Jan. 27, 1959 D. H. DELLINGER ET AL 2,870,981

PLATFORM

Filed Aug. 6, 1957 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

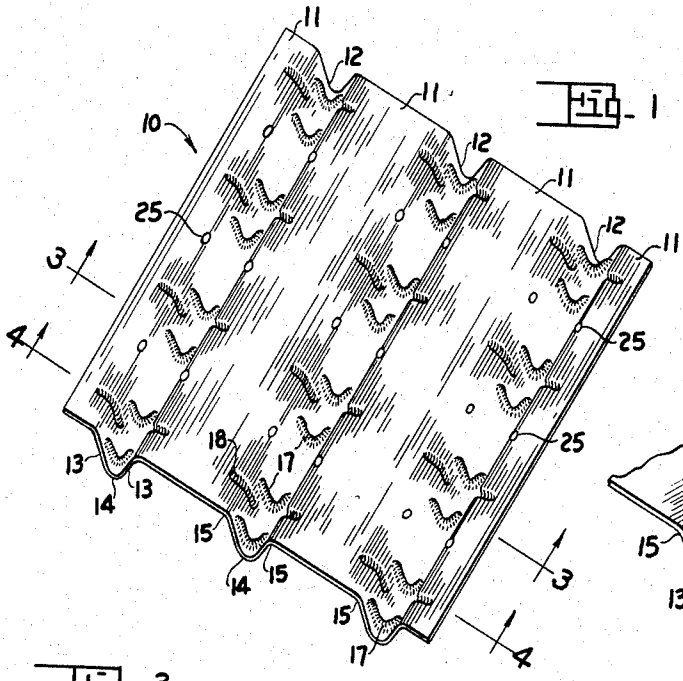


Fig. 1

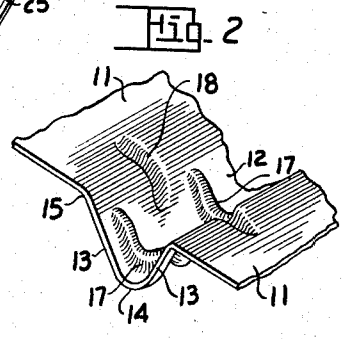


Fig. 2

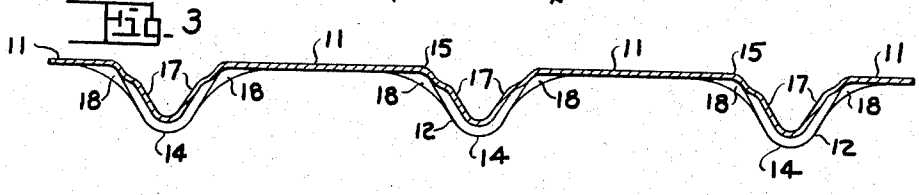


Fig. 3

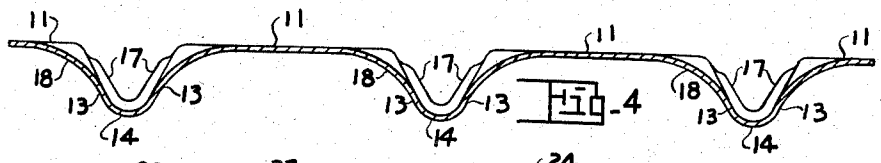


Fig. 4

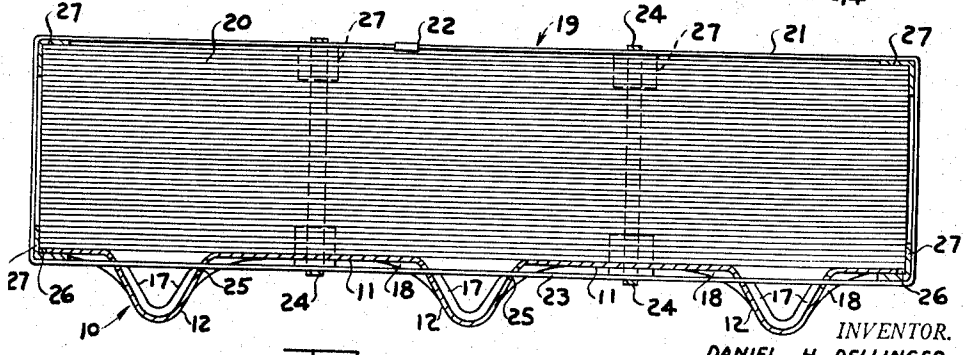


Fig. 5

