

March 19, 1940.

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2,193,991

PAD HOLDER

Filed May 18, 1939

FIG. 1.

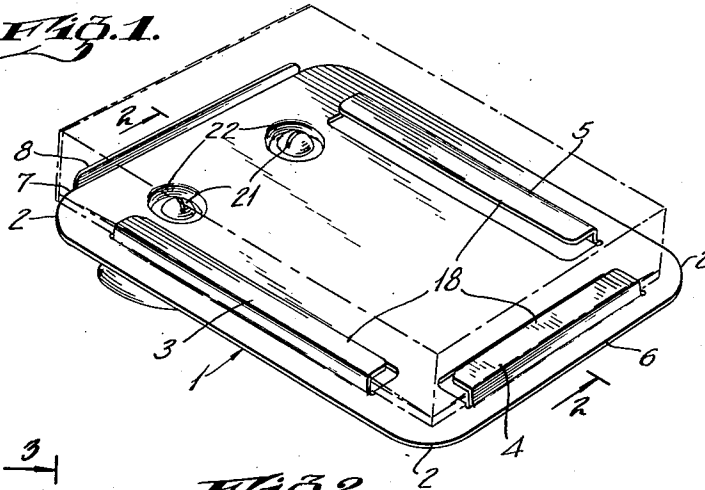


FIG. 2.

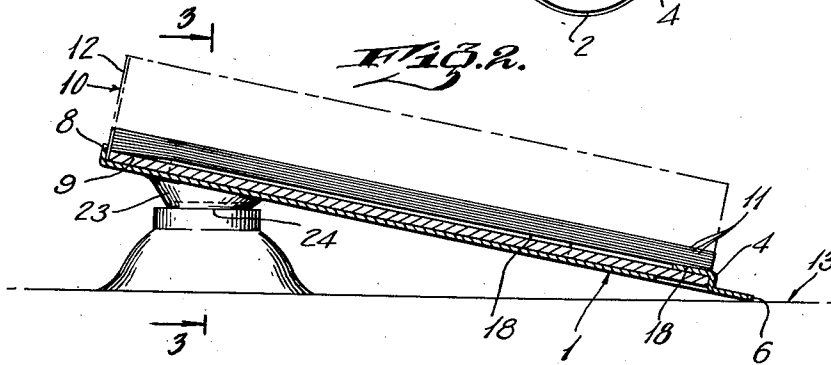
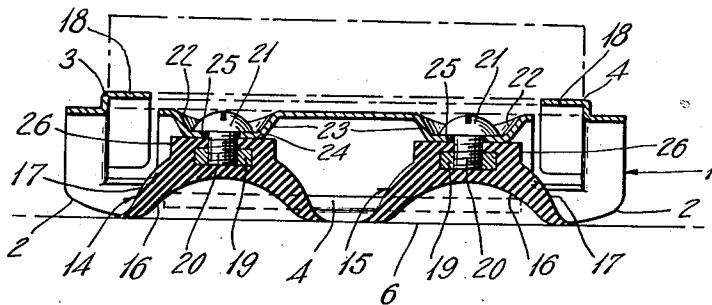


FIG. 3.



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2,193,991

PAD HOLDER

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Application May 18, 1939, Serial No. 274,469

3 Claims. (Cl. 281—44)

This invention relates to pad holders in general and more particularly to holders for a pad of restaurant checks.

It has been customary for some time in restaurants, especially of the counter type, for the attendant, waiter or waitress, to connect or attach the pad of restaurant checks to the counter and after marking or recording the charge on the check while still part of the pad, then removing the check so marked and handing it to the customer.

Among the objects of the present invention, it is aimed to provide an improved holder for pads and particularly for restaurant check pads which can be manufactured at a minimum cost, can be readily attached to the restaurant counter and in addition facilitate ready attachment and removal of the pad from the holder. To this end, the present invention contemplates the provision of an inclined support having flanges for engaging the backing ordinarily composed of cardboard or the like and having connecting means such as vacuum cups for connecting or attaching the support to the counter. It is still further an object of the present invention to provide a one-piece sheet metal support having flanges or fingers stamped out of the same for engaging the backing of the pad and thereby attaching the pad to the support, and in addition having vacuum-cup supporting means connected to one end of the support and extending downwardly therefrom to engage the counter and at the same time incline the support and thereby the pad relative to the counter and consequently to facilitate writing upon the pad.

