Dec. 26, 1961 M. C. McWHERTER 3,014,597

HANGER BOARD

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Fig. 1

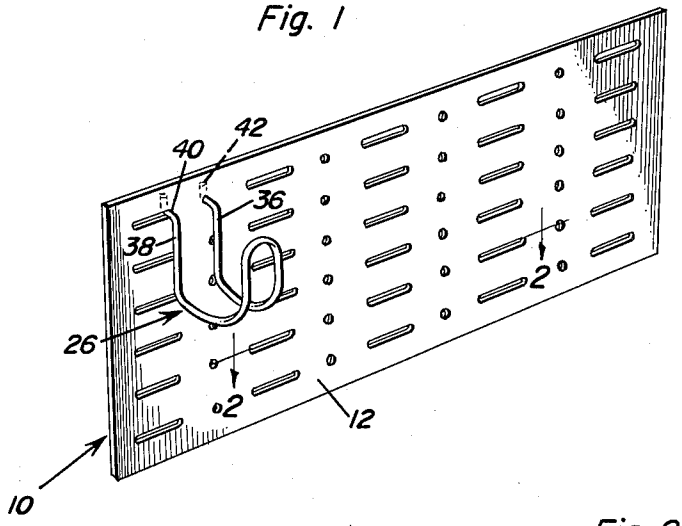


Fig. 2

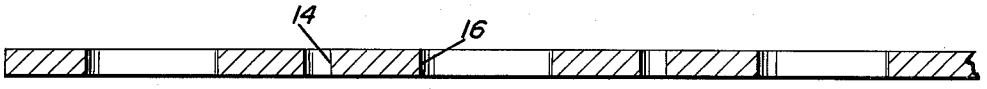
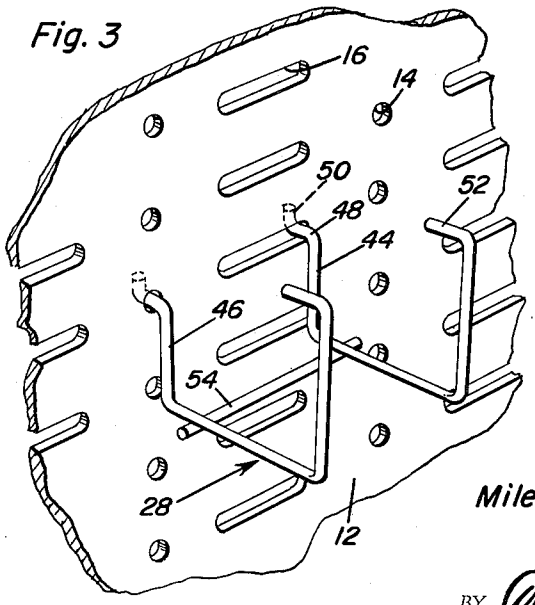


