Nov. 22, 1955 J. C. MONCIER 2,724,627

COUNTER DIVIDER

Filed May 20, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

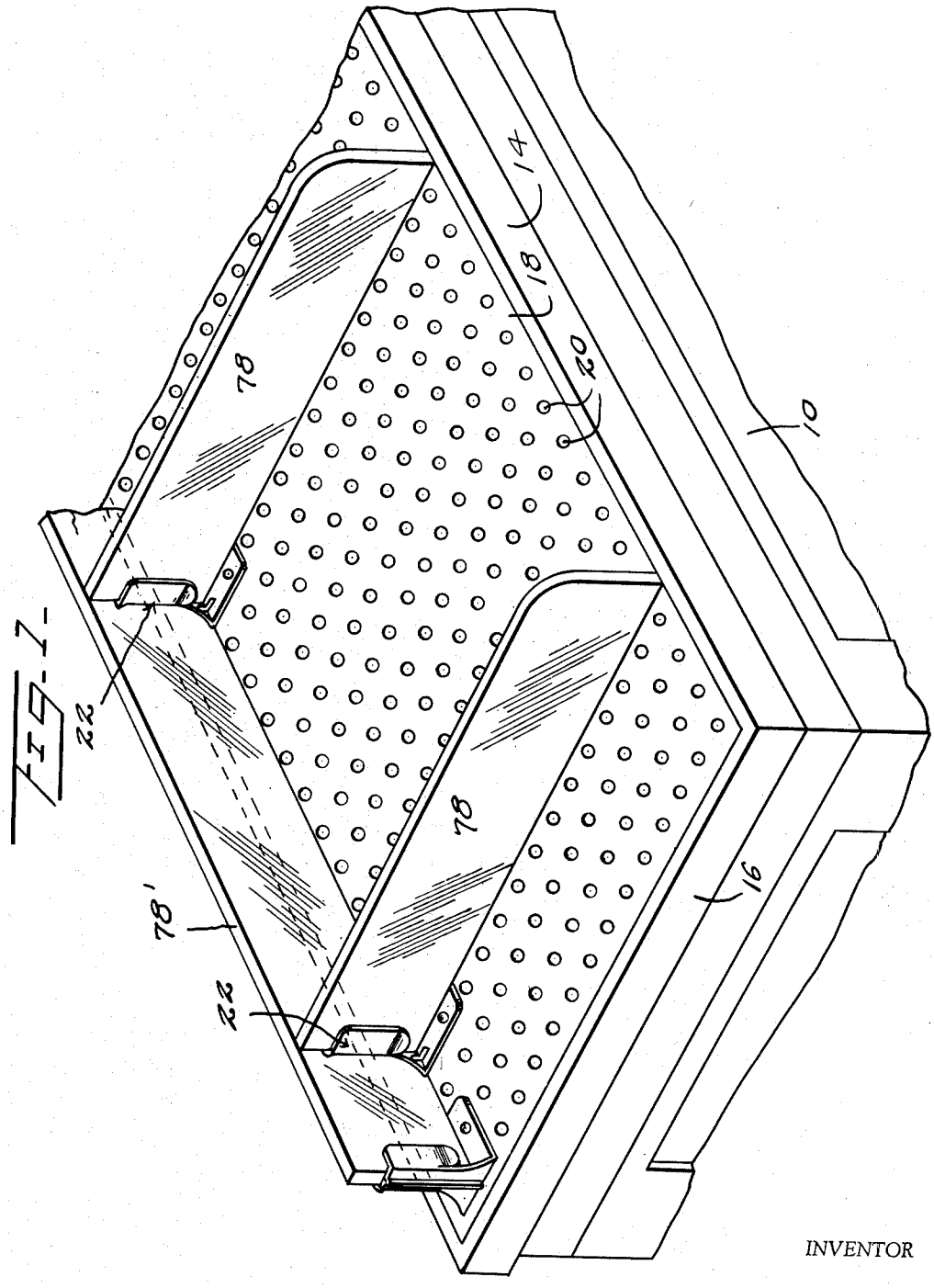


FIG. 1.

