

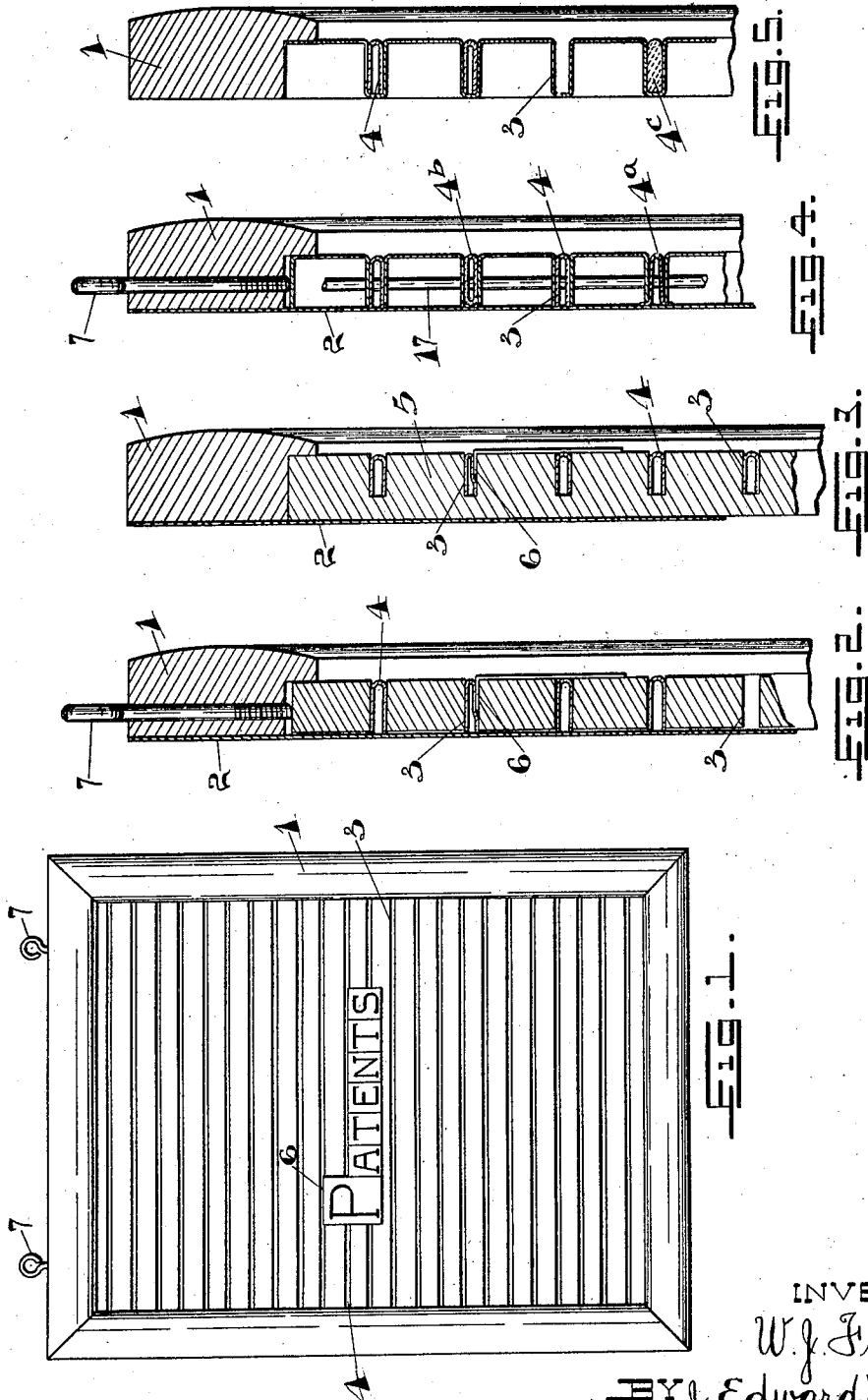
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W. J. FRASER.

SIGNBOARD

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SIGNBOARD.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. FRASER, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, Province of Ontario, Canada, a subject of the King of Great Britain, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signboards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to sign boards of the type in which letters are releasably supported in slots in the sign board so that any desired words may be built up letter by letter, or various symbols arranged in any desired order, and my object is to devise a simple and cheap construction adapted to hold the letters firmly so that they retain their position accurately even when the sign is inclined forwardly or shaken or knocked down. A further object is to devise a sign the face of which may be finished directly on the material of which the board is composed without the use of covering fabric.

I attain my object by means of the constructions hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Fig. 1 is a front view of a sign board constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of part of a sign board constructed in accordance with my invention; and

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 similar views showing modifications.