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

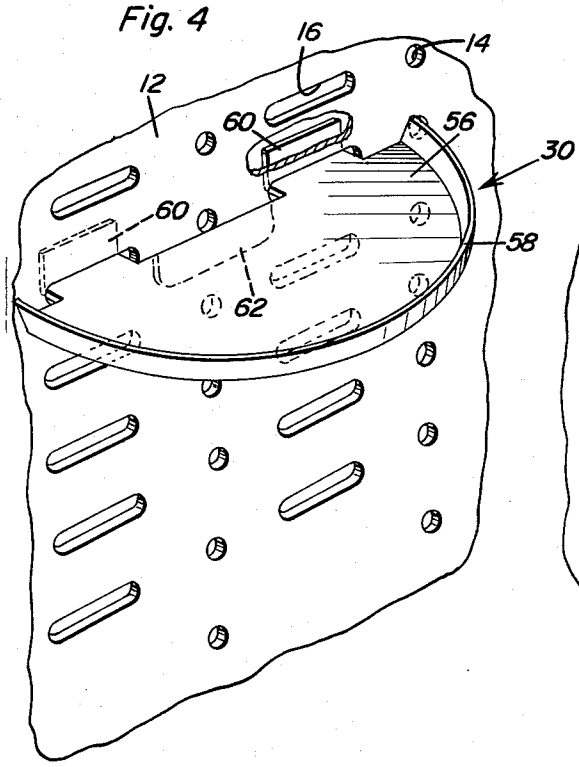


Fig. 5

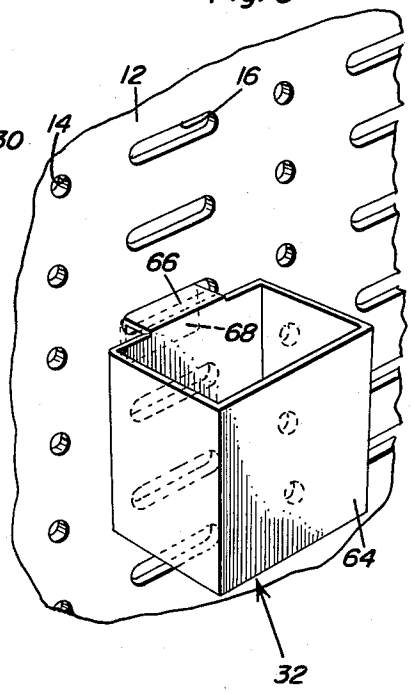
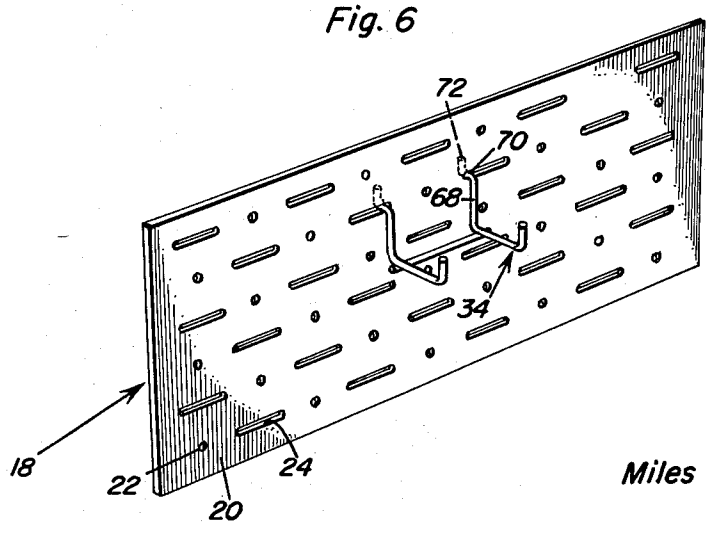


Fig. 6



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3,014,597

HANGER BOARD

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The present invention generally relates to a hanger board for supporting articles therefrom by virtue of various types of hangers constructed of wire rod-like material or from one piece sheet material.

There is presently available a hanger board in the form of a panel or board having a plurality of uniformly arranged apertures for receiving hangers having offset end portions for engagement with the apertures. Such hanger boards are limited in their utility since these boards require the use of particular hanger structures in that the hangers must have either only one supporting wire rod or the supporting wire rods must be spaced equally to the apertures in the board. Therefore, it is the primary object of the present invention to provide a hanger board having circular holes and elongated slots which enable the hanger board to receive hangers having various spaced arrangements of wire rod members and also receive hangers having sheet material offset hook-like projections thereby providing a wider degree of flexibility of installation of the hangers on the hanger board.

Briefly, the hanger board of the present invention is in the form of a rigid panel having a plurality of circular holes therein and a plurality of elongated slots therein with the holes and slots being arranged in alternate relation in horizontal rows with the slots and holes either being disposed in vertical rows or in vertical staggered relation.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a hanger board which is simple in construction, easy to use, quite flexible in utility, adapted for use with various types of hangers and generally inexpensive to manufacture.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the hanger board of the present invention illustrating one type of hanger mounted thereon;

FIGURE 2 is a detailed sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 2—2 of FIGURE 1 illustrating the details of construction of the hanger board;

FIGURE 3 is a partial enlarged perspective view of the hanger board illustrating another form of hanger attached thereto;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the hanger board illustrating a sheet metal hanger having a pair of attaching offset portions mounted on the hanger board;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the hanger board illustrating yet another form of hanger attached to the hanger board; and

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of a modified form of hanger board illustrating another type of hanger attached thereto.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, the hanger board is generally designated by the reference numeral **10** which includes an enlarged panel **12** which may be of any configuration such as rectangular, square or any desired size and shape with the hanger board **10** being constructed of any rigid material such as sheet material or panelling that may be a pressed fiber board, sheet

metal, wood or any other material having sufficient rigidity for supporting a plurality of hangers and the articles carried thereby. The panel or board **12** includes a plurality of circular holes or apertures **14** and a plurality of elongated slots **16**. The holes **14** are arranged in vertical rows and the slots **16** are arranged in vertical rows with the rows of holes and slots being alternate horizontally across the panel **12**. The holes **14** are spaced equally distant from the ends of the slots **16** and the length of each of the slots **16** is the same. As illustrated, the preferred length of the slots is one-half the normal distance between adjacent holes.

In FIGURE 6, there is illustrated a modified form of hanger board generally designated by the numeral **18** which includes a panel **20** with alternately arranged holes **22** and slots **24**. In this form of the invention, the horizontal rows of holes and slots are arranged with an alternate arrangement of holes and slots in the same manner as in FIGURE 1. However, in the vertical rows, the holes and slots are not in alignment with each other as in FIGURE 1 but are in staggered relation with each other as clearly illustrated in FIGURE 6.

