

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ARTICLE HOLDER, INCLUDING COACTING
GRIPPING FINGERS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 211-69)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements to article holders and more particularly to a holder having subject matter common to that disclosed in my co-pending application Serial No. 223,403, filed April 27, 1951.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide an article holder including a plurality of side by side resilient fingers fixed at their lower ends to a bottom wall of a container having an open top, whereby articles may be inserted between selected adjacent fingers to be yieldingly gripped by such fingers.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide an article holder of the aforementioned character wherein the resilient fingers include rubber body portions reinforced by coil springs extending axially therethrough, whereby the articles will be firmly yieldingly grasped by two or more fingers without effecting marring or scratching of the articles.

A further object of the present invention is to provide article grasping fingers that are cut from a long rubber, plastic or resilient material bar having a coil spring extending axially therethrough, and wherein one end of each finger is smoothly rounded to form a guide means to direct the end of an article between at least two fingers after the latter have been secured within a container.

A still further aim of the present invention is to provide an article holder that is simple and practical in construction, small and compact in structure, neat and attractive in appearance, inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the present invention in use;

Figure 2 is a detail vertical sectional view of Figure 1 to illustrate the manner in which the fingers are adhesively secured within the containers;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary plan view of the member from which the fingers are constructed;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of the fingers; and

Figure 5 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 5-5 of Figure 4.

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Referring now to the drawings in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral 10 represents a suitable supporting base having one or more recesses 12 in its upper face that accommodate the lower ends of containers 14. The containers 14 are provided with open upper ends 16 and bottom walls 18.

A plurality of resilient fingers 20 are secured within the container 10. Each of the fingers 20 includes a rubber, plastic or resilient substantially cylindrical body portion 22, having a smoothly rounded upper end 24 and a tapered lower end 26. A coil spring 28 extends axially through each body portion 22 to reinforce and strengthen the same.

The lower tapered ends 26 of a group of the fingers are adhesively secured to the bottom walls of the containers by a suitable cement 30 or molded by vulcanizing, to retain the fingers in side by side contacting relationship. The upper rounded ends of the fingers terminate in a plane paralleling the bottom wall and located at the upper ends of the containers, whereby suitable articles such as A and A' may be inserted downwardly into the mass of fingers to be yieldingly gripped by at least two adjacent fingers.

The rounded upper ends of the fingers will form guiding surfaces to aid in guiding the articles between adjacent fingers and to provide sufficient space between adjacent fingers to permit initial guiding of the articles downwardly between the fingers.

The fingers 20 are preferably formed from an elongated rubber bar T preferably circular in cross section and having a coil spring S extending axially through and embedded therein. The bar T and spring S are cut along lines L, L' to define finger forming sections F after which one end of each finger is rounded by inserting the same into a heated mold or the like. Then, the other ends of the fingers are placed in an additional heated mold to form the tapered ends 26.

The cement 30 may be placed in the lower portion of the container and the mass of fingers inserted into the container with their lower ends 26 extending into the cement 30 to be adhesively secured to the bottom wall 18.

Inasmuch as the fingers 20 are constructed of a rubber material, the same will effectively grip articles without effecting a marring or scratching of the article. Furthermore, inasmuch as each of the fingers 20 is provided with a resilient, coil spring, core 28 the fingers will be additionally

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reinforced and strengthened and the resilient characteristics of the fingers increased.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. An article holding device comprising a container having an upper open end and a bottom wall, and a plurality of spaced parallel fingers in the container and having lower ends fixed to said bottom wall, each of said fingers including a resilient body portion and a resilient core.

2. An article holding device comprising a container having an upper open end and a bottom wall, and a plurality of spaced parallel fingers in the container and having lower ends fixed to said bottom wall, each of said fingers including a

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cylindrical rubber body portion having a tapered lower end adhesively secured to said bottom wall, and a coil spring extending axially through the body portion.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein said springs are completely concealed within said body portions.

4. An article holding device comprising a container having an upper open end and a bottom wall, and a plurality of spaced parallel fingers in the container and having lower ends fixed to said bottom wall, each of said fingers including a resilient body portion and a resilient core, said fingers filling said container and being disposed in close side by side relationship to coact in yieldingly retaining articles relative to the container.

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