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Fig. 6

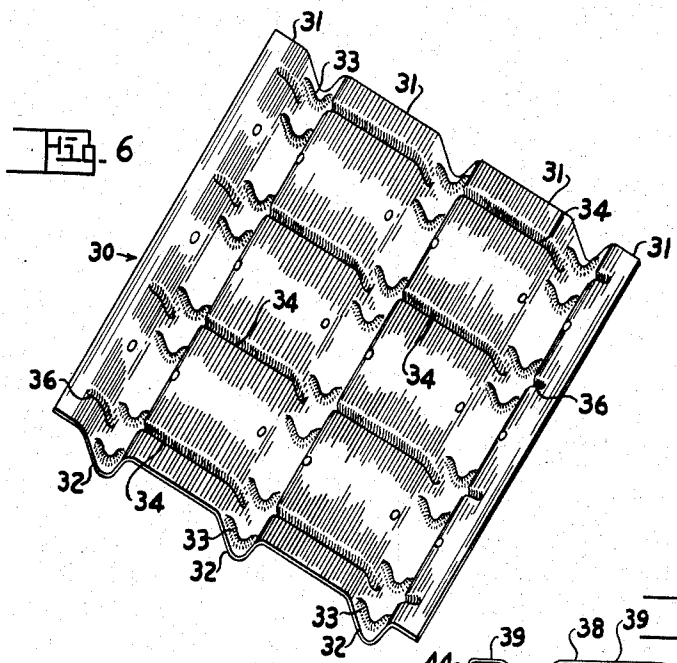
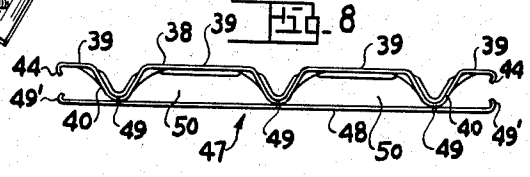


Fig. 8



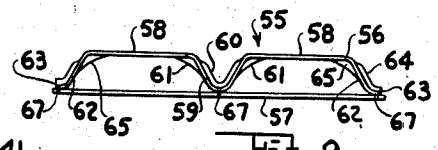


Fig. 9

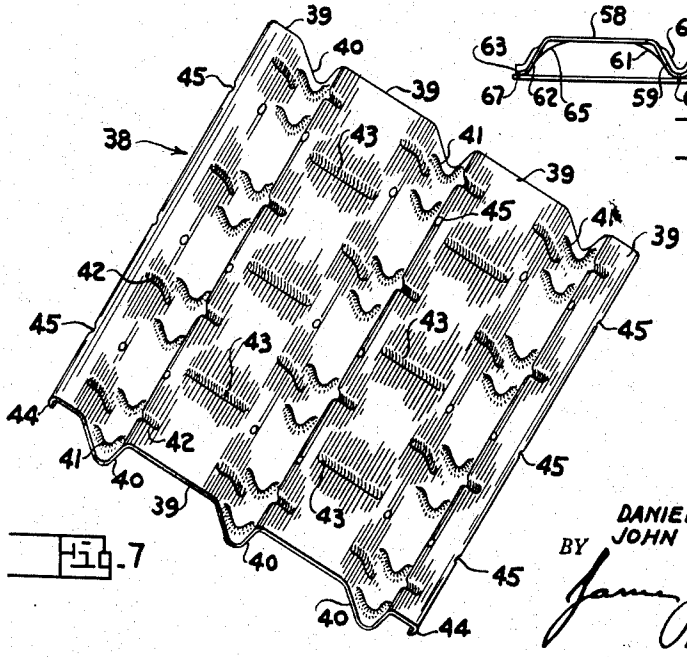


Fig. 7

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PLATFORM

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FIG. 10.

