

Sept. 2, 1924.

T. N. EVENS

1,507,308

SIGN

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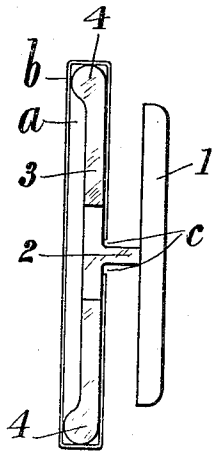


FIG. 1.

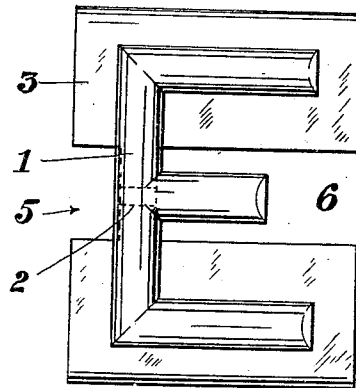


FIG. 2

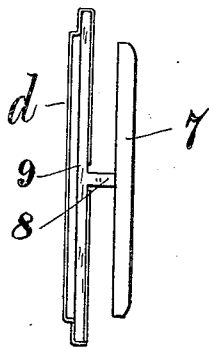


FIG. 3

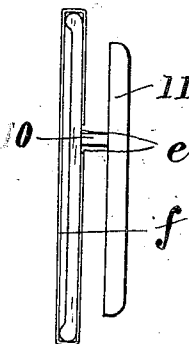


FIG. 4

INVENTOR

T. N. EVENS

BY

J. J. Smith
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS NELSON EVENS, OF SAFFRON WALDEN, ENGLAND.

SIGN.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS NELSON EVENS, a British subject, and resident of Treffiddean, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden, Essex, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to loose letter signs, notice boards and the like of the kind in which grooves are provided to receive supports, or as I will call them carrying bars, on the backs of the letters or other characters and by which the said characters can be arranged in lines to form the desired announcements, the said characters being supported by stems from the carrying bars said stems passing out through slot-like openings from the grooves.

It is desirable that the appearance of the sign or board shall be neat, that the carrying means for the letters, etc., shall be inconspicuous and that the repeated changing of the letters, etc., shall not be injurious to the base or frame on which they are mounted.

Amongst the objects of my invention are to be able, when desired, to make the base or frame very thin, to hold the character rigid, to prevent the carrying bar from scratching any ordinary visible part of the groove and to generally enhance the appearance of the sign or board as a whole.

It has been proposed to line the grooves with felt or other resilient material in or on which the stem of the letter obtains a grip by reason of the resilient nature of the material and in some cases the groove has been deeper than the length of the stem so that the stem does not reach and consequently cannot reach the back or innermost part of the groove.

My invention does not refer to grooves having such linings or fixing means and differs therefrom in that the grooves are without felt, springs or the like but the back of the groove opposite the slot is recessed in relation to the rest of the groove or the back of the carrying bar is recessed so as not to rub the back of the groove, in addition to which the slot into the groove is wider than the thickness of the stem so that the edges of the slot and the side of the stem are out of contact with each other. For example, the carrying bar (which is pref-

erably of the self spacing type, that is to say it is wider than the character it supports and thus spaces it in relation to adjoining characters) may be of a cross sectional shape like the capital letter I or straight centrally and provided with a bulb or increased thickness at each end. Alternatively the carrying bar may be of say a flat or disc like shape, say rectangular in plan and the back of the groove may be depressed so that the said bar will not touch it. Those parts of the carrying bar which are not covered by the character where it crosses the slot may be cut away and the stems from the carrying bar to the character may be arranged behind the parts of the character which cross the slots in much the same manner as described in my cited specification.

With this construction the face of the frame or base and the back and edges of the groove can be of the same or of different colour and repeated movement of the characters will not scratch any of the visible parts particularly as the stems are long enough to hold the character away from the face of the frame or bar.

The slot may be arranged out of the centre of the groove and the stems positioned in corresponding manner on the character so as to ensure the latter being right way up when inserted.

The grooves are preferably of narrow rectangular cross-sectional shape and may be built up of sheet metal by a folding, rolling or other process such as die cast or extruded leaving the slot along one side.

