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MARKER ASSEMBLY

Filed March 21, 1960

Fig. 1.

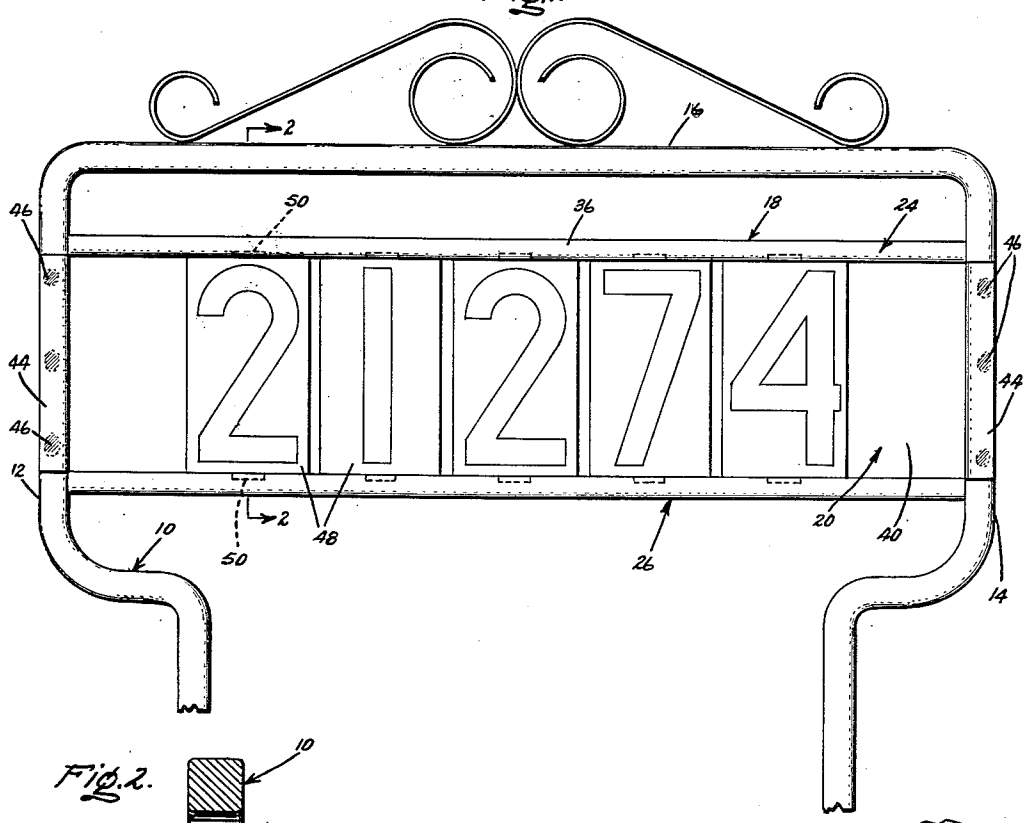


Fig. 2.

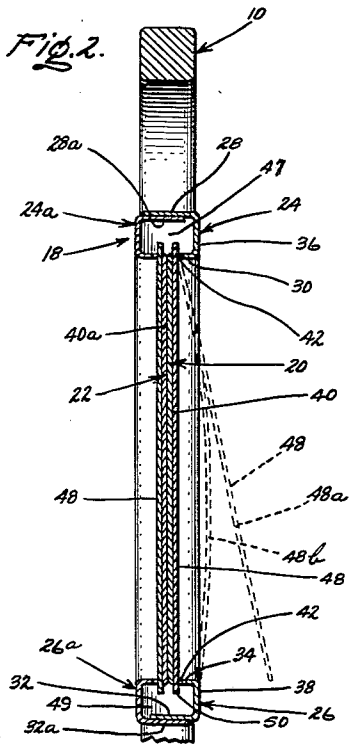
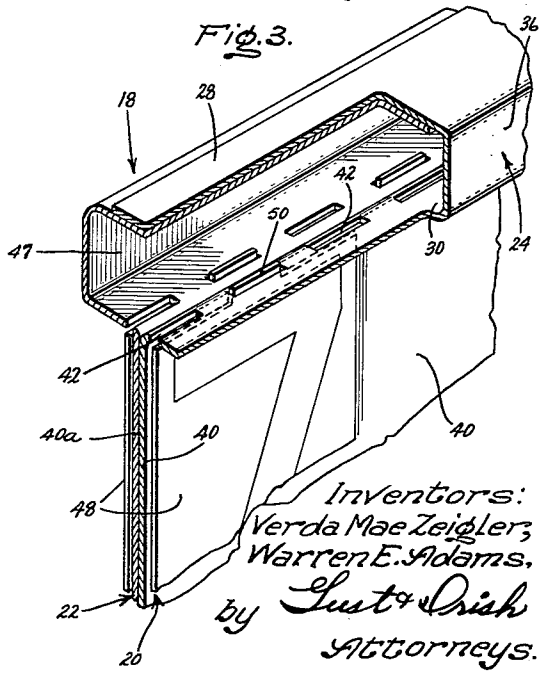


Fig. 3.