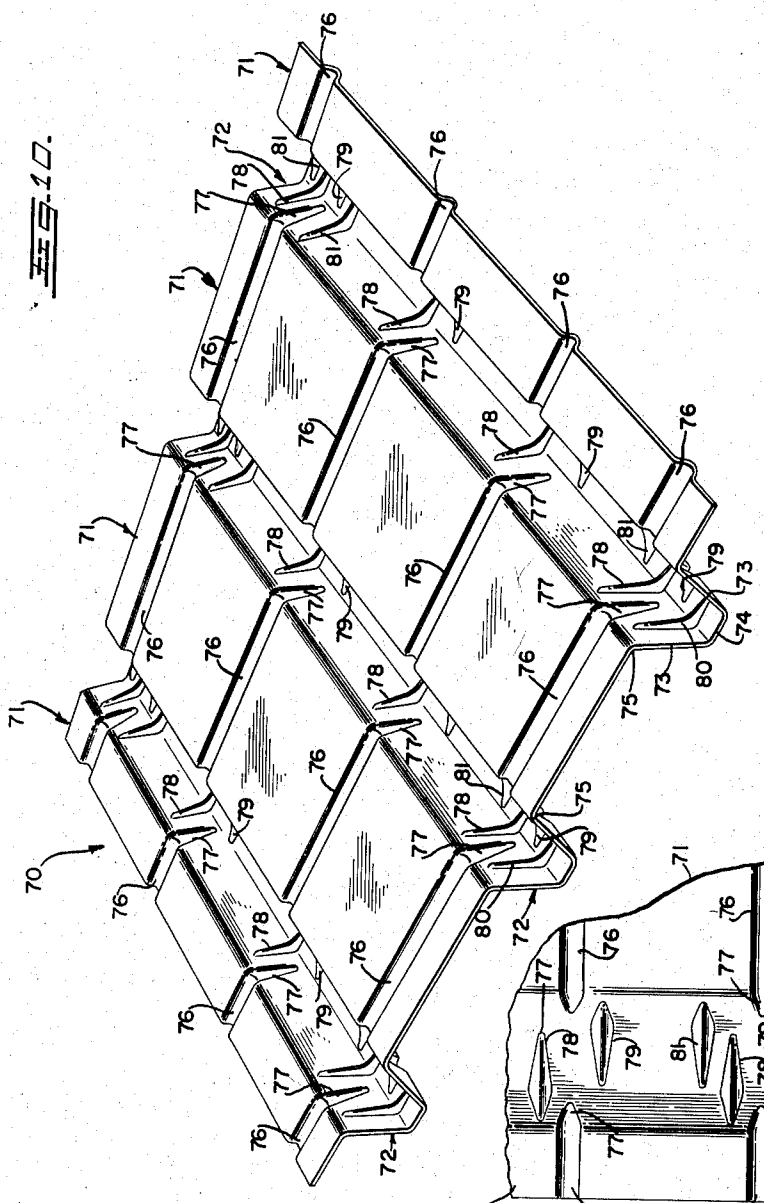


FIG. 11.

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2,870,981

PLATFORM

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Application August 6, 1957, Serial No. 676,589

20 Claims. (Cl. 248—120)

The present invention relates to improvements in material supporting and protecting units or platforms such as skids, pallets and the like, which may be used for storing, handling and transporting material and relates to a novel package including such a platform supporting a stack of metal sheets.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 450,335, filed August 17, 1954, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 133,324, filed December 16, 1949. Application Serial No. 133,324 is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 53,068, filed October 6, 1948, and the latter application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 26,588, filed May 12, 1948. These applications are all now abandoned.

The present invention is primarily concerned with, and will be more fully described in connection with, an improved platform integrally formed from a single piece of sheet material, for example, a piece of sheet metal such as steel. This improved platform is particularly useful in supporting and protecting a stack of metal sheets, such as sheets of black plate or tin plate, during shipment, but is not limited to such use and may be used to advantage when handling or storing metal sheets or other material in a factory, warehouse or other location. The term "platform" refers broadly to and includes skids, pallets, runners and similar load supporting units.

