July 25, 1961 M. A. SULLIVAN 2,993,604

DISPLAY STAND

Filed May 12, 1959

Fig. 1

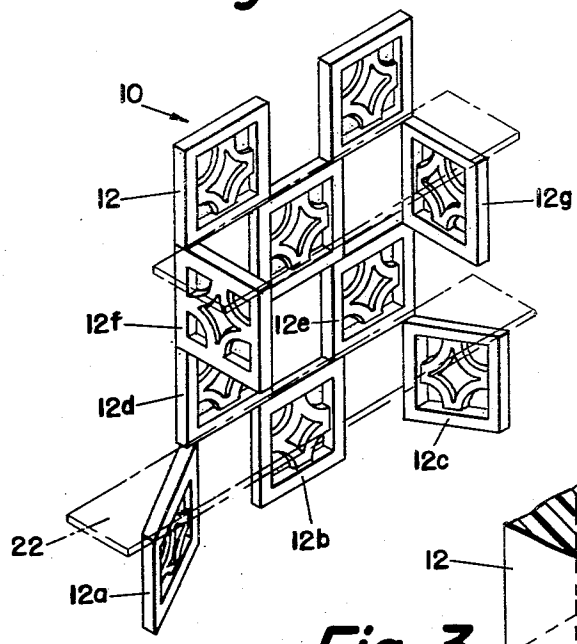


Fig. 2

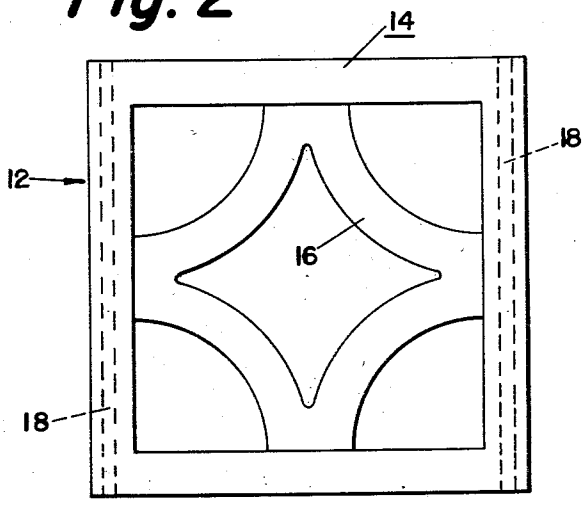
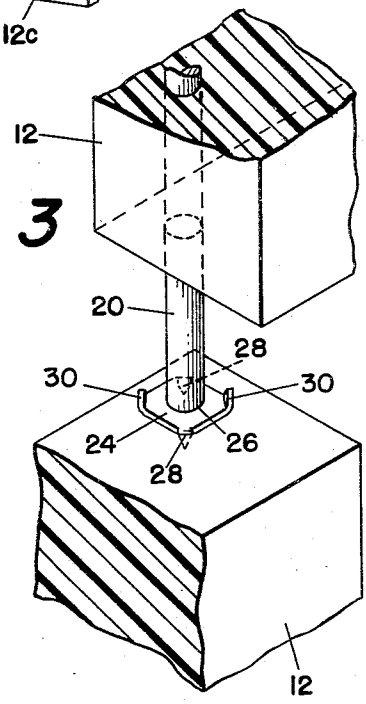


Fig. 3



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United States Patent Office 2,993,604 Patented July 25, 1961

2,993,604

DISPLAY STAND

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Filed May 12, 1959, Ser. No. 812,726
7 Claims. (Cl. 211—169)

The present invention relates to a display stand, and more particularly to a display stand which can be easily assembled in various sizes and arrangements.

In a window or other type of display, it is often necessary to use various styles and sizes of display stands to display various types of merchandise. Also, it is common practice to change such display periodically so as to display different types of merchandise. Therefore, it is necessary for a merchant to have a large variety of sizes and styles of display stands at considerable expense to the merchant. Also, the necessity for having a large variety of sizes and styles of display stands creates a problem with regard to storing the display stands which are not in use. In addition, such display stands are normally made of metal so that they are heavy and difficult to handle.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel display stand.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a display stand which can be easily assembled in various sizes and arrangements.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a display stand which is light in weight, and easy to handle.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention there is shown in the drawings a form which is presently preferred; it being understood, however, that this invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the assembled display stand of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of one of the blocks of the display stand of the present invention.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view illustrating the manner of assembling the blocks of the display stand of the present invention.

Referring initially to FIGURE 1, the display stand of the present invention is generally designated as **10**. Display stand **10** comprises a plurality of rectangular or square blocks **12** secured together in substantially a checkerboard arrangement.

Each of the blocks **12** is made of a plastic material, preferably a foam plastic, such as foam polystyrene, polyvinylchloride, or polyurethane. As shown in FIGURE 2, each of the blocks **12** comprises a square rim **14** the transverse thickness of which is substantially less than the width and height of the rim **14**. The center of the block **12** within the rim **14** is cut out to provide a web **16** in the form of an artistic design. However, if desired, the center of the block **12** within the rim **14** may be solid. Block **12** is provided with a pair of parallel holes **18** which extend longitudinally through opposed legs of the rim **14**. Each of the holes **18** is preferably positioned on a line which bisects the angle between the back surface of the rim **14**, and the outer side of the rim **14** which is parallel to and adjacent the hole **18**.

The blocks **12** are assembled together to form the display stand **10** by means of elongated, wooden rods **20**. Rods **20** are of a diameter equal to the diameter of the holes **18** in the blocks **12**, and are of a length equal to the desired height of the display stand **10**.

