Feb. 13, 1962 M. IMMERMANN 3,021,186

INTERLOCKING DIVIDER AND MOLDING ASSEMBLY

Filed March 15, 1960

FIG. 1

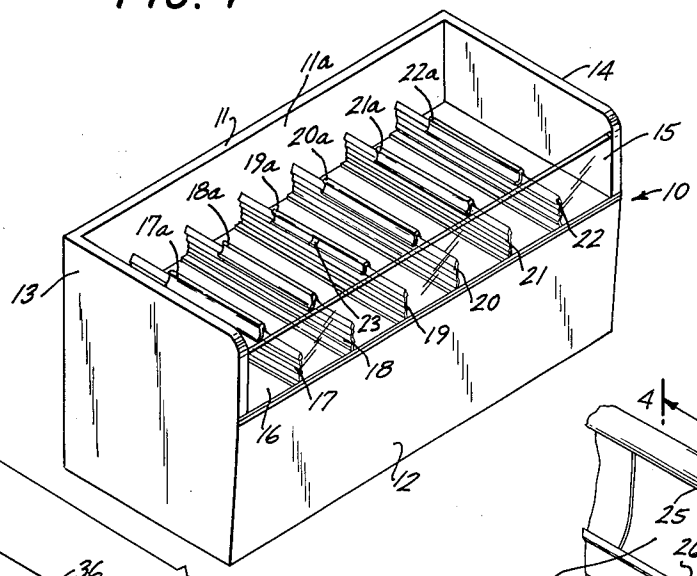


FIG. 2

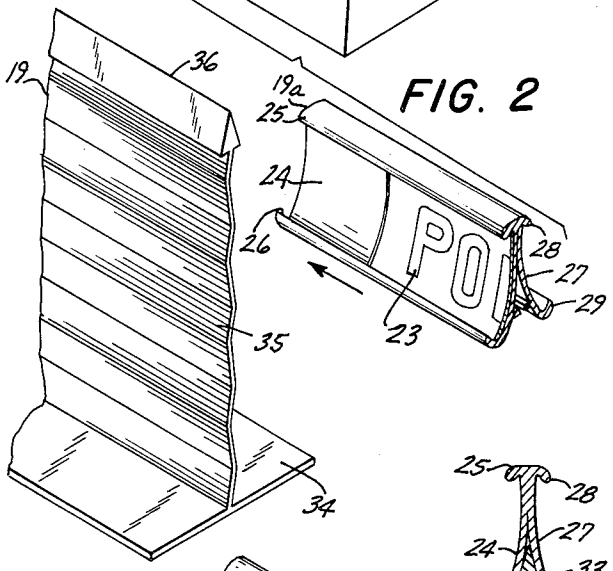


FIG. 3

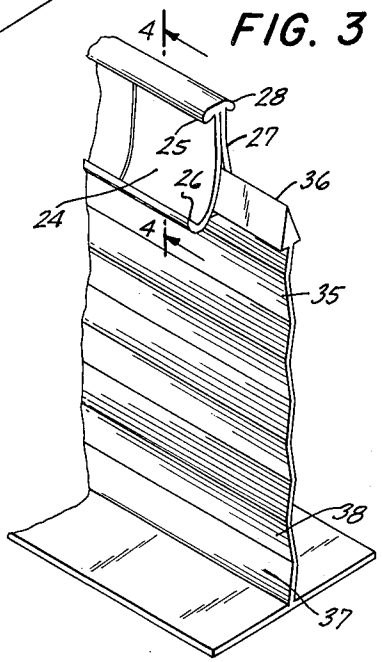


FIG. 4

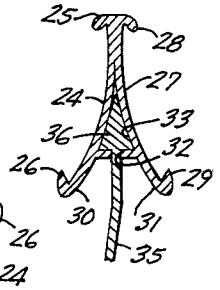
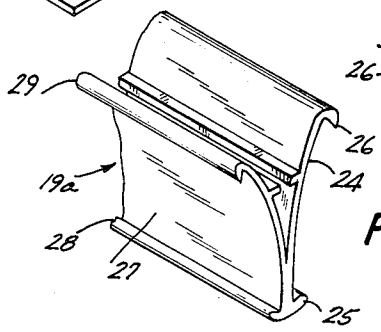


FIG. 5



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United States Patent Office 3,021,186 Patented Feb. 13, 1962

3,021,186
INTERLOCKING DIVIDER AND MOLDING ASSEMBLY

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Filed Mar. 15, 1960, Ser. No. 15,099
2 Claims. (Cl. 312—140.3)

This invention relates generally to molding and divider devices, and more particularly to an interlocking divider and molding assembly for use principally in display cabinets.

