Oct. 26, 1943. G. G. GREULICH 2,332,968

PORTABLE DECK

Filed June 18, 1941

FIG. 1.

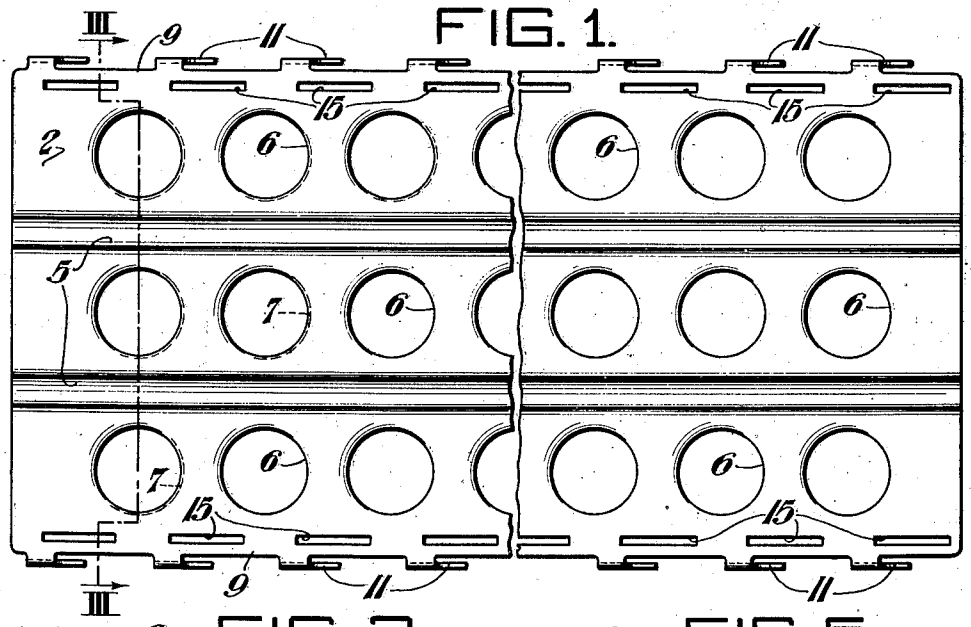


FIG. 2.

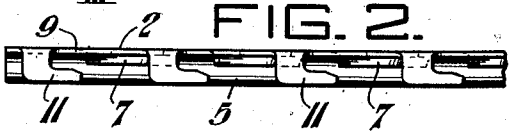


FIG. 5.

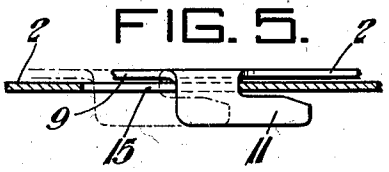
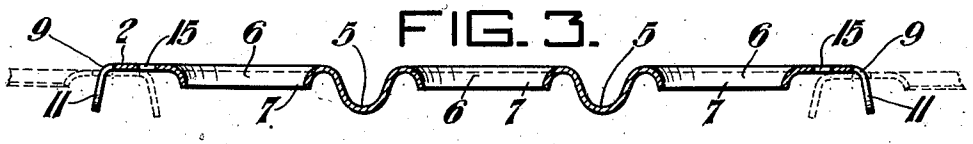


FIG. 3.



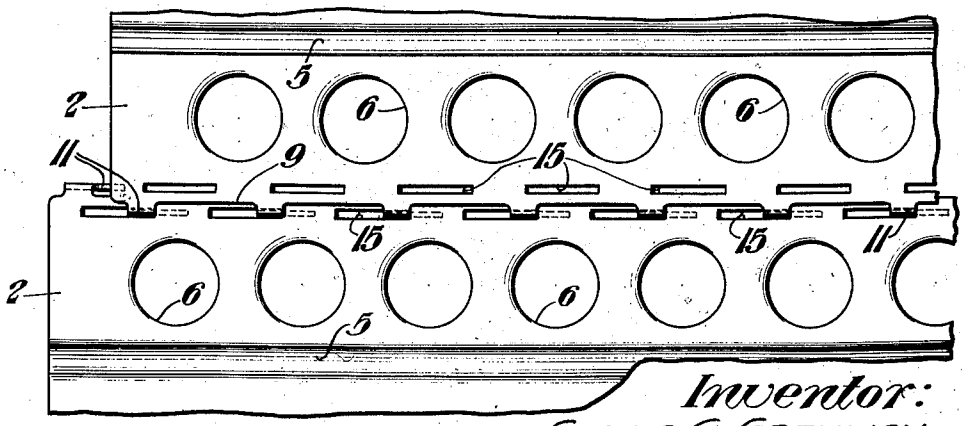


FIG. 4.

Inventor:
GERALD G. GREULICH,
by: John E. Jackson
his Attorney.