Platforms are used when shipping a stack or bundle of metal sheets in a carrier such as a truck or rail car to facilitate handling of the sheets and to protect the sheets against damage during transit. The relatively heavy stack of sheets and the platform are usually tied together by suitable means, such as bands, to form a unitary package that can be handled readily and in which the sheets are protected. Platforms are also used to support material off the floor and to allow a fork truck to pick up the platform and its load. The platform and its load may or may not be tied together by means of straps or other fastening means. Such platforms must be strong to support the great weight of the sheets and to provide protection for the sheets. The cost of manufacturing the platform should be low enough to make their use economically feasible and not unduly increase transportation costs. Preferably, the platform should be readily returnable at low cost to the shipper for re-use so as to reduce the cost per shipment. Platforms used in shipping metal sheets have been made of wood. In order to provide sufficient strength to support the heavy load, these wooden platforms are made quite thick and heavy. Among other disadvantages, wooden platforms tend to splinter and inadequately protect the metal sheets and they are too heavy and bulky to be returned to the shipper at a cost which is economical. Attempts have been made to produce such platforms from metal. The cost of such metal platforms is excessive as a heavy gauge of metal must be used or extensive fabrication is required to provide the necessary strength. Accordingly, neither the wooden platforms nor the metal platforms provided heretofore have fully met the requirements for platforms which can

be used for transporting material, such as metal sheets.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved metal platform integrally formed from a single piece of sheet material.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a one piece platform having integrally formed, depending supporting legs including relatively large base portions in contact with the floor for adequately supporting heavy loads.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a platform so constructed and arranged that a plurality of the platforms can be nested in a relatively small space for storage or return shipment.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a relatively strong platform adapted to support a pile of objects each having a supporting area less than the area of the platform.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a platform including reinforcing ribs arranged to provide the maximum amount of reinforcement.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a platform produced from a single sheet of material that can be combined with other elements to form a composite platform.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a platform constructed and arranged so that the platform can support a bundle of sheets in which the sheets are larger than the platform without having the edges of the sheets being deformed by the bands holding the platform and sheets together in a unitary package and constructed and arranged so that the fingers of a feeder can slide between the sheets and the platform to lift off the sheets.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a package including a bundle of sheets and a platform held together by bands in an improved manner to form an improved package for shipment.

The present invention provides a platform preferably formed from a single piece of sheet metal that can be manufactured economically and that is relatively strong. This improved platform has flat deck surfaces for supporting the sheets and a depending leg between each two deck surfaces with the leg having a relatively large floor-contacting area for supporting heavy loads. When the edges of the sheets extend beyond the platform, the platform and bands holding the sheets and platform together are so constructed and arranged that the bands do not bend and deform the edges of the sheets. The present improved sheet metal platform is so constructed and arranged that the fingers of an automatic sheet feeding machine can be inserted quite readily between the stack of sheets and the platform to lift and support the sheets while they are fed to any particular sheet processing apparatus, and is so constructed and arranged that a plurality of the platforms can be nested one within the other for return shipment to the shipper for re-use. The fork of a material handling truck can be readily inserted beneath the platform to lift and transport the platform and the sheets thereon to any desired location.

These and other objects and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description, taken with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an isometric view of a preferred sheet metal platform embodying the principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary, isometric view of a portion of the platform of Figure 1;

Figures 3 and 4 are enlarged sectional views taken along lines 3—3 and 4—4, respectively, of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a sectional view of a unitary package in-

cluding the platform of Figure 1 and a stack of metal sheets all held together by a plurality of bands;

Figures 6 and 7 are isometric views of different platforms also embodying the principles of the present invention;

Figure 8 is an end view showing the platform of Figure 7 combined with another element to form a composite structure;

Figure 9 is an end view of a different composite pallet structure;

Figure 10 is an isometric view of another form of platform constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention, and

Figure 11 is a fragmentary view, in plan, of the platform shown in Figure 10.

Referring more particularly to Figures 1 to 4, inclusive, of the drawings, the metal platform or skid **10** is preferably integrally formed from a single piece of sheet metal, such as steel. The platform **10** includes parallel, longitudinal deck portions or members **11**, all disposed in a common horizontal plane. Between each two adjacent deck members **11**, there is an integral, longitudinal channel portion or member **12** which depends or extends laterally outwardly from the two adjacent deck members **11** to form a downwardly depending leg for the platform. Each channel member **12** includes two spaced apart, outwardly extending and inwardly converging side portions **13** integrally joined at their lower edges. The lower or outer edge of each side portion **13** is curved and the joined curved portions form a base portion **14**. Each side portion **13** includes a rounded or flared shoulder portion **15** extending along its upper edge. Each shoulder portion is integrally joined to a corresponding deck member **11** and each channel member **12** is integrally joined to the corresponding, two adjacent, spaced deck members **11**.