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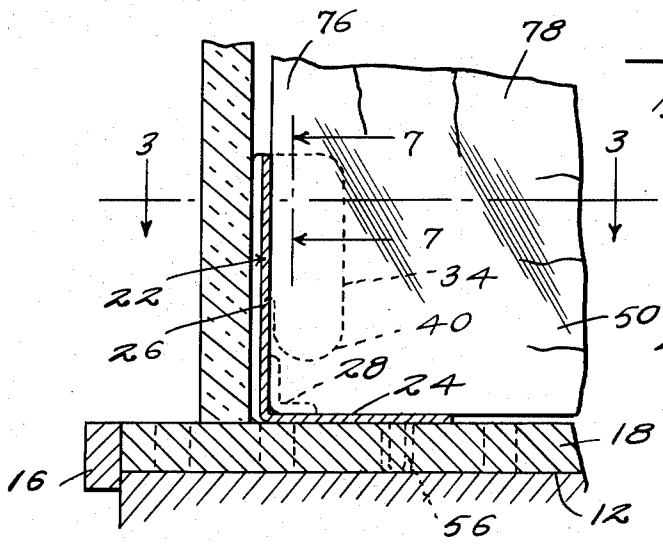


FIG. 2.

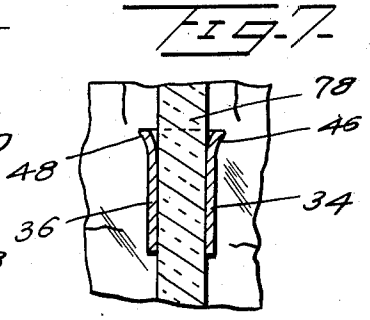


FIG. 7.

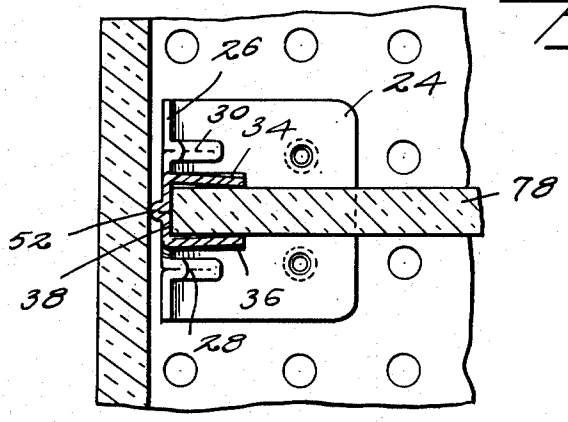


FIG. 3.

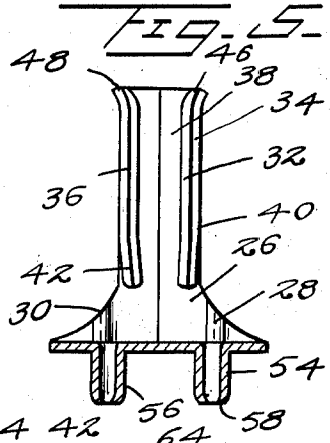


FIG. 5.

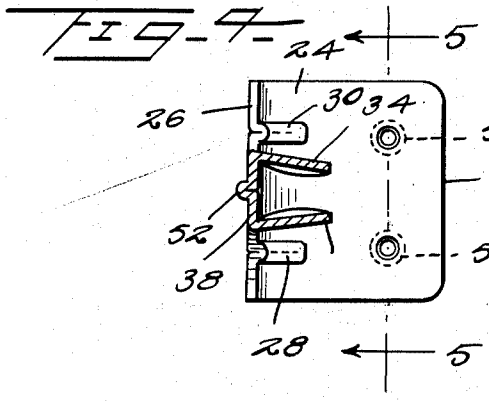


FIG. 4.

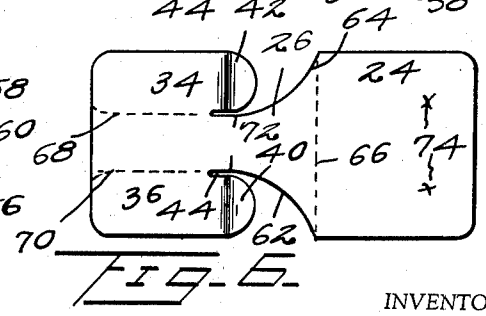


FIG. 6.

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COUNTER DIVIDER

James C. Moncier, Knoxville, Tenn.

