Dec. 18, 1934. R. N. PATCH 1,984,594

CARD HOLDER

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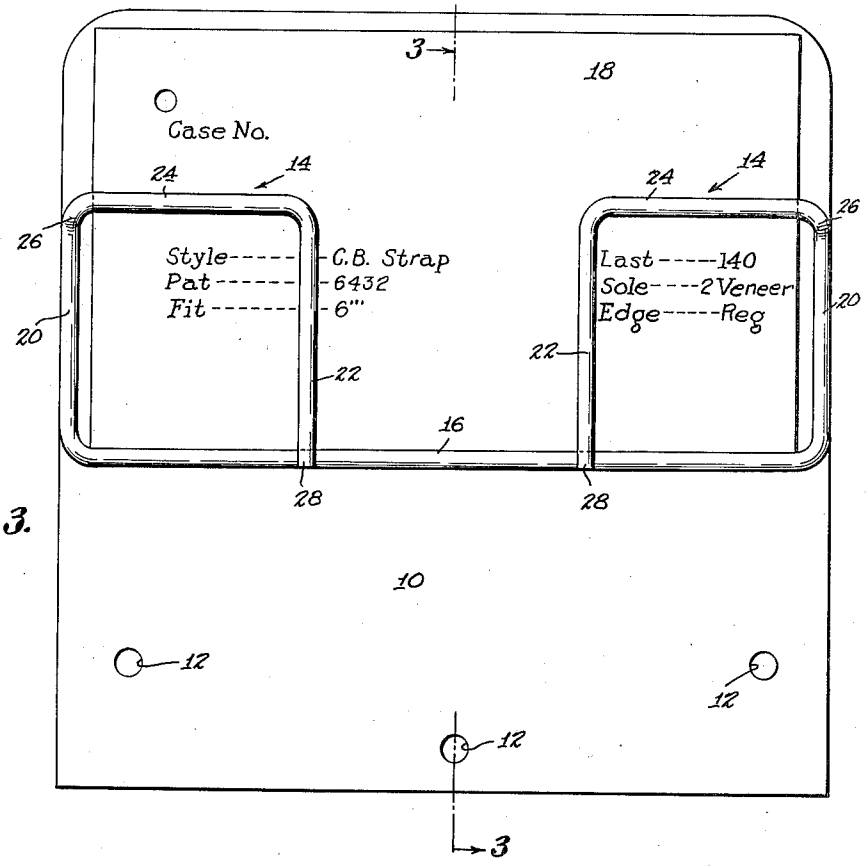


Fig. 1.

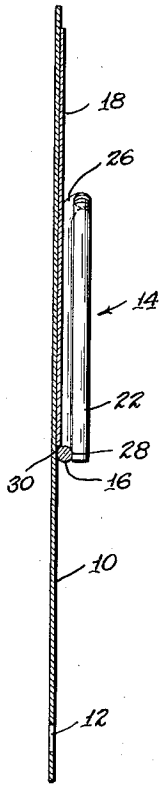


Fig. 3.

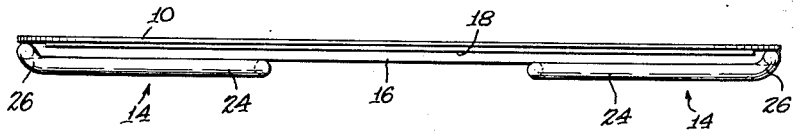


Fig. 2.

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CARD HOLDER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—10)

This invention relates to improvements in card holders. More especially it provides a holder which can display a loose card or tag, on a rack or other container, and provide full visibility of the face contents of that card, so that all data thereon are readily visible without the card being handled.

The invention has particular utility as a holder for route tags or cards in factories, where considerable numbers of articles in process of manufacture move in groups from one department or machine to another, each group being accompanied by a route tag bearing specifications, etc., which are to govern the manufacture of the articles in that particular group.

Each order for a case of shoes, for example, may differ in many details from the order which precedes or follows it through the factory; and it is necessary to inform the operatives at each of numerous stations as to the specific thing which is to be done at their particular station. For efficient routing of the stock and directing of the processes of manufacture, the custom of using an information tag or card has become established, to travel with the stock from place to place as the manufacture proceeds, associating with the particular articles the exact information as to what is required. This card can conveniently be placed loosely in the case, box or rack of articles to which it relates; but when handled at each station it is subject to being misplaced, or laid by and lost; and also to the certainty that it will become soiled by handling, and perhaps, as a result, be unreadable. Holders for such tags have been available, which might be mounted on a case or box; but these holders, so far as I am aware, have not been of a sort to hold a tag safely while exposing the full area of its face to view so as to eliminate the handling and occasional loss; nor adapted for holding more than one single size of tag. When the rack has gone through the factory, it must be able to receive easily a fresh tag relating to its next load.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a device capable of holding tags which may differ considerably in width, and wherein substantially the full face of tag, of whatever width, will be clearly visible, so that all matter on the face of the tag can be seen while that tag is safely in the holder; this holder to be mounted at a convenient location on a box or rack; and to be so constructed that the tag can nevertheless be instantly and freely removed, and another put into its place.