Along the length of each channel member **12** there are a plurality of transverse reinforcing ribs for strengthening the platform, particularly the leg members. A plurality of transverse, longitudinally convex, integral reinforcing ribs **17** are formed so as to extend around the lower portion **14** of each channel member **12**. Each convex rib **17** extends around the base portion **14** and part way up the side portions **13** of the channel member with the ends of rib **17** terminating below the upper level of the deck members **11**. Along each edge of the channel member **12**, there is formed a series of transverse, longitudinally concave, integral reinforcing ribs **18**. Each rib **18** extends around the flared shoulder portion **15** of the channel member and extends part way down the corresponding side portion **13**. The upper end of each rib **18** extends a short distance into the adjacent deck member **11**. Preferably, the concave ribs **18** are in overlapping relationship with the convex ribs **17** so that the lower end portions of the ribs **18** and the adjacent upper end portions of the ribs **17** are in overlapping relationship with each other, as shown. In other words, the ends of the ribs **17** extend up the sides **13** to a point above and beyond the lower ends of the ribs **18** so that there is no longitudinal zone extending along the side of the channel member that is not reinforced by ribs. The concave and convex ribs, instead of being in alternating, overlapping relationship as shown, could be coplanar. Two ribs **18** and one rib **17** could be formed as a single, relatively long rib but such a structure would not have as great strength as is possessed by the structure shown in the drawings.

The present invention provides a platform having numerous advantages. The platform **10** preferably is formed from a single piece of sheet metal so that no relatively expensive welding or riveting processes are required to join together the edges of the various members. The shoulder ribs **18** are purposely made concave so that there are no protuberances extending above the deck members **11** to damage the sheets or other parts supported by the platform. As the ribs **17** are convex, a relatively large portion of the entire length of each channel member **12** engages the supporting floor to more firmly support the load carried by the platform.

The longitudinal channels **12** are longitudinal reinforcing ribs, and the transverse ribs **17** and **18** are reinforcing ribs. Reinforcing ribs **17** and **18** reinforce the entire platform and reinforce the channel members so that the platform can support a relatively large load. For example, a platform like that shown in Figure 1 and formed by stamping a single sheet of 14 gauge, hot rolled, low carbon steel was loaded with sheets, as shown in Figure 5, and then placed in a load testing machine. An additional load was impressed on the platform by the testing machine and the platform supported a total load of 60,000 pounds. The platform **10** may be produced by any forming operation and need not necessarily be produced by stamping or be produced from hot rolled or low carbon steel.

The sides of the channel members **12** converge inwardly, and the platforms can be readily piled and nested. A large quantity of the platforms can be stored in a relatively small storage space or can be packed into a relatively small space for shipment which in turn reduces the cost of storing or shipping the platform.

Referring to the drawings and more particularly to Figure 5 which is a sectional view of an assembled package **19**, a bundle or stack **20** of sheets, such as sheets of black plate, tin plate or other material, is supported by a platform **10**. The platform **10** and the sheets **20** are held together by one, and preferably more, wires or bands **21** extending transversely around the platform and having their ends fastened together at **22** by a suitable fastening means. The term "bands" is used broadly to cover all such flexible members and includes wires. A pair of bands **24** extend longitudinally about the platform and the sheets to additionally hold the platform and the sheets together. Bands **24** may be omitted. The lower portion **23** of each transversely extending band **21** extends through a series of openings **25** formed in the shoulders **15**. The openings **25** are shown somewhat larger than necessary so as to permit the band **21** to be readily passed through the openings. For the reasons more fully hereinafter pointed out, it is preferable that at least a portion of each opening **25** be located in the same common plate as the bottom surfaces of the deck members **11** so that portion **23** of each band **21** extends parallel to the bottom surface of the stack **20** and is positioned close to or in contact with the bottom surface of the decks. With the band **21** arranged in this manner and with the edges of the sheets extending beyond the edges of the platform, as indicated at **26**, the band does not bend down the edges and damage the edges of the lower sheets. If a thick platform were used or if the band were extended beneath the channel members **12** so that the band was inclined from the bottom of the platform upwardly to the overhanging edges of the sheets, the tension on the band would tend to bend the edges of the sheets downwardly and damage them. This has in the past been an acute problem as it has necessitated the use of a different size of platform for each different size of sheet. The present platform can be used with sheets of a number of different sizes and, for example, can be 1½ inches shorter than the sheets when the bands **21** are arranged as shown. This requires the sheet manufacturer to carry in stock a fewer number of sizes of platforms which reduces the investment required to stock the platforms. Protective pieces of metal **27** preferably are provided at the corners beneath bands **21** and **24** as an added protection for the sheets. The thickness of the sheets in stack **20** and of the protective metal pieces **27** at the corners is exaggerated for purposes of clarity.

