June 6, 1961 D. L. SHANKS 2,987,288

SUPPORTING PANEL IN COMBINATION WITH A HOLDING DEVICE

Filed Feb. 13, 1959

Fig. 1.

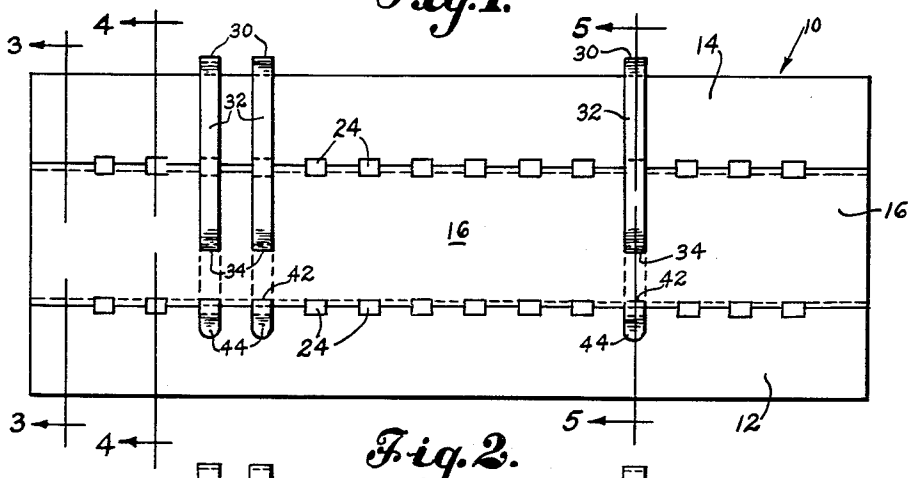


Fig. 2.

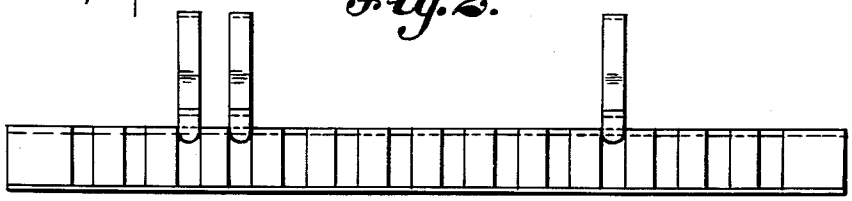


Fig. 3.

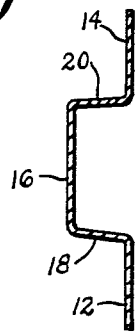


Fig. 4

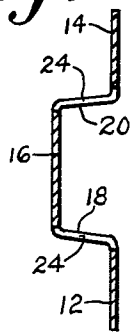


Fig. 5.

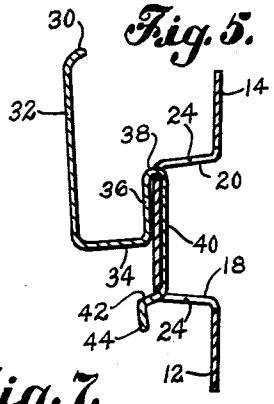


Fig. 6.

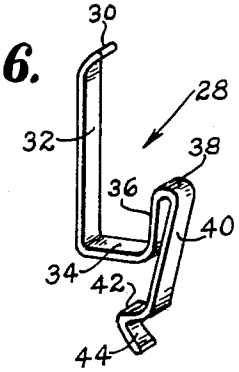
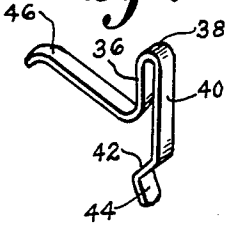


Fig. 7.



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SUPPORTING PANEL IN COMBINATION WITH A HOLDING DEVICE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 248—224)

This is a continuation in part of my pending patent application, Serial No. 558,944, filing date January 13, 1956, now abandoned, for a Retainer Device to Hold Articles.

One object of my invention is to provide an improved holding device which is firmly, yet removably, attached to a supporting panel, in any number, and which will hold articles of various sizes and shapes.

Another object is to so form said holding device with relation to said supporting panel, that it will bear on the latter at a plurality of points thus making a firm and secure attachment of the device to the panel that will so remain even in inverted position.

A further object is to so construct said panel and holding device that they may be manufactured on a quantity production basis economically and simply.

The foregoing and other objects which will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, may be accomplished by a construction, combination and arrangement of parts such as is disclosed by the drawing. The nature of the invention is such as to render it susceptible to various changes and modifications, and therefore, I am not to be limited to the construction disclosed by the drawing nor to the particular parts described in the specification; but am entitled to all such changes therefrom as fall within the scope of my claims.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of my supporting panel with a plurality of holding devices mounted thereon.

FIG. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of my retaining device.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a modified form of my retaining device.

As illustrated, my supporting panel **10** may be formed of relatively thin, but firm, flat sheet metal. It preferably has two attaching portions referred to as a lower portion **12** and an upper portion **14** which may be attached to a main support such as a partition in a fishing tackle box, a wall or door of a building, an automobile dashboard, etc., as by an adhesive or nails or screws, etc. A front portion **16** is shown projecting forwardly of said lower and upper portion **12** and **14**. A lower connecting portion **18** and an upper connecting portion **20** extend angularly forward from said lower and upper attaching portions **12** and **14**.

Slots or notches **24**, spaced apart, are provided in said connecting portions **18** and **20**, as shown, and they preferably extend a slight distance into said front portion **16** as well as fully across said connecting portions **18** and **20** and slightly into said attaching portions **12** and **14**.