Cabinets of the type commonly used in food stores for displaying the food available for purchase of necessity are designed so that a single cabinet can be used to display a variety of products. It is generally useful, and often essential, to separate the various products within a particular cabinet. When such cabinets are provided in self-service stores, the display in addition to being pleasing to the eye must be functional, so that a user upon determining that he wishes to purchase a product within the cabinet can have ready access to that product. Hence, products within a food display cabinet, in self-service stores, generally are separated in such a manner that different products are placed along side of each other, rather than one behind the other, and it has become the custom to separate the various products by outwardly projecting dividers.

The dividers generally used have taken many forms; the simplest being a simple vertical divider projecting outwardly from the rear wall of the cabinet.

Since the use of the display cabinet is to make available a variety of products, it is necessary that the products be clearly marked, giving the name of the product and also the price at which the product is selling. Hence, when meat is sold it would be priced at so much per pound. In display cabinets, it has been the custom to place the markings of the product in a molding which is attached to the rear inside wall of the cabinet. The reason molding is utilized is so that the markings can be easily changed when the product is changed or the price changes. The problem which has arisen with the markings so placed has been that they often cannot be seen until the consumer is directly in front of the display cabinet, so that it is difficult for the consumer to go directly to the product which she wants. Also, since the customer approaches the display cabinet from the side, she often gets the visual impression of a product marking or price marking designating a product other than the product which it is actually intended. This results, of course, from the fact that the markings are placed on the rear of the cabinet and cannot be truly seen and accurately placed by the eye unless the observer is standing directly in front of the cabinet.

This invention eliminates these problems, since it provides for ready separation of the various products and allows for marking the individual products in such a manner that the marking which applies to a particular product is definitely identified with that product. Also, it may be seen from the side as the consumer approaches the cabinet along the aisle so that it is not necessary for a realistic viewing for the customer to be directly in front of the display cabinet.

The invention herein disclosed has as its principal object the provision of an interlocking divider and molding assembly which will separate goods within a cabinet and allow for clear and easy discerning of the designations of the particular goods.

An interlocking divider and molding assembly embodying the invention, and the manner of using the same is described herein with references to the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a display cabinet utilizing the interlocking divider and molding assembly which is the subject of this invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective fragmentary view of one of the interlocking divider and molding assemblies shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the interlocking divider and molding assemblies shown in FIG. 1 illustrating the manner in which the members interlock to form a unit;

FIG. 4 is a partially sectional view taken along the line 4—4 in the direction of the arrows as indicated in FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is an inverted fragmentary perspective view of one of the molding members shown in FIG. 1.

In FIG. 1 a display cabinet utilizing my invention is shown and is designated generally by the numeral 10. The display cabinet consists of a substantially rectangular vertically disposed back member 11, front member 12 and side members 13 and 14. The front member does not extend upward quite as far as rear panel 11 and sides 13 and 14 so that a transparent glass member 15 can be inserted in the front portion of the cabinet to enable a person to more readily view the contents thereof. The cabinet is open at the top giving both ready visibility as well as accessibility to the products within. A floor portion 16 is disposed horizontally within the cabinet at about the level of the lower edge of glass 15.

The floor portion has vertically disposed thereon, projecting outwardly from the surface 11*a* of rear member 11, a number of interlocking divider and molding assemblies which comprise this invention. There are six dividers shown which are designated by the numerals 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and each has interlocked therewith in a manner which will be explained below, a corresponding molding which is given the same numeral as the divider with the letter "*a*" following. Thus, the moldings shown are designated 17*a* through 22*a*.

Since each of the dividers is disposed perpendicular to back member 11 and floor member 16, the cabinet has been divided into seven spaces or compartments for the reception of a food product or other types of products.

The specific display cabinet 10 shown in FIG. 1 is designed primarily to display frozen food products, although other products might be displayed within. It is noted that the molding members disposed within the cabinet are clearly visible and any tags or product designations placed therein are also clearly visible to a prospective customer passing in front of the cabinet.

The moldings which will be described below in detail enable the price and product designations to be placed to identify clearly the particular section or space within the display cabinet.