I will now describe my invention with reference to the examples shown in the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 is an end view of a groove *a* provided as by folding sheet metal *b* to an appropriate shape; the edges of the metal being spaced apart at *c* to provide a slot for the stem of the letter or other character. Fig. 2 is a front view of the letter with its carrying bar and of which an edge view is seen in Fig. 1. In this case the letter E is selected and is shown at 1. This letter is separated by stem 2 from the carrying bar 3, said bar having bulbous ends 4, 4 so arranged that the central part of the carrying bar is spaced away from the inside surface of the metal *b*, except at the upper and lower edges of the groove. By this construction it will be clear that any ordinary movements of the carrying bar up and down the groove will

not scratch the said inside face of the metal *b*, and, because the stem 2 is distinctly narrower than the slot *c*, and the carrying bar fits close to the top and the bottom of the groove, the said stem cannot deface the edges of the slot.

In Fig. 2 it will be seen that the carrying bar 3 is cut away at 5 and 6, so as not to show through the slot when the letter is in position. It will also be observed that the carrying bar is of greater width than the letter and therefore serves, in known manner as a spacing bar for the letter.

A modification is shown in Fig. 3 in which the character 7 supported by stem 8 is attached to a flat carrying bar 9 which is unable to scratch or otherwise spoil the inner face of the metal *d* which is spaced away from the bar by depressing the metal. In this case the slot is again wider than the stem 8. In Fig. 4 the construction is much like that shown in Fig. 1 but the slot *e* is out of the centre of the folded metal *f* which forms the groove and the stem 10 of the character 11 is out of the centre of the character with the result that the letter cannot be put in wrong way up. It will be obvious that the invention can be carried out in numerous forms within the scope of the following claims.

What I claim is:—

1. A loose letter sign of the kind comprising a grooved base the face of which has a slot opening into the groove and a plurality of characters having stems to which are attached carrying bars adapted to fit into and to be slidable in the groove with the stems extending through the slot, the carrying bars engaging and being held in position through contact with the opposing walls of the grooved base, the said grooves being recessed opposite the slot so that the bottoms of the recesses are spaced away from the carrying bars.

2. A loose letter sign of the kind comprising a grooved base the face of which has a slot opening into the groove and a plurality of characters having stems to which are attached carrying bars adapted to fit into and to be slidable in the groove with the stems extending through the slot, the carrying bars engaging and being held in position through contact with the opposing walls of the grooved base, the said carrying bars being spaced away from the face of the groove opposite and throughout the full width of the slot.

3. A loose letter sign of the kind comprising a grooved base the face of which has a slot opening into the groove and a plurality of characters having stems to which are attached carrying bars adapted

to fit into and to be slidable in the groove with the stems extending through the slot with the feature that the said groove is recessed opposite the slot so that the bottoms of the recesses are spaced away from the carrying bars, and that the sides of the slot are held spaced away from the stems.

4. A loose letter sign of the kind comprising a grooved base the face of which has a slot opening into the groove and a plurality of characters having stems to which are attached carrying bars adapted to fit into and to be slidable in the groove with the stems extending through the slot with the feature that the said carrying bars are held in position by opposing walls of the grooved base and are spaced away from the face of the groove opposite and throughout the width of the slot, and that the sides of the slot are held spaced away from the stems.

5. A loose letter sign, comprising a base formed with a groove and a slot opening into the groove, of a letter having a stem of less vertical dimension than the width of the slot, and carrying bars secured to the stem and adapted to be held in the groove by contact with the walls thereof, the wall of the groove rearwardly of the slot being in contact with the carrying bars beyond the plane of the slot and being spaced from contact with the carrying bars throughout the width of the slot.

6. A loose letter sign, comprising a base formed with a groove and a slot opening into the groove, of a letter having a stem of less vertical dimension than the width of the slot, and carrying bars secured to the stem and adapted to be held in the groove by contact with the walls thereof, the wall of the groove rearwardly of the slot being in contact with the carrying bars beyond the plane of the slot and being spaced from contact with the carrying bars throughout the width of the slot, said contact between the carrying bars and groove walls serving to maintain the stems free of contact with the edges of the slot.

7. A sign comprising a grooved base having a slot opening through one wall thereof, of a letter having a stem of a size to extend through the slot, and a carrying member adapted to contact with opposed walls of the groove, said contact supporting the letter in position relative to the base, one of said contacting walls of the groove being spaced from contact with the carrying bar throughout the width of the slot.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

THOMAS NELSON EVENS.