Said panel support **10** receives one or more retaining devices **28**, made of spring steel, for instance, which extend into an alined pair of lower and upper slots **24** as shown. Said device **28** preferably has an upper end portion **30** that extends a short distance rearwardly towards said panel **10**, and from which a relatively long retainer portion **32** extends downwardly in position of use and which preferably slants slightly forward and upward away from said panel **10**. A connector or spacer

portion **34** extends from said retainer portion **32** inwardly to a point next to said panel front portion **16**. Said portions **30**, **32** and **34** provide the retainer means of my device **28**.

A front bearing portion **36** extends from said spacer portion **34** upwardly slanting slightly upward and forward. An upper connecting bearing portion **38**, shown in the form of a loop, extends rearwardly from said front bearing portion **36** and rests on the upper edge of said panel front portion **16** where a said slot **24** terminates. A rear portion **40** extends downwardly from said connecting portion **38**, extending slightly forward towards said front bearing portion **36** so that a relatively small space **42** is left between it and the lower end of said front bearing portion **36** to thus provide only a space enough to snugly receive said panel front portion **16**, thereby providing a double bearing there.

A lower bearing or connector portion **42** extends from said rear bearing portion **40** in a forwardly and downwardly slanting direction a short distance forward of said front portion **16** from which preferably extends rearwardly a finger release portion **44**. Said lower bearing portion **42** enables one to firmly attach my device to said panel **10** since said lower bearing portion **42** snaps into place against said panel lower edge. Said release portion **44** also provides simple means to enable a person's finger to push said lower connecting portion **42** and said release portion **44** through a said slot and away from said panel front **16**, so my device can be separated from said supporting panel **10**. Since it may be desirable to change the positions of said retaining devices **28** on a said supporting panel **10**, said release portion **44** makes the removal operation easier.

Said retaining device **28** may be made of a single piece of spring steel. Its size, construction and relationship to said panel projecting portion **16** is such that there are four bearing portions of said device on said panel, namely, where said upper connecting portion **38** contacts said panel front portion upper edge, where said front bearing portion **36** contacts the front surface of said panel front portion, where said rear portion **40** contacts the rear surface of said front portion, and where said lower bearing portion **42** contacts the lower edge of said panel front portion **16**.

In FIG. 7 a modified form of retainer portion **46** is shown which slants diagonally forward and on which articles such as cups may be hung.

What I claim is:

1. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, lower and upper portions extending angularly rearward from said front portion each having a slot therein which slots are in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion extending from said retainer means upwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through a said slot in said upper portion and being adjacent said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly to said lower angular portion, and another portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through a said slot in said lower portion forwardly and being adjacent said front portion.

2. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, lower and upper portions extending angularly rearward from said front portion each having a slot therein which slots are in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion

extending from said retainer means upwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through a said slot in said upper portion and bearing against said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly to said lower angular portion, and another connector portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through a said slot in said lower portion rearwardly and bearing against said front portion.

3. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, a lower and an upper portion extending angularly rearward from said front portion each having a slot therein which slots are in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion extending from said retainer means upwardly and forwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion rearwardly through a said slot in said upper portion and bearing against said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connecter portion downwardly and forwardly to said lower angular portion, and another bearing portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through a said slot in said lower portion forwardly and downwardly and bearing against said front portion.

4. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, a lower and an upper portion extending angularly rearward from said front portion, said panel having a lower slot and an upper slot therein in substantial alinement, said lower slot extending from a point in said front portion upwardly and into said lower angular portion and said upper slot extending from another point in said front portion upwardly and into said upper angular portion, said slots being in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion extending from said retainer means upwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through said upper slot and bearing against said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly to said lower angular portion, and another bearing extending from said rearwardly extending portion through said lower slot forwardly and bearing against said front portion.

5. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, a lower and an upper portion extending angularly rearward from said front portion, said panel having a lower slot and an upper slot therein in substantial alinement, said lower slot extending from a point in said front portion upwardly and into said lower angular portion and said upper slot extending from another point in said front portion upwardly and into said upper angular portion, said slots being in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion extending from said retainer means upwardly and bearing against the front surface of said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through said upper slot and bearing against said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly and forwardly to said lower angular portion and bearing against the rear surface of said front portion, and another bearing portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through said lower slot forwardly and bearing against said front portion.

6. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, a lower and an upper portion extending angularly rearward from said front portion, and two attaching portions extending angularly from said lower and upper portions, said panel having a lower slot and an upper slot therein in substantial alinement, said lower slot extending from a point in said front portion upwardly and through said lower angular portion, and said upper slot extending from another point in said front portion upwardly and through said upper angular portion, said slots being in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion, a first bearing portion extending from said retainer means upwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through said upper slot and bearing against said front portion at the point of termination of said upper slot therein, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly to said lower angular portion, and another bearing portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through said lower slot forwardly and bearing against said front portion at the point of termination of said lower slot therein.

7. A supporting panel in combination with a retaining device, said panel, in position of use, embodying a front portion, a lower and an upper portion extending angularly rearward from said front portion, said panel having a lower slot and an upper slot therein in substantial alinement, said lower slot extending from a point in said front portion upwardly and into said lower angular portion and said upper slot extending from another point in said front portion upwardly and into said upper angular portion, said slots being in substantially vertical alinement, said device embodying retainer means extending forwardly of said front portion and embodying a spacer portion extending rearwardly, a first bearing portion extending from said spacer portion upwardly and bearing against said front portion, a connector portion extending from said first bearing portion through said upper slot and bearing against said front portion, a rearwardly extending portion extending from said connector portion downwardly to said lower angular portion, and another bearing portion extending from said rearwardly extending portion through said lower slot forwardly and bearing against said front portion.

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