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MARKER ASSEMBLY

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The present invention relates to a marker assembly, and more particularly to a device for displaying signs, names, street addresses and the like, all of the indicia being easily and simply changed.

Markers for indicating street addresses, names and other information are conventional and vary quite widely in construction, from the mere painted poster to the relatively complex arrangements whereby the displayed information may be altered at will. In the latter category, markers capable of supporting changeable characters or indicia have proven to be relatively costly and limited in use, and it is one of the purposes of the present invention to provide a versatile marker construction which may be used in almost any environment, yet be rugged, durable, inexpensive, simple in construction and facile in manipulation.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a marker assembly for supporting indicia plates which may be changed at will.

It is another object of this invention to provide a marker assembly for use as signs, street addresses, name displays, and the like.

It is still another object of this invention to provide a marker assembly for supporting indicia plates so constructed as to facilitate changing such plates and to eliminate difficulties encountered in inclement weather.

Other objects will become apparent as the description proceeds.

The above-mentioned and other features and objects of this invention and the manner of attaining them will become more apparent and the invention itself will be best understood by reference to the following description of an embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of one embodiment of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a part-sectional illustration taken substantially along section line 2—2 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary perspective illustration partially sectioned and broken away for revealing more clearly the construction.

Referring to the drawings, the embodiment there illustrated is intended to be used as a house marker which displays the number of the street address. This embodiment comprises a bar frame, generally indicated by the reference numeral 10, having two sides 12 and 14, respectively, connected together at the top ends thereof by a cross member 16. This bar frame 10 is preferably die-formed from a bar of metal such as steel or aluminum and as illustrated is of square or rectangular cross-section. An indicia supporting-plate assembly, generally indicated by the reference numeral 18, spans the frame between the sides thereof and is secured at the opposite ends to the sides 12 and 14, respectively. This supporting-plate assembly comprises two plates 20 and 22 clamped together in back-to-back relation, these two plates being formed preferably by die stamping. Further, these plates 20 and 22 are identical so that they may be formed by the same set of dies. Since these plates are identical, a detailed description of one will suffice for both, the reference numerals applied to each of these plates being the same with the exception that one of the plates will carry reference numerals having the suffix letter "*a*."

Each plate is formed of suitable sheet metal such as steel, aluminum or the like, and is provided with upper

and lower identically shaped elongated channel sections indicated generally by the reference numerals 24 and 26, respectively. These channel sections are elongated, spaced apart and parallel, each channel section having parallel spaced-apart flanges. For the channel section 24, these flanges are indicated by the reference numerals 28 and 30, and for the channel section 26 the flanges are indicated by the numerals 32 and 34, respectively. The flanges 28 and 30 are joined together by a flat bottom portion 36 and the flanges 32 and 34 are similarly joined together by bottom portion 38. For symmetry of design, the bottom portions 36 and 38 are fashioned to lie in the same plane.

The central portion of the plate 20 is flat and of rectangular shape to provide a panel 40. This panel 40 lies in the plane extending at right angles to the channel section flanges and also for symmetry of design is parallel to the plane of the channel bottom portions 36 and 38.

A plurality of spaced-apart slots 42 are provided in the corners formed between the panel 40 and the innermost flanges 30 and 34, respectively, these slots being elongated and arranged in a straight line adjacent to the corners and in the plane of the exposed or front face of the panel 40. As many of these slots 42 may be used as desired, and the spacing between and the size thereof may vary to suit design needs.

As seen more clearly in FIG. 2, the outermost flanges 28 and 32 of the channel sections are longer than the innermost respective flanges 30 and 34, the purpose of this difference in size becoming apparent from the following description.

Each of the plates 20 and 22 are provided at the opposite ends thereof with right angle flanges 44 which extend beyond the front side of the respective panel.

As previously explained, the two plates 20 and 22 are identically formed, and in the assembling thereof they are abutted against each other as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3 in back-to-back relation. The back sides of the panels 40 and 40*a* abut each other and are coplanar such that the respective channel sections 24, 24*a* and 26, 26*a* meet to provide two elongated hollow reinforcing portions, indicated by the numerals 47 and 49, respectively. These hollow reinforcing or box-like portions 47 and 49 are formed by the oppositely extending flanges 28, 28*a* and 30, 32*a* overlapping and engaging each other as illustrated, the flange 28 overlying the flange 28*a* in the upper box-like portion 47 and the flange 32 overlying the flange 32*a* in the lower box-like portion 49.

With the supporting plate assembly 18 assembled together as just explained, the flanges 44 of the two plates are straddled over the front and rear surfaces of the two frame sides 12 and 14, respectively. The two flanges 44 of the respective plates 20 and 22 form a channel having the same shape and size as the bar frame 10. So assembled on the bar frame, the flanges 44 are spot welded at various points 46 on both the plates 20 and 22 to the sides 12 and 14, thereby securely fastening the plates 20 and 22 together as well as to the frame 10.

