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SHEET METAL SIGN

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Fig. 1

Fig. 3

Fig. 2

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

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My invention relates to signs, and more particularly to filling station signs.

It is a purpose of my invention to provide a sign having a frame portion and a panel, and means for holding said panel and frame portion in assembled relation. The panel is preferably of sheet metal and the frame portion is preferably so constructed that the same receives the panel. Means is preferably provided for holding the frame in assembled relation, whereby the panel is held in assembled relation with said frame.

In the preferred form the frame portion is made of a single piece of material and is provided with a panel receiving portion and a foot portion, whereby the sign may be supported upon the ground or some other supporting surface, although if desired the frame may be provided with means adapted to be driven into the ground to support the sign in an upright position.

It is another purpose of my invention to provide a sign member having a frame comprising a grooved portion adapted to receive the edge portion of a sheet metal panel member and a foot portion adapted to engage the ground or other supporting surface in such a manner that the sign will be held stably in upright position even in a strong wind.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description of the drawings proceeds. I desire to have it understood, however, that I do not intend to limit myself to the details of construction shown or described, but that I intend to include as part of my invention, all such obvious changes and modifications of parts as would occur to a person skilled in this art, and as would fall within the scope of the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred form of sign, made in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a section thereof taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 of another form of the invention;

Fig. 4 is a section on an enlarged scale taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of one of the clamp members and

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary side elevation of still another form of sign.

Referring in detail to the drawings, in Figs. 1 and 2 is shown a sign member comprising a frame member having a substantially centrally disposed loop formed panel carrying portion 10, said panel carrying portion being provided with a deep relatively narrow groove or slot 11 receiving the circumferential edge portion 12 of the panel 13. The groove or slot 11 is preferably of such a width as to substantially snugly receive the edge of the panel member 13, which is preferably made of sheet metal. The frame member is preferably made of a bar of iron that is square in cross section, although any other desired cross section shape bar may be used, and the groove is cut into the same only in the panel engaging portion thereof. While the panel engaging loop is shown as being substantially circular in shape in the drawings, it obviously could be made of any shape desired without departing from the invention.

In the form shown the panel engaging portion is substantially in the form of a split ring with the vertically extending clamping portions 14 depending therefrom in substantially face-to-face, parallel relationship. Any suitable clamping means such as the bolts 15 may be provided for holding the clamping portions in engagement with each other and to clamp the panel member 13 in position within the panel carrying portion 10. The portions 14 have opposite faces the adjacent faces engaging with each other and the remote faces being engaged by the clamping means and comprising clamping faces on said portions. The panel 13, is, of course, inserted before the bolts 15 are put in place.

From the clamping portions 14 the inclined frame portions 16 diverge in opposite directions, extending substantially in alignment with the panel 13. The lower ends of the portions 16 are curved downwardly as shown at 17, and are then bent in opposite directions transversely of the plane of the
panel 13 in smooth curves 18 joining the diverging portions 16 with the foot portions, which extend transversely of the plane of the panel 13. Each of said foot portions comprises an elongated closed loop portion having an upper, upwardly bowed portion 19 connected with a lower, upwardly bowed portion 20 by means of the arcuate connecting portion 21. The upwardly bowed portion 20 has an extension 22 that curves downwardly beyond the curved portion 18 on substantially the same arc as the upwardly bowed portion thereof. Thus two bearing portions are provided for each foot portion, one substantially at the extremity of the looped portion thereof, as indicated at 23 in Fig. 1 and the other substantially at the free end 24 thereof, as indicated at 25. Thus a four point support is provided for the sign, which makes it extremely stable.

As the panel is clamped tightly in the frame by the construction described, and as the downwardly curved portions 18, have a normal tendency to engage firmly with the foot portions 20 adjacent thereto, due to the fact that such a set is put in the frame as to accomplish this, there is substantially no vibration or rattle in the sign. Furthermore the signs are very simple in construction and can be easily shipped knocked-down, inasmuch as the same can be readily assembled and a plurality thereof can be easily nested for shipment.

Instead of forming the frame as described above, the frame may be formed with a foot portion of other shapes one of which is shown in Fig. 3. Instead of the portion 10' of the frame made as previously described, except that slot 8 is provided therein, said slot 8 extending substantially half way around the portion 10' to permit the assembly of the panel 13 in the groove in said members 10' by sliding the same into position as shown in Fig. 3. A threaded hole 9 is provided in the member 10' for the reception of a set screw or other similar member for holding the panel in fixed position in the groove. Instead of merely extending the vertically extending portions downwardly; a portion of the entrance to the supporting surface, as in the previously described form, the portions 14' extend to the foot portions of the frame, being bent outwardly in opposite directions to form the transversely extending supporting portions 26. From the portions 26 the portions 27 extend in opposite directions and at right angles thereto, said portions 27 terminating in the end portions 28 extending at right angles to the portions 27 and parallel to the portions 26. A broad bearing surface for the foot portion of the sign is thus obtained.

