Oct. 14, 1969 G. W. BLASE 3,472,388

BRACKET FOR WICKETED BAGS

Filed Jan. 17, 1968 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

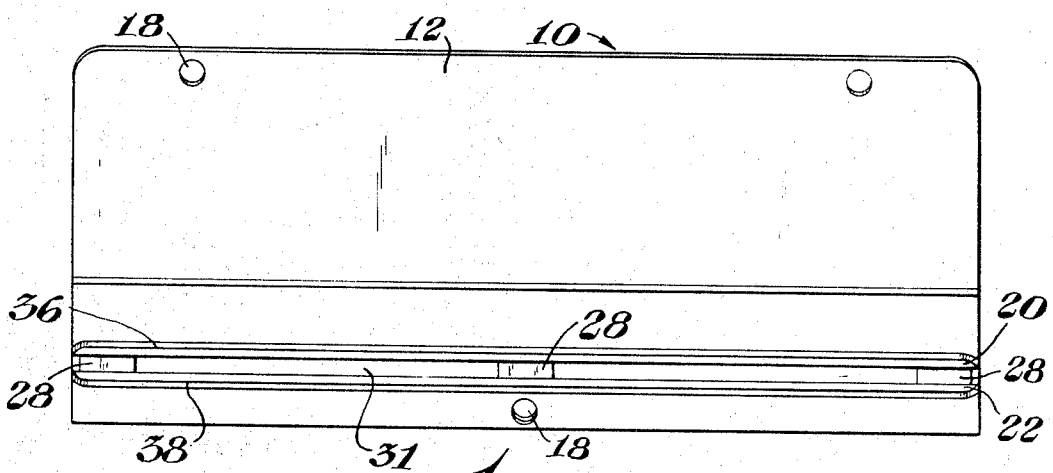



Fig. 1

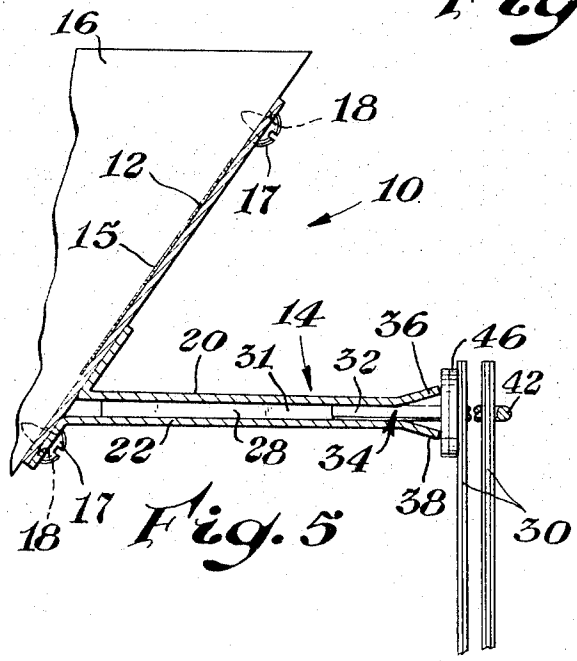



Fig. 5

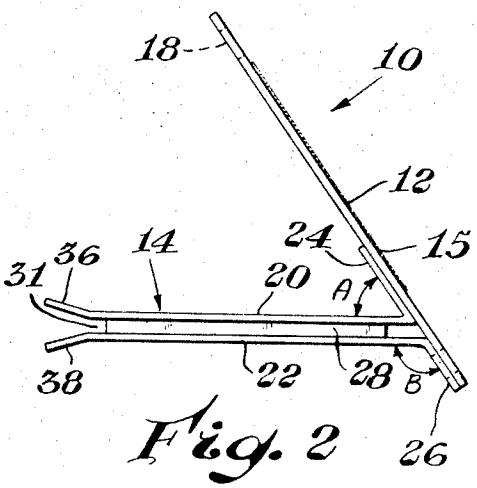



Fig. 2

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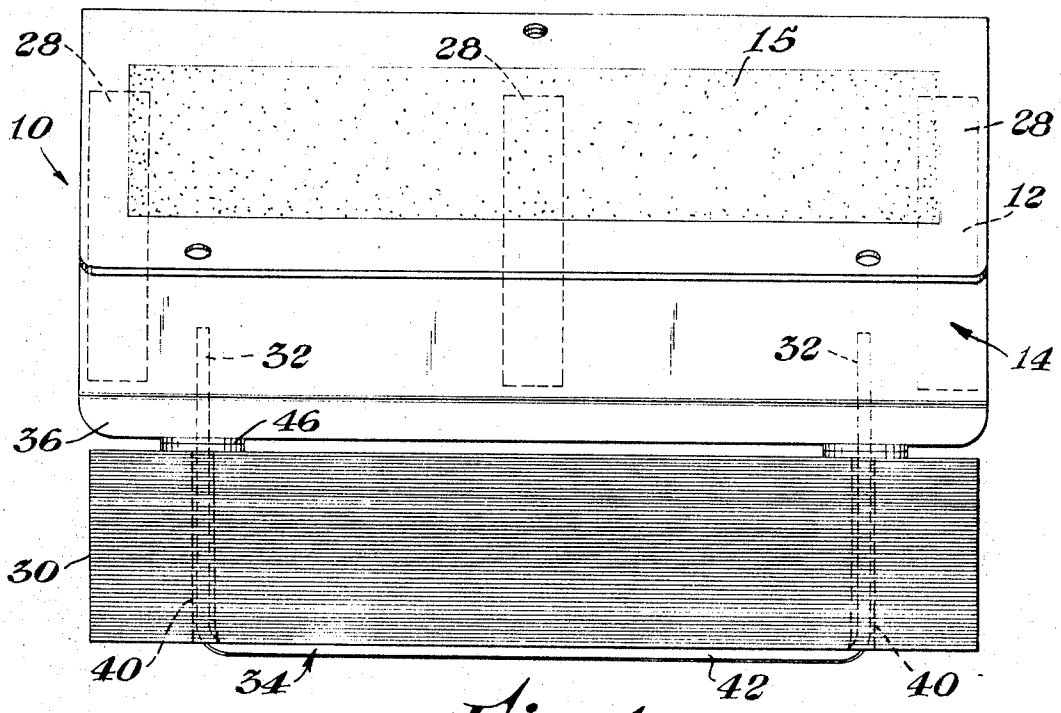



Fig. 4

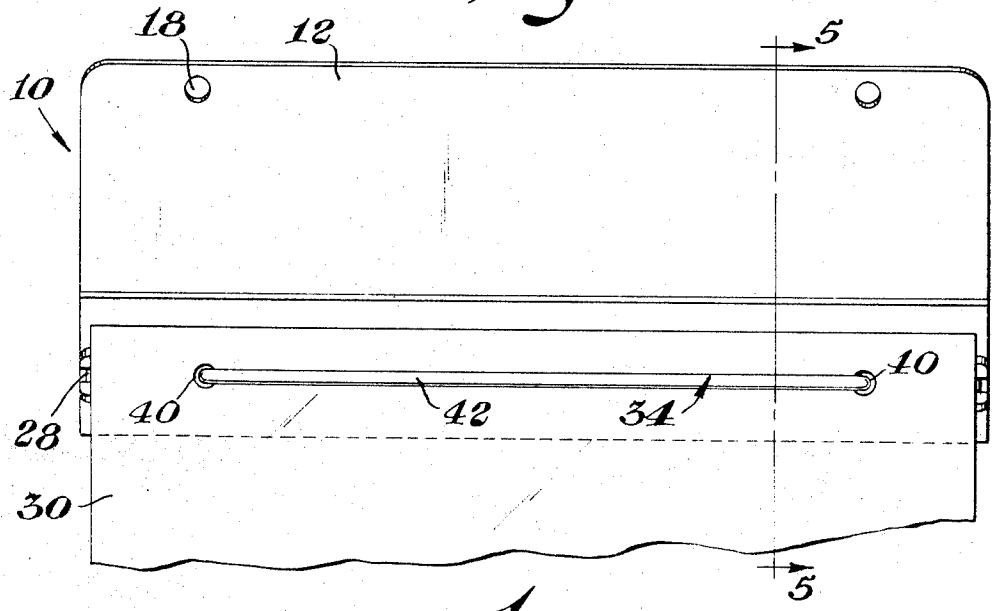



Fig. 3

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# BRACKET FOR WICKETED BAGS

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Int. Cl. A47f 7/00, 5/00
U.S. Cl. 211—57 8 Claims

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bracket for receiving wicketed thermoplastic bags. The bracket is specifically designed for mounting on display cases having an angular front face. Included is a wicket receiver which is adapted to accept various size wickets as, for example, one inch to seven inches wide wickets. No backing is necessary for the wicketed bags so that once the bags are removed from the bracket nothing unsightly remains on the wicket.

## DESCRIPTION

There has been a need for a bracket with considerable flexibility for handling wickets of thermoplastic bags, which bags can be displayed and dispensed one at a time. The prior art has failed to provide a bracket which readily receives various size wickets, is inexpensive, requires no other backing, is relatively easy to assemble and install, and which presents a neat and orderly display. It is an object of the present invention to provide a bracket for holding and dispensing wicketed plastic bags which overcomes all the above enumerated disadvantages of the prior art.

Briefly, the present invention involves a bracket having a back plate adapted to be mounted on a display case having a front panel at an angle to the vertical. Extending outward from the back plate and at an angle thereto, so as to be substantially horizontal, is a wicket receiver.

The wicket receiver basically comprises two steel angle plates placed back to back in spaced relationship and secured to the back plate. Spacers are positioned at each end and in the center between facing surfaces of the aforesaid angle plates to form an elongated slot. The wicket holder usually is a U-shaped wire; the ends of which are adapted to frictionally fit within the slot of the wicket receiver. Because the slot is elongated, wickets of varying size are receivable.

