Sept. 1, 1964 E. J. GORTH, SR 3,146,986

MISSAL HOLDER

Filed Dec. 13, 1962

Fig. 1

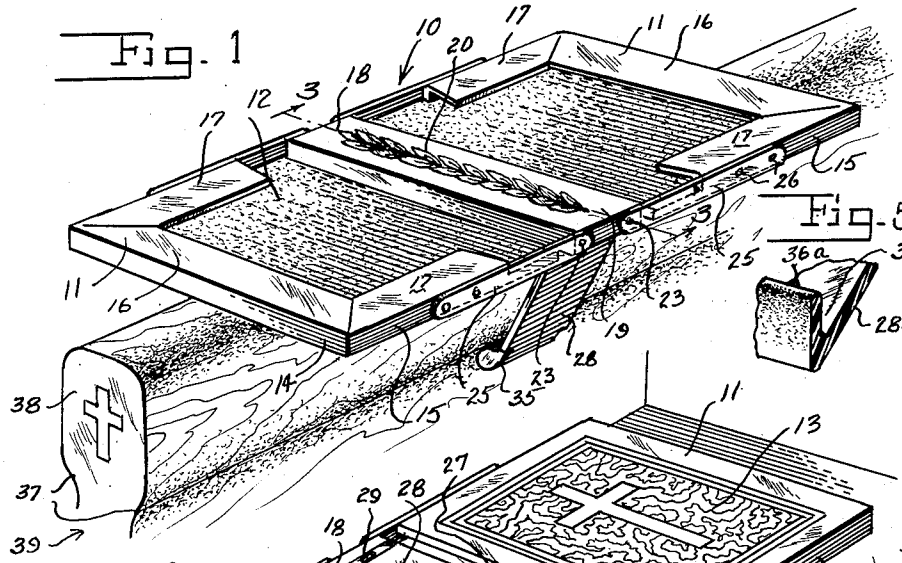


Fig. 5

Fig. 2

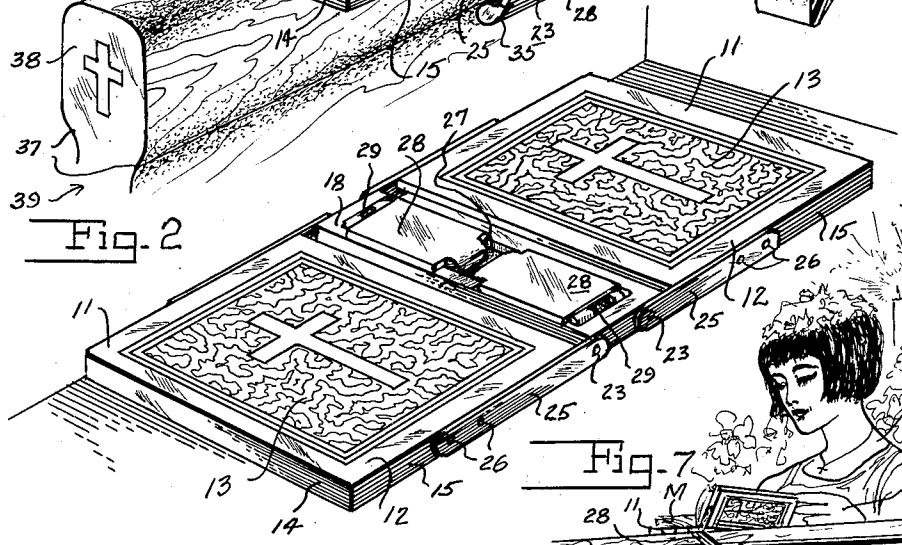


Fig. 7

Fig. 3

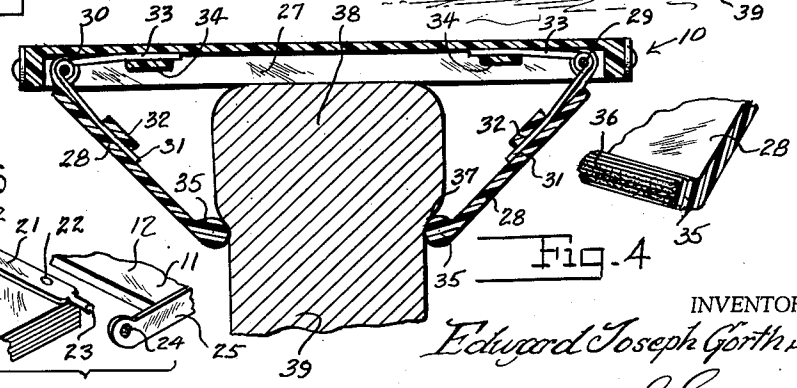


Fig. 6

Fig. 4

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MISSAL HOLDER

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This invention relates to a holder for missals or other books, such as prayer books, hymnals, other religious books or secular books as may be desired.

A primary object of this invention is the provision of a holder of this character which may be readily affixed to a pew back or other similar object so as to hold the missal or other book in position where it may be readily read without the necessity for the use of the hands.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of a holder of this nature, of convenient size provided with means for holding the front and rear covers of a missal in open position, and provided with means permitting its attachment to a pew back or the like in such position as to be readily observed by the user leaving the hands free for other devotional purposes.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character having means in the back which are spring biased to clamp the device to a pew or the like, and which fold flush with the back of the holder when not in use.