Instead of using bolts for holding the members 14' in face-to-face engagement and the panel 13 clamped within the frame portion 10, a clamp made up of a pair of members 29 and 30 may be provided for this purpose. The portions 14' have oppositely disposed clamping faces and engaging faces similar to the portions 14 previously described. The member 29 is provided with hook flanges 31 that are adapted to be engaged with the hook flanges 32 on the member 30 by a movement of the members lengthwise relatively to each other. The flanges 33 are preferably inclined slightly to obtain a wedging action thereof, being shown as being farther from the body portion of member 29 at the ends 34 thereof than at the ends 35. Thus the use of bolts may be eliminated, if desired. In Fig. 6 the foot portion of the sign is formed by extending the depending vertically extending members 14'' straight down from the portion 10 that receives the panel 13, and tapering the ends thereof to form the point 36, which facilitates driving the foot portion into the ground. The other portions in Fig. 6 are substantially the same as previously described and bear the same reference numerals, the members 14'' having the opposite engaging and clamping faces previously described. In each form of the invention the clamping means is disposed between the inner or loop portion of the sign frame and the outer or supporting foot-end portion thereof and the engaging faces of the vertical portions extend transversely of the plane of the face of the panel to firmly clamp the panel in position.

Having thus described my invention, what I desire to claim and secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame comprising a panel carrying portion and a supporting portion, said supporting portion comprising vertical portions, portions extending outwardly therefrom in opposite directions and portions extending substantially transversely of the plane of the said panel member on opposite sides thereof and spaced from said vertical portions to provide foot portions having ends spaced from all other portions of said frame.

2. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame comprising a panel carrying portion and a supporting portion, said supporting portion comprising portions extending downwardly from said panel carrying portion and foot portions extending in opposite directions from said downwardly extending portions substantially transversely of the plane of said panel member and comprising free end portions spaced from all other portions of said frame.

3. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame for supporting said panel member, said frame com-
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prising a portion extending about said panel, substantially vertically extending portions depending therefrom and spaced foot portions connected therewith, and extending on opposite sides of said panel, each of said foot portions comprising an upwardly bowed portion engaging a supporting surface adjacent the opposite ends thereof.

4. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame for supporting said panel member, said frame comprising a portion extending about said panel, substantially vertically extending portions depending therefrom and spaced foot portions connected therewith, each of said foot portions having supporting surface engaging portions adjacent the opposite ends thereof lying on opposite sides of the panel, to provide a four point support for said sign.

5. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame for supporting said panel member, said frame comprising a portion extending about said panel, substantially vertically extending portions depending therefrom and spaced foot portions connected therewith, each of said foot portions comprising a doubled back loop portion lying in substantially a vertical plane, said loop portions extending in opposite directions.

6. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame for supporting said panel member, said frame comprising a portion extending about said panel, substantially vertically extending portions depending therefrom and spaced foot portions connected therewith, each of said foot portions comprising a doubled back loop portion having a normal tendency to assume a closed loop form and an extension beyond said loop portion.

7. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member, a frame having a loop-like portion provided with a panel receiving groove, substantially vertically extending portions extending therefrom in face-to-face engagement and laterally extending integral foot portions, and securing means for holding said vertically extending portions in face-to-face engagement and clamping the edge portion of said panel in fixed position in said groove.

8. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member, a frame having a loop-like portion provided with a panel receiving groove, substantially vertically extending portions extending therefrom in face-to-face engagement, portions diverging downwardly therefrom and transversely extending foot portions thereon, each engaging a supporting surface at spaced points.

9. A sign having a frame comprising upright portions and foot portions connected therewith, said foot portions each having an upstanding loop-like portion having a normal tendency to assume a closed loop position and being bowed upwardly to engage a supporting surface at spaced points.

10. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member, a frame having a loop-like portion provided with a panel receiving groove, portions extending downwardly therefrom and engaging with each other, portions diverging downwardly therefrom and transversely extending foot portions thereon each engaging a supporting surface at spaced points.

11. A sign of the character described, comprising a panel member and a frame for supporting said panel member, said frame comprising a portion extending about said panel, portions depending therefrom and engaging with each other and spaced foot portions connected therewith, said foot portions engaging a support at points spaced in the direction of the plane of the panel and lying on opposite sides of said plane to stabilize said sign and having end portions spaced a substantial distance from the depending portions to provide lateral openings in the base so as to permit nesting of a plurality of said signs.

12. A sign of the character described comprising a sheet metal panel member, a frame comprising a loop-like portion having a deep, narrow groove on the inner face thereof extending around said panel member, said groove snugly receiving the edge portion of said panel, and a supporting portion extending outwardly from said loop-like portion, said supporting portion comprising portions of the frame extending substantially in parallelism and lying side by side in a direction parallel to the face of the panel and having flat engaging faces extending transversely to the face of the panel and clamping faces opposite said engaging faces and clamping means engaging said clamping faces for securing said flat faces firmly in face to face engagement between the outer ends of said supporting portions and said loop-like portions and holding said loop-like portion in panel embracing position.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 9th day of February, 1927.

ANDREW A. KRAMER.