These, and other features, capabilities and advantages of the invention will appear from the subjoined detailed description thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective of the holder showing the pad of restaurant checks in dash and dot outline.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and

Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

The holder consists essentially of a sheet metal plate 1, having rounded corners 2, and three L-shaped flanges 3, 4 and 5, stamped out and bent to extend inwardly of the plate, the flanges 3 and 5 being disposed adjacent to, and parallel to, the opposite longitudinal edges of the plate 1, and the flange 4 being disposed adjacent to, and parallel to, the lower edge 6 of the plate 1. At the upper edge 7 of the plate 1, there is formed a flange 8

extending upwardly from the plate 1. The portion 13 of the flanges 3, 4 and 5, extend parallel to the main portion of the plate 1 and at a distance from the plate 1 that slightly exceeds in distance the thickness of an ordinary cardboard backing such as the cardboard backing 9 of the pad 10, above which backing 9 there are secured the sheets of restaurant checks 11 in the usual way by a binding 12 connected to the upper end of the backing 9. The height of the flange 8 also preferably just exceeds in altitude the thickness of the cardboard backing 9 so that it will form a shoulder or abutment at the upper end of the plate 1 to obstruct the ready or accidental removal of the pad 10 after the same has been secured to the plate 1 in the position shown in Fig. 2, but will not interfere with the ready flexing of the backing 9 to clear the flange 8 when attaching the pad to the plate 1. Obviously, as shown, the plate 1, and therefore flanges 3, 4, 5 and 8 are spaced from one another to conform substantially to the dimensions of the backing 9 of the pad 10.

To anchor the plate 1 to the counter or supporting surface 13, in the present instance, suction means are provided. It has been found that by using two suction cups 14 and 15 and securing them to extend from the lower face of the plate 1 slightly spaced from the upper edge 7 as shown, that several advantages result. In the first place, as distinguished from a single vacuum cup, a firm writing support will be provided having a three-point engagement, to wit, the two vacuum cups 14 and 15 and the lower edge 6 of the plate so that rocking or wobbling of the plate 1 and therewith the writing surface of the pad 10, will be positively prevented or eliminated. In the next place, in this way the plate 1 can readily be inclined at the desired angle to facilitate writing. The vacuum cups used are more or less standard consisting of a rubber body having a concave face 16, a bell-shaped outer face 17 terminating in an upper substantially cylindrical formation 26 with a small internally threaded washer 19, molded in the same, and an opening in the rubber body registering with the opening in the washer 19 to receive the threaded stem 20 of a screw 21. The screw 21 has a head resting in the pocket 22 receding from the upper face of the plate 1, the pocket 22 being formed by expressing a portion of the plate 1 downwardly into the cup-shaped element 23. This cup-shaped element 23, preferably has its base 24 inclined to the plane of the main portion of the plate 1, see Fig. 2, and has an opening 25 in the center thereof to receive

the screw 21. The inclined bases 24 of the cup-shaped elements 23 are provided to align with the upper face of the vacuum cups 14, 15, so that the lower end, see Fig. 2, of the plate 1 will be properly positioned to engage the counter surface 13.

It is preferable, as shown, that the plate 1 consists of sheet metal and the flanges 3, 4, 5 and 8 as well as the cup-shaped elements 23 are stamped out of this sheet although it is of course also obvious that this plate 1 with its flanges and cup-shaped elements can also be formed out of a composition such as "Bakelite" or cast if desired.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made to the details of construction without departing from the general spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a plate-like pad holder adapted to have the plane of its plate inclined with respect to a supporting surface by having the forward edge of said plate resting upon said supporting surface and having the rear edge of said plate elevated above said supporting surface; means for elevating said rear edge comprising a plurality of suction cups, and means mounting said cups upon the under-surface of said plate adjacent said rear edge at such an angle to the plane of said plate that the bottoms of said cups and said forward edge lie in the same plane inclined to the plane of said plate when said holder is placed upon said supporting surface.

2. In a plate-like pad holder adapted to have

the plane of the plate inclined with respect to a supporting surface by having the forward edge of said plate resting upon, and the rear edge of said plate elevated above, said surface; means for elevating said rear edge comprising a plurality of suction cups having their tops and bottoms lying in substantially parallel planes, and means for mounting the tops of said cups upon said holder adjacent said rear edge at such an angle to the plane of said plate that the bottoms of said cups and said forward edge lie in the same plane inclined to the plane of said plate when said plate is placed upon said supporting surface.

3. In a plate-like pad holder adapted to have the plane of the plate inclined with respect to a supporting surface by having the front edge of said plate resting upon, and the rear edge of said plate elevated above, said surface; means for elevating said rear edge comprising a plurality of suction cups, embossments for fastening said cups to said plate depending from the lower surface of said plate and presenting hollowed portions in the upper surface of said plate and cup securing surfaces adjacent the bottom surface of said plate, said cup securing surfaces lying in a plane inclined to the plane of said plate such that the bottoms of said cups and said forward edge lie in the same plane inclined with respect to said plate when said plate rests upon said supporting surface, and bolt means countersunk in said hollowed portions for securing each of said cups to the cup securing surface of its respective embossment.

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