May 26, 1959 J. MIZRAHI ET AL 2,888,137

HOLDING TRAY FOR CUFF LINKS AND TIE BAR

Filed March 28, 1958

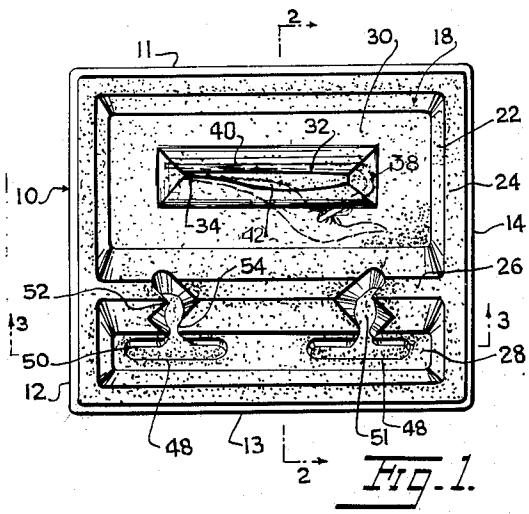


Fig. 1.

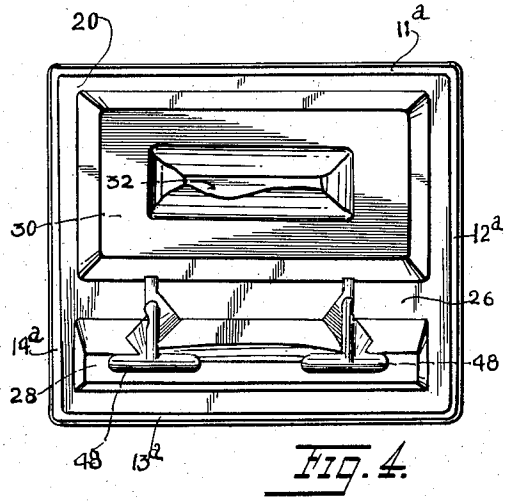


Fig. 4.

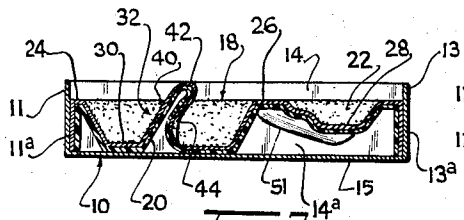


Fig. 2.

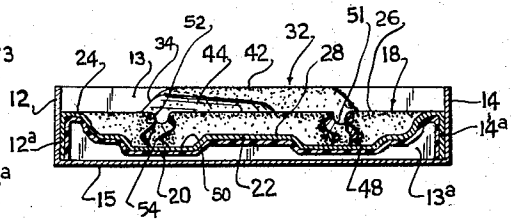


Fig. 3.

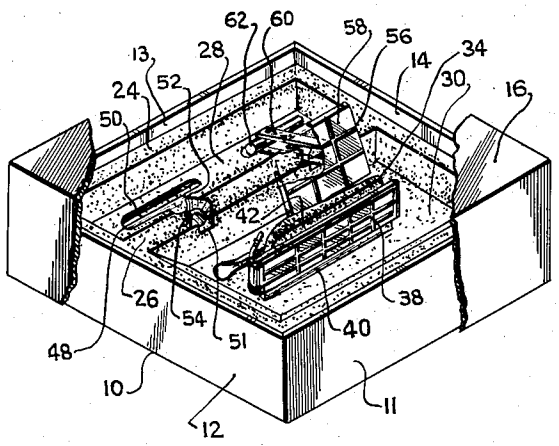


Fig. 5.

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United States Patent Office 2,888,137 Patented May 26, 1959

2,888,137

HOLDING TRAY FOR CUFF LINKS AND TIE BAR

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Application March 28, 1958, Serial No. 724,733

4 Claims. (Cl. 206—75)

This invention relates to the art of jewelry display cases and particularly concerns a case for displaying and retaining articles of jewelry such as cuff links, tie clasp and the like in a secure and orderly fashion, as well as display cases for other varied and sundry consumer merchandise.

A principal object of the invention is to provide a fitted type of case for tie clasp, cuff links and the like.

