

May 5, 1964

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3,131,897

FLORAL DISPLAY HOLDER

Filed Jan. 25, 1960

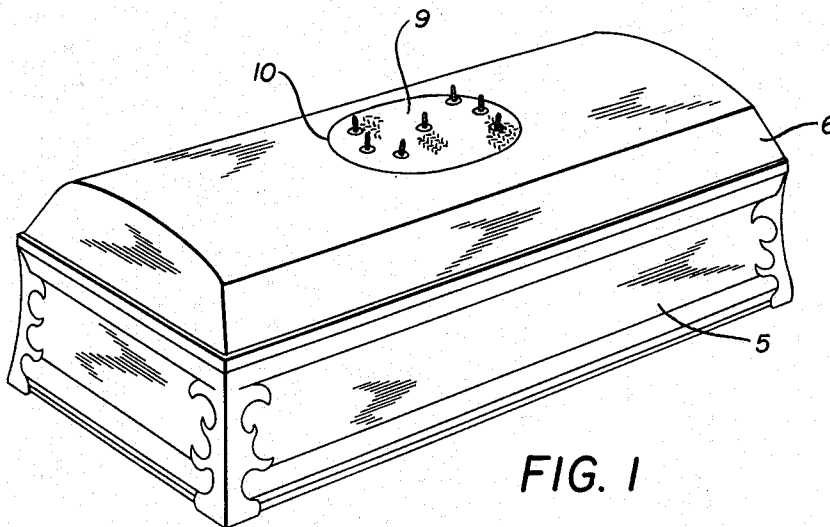


FIG. 1

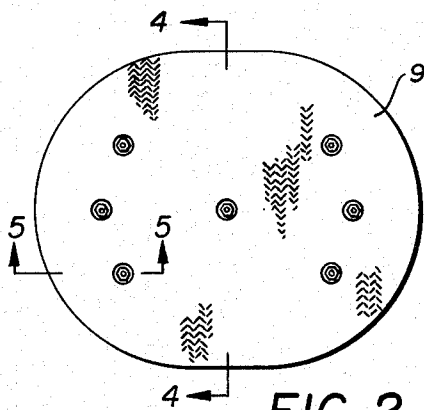


FIG. 2

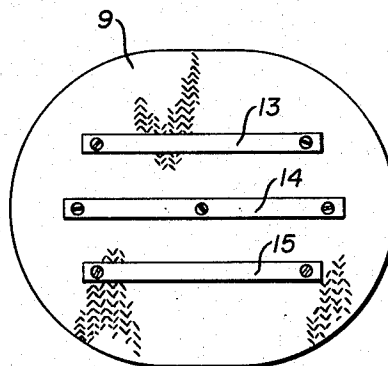


FIG. 3

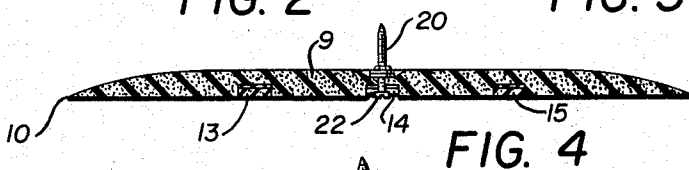


FIG. 4

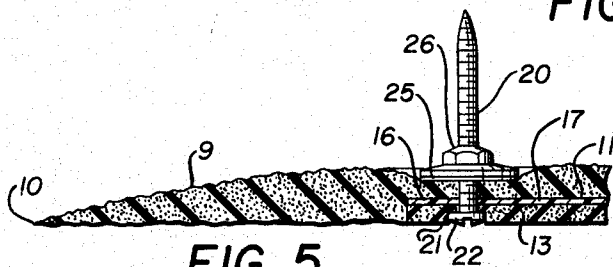


FIG. 5

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3,131,897

FLORAL DISPLAY HOLDER

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Filed Jan. 25, 1960, Ser. No. 4,421

1 Claim. (Cl. 248—27.8)

This invention relates to a holder for a floral display to be used temporarily on the top of a casket. The holder is designed for use on caskets with a steel lid or a steel panel in the lid.

The holder is provided with one or more magnets in or near its undersurface which prevent displacement of the holder when used on a casket with steel in the lid. There are preferably parallel stiffening members in the holder which are located longitudinally of the casket to assist in keeping the holder in position. These are generally magnetic. The holder is preferably made with a body of sponge rubber, the undersurface of which is rough to prevent its sliding on the lid of a casket. Spines extend upwardly from the upper surface of the holder, and these are preferably provided with protuberances which hold the display and prevent its unintentional dislodgement. They are preferably anchored in the stiffening members.