When the platform **10** is loaded, the tines or fingers of the fork of a loading truck can be inserted beneath the platform **10** and between the channels **12** to lift the

platform and its load. When sheets are mounted on the platform, the fingers of a sheet supporting apparatus can be inserted into the open channels **12** to lift the sheets up off of the platform. If bands **21** are present, they may be removed before the sheets are lifted from the platform or may be cut and left in place. When the bands **21** are cut and left in place, the supporting fingers will raise the sheets and draw the bands **21** up through the holes **25** of the platform. Bands **24**, if present, must be severed before the sheets can be removed from the platform.

Referring more particularly to Figure 6 which shows a skid **30** that is similar to skid **10**, the skid **30** includes a plurality of longitudinal deck members **31** and channel members or ribs **32**. Deck members **31** and channel members **32** are arranged in the same manner as members **11** and **12** of skid **10**. Each channel **32** includes a plurality of convex reinforcing ribs **33** which extend around the bottom and part way up the sides of the channel **32** to a point not above the upper surface of the deck members **31**. Relatively long reinforcing ribs **34** extend across the intermediate deck members. The end portion of each rib **34** extends down the side of the corresponding channel **32** and preferably terminates below the upper corresponding ends of the convex ribs **33**. Relatively short reinforcing ribs **36** extend up the corresponding sides of channels **32** from a point below the ends of the corresponding ribs **33** and extend for a short distance into the corresponding outer or edge deck member **31**. The ribs **36** are similar to the corresponding ribs **18** of Figure 1. If desirable, the ribs **36** can be extended to the outer lateral edges of the skid **30**.

The concave ribs in those deck members **31** located between two channel members **32** increase the strength and rigidity of the skid and its resistance to deformation. At times, it is desirable to stack on such a skid material or objects—for example, sacks of flour—which have a smaller supporting area than the skid. With such a stack of objects, there is a greater tendency for the skid to be deformed. A stack of sheets will act on or stress the skid in substantially the same manner as a single block, whereas a stack of sacks of flour are not connected together and will tend to spread apart so that they exert greater forces in a transverse direction. In addition, with a plurality of relatively smaller objects, the stresses are more localized. The ribs **34** reinforce the deck members **31** and prevent them from bending out of shape and also strengthen the shoulders at the edges of the deck portions to provide greater resistance to flattening.

Referring more particularly to Figure 7, which shows a skid **38** that is similar to skid **10**, the skid **38** includes deck members **39**, channel members **40** and reinforcing convex ribs **41** and concave ribs **42** all arranged in the manner described when referring to skid **10** of Figure 1. The two intermediate deck members **39** are provided with concave, transverse reinforcing ribs **43** which increase the strength of skid **39** in a manner similar to ribs **34** of skid **30**. These ribs **43** reinforce the deck members similar to ribs **34** of Figure 6. The ends of the concave ribs **43** extend beyond the ends of the concave ribs **42** so that the ends of ribs **43** and **42** overlap. This overlapping arrangement of the ribs further increases the rigidity of skid **38** and resistance of the deck members to deformation. The outer longitudinal edge portion of each outer deck member **39** is bent downwardly and preferably inwardly to form a free flange **44**, both to reinforce the skid and present a curved or rounded edge that will not cause damage to other objects coming into contact with the edge. The flanges **44** are provided with band openings **45**. The skid may be provided with strengthening and protective flanges **44** and without ribs **43** and **34**.