A further object is to provide a fitted case provided with a semi-rigid tray having grooves so shaped that portions of cuff links can be snapped into the grooves and there retained securely while being easily removable therefrom, the cuff links being held in a displayed position for easy viewing.

A further object is to provide a fitted case of the character described further provided with a ridge so shaped that a tie clasp can be engaged thereon and there held in a secure displayed position.

According to the invention there is provided a box having a removable tray therein. The tray is thermoformed of a sheet of plastic material which may or may not be coated with flocking or other soft velvet-like material. A plurality of grooves are formed in one ridge in the tray. Each groove has a pair of overhanging or undercut portions so disposed that the posts or bars of cuff links can be snapped into the grooves and there held securely. A further ridge is provided for engaging a tie clasp thereon. This tray may be ued as a display case when the articles of jewelry are displayed by a retailer in a showcase or on a counter for presentation to customers. The articles are so held that they are shown to best advantage in inclined positions. The customer may pick up the display case for examination of the jewelry and the case may be shipped between various points by normal means without disturbing the contents thereof, since each piece of jewelry is securely held therein.

The jewelry may be sold to the customer with the case so that he can keep his jewelry in an orderly and organized fashion among his personal effects. The case can be adapted to hold ladies' jewelry and other varied and sundry consumer merchandise, as well as serving as a container for men's jewelry.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a case embodying the invention, the cover being removed and a tie clasp being shown in dash lines.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on lines 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on lines 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the tray.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the case with portions

of the cover broken away to show internal parts, a tie clasp and a cuff link being shown in display position.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a box or case having a generally rectangular lower, hollow portion 10 with a closed bottom 15 and with sides 11, 12, 13 and 14, and being open at the top. The box may be made of cardboard, plastic material, metal, or other suitable rigid material. The box may be provided with a cover 16 adapted to fit snugly over the bottom portion and easily removable therefrom. In the hollow bottom portion is snugly fitted a tray 18. The tray has sides 11^a, 12^a, 13^a and 14^a which abut the sides of the bottom portion 10. The tray may have its sides cemented to the sides of the box portion 10, but preferably the tray is formed of a rigid or semi-rigid plastic material. The sides may normally have a slight outward flare and will be compressed inwardly slightly to fit into the bottom portion 10. Thus, the tray will be retained in the bottom of the box by the frictional fit of the sides of the tray against the inner sides of the box.

The tray may be formed as a uniform rigid or semi-rigid layer 20 or as a laminated structure with an inner or lower rigid or semi-rigid layer 20 and an outer or upper velvet or cloth-like thin layer 22 formed by fibrous flocking, or similar means. This type of layer provides a soft surface to protect the fine finish of the jewelry and show it off to best advantage. The tray may be molded or shaped with an outer rectangular frame 24. Extending across the frame is a ridge 26 dividing the tray into compartments 28 and 30. In the larger compartment 30 is an upstanding inclined ridge 32 extending part way across the compartment between the sides of the frame. One end 34 of the ridge has a fine edge so that the arms of a bent flexible tie clasp 38 can be inserted onto the ridge 32.

The ridge has an outer or front flat wall 40 inclined to the bottom of the box and to the side 11, which may be considered the front side of the box. The tie clasp is supported on the ridge in an inclined position of about 60° to 70° with respect to bottom 15 so that its broad side is fully visible when the box is opened. Ridge 32 extends in a wedge-like fashion from the fine edge 34. The top of the ridge has a broad portion 42 overhanging the wedge portion 44 so that the tie clasp can only be removed by sliding it longitudinally off the ridge or by opening the spring clasp of the tie clasp by manual pressure. The tie clasp is thus securely held and cannot fall off or be pulled off the top of the ridge 32. The ridge 32 extends upwardly to a level substantially parallel with the tops of sides 11–14. Frame 24 is inset below the tops of the sides of the box as clearly shown in Figs. 2–4.