To form the display stand **10** shown in FIGURE 1, three blocks **12***a*, **12***b* and **12***c* are positioned upright with the holes **18** of the blocks being vertical. The blocks **12***a*, **12***b*, and **12***c* are arranged in a horizontal row, and spaced

from each other. A block **12***d* is placed across the space between the blocks **12***a* and **12***b* and positioned so that one of the holes **18** in the block **12***d* is in vertical alignment with a hole **18** in the block **12***a*, and the other hole **18** in the block **12***d* is in vertical alignment with a hole **18** in the block **12***b*. A block **12***e* is similarly positioned over the blocks **12***b* and **12***c*, with each of the holes **18** in the block **12***e* being in vertical alignment with a hole **18** in the blocks **12***b* and **12***c*. A separate rod **20** is inserted through each pair of aligned holes **18** so as to secure the blocks together. The remaining blocks **12** are mounted on the rods **20** to complete the display stand **10**. Thus, the blocks **12** are arranged in horizontal and vertical rows with the blocks **12** in each row being spaced apart by the blocks **12** in an intermediate row. The display stand **10** can be made of any desired width and height by assembling the proper number of blocks **12** in each row. The rods **20** used to assemble the blocks **12** should be long enough to project at least part way through the blocks **12** in the uppermost horizontal row of the blocks **12**, but not long enough to project beyond the top edge of the uppermost blocks **12**.

To support the display stand **10** vertically, the end blocks **12***a* and **12***c* in the bottom horizontal row of the blocks **12** are positioned at an angle with respect to the block **12***b*, with the blocks **12***a* and **12***c* extending forwardly from the display stand **10**. The angled position of the end blocks **12***a* and **12***c* not only provides the vertical support for the display stand **10**, but also permits a shelf **22** to be supported across the display stand **10** on the top edges of the blocks **12***a* and **12***c*, upon which shelf **22** merchandise to be display can be placed. By positioning the end blocks of other horizontal rows, such as the blocks **12***f* and **12***g*, so that they extend forwardly from the display stand **10** additional shelves can be supported on the display stand **10**. Also, since the blocks **12** are made of a foam plastic, small advertising signs, and certain types of merchandise can be pinned directly to the blocks **12**. Thus, the display stand **10** can be provided with shelves for holding the merchandise to be displayed, or the merchandise can be pinned directly to the display stand **10**.

To secure the blocks **12** at any desired angular position with respect to each other, retainer clips **24** can be placed between the overlapping edges of the blocks **12**. As shown in FIGURE 3, retainer clip **24** comprises a square, sheetmetal disc having a central hole **26** therethrough. One pair of diametrically opposed corners of the clip **24** are bent downwardly at right angles to the clip **24** to provide the prongs **28**. The other pair of diametrically opposed corners of the clip **24** are bent upwardly at right angles to the clip **24** to provide the prongs **30**. The clip **24** is placed on the rod **20** between two of the blocks **12**. The clip **24** is pressed downwardly against the top edge of the lower of the blocks **12** so that the downwardly extending prongs **28** of the clip **24** bite into the lower block **12**. The upper block **12** is then positioned with respect to the lower block **12**, and pressed downwardly against the lower block **12** over the clip **24**. The upwardly extending prongs **30** of the clip **24** bite into the upper block **12** to secure the upper block **12** against relative movement with respect to the lower block **12**. Thus, the clip **24** prevents angular movement between the two adjacent blocks **12**. By positioning the holes **18** in the blocks **12** on a line which bisects the back surface of the blocks and the side edges of the blocks, the juxtaposed surfaces of two overlapping blocks **12** will be flush when the blocks **12** are at 180 degrees and 90 degree with respect to each other.

Since the blocks **12** are made of foam plastic, they are light in weights, and therefore easy to handle. Also, when the display stand **10** is not in use, the blocks **12** can

be disassembled so that they can be easily stored in a small space.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof and, accordingly, reference should be made to the appended claims, rather than to the foregoing specification as indicating the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A display stand comprising a plurality of rectangular plastic blocks arranged in a plurality of horizontal and vertical rows with the blocks in each of the rows being spaced apart, each of said blocks overlapping a portion of at least one block in an adjacent row, each of said blocks having an elongated hole in an overlapped portion thereof, elongated cylindrical rods extending vertically through the holes in overlapped portions of the blocks to secure the blocks together, and means between said overlapping portions for preventing said blocks from pivoting with relation to one another.

2. A display stand in accordance with claim 1 in which each of the blocks is relatively thin as compared to the width and height of the block.

3. A display stand in accordance with claim 2 in which each of the blocks is made of foam plastic.

4. A display stand in accordance with claim 1 in which some of said blocks are positioned out of the plane of the remaining blocks, and a shelf extending over and freely resting on the top of those blocks positioned out of the plane of the remaining blocks.

5. A display stand in accordance with claim 1 in which each of the holes in the blocks is positioned on a line which bisects the angle between the back surface of the block and the side edge of the block adjacent said hole.

6. A display stand comprising a plurality of square plastic blocks arranged in a plurality of horizontal and vertical rows with the blocks in each of the rows being spaced apart, each of said blocks having a square rim with at least one vertical leg of the rim overlapping a vertical leg of the rim of a block in an adjacent row, elongated cylindrical rods extending longitudinally through the overlapping vertical legs of the blocks to secure the blocks together, and means for preventing said blocks from pivoting with relation to one another including a separate sheetmetal retaining clip between each pair of overlapping blocks, each of said clips having at least one prong biting into one of said overlapping blocks and at least one prong biting into the other said overlapping blocks to prevent angular movement between said overlapping blocks.

7. A display stand in accordance with claim 6 in which each of the clips has a hole therethrough through which a rod extends.

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