Yet additional objects and advantages of the present invention are even more apparent when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which like characters of reference designate corresponding material and parts throughout the several views thereof, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of a bracket, without a wicket installed, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the bracket;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view of the bracket with a wicket held therein;

FIGURE 4 is a top plan of the bracket and wicket of FIGURE 3; and

FIGURE 5 is a cross-sectional view thereof taken along reference line 5—5 of FIGURE 3.

Bracket **10** includes a back plate **12** and a wicket receiver **14** all of which is preferably made from sheet steel sections spot welded together and finished with a surgical white baked enamel. The back plate **12** is adapted to be secured to the front of a produce display case **16** (see FIGURE 5). Such display cases have a front panel which is generally tapered inwardly from the top to bottom. The back plate can contain a pressure sensitive adhesive **15** for affixing the back plate **12** to the produce



display case **16** and/or can be secured thereto by screws **17** extending through holes **18** in the bracket **10**.

A wicket receiver **14** comprises two plates **20** and **22** extending horizontally outwardly from back plate **12**. Upper plate **20** is integrally formed at an acute angle A with a back flange **24**. When back flange **24** is welded onto back plate **12**, plate **20** is disposed into its horizontal position. Likewise lower plate **22** is integrally formed at an obtuse angle B with a back flange **26** so that when it is secured to back plate **12** the lower plate **22** will be disposed into its horizontal position, but spaced from upper plate **20** to define a slot **31** therebetween. The actual inclination of angles A and B will depend on the angular disposition of back plate **12** from the vertical. Angle A in the past has been either at 55° and 80° from the vertical, which fits most commercial display cases on the market today.

Located between the plates **20** and **22** of wicket receiver **14** are a plurality of spacers **28**. These are preferably spot welded to each of the plates **20** and **22** and are of a thickness so that they just snugly fit within the slot **31** formed between the two plates to keep them properly spaced from one another. In the embodiment shown a spacer **28** is located generally at each end and at the middle along slot **31**.

The width (height) of slot **31** is determined by the diameter of the wire forming wicket **34**, the ends **32** of the wicket being friction fitted within the slot. Usually this is a 0.135 inch diameter wire which fits within a ⅛ inch slot. Wicket **34** shown in FIGURE 3 is of the usual U-shape and is relatively wide spanning substantially the entire length of slot **31**. Preferably, the ends **36** and **38** of upper plate **20** and lower plate **22** are beveled upwardly and downwardly, respectively, to permit ease of insertion of the wicket ends.

Because the wicket is received within an elongated slot, the width of the wicket and the bag for dispensing can vary considerably. For example, a bracket which is about eight inches wide can receive wickets ranging from about one to seven inches in width.

In operation, a plurality of bags **30** having apertures **40** extending therethrough are slipped over the ends **32** and against the bight portion **42** of wicket **34**. Friction fitting gaskets **46** are then slipped over each end **32** to hold the bags towards the bight portion **42** of the wicket **34**. The wicket ends **32** are then inserted into slot **31** and are frictionally held within the wicket receiver **14** for display and dispensing of the bags **30** held by the wicket. As each bag is removed, it is pulled downwardly, the body of the bag above apertures **40** tearing, thereby permitting removal of the bags **30**. When all the bags **30** have been removed nothing remains except the empty wicket **34** and gaskets **46**.

When a wicket is empty, it is pulled from bracket **10**, the gaskets **46** are removed and more bags are slipped onto the wicket. Once this is done, the gaskets **46** are replaced and the wicket is reinserted into the wicket receiver **14**.

While certain representative embodiments and details have been shown for the purpose of illustrating the invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Accordingly, what is claimed as new is:

**1.** A bracket for receiving wicketed thermoplastic bags, said bracket comprising a backing plate adapted to fit on an angled front panel of a display case or the like, a wicket holder extending outwardly at a horizontal disposition from said back plate, said wicket holder comprising upper and lower plates spaced from one another to define an elongated slot therebetween, and spacers

located at spaced intervals along said slot and secured to said upper and lower plates to maintain the slot's vertical dimension.

2. The bracket of claim 1 wherein edges of said upper and lower plates remote from said bracket are beveled upwardly and downwardly, respectively, to permit ease of entry of a wicket into said slot.

3. The bracket of claim 1 wherein a U-shaped wire wicket is received in said wicket holder, ends of said wicket being located in said slot and frictionally engaged with said upper and lower plates, the height of said slot being no greater than the diameter of said wicket ends.

4. The bracket of claim 3 wherein the height of said slot is slightly less than the diameter of said wicket ends.

5. The bracket of claim 3 wherein a plurality of bags are located on said wicket, the bags having apertures through which the ends of the wicket have been passed, said bags fitting against the bight portion of the wicket and held thereon by gaskets frictionally engaged over said wicket ends.

6. The bracket of claim 1 wherein said slot is about eight inches long and includes three spacers, two of said



spacers located generally at opposite ends and one spacer located generally at the middle of said slot, whereby wickets of varying sizes can be received by said wicket holder.

7. The bracket of claim 1 wherein a pressure sensitive adhesive is located on the rear of said back plate for attaching the latter to said front panel.

8. The bracket of claim 1 wherein apertures extend through said back plates to permit attaching of the latter to said front panel.

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