A V-shaped slot may be provided in the center of the member and runs parallel with the grooves the length of the member.
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1 VARIABLE ORNAMENTAL DESIGN

It has been known in the prior art to provide desk sets, bookends, and desk blotters of various types. In each of these prior art sets, a desk base or bookend is usually provided for the reception of at least one pen and in many instances provided a place for the laying of pens or pencils. The pieces so provided for the extra pens and pencils generally took the form of a slot which either ran the length of the base or some distance between the ends of the base.

In all these prior art devices, generally no provision was made for ornamentation of the desk base, bookend or the like unless whatever ornamentation was provided was permanently affixed in position on the member.

It is the general object of the present invention to provide a member which may be made to vary the ornamentation thereof.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a member that may receive individual lettering that may be interchangeably placed in position on the member.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a member for a desk set which will be decorative and provide for the placing of pen holders as well.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a member that may substitute ornamental strips of material or lettering in various positions on the member.

The objects described and other objects of the present invention will become more apparent as the description proceeds and by referring to the accompanying drawings in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts throughout the respective views and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top view of a member,
FIG. 2 is an end view of the member,
FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a letter used on the member,
FIG. 4 is a plan view of the rear side of the letter used on the member,
FIG. 5a is a partial cross-sectional view of an ornamental groove arrangement in the member,
FIG. 5b is a cross-sectional view of a letter used with the groove arrangement of FIG. 5a,
FIG. 6a is a partial end view of a member using another alternative groove arrangement,
FIG. 6b is a cross-sectional view of a letter used in conjunction with the member of FIG. 6a,
FIG. 7 is a partial end view showing a further alternative groove arrangement,
FIG. 8a is a rear view of a letter using an alternative means of fastening,
FIG. 8b is a cross-sectional view of the letter of FIG. 8a, and
FIG. 9 is a top view of an alternative base member.

Although the principles of the present invention are broadly applicable for any decorative member such as bookend, pen holding desk sets, blotter holders, clock stands or any personalized article, this invention is particularly well adapted to desk sets and hence it has been so described. It should be particularly understood, however, that this principle and means of variably decorating a member should not be limited to the article herein described, and further that this invention is adaptable to wooden, marble, metallic or plastic members which may use ornamentation.

Referring now to the invention shown in FIG. 1, a member for a pen holding desk set is generally indicated by the reference numeral 10.

The base member 10 may take the general shape of a rectangle, however, it is contemplated that other forms and shapes such as circular, oval, square and triangular base members may be used. It should further be understood that the material which comprise the base member 10 is not limited to wood but may use marble, metal in any form or any other appropriate decorative material.

The base member 10 is provided with a top surface 12 and a bottom surface 14. The bottom surface which generally rests on a desk or work table may be provided with small legs or may be lined with a soft material of any kind to prevent the scratching of the surface on which it rests.

The top surface of the base member 10 may have thereon a flat surface portion 16 on which may be mounted at least one penholder 18 which may hold a fountain or ballpoint pen (not shown). In order to provide for the retention of more than two pens and to prevent the rolling off or sliding off of round objects laid on the base member 10, a slot 20 may be provided which runs the length of the base member from one end 22 thereof to the other end 24. The slot 20 may take the form of a V-shaped indentation; however, it is not to be limited to the V-shape. Other convenient forms may be utilized consistent with the purpose of the slot 20. Normally two penholders are provided, as shown in FIG. 1.

Beneath the slot 20 a second flat surface 26 may be provided, however, the second flat surface may be angled slightly downwardly. As shown in FIG. 2 the second flat surface 26 tapers downwardly, only slightly, towards the bottom 28 of the base member 10. This slight tapering affords a decorative touch to the shape of the base member 10 without necessitating the usage of other ornate material.

In order to decorate the base member 10 with letters, initial, monograms and other designs, a design-holding means 28 may be provided beneath the second flat surface 26. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the design-holding means 28 takes the form of a plurality of grooves 30 which run the length of the base member 10 from one end 22 thereof to the other end 24 thereof. As shown in FIG. 2 there may be provided three grooves 30, having raised portions 32 therebetween. The raised portions 32, however, are slightly lower in height and are slightly recessed below the second flat surface 26 and the continuing end surface 34 of the base member 10. The purpose of the slightly recessed raised portions will be more fully discussed.

Alternatively as shown in FIG. 9, the design holding means 28d may merely be the form of a strip 48d which is adhered to the base member or which may be slightly recessed in the base member, onto which a decorative piece may be placed. This will be more fully disclosed as the description proceeds.

The invention, presently described, contemplates the use of a plurality of decorative letters or initials 36 which are insertable in or on the design-holding means 28 and which are removable therefrom and are replaceable. Further, since the letters or initials are removable they may be shifted in or on the design holding means to varying positions therefore the designs are capable of being varied. By way of illustrations, each letter may be provided with a top surface 38 and a bottom surface 40. The top surface 38 may have disposed thereon a decorative design 42 (herein shown as an initial). The bottom surface 40 may be provided with a connecting means 44 in the form of a small pointed protuberances 46. The protuberances 46 may be so spaced such that they will ride in the grooves 30 of the design-holding means 28. The decorative design 42 may overlap onto the second flat surface 26 and the continuing end surface 34, however, the protuberances 46 will ride in the grooves 30. In this manner several letters 36 may be aligned in the design-holding means 28 and the initials 36 are easily removable or slideable to different positions.

