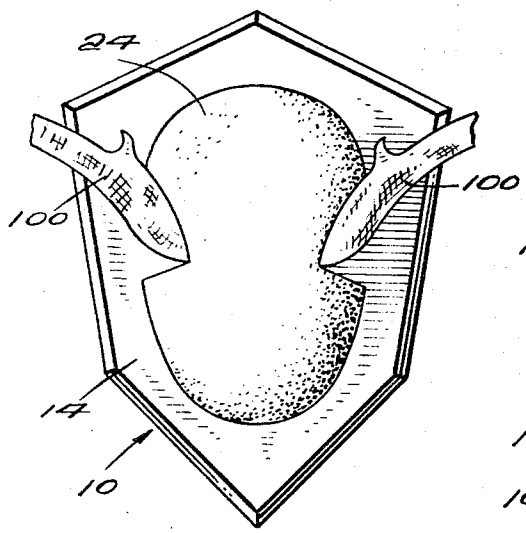
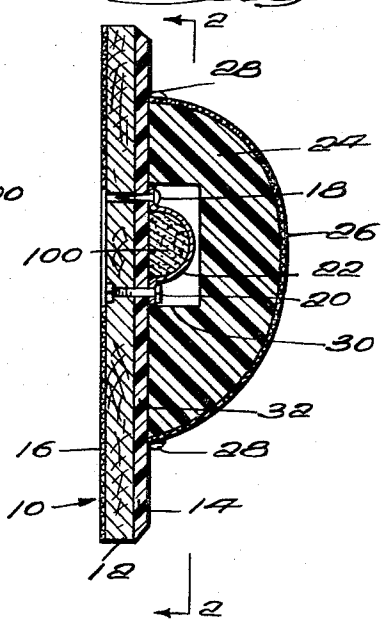


Fig. 3.



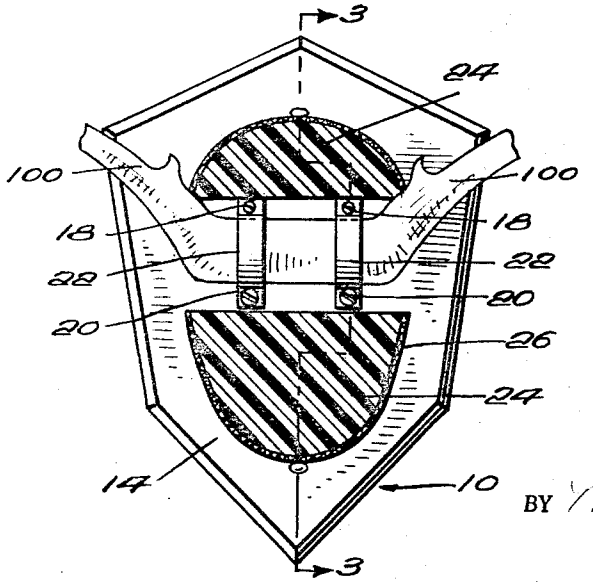


Fig. 2B.

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TROPHY MOUNT

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This invention relates generally to trophy mounts, and more particularly to trophy mounts which a sportsman can use to mount the antlers of animals in which the several parts of the mount are readily assembled and disassembled.

The mounting of antlers or horns by sportsmen for use as decorative wall plaques has long had an important place in the schemes of interior decoration of homes, offices and other rooms. No device, however, exists for mounting the antlers or horns in a simple fashion and in the past it has been necessary to place the antlers or horns in the hands of a taxidermist for mounting which is expensive.

A trophy mount has, however, now been discovered whereby the sportsman can quickly and simply mount the antlers of animals himself which is as attractive, or more attractive, than the professional taxidermist mounting. The trophy mount of this invention in general consists of a plaque to which the antlers are secured by spring steel strips and a sculptured polystyrene foam slug which will fit over the base of the antlers and, by the nature of the material, adapt and conform with the antlers.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevation view of an antler trophy mount in accordance with this invention;

FIGURE 2A is a partial front view of the mount with the fabric removed and FIGURE 2B is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 2—2 FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 3 is a vertical-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2B.

Referring now to FIGURE 1, the trophy mount of this invention includes a flat body piece **10** which is formed by a laminated chip core plywood sheet **12** (see FIGURE 3) having a hard plastic, i.e., urethane, finished facing **14**. The back of the body piece **10** has a hanging device (not shown) and is partly covered with felt sheeting **16**, see FIGURE 3, to protect the walls. The body piece **10** is pre-set and drilled to accommodate two wood screws **18** and two metal screws **20**.

The mounting mechanism for mounting antlers **100** consists of two spring steel strips **22** one on each side of body piece **10**, only one of which is shown, see FIGURE 2B. Each strip **22** has been pre-drilled in order to accommodate the wood and metal screws **18** and **20**. A covering shield or slug **24** made of sculptured styrofoam, a low density, bubble-type, polystyrene plastic made by inflating cells of polystyrene with air and sold by the Dow Chemical Co. Shield **24** is sculptured to fit and mount a variety of horn or antler sizes and is pressed over the strips **22** and the antlers **100** after they are in place. A cloth **26**,

i.e., velvet, is attached to the shield **24** by the use of tacks **28**, or adhesives, to hold the shield **24** in place and provide a desirable appearance. The shield **24** is a half-sphere in shape and is sculptured to have an ovoidal appearance in plan view. Shield **24** also has a cut-out **30** in the flat, i.e., rear, side **32** which is placed against the body piece **10** during assembly. Cut-out **30** is adapted to fit over the antlers **100** and the portion of the animal's skullplate which is normally associated therewith. In view of the generally spherical shape of the shield **24**, the cut-out **30** has an indentation **34** at each end into which the antlers will extend in an upwardly direction. The cut-out **30** of shield **24** is sized to fit antlers of varying sizes and desirably is on the small side so that when the mount is assembled the shield can be pressed onto the body piece over the antlers. Of course, the shield **24** can be a hollowed out shield, if desired, to conserve material.

In mounting, the antlers **100** are positioned in the center of the body piece **10** and marked. The steel spring strips **22** are then attached at the top portion of the piece **10** using the wood screws **18**. At this point the antlers **100** are positioned under the mounting strips and the metal screws **20** are then inserted through the back of the body piece **10** at the lower portion thereof. The metal screws are then tightened to cinch the antlers **100** tightly to the body piece **10** through bending and tightening of steel strips **22**. Shield **24** is then pressed over the antlers **100** at the mounting mechanism to attach it to the body piece **10**. Fabric **26** is then placed over the shield **24**, arranged as desired and attached to the body piece **10** by driving the burnished tacks **28** into the body piece **10** at the top and the bottom of the shield.

It is claimed:

A trophy mount for antlers or horns of animals in which the several parts are readily and easily assembled and disassembled comprising a flat body piece adapted to be supported from a wall and predrilled with four holes forming a quadrangle approximately in the center thereof, the antlers being adapted to be placed between the upper pair and the lower pair of said holes, two steel spring strips adapted to be placed over the antlers when said antlers are placed on said body piece, first means extending into the upper pair of holes for separately securing one end of each of said strips to said body piece, second means extending into the lower pair of holes for separately securing the other end of each of said strips to said body piece and for bending said strips about said antlers to thereby cinch the antlers to said body piece, a half-ovoidal shaped shield of foamed polystyrene pressed against said body piece over said steel strips, and a fabric arranged over said shield and secured to said body piece, said shield having an at least partially hollow interior with the hollow being arranged over said steel strips.

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