The holder can be of any usual size and will, for example, measure about one foot or somewhat more in one direction; up to eighteen inches, for example, in the other direction. It may be oval, round, square, or any desired shape. The rubber which forms the base of the holder may be cut from a large sheet, but is preferably individually molded with the edges gradually beveled to a knife edge, and the central portion $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick or thereabout. The top surface may be roughened, as is the undersurface, but this is not essential although such roughening assists in holding the display against dislodgment.

The magnet is preferably formed from magnetized iron filings distributed throughout a matrix of rubber or a vinyl or other plastic. If the matrix is formed of rubber, the rubber is vulcanized. This matrix may be relatively stiff, and if the magnets are in the form of long, narrow strips they are advantageously relatively rigid so that when arranged lengthwise of the casket lid they cause the holder to conform to the shape of the lid whether it be gradually curved from one edge to the other, or be formed with precisely formed panels extending lengthwise of the lid. The bottom surface of such plastic magnets is free of sharp edges so that the magnets do not scratch the lid surface. If preferred, the magnets may be embedded in the holder, and if this is the case ordinary metal magnets may be employed. Instead of employing separate magnets, a part or the whole undersurface of the holder or even the entire body of the holder may have magnetized iron filings distributed through it.

The body of the holder is preferably made of rubber or other resilient plastic, and sponge rubber is advantageously employed because it is thicker than a solid rubber piece of the same weight and less apt to be torn, particularly around the edges.

The spines may be ordinary screws or bolts threaded either at their upper ends or throughout the length of their respective shanks. These spines are distributed over the surface of the holder so that the engagement with the dis-

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play is not localized. In a preferred construction the magnets are metal plastic strips containing filings, and the spines are screws with their heads anchored in these strips.

The invention will be further described in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of a casket with a floral display holder lying on it;

FIG. 2 is a top view of the holder;

FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the holder;

FIG. 4 is a section, somewhat enlarged, on the centerline 4—4 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 5 is a section, greatly enlarged, on the line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

FIGURE 1 shows a casket 5 with a lid 6. This lid is preferably of steel. The top of the lid is gradually curved from one side to the other. On it is the holder 9. The body of this holder is composed of sponge rubber and, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, the edges gradually taper to a knife edge 10.

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged detail which shows the bottom and top surfaces of the sponge rubber body as being roughened, as by a herringbone or other design in which certain small areas stand out from the main body of the holder. FIGURE 5 illustrates the roughness of the sponge-rubber surfaces without illustrating any particular design.

The drawings show three magnets 13, 14 and 15 which are spaced parallel to one another and extend lengthwise in narrow openings 16 (FIG. 5) in the bottom surface of the body of the holder. They are fastened in place by the adhesive 17 which, if the magnets are cured rubber strips containing magnetized iron filings, can be a rubber cement, either vulcanized or unvulcanized. Other suitable adhesives are known to those skilled in the art.

The spines 20 preferably extend about one inch (more or less) above the top surface of the body of the holder. In the drawings they are threaded screw shanks. The screws are inserted through openings 21 in the magnets and held by their heads 22 which are countersunk into the undersurfaces of the magnets. Being countersunk, there is no possibility of their scratching the surface of the casket lid on which the holder is placed. The shanks 20 extend through the sponge-rubber body of the holder, preferably in pre-formed openings. The gaskets 25 are then slipped over the shanks and then the self-threading gasketed nuts 26 are threaded down over the shanks until their gasket portions which are the same size as the gaskets 25, press the gaskets 25 into the surface of the sponge-rubber body. Any such suitable means may be employed for holding the screws in place.

The magnets 13, 14 and 15 are of a resilient composition and cannot scratch the lid. They are wide enough to maintain the shanks 20 of the screws in an upright position. Of course, when the holder is rounded somewhat to conform to the shape of the lid of a casket, the shanks located in the sides of the holder will not be perpendicular, but will be slanted slightly outwardly. The drawings illustrate an advantageous arrangement of the screws in elongated magnets, but it is to be understood that other arrangements may be employed.

The invention is covered in the claim which follows.

What we claim is:

A holder for a casket floral display which comprises

a drapable sponge rubber cover with elongated depressions in the undersurface, resilient plastic strips in said depressions, with magnetized particles distributed in said strips, and a plurality of screws with their heads within the confines of the strips and extending from the strips and through the sponge-rubber cover with most of the threaded shank of each exposed above the sponge-rubber cover, nuts threaded onto the threaded shanks into contact with the sponge rubber cover to hold the strips in the depressions, said threaded shanks being adapted to hold a floral display against unintentional displacement.

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