The platforms **10**, **30** and **38**, in addition to being used directly or alone as a supporting unit or skid, may

be combined with each other or with other elements to form modified platforms. Referring more particularly to Figure 8, a load supporting unit or pallet **47** comprises a skid **38** and a sheet or plate **48**. The plate **48** is parallel to the deck members **39** and is connected to the peaks or lower edges of the channel members **40** by spot welds, as indicated at **49**, or may be connected to the channel members by other suitable means, such as a continuous weld seam. The outer edges of the plate **48** preferably are turned upwardly and inwardly to form protective edge flanges **49'**. Plate **48** increases the strength of the skid as it is connected to the channels and resists the spreading apart of the channels. Pallets **47** are often used, for example, where the loaded pallets are piled on top of each other. The fork of a fork truck can be readily inserted into the spaces **50** for lifting and transporting the pallet. The pallet **47** can be turned upside down and bricks or other material piled on the sheet or plate **48**. In place of using skid **38** of Figure 7 to form pallet **47**, the skids **10** or **30** can be used with sheet **48**. Flanges **49'** can be omitted.

Referring more particularly to Figure 9, showing a modified platform **55**, the platform or pallet **55** comprises a skid **56** and a plate or sheet **57**. The skid **56** includes two deck members **58** with a channel member **59** therebetween. Convex ribs **60** and concave ribs **61** are formed in the channel member **59**. Deck members **58**, channel members **59**, and ribs **60** and **61** are formed and arranged in the same manner as previously described in connection with the skid **10** of Figure 1. Along the transverse outer edge of each deck member **58** there is formed a downwardly depending, integral leg member **62** terminating in a bottom edge portion **63**. Each leg member includes convex reinforcing ribs **64**, each of which extends around the bottom edge portion **63** and up the side of the leg. Concave reinforcing ribs **65** extend up the side of each leg **62** from a point below the top of ribs **64**. The ribs **64** and **65** overlap in a manner similar to ribs **17** and **18** and each leg **62** is the same as though it were a half of channel **59**. The skid **56** and plate **57** are fastened together by welding as indicated at **67**. The pallet **55** can be used with either the skid **56** or the plate **57** uppermost depending in part on the character of the load being supported. The skid portion **56** of platform **55** may be constructed the same as a corresponding portion of skids **30** or **38**.

With reference to Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings, a platform or skid **70** is shown therein constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the platform **70** includes a plurality of longitudinal deck members **71** and channel members or ribs **72**. The deck members **71** and the channel members **72** are arranged in the same manner as the deck members and channel members of the other embodiments of the invention and are preferably integrally formed from a single piece of sheet material such as steel. Each channel member **72** includes two spaced apart outwardly extending and inwardly converging side portions **73** and a base portion **74** integrally joined along its edges to the lower edges of the side portions. Each side portion **73** includes a rounded or flared shoulder portion **75** extending along its upper edge, and each shoulder portion is integrally joined to a corresponding deck member **71**. Thus each channel member **72** is integrally joined to a pair of adjacent, spaced deck members **71**. Concave reinforcing ribs **76** extend transversely of the deck members **71** from side edge to side edge and at the side edges of the deck members the reinforcing ribs **76** merge with concave reinforcing ribs **77** which extend down the side portions and terminate in spaced relation with respective bottom portions **74**. Convex reinforcing ribs are formed in the side portions and the bottom portion of the channel members in the region of the concave reinforcing ribs **76** and **77**. As shown, convex reinforcing ribs **78** are formed in one

side portion and the bottom portion of the channel members on one side of a plane of a reinforcing rib 76 and convex reinforcing ribs 79 are formed in the other side portion and the bottom portion of the channel members on the other side of the plane of the reinforcing ribs 76. The convex reinforcing ribs 78 and 79 extend into the bottom portions 74 and up respective side portions 73 and terminate below the shoulder portions 75. Thus, the reinforcing ribs 78 and 79 are in overlapping relationship in the bottom portions 74, and the reinforcing ribs 78 and 79 are in overlapping relationship with the reinforcing ribs 77. If desired, additional convex reinforcing ribs may be formed in the side portions and the bottom portion of the channel members. For example, at the region of the front and rear edges of the platform 70 convex reinforcing ribs 80, which may be similar to the convex reinforcing ribs 78, may be located in one side portion of the channel members on the other side of the plane of the reinforcing ribs 76 and convex reinforcing ribs 81, which may be similar to the convex reinforcing ribs 79, may be located in the other side portion of the channel members on the other side of the plane of the reinforcing ribs 76. The reinforcing ribs 80 and 81 extend into the bottom portion 74 in overlapping relationship and extend along the side portions in overlapping relationship with the reinforcing ribs 77. The foregoing construction is clearly seen in the plane view of Figure 11. It is to be expressly understood that convex reinforcing ribs 80 and 81 may be associated with intermediate concave reinforcing ribs 76 if desired.