Application May 20, 1953, Serial No. 356,280

1 Claim. (Cl. 312—140.3)

This invention appertains to improvements in means for dividing a counter into a number of bins of various sizes and in various arrangements and has for a primary object to provide a board that is adapted to be removably superimposed on top of a counter and to provide means for mounting vertical partitions of various sizes and in various arrangements on the upper surface of the board so as to divide the board into a plurality of various size bins for retaining merchandise.

Another object of this invention is to provide a multi-apertured board which is adapted to be seated on the top of a counter and to provide a plurality of clips each of which has a pair of prongs that is insertable in the apertures, the prongs retaining the clips in various arrangements on the board against movement relative to the board.

A further object of this invention is to provide a clip, which is particularly designed to mount a counter partition on top of a counter in a manner to securely support the partitions against movement on the board and so that the partitions can be positioned close together in angular relationship.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a clip that is capable without adjustment of receiving and supporting partitions of various widths, that is formed with rigidifying means to securely support the partitions and that does not embody any adjustable parts.

A further object of this invention is to provide a clip which is particularly designed to mount partitions on top of a counter, running crosswise or lengthwise without the necessity of using blocks or specially built frame work to hold the crosswise partitions in place, thus, resulting in an economy by eliminating extra depth on the crosswise partitions, such as would be needed for conventional methods whereby a portion of the crosswise partition would be needed to extend between blocks or other frame work for the purpose of supporting itself. For example; on conventional methods it would be necessary to use 5 inch glass in order to create a bin 3 inches deep provided the blocks or other frame work used in supporting the crosswise partitions were 2 inches thick. Whereas, this invention provides a clip that supports the crosswise partition on top of the counter, thus, eliminating the additional 2 inches, or resulting in a savings of 40% when using 5 inch glass or other partitioning material to create a bin 3 inches deep.

A further object of this invention is to provide a clip which is simply and inexpensively fabricated from a single piece of material.

These and ancillary objects and structural features of merit are attained by this invention, the preferred embodiment of which is set forth in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a counter and bin construction embodying this invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view of the counter showing one of the clips in a vertical section;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view of the clip per se;

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4 and showing the vertical section of the clip in elevation;

Figure 6 is a plan view of the clip showing the same in its initial stages of formation after having been stamped from a sheet of material; and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 2.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings and initially to Figure 1, the numeral **10** designates a conventional counter which has an upper surface or top **12** that is bounded by upstanding side rails **14** and end rails **16**.

A thin board **18** is detachably seated on the top **12** of the counter and may be formed from any suitable material such as beaver board, composition board, plastic or the like. The board **18** is provided with a number of apertures **20** that are formed by being stamped or moulded out of the board **18**. The main purpose of the board **18** is to provide a mounting means for the clips **22**, and, in providing such mounting means, to avoid drilling holes in the counter. By using the thin sheet or board **18**, the counter does not have to be modified in any manner and the board may be formed with the apertures in a very simple and inexpensive manner by simply stamping or moulding the same therein. This avoids the necessity of drilling the openings or apertures in the board **18**.

The clips **22** may be mounted in any desired relation or arrangement on the board, one such arrangement being shown in Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only.

As shown more particularly in Figures 2–7, the clip **22** includes a horizontal section or bottom **24** and a vertical or back section **26**, the sections being arranged at right angles to each other. The sections are reinforced at their line of juncture with integral webs **28** and **30** which are formed by pinching a portion of the bottom or horizontal section **24** and the vertical or back section **26** together.

The vertical section **26** is formed at its upper portion with a channel **32** that is defined by bending the sides of the vertical section to form the laterally extending legs or flanges **34** and **36**. The web **38** of the channel is co-planar with the lower end of the vertical section.

The lower ends **40** and **42** of the flanges or legs **34** and **36** are severed from the web **38** by slits **44** and the lower ends **40** and **42** are bent slightly inwardly.

The upper ends **46** and **48** of the legs or flanges are outwardly flared to provide a guiding means for the reception of the partitions **50** in the channels.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the web **38** of the channel **32** is provided with a reinforcing rib **52** that is formed at the longitudinal center line of the web by pinching the web upon itself. The horizontal section or bottom **24** of the clip is provided with a pair of depending prongs **54** and **56** that are formed by being extruded or stamped out of the horizontal section **24**. The prongs **54** and **56** are, therefore, hollow and have inturned lower ends **58** which serve as guide means for inserting the prongs in the apertures **20**. The prongs **54** and **56** are positioned adjacent the forward end **60** of the horizontal section **24** and are spaced apart in side by side alignment. The prongs can be formed in spaced alignment between the front and rear edges of the horizontal section or three prongs can be provided in a triangular pattern. The important factor is the provision of at least two prongs which are provided to locate the clips against rotational or any angular movement on the board.