With the arrangement of holes and slots, various types of hangers may be supported from the hanger board. Representative of these hangers are designated in FIGURE 1 by reference numeral **26** of wire rod construction, a wire rod hanger generally designated by the numeral **28** in FIGURE 3, a sheet metal tray or shelf generally designated by the numeral **30** in FIGURE 4, a sheet metal container or the like generally designated by the numeral **32** in FIGURE 5 and a wire rod hanger generally designated by the numeral **34** in FIGURE 6.

The wire rod hanger **26** is in the form of generally a U-shaped bracket constructed of one piece of wire including a pair of parallel legs **36** and **38** each of which has an offset **40** extending through an aperture **14** and an adjacent end portion of a slot **16** together with an upstanding terminal end portion **42** engaging the rear surface of the panel **12**. With this construction, the spacing of the legs **36** and **38** may vary within the limits of the length of the slot in which one of the legs is inserted or within the limits of the length of two slots if the legs **36** and **38** are spaced sufficiently apart to go into two slots. The hanger **28** in FIGURE 3 illustrates that the variation of the legs may extend throughout the range of the length of the slots **16**. In this form of the invention, there are two generally U-shaped pieces of wire rod having parallel legs **44** and **46** arranged along the front surface of the panel **12** together with offset portions **48** and terminal end portions **50** with the U-shaped members having inturned free end portions **52** and also being interconnected by a rod **54** rigidly secured to the bottom edges thereof.

In FIGURE 4, a one-piece sheet metal shelf **56** is provided and has an upstanding peripheral flange **58** and a pair of projecting sheet metal flanges **60** for extending through spaced slots **16**. Centrally between the flanges or lugs **60** is a depending lug **62** abutting and engaging the surface of the hanger board panel **12**. In FIGURE 5, there is provided a generally parallelepiped receptacle **64** of sheet metal or any other sheet material which may be of any particular shape having a rearwardly extending flange **66** extending through one of the slots **16** and then an offset flange **68** engaging the rear surface of the panel **12** thereby detachably securing the receptacle **64** in position. In FIGURE 6, the hanger **34** includes parallel legs **68** spaced apart sufficiently that they will be received within adjacent slots in a horizontal row with the legs **68** having offset portions **70** and terminal ends **72** engaging the rear surface of the panel **20**.

With this construction, the combination of the slots and holes will permit many different types of hangers

made from round wire rod material, flat material or varieties of both to be expeditiously supported on the panel. Hangers made from flat material and inserted in the slots will permit the suspension of trays, flat shelving, receptacles and the like which may be stamped in one piece thereby avoiding the necessity of welding or otherwise securing hooks of round wire rod thereto. For example, a shelf of relatively long length having a plurality of tabs spaced for reception in the slots may be effectively supported on the panel board or hanger board and the combination of the slots and holes enables a greater variety of hangers to be supported from a single hanger board thereby increasing the flexibility of use of the hanger board.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A hanger board comprising an enlarged panel of rigid material having a plurality of apertures therethrough, certain of said apertures being in the form of round holes, other of said apertures being in the form of elongated horizontal slots of a length substantially one-half the distance between the holes, said holes and slots being arranged in a uniform pattern with the slots horizontally aligned with the hole, and a hanger supported on the panel, said hanger including projecting means inserted through certain of the apertures for supporting the hanger on the panel.

2. The structure as defined in claim 1 wherein the slots are arranged in vertical rows and the holes are arranged in vertical rows, the rows of slots and holes being horizontally alternate.

3. The structure as defined in claim 1 wherein said slots and holes are arranged in staggered relation in both a horizontal and vertical direction.

4. The structure as defined in claim 1 wherein said projecting means on the hanger includes a pair of wire rod legs having offset means extending through a hole and a slot whereby variation in the spacing between the legs within the limits of the length of the slot may be accommodated by the panel.

5. The combination of claim 1 wherein said hanger is in the form of a sheet metal member stamped from a single piece of sheet metal having a projecting lug thereon extending through one of the slots for mounting the hanger on the panel board.

6. A hanger board comprising an enlarged panel of rigid material having a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, said apertures being arranged in a uniform pattern, certain of said apertures being in the form of circular holes, other of said apertures being in the form of elongated horizontal slots, said holes and said slots being arranged in horizontal alternating relation and in horizontal alignment, the length of the slots being substantially equal to one-half the distance between adjacent holes, said hanger board adapted to receive hangers having a pair of projections thereon for extending through the apertures, with the apertures being capable of receiving projections disposed apart a distance equal to the distance between a hole and an adjacent end of a slot and a multiple of any distance between a hole and the adjacent end of an adjacent slot and also any variable of a multiple of distance.

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