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2,332,968

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,332,968

PORTABLE DECK

Gerald G. Greulich, Mount Lebanon, Pa., assignor to Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., a corporation of New Jersey

Application June 18, 1941, Serial No. 398,658

2 Claims. (Cl. 94—13)

This invention relates to portable decks, and more particularly to those which provide coverings on unstable soil and the like, which permits the landing thereon of airplanes.

It is among the objects of the present invention to provide a portable deck of the type referred to, which establishes an increased resistance to sliding.

Another object is the provision of a portable airplane runway which may be very easily camouflaged.

Still another object is to provide a device having the foregoing advantages, and one which is at the same time cheap and easy to manufacture, install, and dismantle.

The foregoing and other objects will become more apparent after referring to the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary plan of one of the plates of the deck of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary side elevation.

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line III—III of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary plan of a pair of plates of Figure 1 in connected relation.

Figure 5 is an elevational view, partly in section, illustrating the manner in which the interlocking devices function.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the numeral 2 generally designates a metallic plate of which a group are assembled to form the portable deck of the present invention. As shown in Figure 3, each of the metallic plates 2 defines a flat surface extending longitudinally of which is a plurality of continuous parallel longitudinal grooves 5. These grooves 5 are formed by deforming the material of the plate out of the plane of the flat surface thereof and into continuous U-shaped troughs. On either side of the continuous parallel longitudinal grooves 5 is a row of annular apertures 6 each of which is formed by punching the metal out of the flat surface of the plate 2 to provide a downwardly-extending circumferential coniform flange 7.

Referring more particularly to Figure 3, it will be perceived that the continuous parallel longitudinal grooves 5 are of substantial depth, while the downwardly-directed circumferential coniform flanges 7 of the annular apertures 6 are of substantially less depth, for example, they may extend approximately midway thereof. This construction enables the moisture which is entrapped below the rib to escape by capillary action through the open holes 6.

The continuous parallel longitudinal grooves 5 provide trough-like stiffening ribs, and the annular apertures 6 provide spaces in which the soil upon which the portable deck is placed may penetrate and assist in the prevention of sliding of the plates. In addition, these annular apertures 6 provide for the growth therethrough of vegetation for camouflage purposes. The provision of the downwardly-extending circumferential coniform flanges 7 serves to stiffen the body portion of the plates 2 around the annular apertures 6.

Referring more particularly to Figure 1, the longitudinal edges of the metallic plates 2 are provided with interlocking instrumentalities of such construction that any row of interlocked plates, or any individual plate of any given row, may be readily removed from the completed deck by shifting the plates endwise sufficiently to accomplish detachment. Preferably the interlocking construction is of the type disclosed and claimed in my co-pending application Serial No. 358,180, now Patent No. 2,294,550, filed September 24, 1940, and entitled "Portable deck," wherein each longitudinal edge 9 of each of the metallic plates 2 is provided with a series of aligned spaced downwardly-projecting lugs, each lug comprising a shank and an elongated prong portion 11. These elongated prong portions 11 terminate at a plane across the bottoms of the deformed portions constituting the continuous parallel longitudinal grooves 5. These elongated prong portions 11 all extend in the same direction. Along the edges of the flat surface of each of the metallic plates 2 is a series of elongated slots 15 corresponding in number, shape and size to the elongated prong portions 11.

While I have shown and described a specific embodiment of the present invention, it will be seen that I do not wish to be limited exactly thereto, since various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A portable airplane landing field comprising a plurality of connected plates adapted for rapid attachment and detachment, each of said plates comprising a substantially rectangular body portion of rolled metal provided with spaced longitudinally-extending depressed portions forming trough-like stiffening ribs, said body portion having a series of relatively closely spaced annular openings located between the ribs and provided with downwardly-extending, coniform stiffening flanges, said coniform stiffening flanges being of substantially less depth than said longi-

tudinally-extending trough-like stiffening ribs but cooperating therewith to serve as anchoring means for said plates, said openings permitting vegetation to extend upwardly from the ground on which the said plates are mounted to thereby camouflage the same.

2. A portable airplane landing field comprising a plurality of connected plates adapted for rapid attachment and detachment, each of said plates comprising a substantially rectangular body portion of rolled metal provided with spaced longitudinally-extending depressed portions forming trough-like stiffening ribs, said body portion having a series of relatively closely spaced annular openings located between the ribs and provided with downwardly-extending, coniform stiffening flanges, said coniform stiffening flanges extending approximately midway of said longitudinally-extending trough-like stiffening ribs but cooperating therewith to serve as anchoring means for said plates, said openings permitting vegetation to extend upwardly from the ground on which the said plates are mounted to thereby camouflage the same.

GERALD G. GREULICH.