July 5, 1960 J. F. FLEMING 2,943,372

CLIPBOARD

Filed June 13, 1957

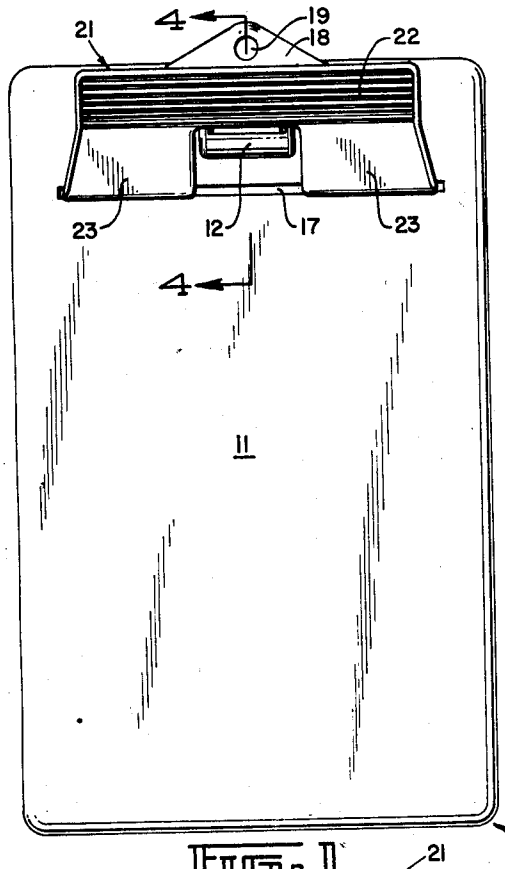

FIG. 1

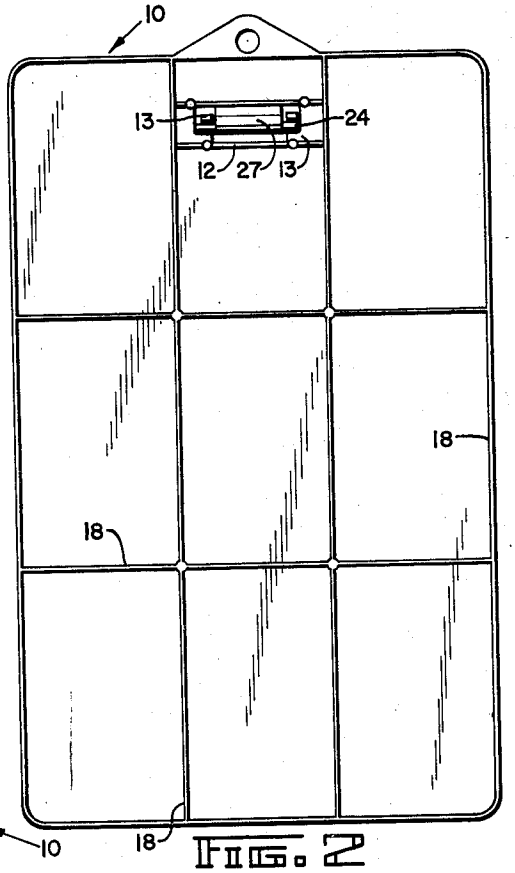

FIG. 2

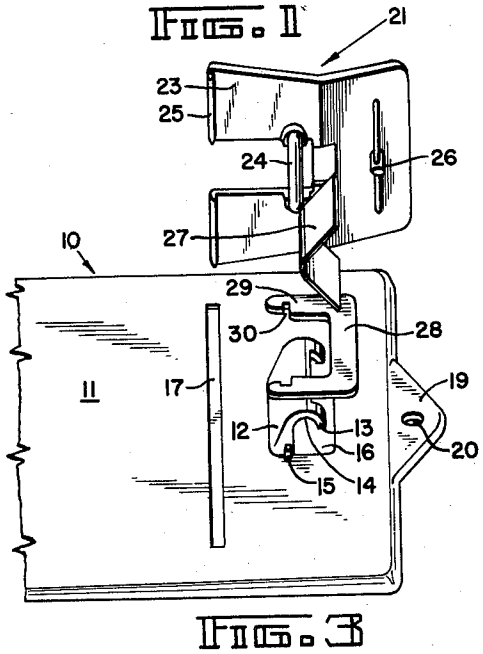

FIG. 3

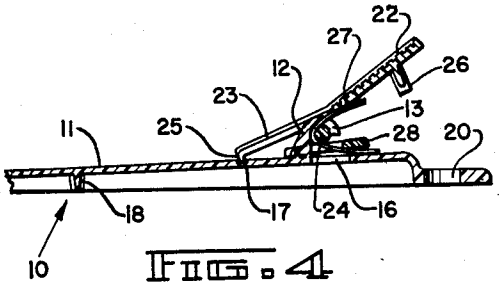

FIG. 4

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CLIPBOARD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—66)

This invention relates to clipboards, and particularly to a clipboard of the "bulldog" type, in which the clip member is pivoted intermediate its forward and rearward ends so that the forward portion is lifted when the rearward portion is depressed.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a new and improved clipboard which has few parts and is economical to manufacture.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clipboard which is preferable in many cases to the clipboards heretofore used because of its ease of assembly and its trouble-free operation.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a clipboard constructed by the mere assembly of a small number of cooperating parts, each of which, with the exception of a spring, is an integrally molded piece of a thermoplastic resin, such as a suitable polystyrene or polyethylene resin.

The clipboard provided according to this invention includes a body having a surface to receive sheet material and a member extending upwardly from said body and forming a bearing spaced above and facing toward said surface. A clip member is provided which has a backward portion to receive pressure, a forward portion to bear against the surface, and an axle between these portions. The axle is received and turnable in the bearing. Resilient means are compressed between the backward portion and the body to urge the axle upwardly against the bearing and bias the forward portion towards the surface, so that clip member is turnable on the axle to lift the forward portion away from the board surface by applying to the backward portion a pressure overcoming the force of the resilient means. And a retaining member is disposed between the axle and the body in a manner to prevent the removal of the axle from the bearing by the pressure applied to the clip members.

According to a further feature of the invention, each part of the device, except the resilient means, is made as a single molded piece of a suitable resin, such as a polystyrene or polyethylene resin.