It may be seen that using this arrangement of grooves 30 and protuberances 46 on the bottom surfaces 40 of the letters 36 or decorative designs 42 may be placed on different levels in the same design holding means 28, thereby creating a stepped effect in the disposition of the letters.

Although the grooves 30 do not appear to detract from the general overall beauty of the design on the base member 10, a
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decorative strip 48 may be slid into or placed in the design holding means 28. The bottom surface 50 of the decorative strip 48 may be provided with an adhesive substance to hold the strip 48 in position on the decorative holding means 28. It may be seen that the raised portions 32 between the grooves 30 are slightly recessed below the top surface 12 so that decorative strip 48 may rest therein and further provide a smooth continuity from the second flat surface 26 over the top surface of the decorative strip 48 to the continuing end surface 34. It may be seen that the user of the base member 10 may dispense with the use of the letters 36 and merely apply the strip 48 as the only design on the base member 10.

Alternatively, the grooves 30 as shown in FIG. 2 may be replaced by the grooves 30b shown in FIG. 5. FIG. 5 shows the use of dovetail-shaped grooves 30b, here again having the raised portions 32b between the grooves 30b slightly recessed. In the utilization of this particular type of structure, the letter 36 would have on its lower or bottom surface 40 a matching dovetail arrangement 46a rather than the pointed protuberances 46. With this structural arrangement, the decorative strip 48 would not require any adhesive on its bottom surface because in sliding into the design-holding means 28a the strip would be held in place by the overhang of the dovetailed walls. In this case the strip could not be inserted from the top of the design-holding means 28a but would of necessity have to be slid into position from the side.

Yet a further alternative design-holding means 28b may be seen in FIG. 6a. As shown therein a series of stepped grooves 30b may be provided. In this instance the lowermost groove 31b may be fitted with a magnetized strip 52 which is susceptible to holding a metallic member 54 which may be provided on the bottom surface of a letter. In this manner the magnetized strip 52 in contact with the metal member 54 on the bottom surface of the letter and strip would hold the same in position in the design-holding means 28b. This arrangement of parts is particularly well suited for ease of variation of designs and differing letter combinations.

Another alternative groove arrangement as shown in FIG. 7 wherein is shown a larger number of grooves 30c with the same structural configuration of the preferred embodiment (of FIGS. 1 and 2). With this arrangement the letters may be staggered, in a declining or ascending pattern as previously discussed. In this situation decorative strip 48 would be wider to cover the entire design-holding means 28c.

Referring now to FIGS. 8a, 8b, and 9 it may be recognized by those skilled in the art that an excellent apparatus for creating a design on a marble or wooden base member 10d may be provided by the adherence of the strip 48d to the top surface 12d. The strip 48d may be provided such it protrudes above the top surface 12d and may act as a guide means for a plurality of letters 36d to be mounted thereon, as well as a decorative element.

As shown in FIGS. 8a and 8b, the letters 36d may be provided with an L-shaped foot member 56 at each corner 58 on the bottom surface 40d of the letter 36d. The distance between the edges 60 of the L-shaped foot member 56 is approximately equal to the width of the strip 48d, such that when the letter 36d is placed in position on the base member 10d the L-shaped foot members will straddle the strip and be aligned in proper position thereover. In order to adhere the letter 36d in position on the strip 48d an adhesive member 62 may be provided on the bottom surface 40d of the letter 36d such that when the letter is aligned on the strip the adhesive member 62 will be in firm contact with the strip 48d and will firmly hold the letter in position. As shown in FIG. 8b the combination of the adhesive member 62 and the strip 48d is approximately the height of the L-shaped leg members so that the letter when placed in position will be firmly in contact with the surfaces 26d and 34d and no wobbling will occur.

With this alternative arrangement, which is usable on marble as well as wooden desk sets or bookends will provide a varying design arrangement for whatever elements on which a design is applied.

In summary it will be recognized by those skilled in the art, from the above disclosure that a base member 10 of a desk set may be provided which will present a high degree of ornamental versatility and yet provide an efficient base member 10 for a desk set.

While in accordance with the patent statutes a preferred and alternative embodiments have been shown and described in detail, it is particularly understood that the invention is not limited thereto or thereby. I claim:

1. A variable design member comprising a base member, said base member having a top surface, at least one groove in said top surface running at least the partial length of said base member, a strip removable insertable in said groove and adapted to protrude above the top surface of said base member, said strip having a predetermined width, at least one ornamental design member adapted to fit over said strip, each of said ornamental design members being rectangular in shape and being provided with a top and bottom surface, a decorative design being disposed on said top surface of said design member, said bottom surface having, in each corner an L-shaped foot member, said foot members facing each other and being slightly larger than the width of said strip such that when the ornamental design member is placed over said strip the L-shaped foot members will straddle said strip and will automatically be aligned thereon and means disposed on said bottom surface of said design member for releasably holding said ornamental design member on said strip.

2. A variable design member according to claim 1 wherein an adhesive member is connected to the bottom surface of said ornamental design member, the height of said strip protrudes above said top surface of said base member and the thickness of said adhesive member being equal to the thickness of said L-shaped foot members so that the space between said bottom surface of said ornamental design member and the bottom edge of each of said L-shaped foot members is equal to the height of said strip protruding above said top surface of said base member and the thickness of said adhesive member.