Another object is to provide such a holder which may be low in production cost, yet strong and durable for withstanding treatment it may experience.

It is another feature that my improved holder provides rigid and full support back of a tag, whereby the tag may not be punctured easily by objects which, in use, may accidentally strike against its face.

For these objects and results the invention employs a plate of durable and suitably stiff sheet material, as metal, for the holder body, which may be pierced with holes at desired points to facilitate attachment of the plate to a box or rack.

On one face of this plate I provide a single piece of wire pre-formed to have a loop at each end of a straight basal portion of the wire. The basal portion of wire and an upstanding portion of each loop at the ends of that basal portion are secured against the plate; and the remainder of each loop overlies the interior face of the plate in slightly spaced relation therefrom, with the respective extreme ends of wire turned down and secured to interior points in that basal portion. The respective loop portions which are thus spaced from the plate stand all in a plane which is parallel to the plane of the face of the plate; and they constitute front barriers for retaining a card inserted between them and the plate. The basal portion of the wire constitutes a rest for the bottom edge of the card; and the said portions of loops secured on the plate at the end of the base provide upstanding side barriers adjacent to the side edges of the card.

It is intended that the patent shall cover, by suitable expression in the appended claims, whatever features of patentable novelty exist in the invention disclosed.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is an elevation of a card holder embodying features of the invention and having a route card of conventional style therein;

Figure 2 is a plan of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is an elevation in section on 3—3 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, a plate 10, of sheet metal or other suitably stiff material, may constitute the body of my improved tag holder, and may be provided with holes 12 to facilitate the securing of the plate on a box, case, rack or other container (not shown). The plate serves as the rear wall of the tag receptacle; and a single piece of wire cooperates with the plate

in providing the tag receptacle, being shaped to constitute a rest for the lower edge of a tag, and barriers for its side edges, and for maintaining the tag against falling forward away from the plate.

This wire, which may be secured to the plate, as by welding or otherwise, will preliminarily be bent to the desired form, so that the mere securing of the plate and wire together results in a finished holder. To this end the wire preferably has each end portion bent into rectangular loop form, the two loops 14, 14 being spaced apart on a relatively long and straight base portion 16, which latter is adapted to lie close against plate 10 to constitute the mentioned rest for the lower edge of a tag, represented at 18. The outer vertical leg 20 of each loop also is adapted to lie close against plate 10. But the inner vertical leg 22 of each loop, and the top horizontal leg 24 of each loop, are spaced a little forward of the plate to permit a tag to be inserted between them and the plate. At the juncture of each outer leg with the adjacent spaced horizontal leg, the wire may be bent slightly forward at 26; and the extreme end of each inner vertical leg may be secured at 28 on the outside of the base portion; to attain the mentioned forward spacing of the face-barrier portions of the loops.

In the preferred form illustrated, the basal wire structure extends all the way across the plate 10, and the barrier portions of the loops each extend back inward from the end a distance approximating one-third of the base extent. Obviously these dimensions may be varied as desired, but it is possible for a single holder to accommodate a great many particular sizes and shapes of cards. By increasing the offsetting, the barriers may be spaced a greater distance forward of plate 10 to permit holding a supply of cards with the face of the front card exposed to view.

In use, any tag, card or ticket which will fit between the end legs 20, 20 of the receptacle, and which is wider than the space between loops, may be conveniently and safely held in the holder with approximately the full area of its face exposed so that it can be read without being removed or handled. If round wire be used, the base groove 30 provides for wedging the lower edge of a tag against accidental falling out of tag from the holder, even though the box on which it is secured be turned upside down. And the barriers are continually effective for maintaining the tag, of whatever size, in approximate parallelism with the plate 10.

I claim as my invention:

1. A card holder comprising a body of stiff sheet material, and, fixed thereon, a wire, a portion of which is in the form of a U, of which the bridge of the U is elongated to constitute the bottom of a card receptacle, and the arms of the U constitute the sides of the receptacle; all of said U portions being set against and secured to said sheet; and there being another portion of said wire extending in spaced parallelism with said sheet within the region between the two said U-arms, said spaced parallelism providing space for a card.

2. In a card holder, the combination of a plate and a bent piece of wire, in which the plate constitutes the rear wall, and the wire constitutes the bottom, sides and front barrier, of a card receptacle; a portion of said wire being bent into approximately U-shape, with the parallel arms of the U set against and secured to the plate for the sides of the receptacle, and with the bridge of the U set against and secured to the plate for the bottom of the receptacle; and there being a projection from the U extending into the area between the U-arms, in spaced parallelism with the plate.

3. In a card retainer, the combination of a plate and a bent piece of wire, in which the plate constitutes the rear wall, and the wire constitutes the bottom, sides and front barrier, of a card receptacle; a portion of said wire being bent into approximately U-shape, with the parallel arms of the U set against and secured to the plate for the sides of the receptacle, and with the bridge of the U set against and secured to the plate for the bottom of the receptacle; the cross-sectional shape of the wire and the engagement of said bridge of U against the plate providing converging walls making a groove in which the lower edge of a card may be wedged and by which the card may be held; and there being a portion of said wire projecting from the U into the area between the U-arms, and standing in spaced parallelism to the said plate.

ROY N. PATCH.