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages hereof will become apparent from the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment, while the new features of construction and operation which I claim as my invention will be set forth more particularly in the appended claims. The detailed description refers to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the clipboard of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view;

Fig. 3 is an exploded view of the clamping assembly; and

Fig. 4 is a side view in cross-section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

As appears from the drawings, the clipboard of the invention has a body or "board" **10** having a substantially flat sheet material receiving surface **11**. Formed

integrally with said body is an upwardly extending member **12** having downwardly curved extensions **13**. Member **12** and extensions **13** form a bearing **14** spaced above and facing surface **11**. On either side of member **12**, and formed as integral parts of said member and body **10**, are tabs **15**. If desired, the portion **16** of body **10** below bearing **14** may be omitted so as to conserve material. A groove **17** spaced forwardly of member **12** may also be formed in body **10**. In order to further conserve material without impairing the rigidity of body **10**, the body may be constructed as a thin sheet of a suitable resin with intersecting, downwardly extending ribs **18**. The body may also have an integral extension **19**, with a hole **20** therein, on its backward edge, so that the clipboard may be hung upon a retainer extending from a vertical surface, such as a wall.

A clip member **21** is provided having a backward portion **22**, which may be suitably grooved to facilitate the application of pressure thereto, a pair of spaced legs **23** forming a forward portion which engages the surface **11**, and an axle **24** formed integrally with, and extending between legs **23**. Axle **24** is spaced from the forward edge of portion **22** so that extensions **13** will be between said forward edge and the axle, as best seen in Fig. 4. In a preferred form, downwardly extending flanges **25** integral with the forward edge of legs **23** cooperate with groove **17** to firmly grip the sheet material therebetween. In order to increase the strength of backward portion **22** and to provide a limit to the upward movement of legs **23**, a rib **26** may be formed integrally with, and on the lower surface of said backward portion **22** of the clip member.