In the drawings like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

1 is a frame adapted to contain the sign board proper, provided with a back 2, which may be retained in position in any desired manner. The sign board proper is provided with grooves 3, which may be formed as shown in Fig. 3 by channeling an integral piece of board 5 or other suitable material, but which are preferably formed as shown in Fig. 2 by holding a plurality of separate strips in spaced relationship.

In each groove is secured a resilient strip 4, and it is these strips 4 which serve to maintain the separate pieces of the board in spaced relationship. The strips 4 must, to be effective, possess certain characteristics, viz, resiliency, a certain amount of flexibility, and preferably a somewhat smooth not too soft surface. I find that leather or some of the leather substitutes on the market known as "leatherette" or "fabrikoid" will

answer the purpose of my invention satisfactorily.

In the construction shown in Fig. 2, the strips are doubled lengthwise on themselves, the folds lying adjacent the outer sides of the slots, while the inner edges are secured in position in the slots by any suitable means such, for example, as by glue. The result of this construction is that the metal symbol possessing a rearwardly extending tang or projection 6 may be held in place on the board by having the tang pressed between one of the strips and the adjacent side of the groove.

It will be readily understood that the mode of operation of the construction shown in Fig. 3 is substantially the same as that shown in Fig. 2. It is not essential that the sign board proper be made of wood, as similar grooves may readily be formed by corrugating an integral metal sheet as shown in Fig. 5, or separate hollow strips of metal may be formed as indicated in Fig. 4.

While the resilient strips 4 are preferably formed of leather or leather substitute as described, they might in some cases be formed of very thin sheet metal as indicated at 4^a in Fig. 4, the edges of the strips being turned under the edges of the adjacent strips or sections of the sign board proper. As a further modification a piece of flattened tubing formed of rubber compound may be employed as shown at 4^b in Fig. 4. A single resilient strip, that is, one which is not folded on itself, is indicated at 4^c in Fig. 5, but the preferred form is the folded strip of leather or leather substitute as hereinbefore described.

When the sign board proper is formed of separate pieces, it is preferable that means be provided to press the strips towards one another so that the frictional resistance to the introduction or removal of the tangs 6 from their positions in the grooves may be varied as may be necessary. I therefore prefer to provide adjusting screws 7 which are screwed through either the top or bottom member of the frame 1 and which press against the upper strip of the sign board proper. These screws may be formed as screw eyes and thus serve as means for suspending the board.

It is also advisable when the board is formed of separate strips to provide a rod 17, which passes through the strips of the

board intermediate their ends, thus holding the strips in alinement, preventing the effects of warping becoming visible on the face of the board.

5 From the above description it will be seen that the face of the board may be given any desired finish, and that the rounded edges of the resilient strips which show at the face of the board may be given a similar
10 finish if desired. The board may also be easily and cheaply constructed and the letters will be so firmly held that the board may be used with its front face forwardly inclined if desired without the letters be-
15 coming in any way displaced.

My construction also has the further advantage that should one of the resilient strips 4 become damaged or worn, it is merely necessary to replace that particular
20 strip and not to replace a large surface as with signs at present on the market.

What I claim as my invention is:—

1. A sign board having a plurality of transverse grooves formed in its face; and
25 a resilient strip positioned in each groove free of its sides and the face of the board so that a projection on a letter or symbol may be pressed between either side of said strip and the adjacent side of the groove.

30 2. A sign board constructed as set forth in claim 1 in which the resilient strips are each formed of a strip doubled upon itself, the folds lying adjacent the front sides of the grooves.

35 3. A sign board constructed as set forth in claim 1 in which the grooves for the

reception of the resilient strips are provided by forming the board of a plurality of separate bars which are held in spaced relationship by the said strips. 40

4. A sign board comprising a frame; a plurality of transverse bars; slidably supported therein; a resilient strip secured in place between each pair of bars so that a projection on a letter or symbol may be
45 pressed between one side of said strip and the side of the adjacent strip; and means on the frame for pressing the strips towards one another.

5. A sign board constructed as set forth
50 in claim 1 in which the outer edge of each strip is rounded.

6. A sign board constructed as set forth in claim 1 in which the resilient strips are each formed of a strip of material having
55 substantially the characteristics in respects of flexibility, resilience and surface hardness of leatherette, said strips being each doubled upon itself, the folds lying adjacent the outer sides of the slots. 60

7. A sign board constructed as set forth in claim 1 in which the grooves for the reception of the resilient strips are provided by forming the board of a plurality of separate bars which are held in spaced relationship by the said strips and provided
65 with an alining rod extending through holes in the said strips.

Signed at Toronto this 26th day of May, 1921.

WILLIAM J. FRASER.