July 26, 1932. P. PATINOT 1,869,314

INTERCHANGEABLE CHARACTER OR SYMBOL AND HOLDER THEREFOR

Filed April 22, 1931

Fig. 1.

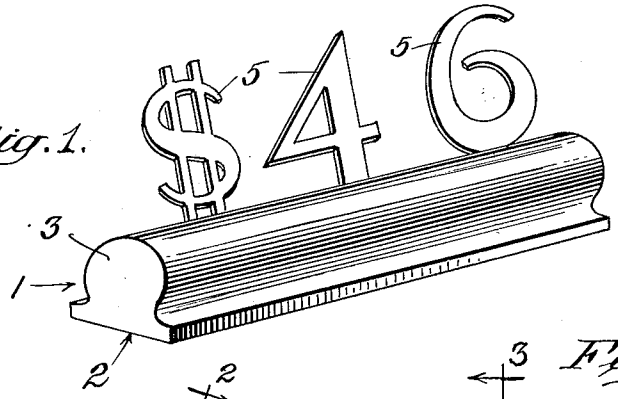


Fig. 2.

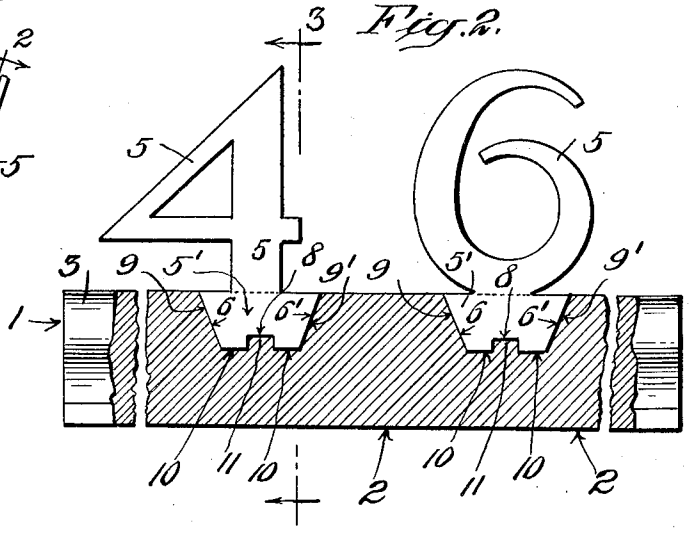


Fig. 3.

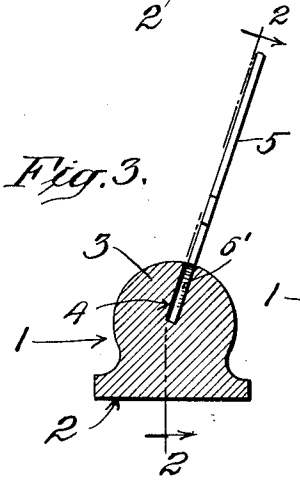
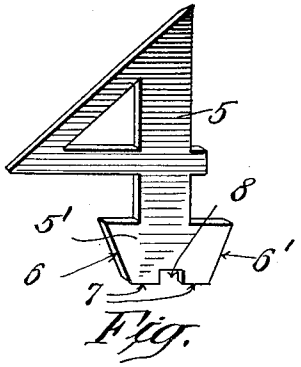


Fig.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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INTERCHANGEABLE CHARACTER OR SYMBOL AND HOLDER THEREFOR

Application filed April 22, 1931. Serial No. 532,005.

This invention relates to improvements in interchangeable characters or symbols and holders therefor.

Among the objects of this invention are to produce an interchangeable character and holder or base member therefor in which the characters, whether numeric or alphabetic, may be properly spaced from each other; to provide a character and holder having interengaging parts; and to provide a character and holder with interengaging means whereby the character will be guided into properly set position in the holder.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises the combination of members and arrangement of parts so combined as to co-act and cooperate with each other in the performance of the functions and the accomplishment of the results herein contemplated, and comprises in one of its adaptations the species or preferred form illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a view, in perspective, of a holder or base member and interchangeable characters mounted therein;

Fig. 2 is a view, partly in side elevation and partly in longitudinal section of the interchangeable character and holder shown in Fig. 1 and illustrating the interengaging feature, the section being taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrow;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrow; and

Fig. 4 is a view, in perspective, of a numeric character removed from the holder.

Referring now to the drawing, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of my invention, 1 indicates a base or holder member having, in the embodiment shown, a flat bottom portion 2 adapted to rest on any flat surface such as the floor or shelves in a show-window and 3 illustrates a raised body portion which may be of any suitable conformation and, as shown, is curvilinear in outline.

In accordance with my invention, the body portion 3 has arranged in a rectilinear line and equally spaced apart a plurality or series of independent grooves 4 adapted to receive and interengage with a plurality or a series of similarly-shaped foot members 5′ of characters or symbols 5.

In the embodiment illustrated, the characters employed are cut out characters or numbers preferably stamped out of metal and provided at their lower ends with the foot pieces 5′ having, as illustrated, inclined or downwardly converging edges 6, 6′ terminating in flat bottom portions 7 having an interengaging notch 8 while the independent grooves in the base member are provided with upwardly diverging side walls 9, 9′ extending from a bottom portion 10 having an upwardly-extending tongue 11, the bottom portions of the groove and number thus being of irregular or broken conformation so as to cause, when the number is placed within the groove, an intermeshing or interengagement between the foot portion of the number and the groove and also to provide at the edges guide portions which will enable the ready and quick mounting of the number and the positioning of the same not only in proper spaced relationship to its companion characters but also to cause the seating in proper upright position without any tilting in relation to the vertical axis passing through the letter.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention, the base member comprises a die-casting in which the independent slots or grooves are formed and the characters or cut-out numerals are stamped out from sheet metal. In view of the use to which these elements are put, both of them are preferably nickel-plated or otherwise ornamented except at the foot portion of the numbers. These foot portions of the characters and the grooves therefor are of suitable thickness and the grooves are preferably depressed in the base member at an angle from the vertical so that the characters when positioned therein will be set at an angle inclined slightly to a vertical plane passing through the middle of the base member.

Obviously a character, such as the number "4" shown may be readily and quickly slipped into the base and will, because of the inclined edges 6 and walls 9, be guided to the bottom portions which will interengage with each other, the portions 7 setting within the por-

tions 10 and the tongue 11 fitting within the groove 8.

Having described my invention, I claim:—

1. An interchangeable character or symbol and holder therefor embodying, in combination, a base member having a body portion provided with a plurality of independent grooves, and characters having foot portions adapted to seat within such independent grooves, said grooves and foot portions of the characters having interengaging portions.

2. An interchangeable character or symbol and holder therefor embodying, in combination, a base member having a body portion provided with a plurality of independent grooves, and characters having foot portions adapted to seat within such independent grooves, said grooves and foot portions of the characters being polygonal in conformation and having inclined edge portions for guiding the movement of the characters into the grooves.

In witness whereof, I have signed my name to the foregoing specification.

PHILIPPE PATINOT.