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3,066,774

SUPPORTING COLUMN FOR PARTITIONS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

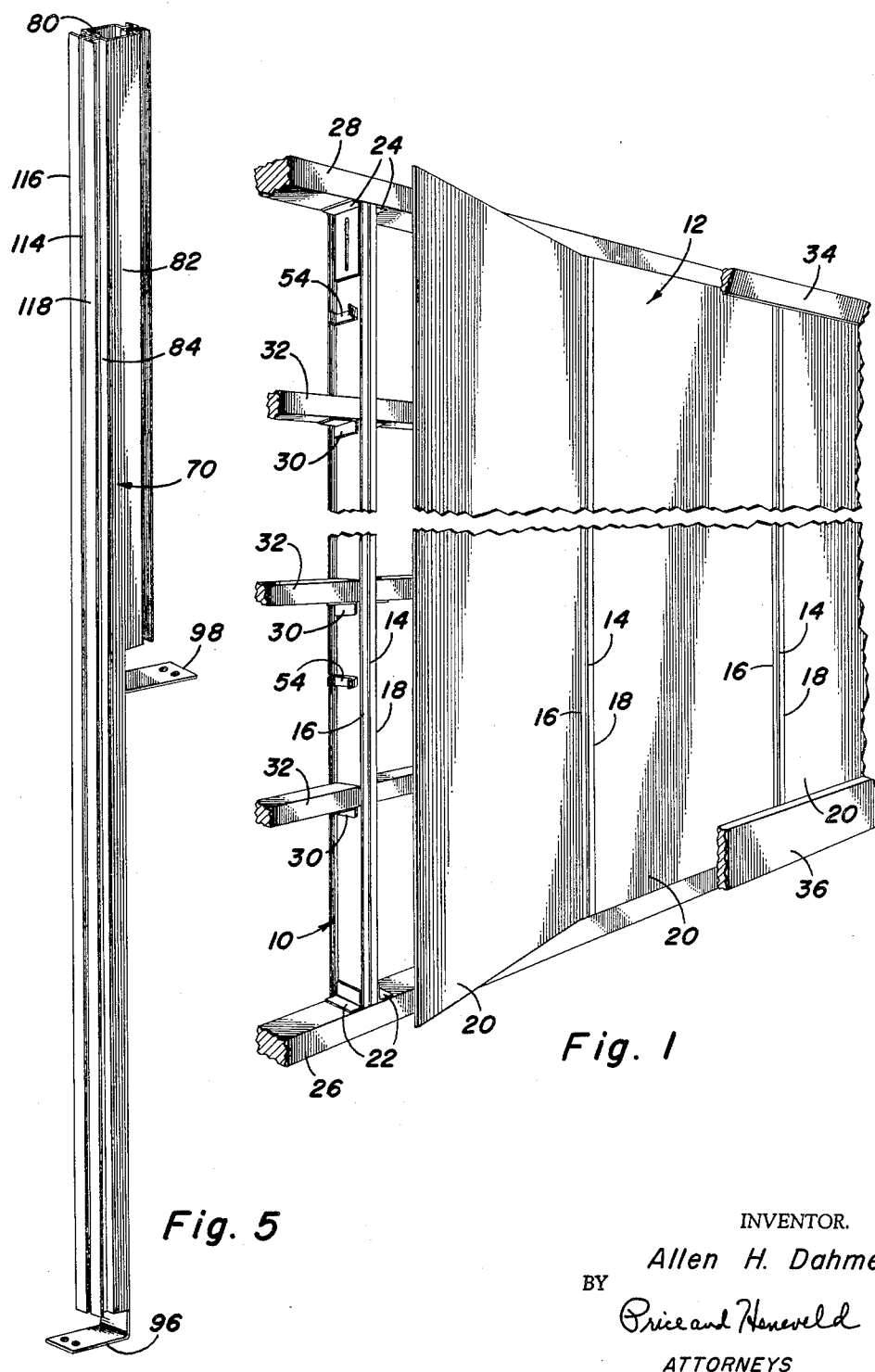


Fig. 1

Fig. 5

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

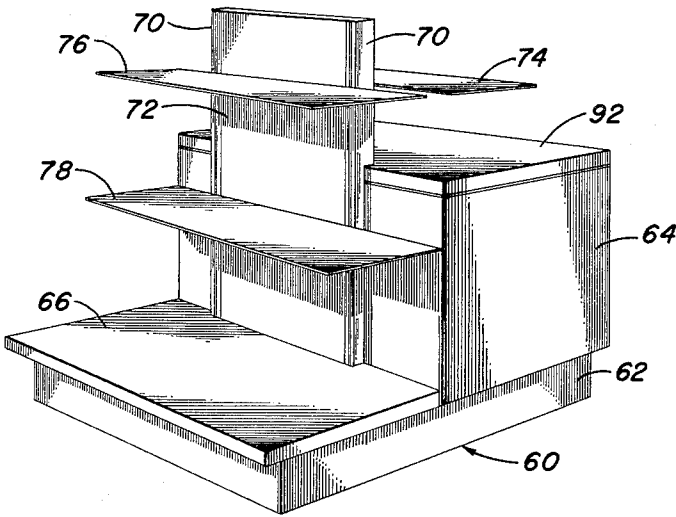


Fig. 4

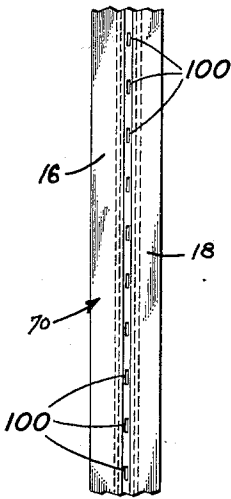


Fig. 6

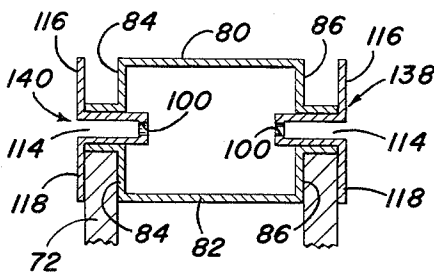


Fig. 3

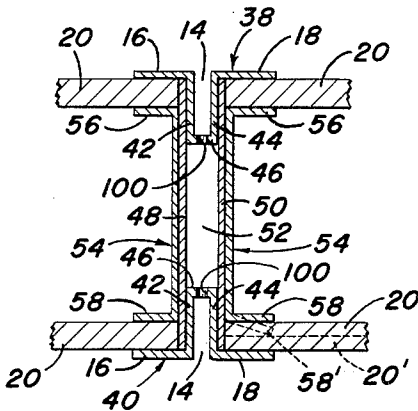


Fig. 2

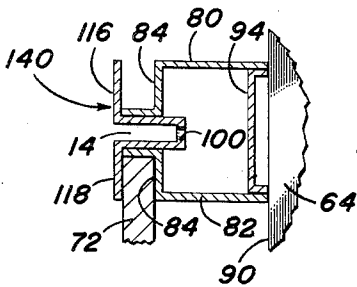


Fig. 7

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SUPPORTING COLUMN FOR PARTITIONS
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This invention relates to supporting columns for partition walls and the like; and more particularly to supporting columns which include means for receiving and supporting adjustable shelf members.

It is frequently necessary to erect a partition wall in a store, office space, or elsewhere. It is usually desirable to make use of the partition wall for display purposes or to have shelves for books or other supplies provided thereon. Most partition walls, of simple and inexpensive construction, are not suitable for supporting additional structure. As a consequence more permanent wall partitions are usually required initially, or at a later time as a replacement for the temporary partition wall.

Both the inexpensive temporary partition wall and the more expensive permanent wall structure usually have the vertical wall supporting columns hidden and obscured from view by the wall forming members. Whenever shelves are required to be added to these walls it is necessary to find the supporting columns. The shelves are usually required to be permanently secured to the wall structure in order to receive adequate support. Adjustable shelf supports are required to be secured to the face of the wall structure and are neither adequately supported nor particularly pleasing in appearance.

It is here proposed that a more stable, esthetic, and useful partition wall structure be provided. The partition wall proposed is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, fabricate and erect. The supporting columns are adapted to cooperatively receive the wall forming members in engagement therewith and to leave a part of the column exposed to readily receive shelf supporting brackets or the like. The wall supporting columns are also adaptable for use with island display counters and the like, as will be described.

In the preferred embodiment of this invention, as hereinafter described, a supporting column for partition walls is provided which includes a fabricated tubular member. The tubular member provides structural support for the wall and is formed to receive the edges of the wall forming members in engagement therewith. The wall members are received inside of the outer face of the supporting column and have their edges engaged thereto. The wall members may be of perforated or "peg-board" construction if desired.

A part of the supporting column is exposed on each side of the partition wall. The exposed part of the supporting columns includes a recessed channel groove extending the height of the wall. A plurality of apertures or slots are provided within the groove to receive adjustable shelf supporting brackets. The depth of the recessed channel groove causes it to be obscured from view and also assures a more stable and secure support for the shelf brackets.