Thus, for example, tag 23 is shown within molding 19*a* designating either the product or the price of food contained within the space between dividers 18 and 19. Prior to this invention a molding was applied to the inner face 11*a* of the rear wall and molding tags placed within the molding were utilized to designate the products within the various spaces between the dividers. Although such previous assembly is not shown in the drawings, it is obvious that designating products in such a manner results in confusion, since the consumer will pass in front of the display cabinet by approaching it from either of its sides. Thus, in the previous method, as a prospective customer approached cabinet 10, it would be impossible for her to know definitely the product and pricing of the material lying between dividers 18 and 19 until she can stand substantially directly in front of display cabinet 10.

In the remaining drawings, the interlocking divider and molding assembly is shown in greater detail. Divider

19 and molding 19*a* are illustrated in FIGS. 2 through 4, and molding 19*a* is shown alone in FIG. 5.

The molding consists of a face portion 24 which is of the ordinary type having an upper lip 25 and a lower lip 26 with each of the lips turned in over face 24 to form upper and lower channels for reception of the upper and lower edges of indicating card 23 inserted therein with the body thereof flush against face 24 of the molding. The other side of molding 19*a* is formed with face 27 identical with face 24 but forming therewith a slight angle. Each of faces 24 and 27 is formed arcuately with its arc radius extending away from the molding.

Lip 25 is extended at the end where faces 24 and 27 join to form integral therewith a lip 28 which overlies the upper portion of face 27. The lower portion of face 27 is formed with lip 29 overlying a portion of it so that lips 28 and 29 form upper and lower channels respectively for the reception of the upper and lower edges of a tag such as 23.

The molding is shown in inverted position in FIG. 5 and the two molding faces 24 and 27 which can also be referred to as the sides of the molding join at their upper portion where lips 25 and 28 are integral. The lower ends of these molding faces as seen in FIG. 4 and in FIG. 5 are separated from one another by shoulder portions 30 and 31 on the faces opposite lips 26 and 29, respectively. Above shoulders 30 and 31 a slot 32 is defined by inwardly extending parts. This slot affords communication with a larger space which lies between faces 24 and 27. This larger space is designated with the numeral 33 and is formed substantially triangular. The triangular space 33 communicates with the surrounding atmosphere through slot 32.

Divider 19 is formed with a substantially flat rectangular base 34 upon which is positioned a vertical member 35 which terminates at its upper surface in a triangular cross section 36 which appears from the side as an arrow head.

The vertical portion 35 is shown in the drawings as ribbed with panels thereof taking slightly different directions. The lowermost panel 37 forms an angle beyond the perpendicular with the base 34 and panel 38 above panel 37 forms a slight angle with panel 37, and so forth, giving a somewhat corrugated appearance to the divider. It is not necessary that such be the case, it is merely necessary that the divider be formed with a triangular or increased width insertion member 36.

In use, generally the divider has been applied in position within a cabinet and it is desired to place the molding thereon. The molding is inserted upon the divider by placing the molding at one end of the divider and applying the insertion member 36 within the reception area 33 so that the member 36 can be received in this area. The molding is then slid onto the divider or to the left as shown in FIG. 2. After this positioning has been effected, the molding will be held firmly upon the divider, since the surfaces of the molding bear firmly against the faces of the insertion member 36 within the reception area 33.

The divider can be formed of any suitable material such as plastic, metal or even cardboard. Likewise, the insertion member 36 might be formed with a rectangular, circular, or octagonal cross section. I prefer to form it in a triangular cross section giving the appearance from the side of an arrow head. The requirement only is that the molding be formed with a complementary female or receptive section so that when the molding is applied to the divider there be a snug fit.

Thus, among others, the several objects in the invention as specifically aforenoted, are achieved. Obviously, numerous changes in construction and rearrangement of parts might be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the claims.

I claim:

1. In combination, a merchandise divider comprising a vertical body, an enlarged portion at the upper end of said body and extending longitudinally thereof, a molding formed with a longitudinally extending cavity and having a slot midway of its lower face affording access thereto, said slot having a width greater than the thickness of the divider body below said enlarged portion but less than the width of the latter, said cavity in cross section presenting an area of greater size than a configuration complementary to said enlarged portion, the molding interlocking with said divider against detachment therefrom by the introduction of said enlarged portion into an end of said cavity and the moving of the molding and divider longitudinally of each other to slidably mount the molding upon the divider, said enlarged portion being triangular in section with upwardly extending side faces inclined towards each other, card retaining lips extending upwardly adjacent the upper and lower edges of said faces and with the lower lips positioned below said slot.

2. In the combination as defined in claim 1, a plurality of panels included in said vertical body and adjacent panels having their faces extending at angles with respect to each other.

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