The marker assembly just described is adapted to receive indicia or number plates indicated by the numeral 48. Preferably, the individual plates 48 are formed of a resilient sheet material such as thin gauge steel or aluminum, each plate having a length dimension corresponding substantially to the width of the respective panel 40, 40*a*. On the opposite ends of each plate 48 are small tabs or projections 50 which are adapted to enter and project through companion slots 42 of the respective plates 20 and 22. By this means, the various plates 48 are firmly and securely supported in place on the panels 40 and 40*a*.

In FIG. 2 is illustrated in dashed line configuration the method of inserting and removing the various plates 48

from the supporting plate 18. If it is desired to first assemble the plate 48, the first step is to insert one projection 50 in the proper slot 42 as shown by the dashed line configuration 48*a*. Next, the plate is bowed slightly, as indicated by the dashed line configuration 48*b*, thereby permitting the lower projection 50 to be inserted into its slot 42. Once this has been accomplished, the indicia plate is released whereby the natural resiliency thereof will cause it to flatten snugly against the respective front surface of the panel 40 or 40*a*. In removing the indicia plate from the support 18, the indicia plate is merely bowed outwardly so as to withdraw the projections 50 from the respective slots.

From the foregoing description, it is evident that the marker assembly is not only rugged and durable, but is simple in construction, inexpensive and facile to manipulate. Since the two plates 20 and 22 are identical, only one set of forming dies is needed for providing the supporting plates 20 and 22. By means of the unique method of assembling the two plates 20 and 22 together, only one set of fastenings 46 are needed for securing the plates 20 and 22 together as well as to the supporting frame 10. Thus, only a minimum of time and equipment is needed for securing all the parts together.

The unique construction of the two plates 20 and 22 with respect to the channel sections serve in providing the box-like portions 47 and 49 which function as closures for the slots 42 as well as reinforcement for the panels 40 and 40*a*. Not only are the slots 42 enclosed, but, additionally, the projections 50 on the indicia plates 48 are concealed from view. Additionally, with the box-like portions formed as illustrated and described, rain and moisture are prevented from passing through the slots 42 and draining over the indicia plates 48. In freezing weather, water passing through these slots could freeze on the indicia plates, thereby obscuring the numerals.

The box-like portions also prevent water from entering the space between the panels 40 and 40*a* which, in freezing weather, would distort and in some instances possibly snap the indicia plates 48 from the respective supporting panels. Other advantages will occur to persons skilled in the art.

While the invention has been illustrated in connection with address markers for houses, it will occur as obvious to persons skilled in the art that the marker assembly of this invention may be used as street markers, nameplates, signs and other devices for displaying information of a character which may be changed from time to time.

While we have described above the principles of our invention in connection with specific apparatus, it is to be clearly understood that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation to the scope of our invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A marker assembly comprising a bar frame having two spaced apart parallel sides connected together at one end by a cross bar, said sides being rectangular in cross-section, a supporting-plate assembly spanning said frame and secured at its opposite ends to said sides respectively; said supporting-plate assembly comprising two plates back-to-back; each plate including upper and lower spaced apart and parallel identically shaped elongated channel sections, each channel section having spaced apart parallel flanges, said flanges being integrally joined at one end thereof by a bottom portion, the outermost flange of each channel section being substantially wider than the innermost flange thereof, a flat panel integrally joined to the longitudinal edges of said innermost flanges and lying in a plane at right angles to said flanges, a series of spaced apart elongated slots in the corners formed between said panel and said innermost flanges, said slots being arranged in a straight line in said respective corners; said two plates being assembled together with said flat panels in face-to-face abutting relationship and the respective channel sections mating together to form two elongated hollow reinforcing portions for said supporting-plate assembly, the outermost flanges of the respective plates extending oppositely in overlapping relation; the opposite ends of said two panels respectively being formed outwardly into outwardly open channel portions which overlap the sides of said bar frame respectively, said channel portion being welded to said frame sides thereof securing the plates and said frame into assembly.

2. A marker assembly comprising a bar frame having two spaced apart parallel sides connected together at one end by a cross bar, a supporting-plate assembly spanning said frame and secured at its opposite ends to said sides respectively; said supporting-plate assembly comprising two plates back-to-back; each plate including upper and lower spaced apart and parallel identically shaped elongated channel sections, each channel section having spaced apart parallel flanges, said flanges being integrally joined at one end thereof by a bottom portion, the outermost flange of each channel section being substantially wider than the innermost flange thereof, a flat panel integrally joined to the longitudinal edges of said innermost flanges and lying in a plane at right angles to said flanges, a series of spaced apart elongated slots in the corners formed between said panel and said innermost flanges, said slots being arranged in a straight line in said respective corners; said two plates being assembled together with said flat panels face-to-face abutting relationship and the respective channel sections mating together to form two elongated hollow reinforcing portions for said supporting-plate assembly, the outermost flanges of the respective plates extending oppositely in overlapping relation; the opposite ends of said two panels being secured to said frame sides respectively for holding said plates and said frame in assembly.

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