Ridge 26 is formed with two generally T-shaped grooves 48. The cross portion of the groove is indicated at 50 and is formed in the compartment 28. The elongated shank portion 51 of the groove is irregular in shape having a sharp inwardly protruding point 52 intermediate its ends on one side thereof and an inwardly extending blunted point 54 on the opposite side adjacent the cross portion 50. A cuff link 56, having a front plate 58 and post 60 and a crossbar 62, is shown seated in one of the T-grooves in Fig. 5. The other T-groove is empty. The crossbar fits snugly in the crossportion 50 and the post 60 fits into the shank portion of the groove.

To insert the post into the shank portion of the groove it is forced past the points 52 and 54. The material of the tray is semi-rigid and yields to permit the post to pass and then the points spring back to their originally overhanging position. Thus, the post 60 snaps into the shank portion of the groove and is there retained securely. Some force is required to extract the cuff link from its

seated position in the T-groove. Plate 58 is supported in an inclined position in compartment 30 and is fully visible from the front side of the box when the cover 16 is removed. This provides an effective display and is a convenience to the customer in examining the jewelry prior to purchase. The display arrangement is also useful to the owner who can examine and select the jewelry for wear if desired from the organized arrangement of the jewelry in its case.

The soft cover 22 of the flexible base layer 20 of the tray can be applied by spraying a fibrous flocking thereon with a suitable adhesive or by other suitable means.

It is to be understood that the box 10 and tray 18 may be fabricated as a single unit.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of our invention, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise construction herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A jewelry case comprising a generally rectangular box portion having an open top and flat sides extending perpendicular thereto, a generally rectangular tray having sides frictionally engaging the sides of the box portion, said tray being formed of plastic sheet material and formed with an outer rectangular frame portion, a ridge extending transversely across said frame portion, there being two compartments formed on opposite sides of the ridge, one of the compartments having further short spaced recesses, each of the short recesses defining the crossportion of a generally T-shaped groove, said groove having a shank portion with resilient portions extending inwardly from opposite sides thereof for engaging the post of a cuff link, said short recess retaining the crossbar of the cuff link and one of the first-named compartments retaining the plate portion of the cuff link.

2. A jewelry case, comprising a generally rectangular tray having a ridge thereon, a compartment on one side of the ridge, a compartment on the other side of the ridge, said ridge having a generally T-shaped groove therein, said groove having a cross portion in the first-named compartment and a shank portion extending to the second-named compartment, said shank portion formed with inwardly extending longitudinally spaced points on opposite sides thereof, said tray having a short ridge formed in the second-named compartment, said short ridge having a fine edge and a wedge-shaped portion, the top of the short ridge being broad and extending over said wedge-shaped portion, said short ridge being inclined to an adjacent side and bottom of the tray whereby a tie clasp may be displayed and may be removed from the short ridge by sliding it past said fine edge or by opening the spring clasp of the tie clasp by manual pressure.

3. A jewelry case comprising a generally rectangular box portion having an open top and flat sides extending perpendicularly thereto, a generally rectangular tray having sides frictionally engaging the sides of the box portion, said tray being formed of plastic sheet material and formed with an outer rectangular frame portion, a ridge extending transversely across said frame portion, there being two compartments formed on opposite sides of the ridge, one of the compartments having short spaced recesses, each of the short recesses defining the cross portion of a generally T-shaped groove, said groove having a shank portion with resilient portions extending inwardly from opposite sides thereof for engaging the post of a cuff link, said short recess retaining the crossbar of the cuff link and one compartment retaining the plate portion of the cuff link, said plastic sheet material being covered with a soft fibrous layer, the other compartment having a short ridge formed therein, said short ridge being inclined to the bottom of said box portion and extending to a level parallel with the tops of said sides of the box portion, said frame portion being located below the tops of said sides.

4. A jewelry case, comprising a generally rectangular tray having a ridge thereon with a pair of compartments on opposite sides of the ridge, said ridge having a generally T-shaped groove therein, said groove having a cross portion in one compartment and a shank portion extending to the other compartment, said shank portion being formed with inwardly extending longitudinally spaced points on opposite sides thereof, said tray having a short ridge formed in the other of said compartments, said short ridge having a fine edge and a wedge-shaped portion, the top of the short ridge being broad and extending over said wedge-shaped portion, said tray being formed as a uniform structure of a semirigid material, said points being resilient to yield and permit the post of a cuff link to pass and then spring back to retain the cuff link in the tray.

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