As shown in Figure 6, the clip **22** is stamped from a sheet of suitable material which possesses inherent resiliency such as sheet metal or the like or it may be moulded from resilient plastics. The clip is stamped out of the sheet with the square horizontal section **24** co-planar with a vertical section **26**. As shown, the portion of the vertical section adjacent the horizontal section **24** is formed with inwardly curved side edges **62** and **64** and the flanges **34** and **36** have their lower edges **40** and **42** separated therefrom by the slits **44**.

The vertical section **26** is bent into right angular relation with the horizontal section **24** about the fold line **66** and the flanges **34** and **36** are bent inwardly about the fold lines **68** and **70**. The flanges **34** and **36** are normally disposed in converging relation as shown in Figure 4 and the lower ends **42** and **40** are bent inwardly about the fold lines **72**.

The prongs **54** and **56** are extruded from the horizontal sheet **24** at the points **74** thereon, as shown in Figure 6.

In use, the clip is secured on the board **18** in any desired position with the prongs **54** and **56** being received in the openings **20**. The horizontal section **24** is superimposed on the board as shown in Figure 2 and the vertical section **26** upstands therefrom. The ends **76** of the partition **78**, which may be glass, plastic or other conventional material, are disposed in the channels **32** of the clips. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the end **76** of the partition **78** is clampingly engaged by the flanges **34** and **36** and abuts against the web **38** with the bottom thereof resting on the horizontal section **24** between the prongs **54** and **56**.

In inserting the partition **78** in the clips, the ends **76** are located above the channels of the clips and the partition is moved down into the channels with the flared ends **46** and **48** of the flanges serving as a guide means for receiving the partition in the channel. The flanges **34** and **36** of each clip are spread apart by the partition and the flanges are stressed to securely clamp on the partition. The lower ends **40** and **42** of the flanges function as clamping fingers. In this respect, it will be noted that the flanges **34** and **36** are stressed horizontally by being slightly flexed about vertical axes, while the lower ends **40** and **42** are stressed in a direction at right angles to the flanges by being flexed about horizontal axes. This arrangement of the flanges and their associated clamping ends **40** and **42** serves to securely engage the partition. The partition is supported by the horizontal sections **24** of the clips so that it is stabilized by the clips and retained securely thereby on the board **18**. Obviously, any length of partition can be used, the length desired dictating the placement of the clips on the board to mount the partition.

As can be seen from Figure 1, any desired arrangement of the clips can be carried out, so that bins of any size

can be formed on the board. For example, in laying out the bins, if it is found that a desired arrangement cannot be completely carried out, it is not necessary to tear up all of the partitions and start from the beginning, it only being necessary to relocate some of the last placed clips.

It will be particularly noted that the clips can be positioned close to adjoining partitions, for example, the clip **22'** of Figure 1 being located adjacent to the partition **78'** so that the end of the partition **78** is almost contiguous with the partition **78'**. Furthermore, the upper surface of the horizontal sections of the clips being flat and plane permits the partitions to be firmly supported and permits the partition to be easily inserted and removed from the clips.

While the preferred form of this invention has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and described herein, other forms may be realized as come within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A partition supporting clip for a counter top of the type having spaced apertures extending downwardly therethrough comprising a base section having a plurality of side edges, a plurality of prongs integral with said base section and depending therefrom, each of said prongs being adapted to cooperate with one of said apertures to mount said base to said counter top, an upright section integrally joined at its lower edge to one side edge of said base section, said upright section having a pair of side edges and a top edge, a pair of flanges projecting integrally from the opposite side edges of said upright section and extending over said base section with the lower ends of said flanges substantially spaced from said base section, a pair of outwardly flared guides formed on the upper ends of said flanges, a pair of inwardly projecting clamping fingers formed on the lower ends of said flanges with said clamping fingers having their closest points spaced apart a distance less than that of the closest points of said flanges, a centrally disposed integral reinforcing rib formed on said upright section between said side edges, and a pair of spaced apart reinforcing ribs extending through the lower end portion of said upright section and through the adjacent side edge portion of said base section.

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