A leaf spring **27** which is bent around axle **24** has one end contacting the lower surface of portion **22** and the other end contacting the portion of surface **11** located rearwardly of opening **16**. As best shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the spring is located between curved extensions **13** on either side and between axle **24** and member **12** where it is bent about the axle. Because of the location of spring **27** relative to the other parts of the clipboard, said spring is compressed between the backward portion **22** and surface **11** of body **10**, thereby urging axle **24** upwardly against bearing **14** and biasing legs **25** towards surface **11**. The clip member is turnable on axle **24** to lift legs **25** away from surface **11** by applying pressure on backward portion **22** sufficient to overcome the force of spring **27**.

In order to prevent the axle from becoming accidentally dislodged from bearing **14** when downward pressure is applied to backward portion **22**, a U-shaped locking member **28** is provided. Legs **29** of the locking member have notches **30** in their inner surfaces engageable with tabs **15** to hold the locking member in place. The thickness of the locking member is such that it will not permit axle **24** to go below the extensions **13** thereby preventing its accidental dislodgment from bearing **14**. As best seen in Fig. 4, the portion of locking member **28** connecting legs **29** preferably overlies a portion of spring **27** in order to facilitate the assembly and disassembly of the device.

According to a further feature of the invention, the body, the clip member and the locking member are each formed by filling a mold cavity with a suitable resin, such as polystyrene or polyethylene, while the resin is in a molten state and then cooling the molded resin. The mold cavities are shaped so that each molded piece is formed integrally with all its structural elements which cooperate with other parts of the clipboard. Thus body **10** is formed integrally with member **12** and extensions **13**, tabs **15**, opening **16**, groove **17**, ribs **18** and extensions **19**; clip member **21** is formed with integrally molded legs **23**, axle **24**, flanges **25** and rib **26**; and locking mem-

ber 28 is formed integrally with legs 29 and notches 30.

The clipboard of the invention is readily assembled by positioning the spring about the axle and against the facing surfaces of body 10 and rearward portion 22, pressing the clip member downwardly and forwardly so that the axle underlies bearing 14, and then pushing locking member 28 forwardly with legs 29 leading, until notches 30 engage tabs 15. This manner of assembly is economical and can be accomplished with a minimum number of operations.

It will be evident that the invention provides a clipboard which is inexpensive, easily operated and extremely durable.

I claim:

1. In a device for holding sheet material, a body having a surface to receive such material, a member extending upwardly from said body and forming a bearing spaced above and facing toward said surface, tabs extending outwardly from each of the sides of said upwardly extending member and upwardly from said surface, a clip member having a backward portion to receive pressure, a forward portion to bear against said surface and an axle between said portions, said axle being received and turnable in said bearing, resilient means compressed between said backward portion and said body to urge said axle upwardly against said bearing and bias said forward portion towards said surface, said clip member being turnable on said axle to lift said forward portion away from said surface by applying to said backward portion a pressure overcoming the force of said resilient means, and a U-shaped member having forwardly extending legs with notches in the inner surface

of each of said legs engaged with said tabs, said member being mounted between said axle and said body to prevent removal of said axle from said bearing by such pressure.

2. In a device for holding sheet material, a body having a surface to receive such material, a member extending upwardly from said body and forming a bearing spaced above and facing toward said surface, a clip member having a backward portion to receive pressure, a forward portion to bear against said surface and an axle between said portions, said axle being received and turnable in said bearing, resilient means compressed between said backward portion and said body to urge said axle upwardly against said bearing and bias said forward portion towards said surface, said clip member being turnable on said axle to lift said forward portion away from said surface by applying to said backward portion a pressure overcoming the force of said resilient means, said bearing being spaced from said body by a distance sufficient for assembly of said clip member and said resilient means by the application of pressure to the clip member and movement of said axle between said bearing and said body, and a locking member removably fitted beneath said axle in the space between said axle and said body to prevent removal of said axle from said bearing by such pressure.

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