In all of the platforms, the reinforcing ribs of the leg-forming portion extend around the leg-forming portion and the end portions of the convex and concave ribs are in overlapping arrangement. This arrangement is highly desirable as it provides much greater strength without having upwardly or downwardly extending, interfering protuberances. Any number of deck portions and leg portions may be combined into a single unit depending, in part, on the material to be supported. In general, the platforms or skids of Figures 1, 6 and 7 are preferred where the material is to be shipped a long distance and the cost of returning the skids is an important consideration. The platforms or pallets of Figures 8 and 9 are especially adapted for supporting very heavy materials and relatively small articles.

What is claimed is:

1. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; and a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes.

2. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; and a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes.

3. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members.

4. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely

spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in each deck member connected between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

5. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across the deck members and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member.

6. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being arranged in different transverse planes, and the said last-named concave reinforcing ribs extending toward the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member in overlapping relation with the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs in respective shoulder portions.

7. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members, each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck

member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced convex reinforcing ribs and the the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plate extending parallel to the common plane of the deck members and connected to the base portions of at least two channel members.

8. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

9. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of the respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

10. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; each depending channel member including at each side a leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of a respective one of the deck members and including at its bottom a base portion connecting the leg portions; each of the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs formed in each channel member; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending around the base portion and up each side portion of respective channel members with the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in respective leg portions; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely spaced concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of the convex reinforcing ribs in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member; and a plate extending parallel to the common plane of the deck members and connected to the base portions of at least two channel members.

11. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the

shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; and a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes.

12. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; and a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes.

13. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and depending elongated channel members connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending

side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members.

14. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in each deck member connected between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

15. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across the deck members and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member.

16. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members, the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being arranged in different transverse planes, and the said last-named concave reinforcing ribs extending toward the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member in overlapping relation with the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs in respective shoulder portions.

17. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising a plurality of coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and a plurality of depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; each of the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portion of a connected channel member and terminating in the respective leg portion at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portion; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plate extending parallel to the common plane of the deck members and connected to the base portions of at least two channel members.

18. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the

shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

19. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; and a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of the respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member.

20. A platform formed of a single piece of sheet metal material comprising four coplanar, transversely spaced, elongated deck members and three depending elongated channel members each connected between adjacent deck members; the depending channel members including a first leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of one deck member, a second leg portion extending along a longitudinal edge portion of an adjacent deck member and a base portion connecting the first and second leg portions; the leg portions including a shoulder portion integral with the longitudinal edge portion of the respective deck member and a downwardly extending side portion integrally connected at its upper edge with the shoulder portion and integrally connected at its lower edge with the base portion; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the first leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the first leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs extending into the base portion and up the side portion of the second leg portion of the channel members, the upper ends of the convex reinforcing ribs terminating in the second leg portion of the channel members; a plurality of transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs formed in the deck members and connected channel members; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced concave reinforcing ribs extending from a deck member around the shoulder portion and down the side portion of the respective leg portions of each channel member and terminating in the respective leg portions at a point below the upper end of a convex reinforcing rib in the respective leg portions; the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, convex reinforcing ribs and the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs being formed in different transverse planes; a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse concave reinforcing ribs in each deck member between pairs of channel members; the last-named transverse concave reinforcing ribs extending across said each deck member and merging into the transversely extending, longitudinally spaced, concave reinforcing ribs extending around the shoulder portion of respective leg portions of the channel members connected to said each deck member; and a plate extending parallel to the common plane of the deck members and connected to the base portions of at least two channel members.

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