Still other objects reside in the combinations of elements, arrangements of parts, and features of construction. Still other objects will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out as the description of the invention proceeds and shown in the accompanying drawing wherein there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the open missal cover or holder in position for use on the back of a pew.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the back of the missal cover positioned on a flat surface in open position with the clamping means retracted.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary detail perspective view showing an edge of one of the clamping members.

FIG. 5 is a view similar to FIG. 4 showing a modified form of construction.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail exploded perspective view showing a constructional detail, and

FIG. 7 is a perspective view showing the missal holder in use by a worshipper.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawing.

Having reference now to the drawings in detail, the missal holder of the instant invention is generally indicated at **10** and comprises a pair of substantially identical but reversed missal cover members **11**, each of which includes a back plate **12** which may be suitably ornamented as at **13** (see FIG. 2) on its outer side, and which is provided on its inner side with an end flange **14** and a pair of side flanges **15**, from which side and end flanges extend internal projecting securing flanges **16** and **17**, the securing flanges being spaced from the sheet **12** to an extent sufficient to permit the insertion of the front and rear covers of a missal thereunder. A back section **18** of a width to accommodate the back of a missal is provided between the portions **11** and includes a center piece **19** which may be suitably ornamented as at **20** on its inner side, or which may be plain, and which is provided at each end and preferably beneath the ornamental covering **20** with a pair of plates **21** suitably secured thereto as by rivets **22**, from the outer extremity of which projects a pin **23**. Each pin **23** engages in an

opening **24** in an elongated plate **25**, being suitably secured therein as by peening or swaging or the like, the opposite end of each plate being secured as by screws or rivets **26** to the adjacent side edge flange **15** of a cover sheet, the arrangement thus being such that each front and rear cover is hingedly connected to the back **18** so that it may fold and completely enclose the book when not in use.

The rear of back section **18** is provided with an elongated recess **27**, into which fold a pair of clamping plates **28**, each of which is mounted on a hinge pin **29** adjacent one end of the recess. A coil spring **30** surrounds each hinge pin **29** and has one end **31** thereof secured beneath a retaining strip **32** carried by the inner side of each clamping member or plate **28** and the other end **33** thereof secured behind a retaining strip **34** interiorly of recess **27**, the springs being so arranged as normally to bias clamping members **28** inwardly toward the recess to hold the same in folded position when not employed for clamping purposes.

The end portion of each clamping member or plate **28** is reverted as at **35** and rounded, with its outer surface being roughened or serrated as indicated at **36** in FIG. 4 for engaging beneath the rim **37** of the top **38** of a pew back **39**. The arrangement is thus such that when in use the clamping plates **28** are spread to the position shown in FIGS. 1 and 3 and engaged on opposite sides of the pew back **39** beneath the outwardly projecting portions of the top rail **38** securely to clamp the holder **10** in substantially horizontal position as indicated. Thus, as shown in FIG. 7, the hands H of the worshipper W are left free except when actually turning the pages of the missal M. Either of the cover portions **11** may be raised as desired to facilitate turning the leaves of the missal, or the device may be left flat and open to a particular page as indicated in FIG. 1.

From the foregoing it will now be seen that there is herein provided an improved book holder particularly adapted for the holding of missals or similar religious books on pew backs, which facilitates the use of the same and which permits the worshipper full freedom of hands, and which may be positioned so as to be most readily visible when the worshipper is in kneeling position.

The arrangement of FIG. 4 may be modified as shown in FIG. 5, wherein a plate or leg **28***a* is provided with an acutely angled inwardly extending flange **35***a* which terminates in the slightly rounded end **36***a*. This latter modification is particularly adapted for certain types of pews only wherein there is a relatively deep rim indentation **37**. The modification of FIG. 4 however may be readily adapted to a relatively wide variety of widths, sizes and shapes of pew backs, and further facilitates the folding of the plates **28** to flat position when not in use.

The cover may be retained permanently on the missal, or may be removed therefrom as desired.

While in the foregoing the device of the instant invention has been described as particularly adapted to the holding of religious books such as missals or the like, it will be readily understood that the same may be employed as a book holder in any situation where such is desirable.

As many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A portable book holder comprising a back portion, front and rear book cover portions hingedly secured thereto, end and side flanges on the inner side of each of said cover portions and spaced therefrom adapted for the reception of the front and rear covers of a book, a

pair of clamping plates hingedly secured to the ends of the outer side of said back portion, and spring means biasing said plates inwardly toward the center of said back portion thereby clampingly and releasably to engage a vertical supporting member such as a pew back, the outer side of said back portion being provided with a recess into which said plates fold in flush relation when not in use, the end of each clamping plate being rounded and provided with friction means for releasably holding the same beneath an enlargement on the top end of a pew back.

2. A portable book holder comprising a back portion, front and rear book cover portions hingedly secured thereto, end and side flanges on the inner side of each of said cover portions and spaced therefrom adapted for the reception of the front and rear covers of a book, a pair of clamping plates hingedly secured to the ends of the outer side of said back portion, and spring means biasing said plates inwardly toward the center of said back portion thereby clampingly and releasably to engage a vertical supporting member such as a pew back,

the outer side of said back portion being provided with a recess into which said plates fold in flush relation when not in use, each end of the back portion having a pair of pins projecting therefrom, a plate having an aperture therein being secured to the side of each cover portion, one pin of each pair engaging in an aperture in the adjacent plate and being secured therein to provide means hingedly securing said cover portions to said back portion.

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