The support columns are readily adapted for use in making display counters. Short lengths of the support columns may be used as stanchions for island display

counters and may be adapted to include shelves and perforated wall board.

These and other advantages of this invention will be more apparent in the description which follows.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a partition wall including the support columns of this invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view through a partition wall including the disclosed support column.

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of a modification of the support column of this invention.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the disclosed support columns as adapted for use in a display counter.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the display counter columnar support.

FIG. 6 is a front face view of the column support of this invention.

FIG. 7 is a cross sectional view of a part of the columnar support used with the display counter of FIG. 4.

The supporting columns 10 are shown in FIG. 1 as used in forming a partition wall 12. The supporting columns 10 are seen to include a channel recess 14 within the exposed face thereof and to have oppositely extended flanges 16 and 18 behind which the wall board members 20 are received. The wall supporting members are secured by angle brackets 22 and 24 to runners 26 and 28, respectively. The runners 26 and 28 are in turn secured to the floor and ceiling of the room within which the partition wall 12 is being provided. Other angle brackets 30 are secured to the supporting column to receive horizontal braces 32, as required.

The upper runner member 28 need not be secured to a ceiling member if the partition wall is not to be of full height. Only the ends or parts of the runner member 28 need be secured to the ceiling if desired. Also, the number of horizontal braces 32 provided is a matter of choice and is dependent upon how sturdy a wall is desired. The wall board members 20 are readily removable, as will be seen, and consequently more horizontal braces may be added at a later time, if desired.

The partition wall shown by FIG. 1 has a ceiling molding 34 and floor molding 36 which cover the runners 26 and 28 and overlap the wall board members 20.

The details of the particular supporting column 10 are best shown by FIG. 2. The supporting column includes a pair of channel shaped members 38 and 40. The side walls 42 and 44, and the interconnecting web 46, form the channel recess 14. Each of the channel shaped members 38 and 40 have the side walls 42 and 44 formed transversely and extended in opposite directions from the recess 14 to provide the flanges 16 and 18. Plate members 48 and 50 provide connecting web members between the adjacent and coplanar side walls 42 and 44 of the spaced channel shaped members 38 and 40. The edges of the connecting members 48 and 50 are engaged with the flanges 16 and 18 and thereby define the spaced relation of the channel shaped members 38 and 40.

A closed tubular space 52 is provided between the plate members 48 and 50, as engaged with the channel recess forming members 38 and 40. The resulting tubular cross section is more structurally sound and the space 52 is readily adaptable for electrical lines if desired.

The supporting column shown by FIGS. 1 and 2 includes several spring clip members 54 which are secured

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to the closing plate or web members 48 and 50. These clip members 54 have their ends 56 and 58 formed transversely of the web members 48 and 50 and disposed in spaced relation to the flanges 16 and 18 of the channel sectioned members 38 and 40. This provides the space within which the edges of the wall board members 20 are received.

The dotted lines shown in FIG. 2 show how the spring clip arm 58 may be bent to the position 58' to retain a thin wall board member 20'.

The wall board members 20 are engaged between the flanges 16 or 18 and the spring clip ends 56 or 58, of one of the support columns 10, and are bowed slightly and inserted within the space provided between the flanges and spring clips of the next adjacent support column. A single or double wall may be provided, as desired. Insulation may be provided between the double wall if required.

The partition wall, as erected, has only the narrow flanges 16 and 18 and the channel recess 14 of the columnar supports 10 exposed. The channel recess 14 provides the means for supporting adjustable shelves (not shown) to the partition wall. This feature will be described in regard to the display counter 60 of FIG. 4, which makes use of the same type of vertical wall supporting members as just described.

The island display counter 60, of FIG. 4, includes a base stand 62 having a drawer chest or elevated counter section 64 on one side thereof. A lower shelf or platform member 66 is provided on the other side of the base stand 62. Supporting columns 70 are mounted on the display counter 60 in spaced relation to each other. These columns are made in accord with the teachings of this invention and are adapted to support a vertical wall member, in this instance the perforated wall board panel 72, and several shelves 74, 76 and 78.

The details of support 70 are shown in FIGS. 3, 5, 6 and 7. This particular support is a modification of the support 10 described in regard to the partition wall 12 of FIG. 1.

The modified columnar support 70 is formed with channel sectioned members 138 and 140, corresponding to members 38 and 40 of the other structure. Members 138 and 140 include the transverse flanges 116 and 118, corresponding to flanges 16 and 18 of the other support. The recess 114 is similar to recess 14 in the other support. The support 70 differs in having members 80 and 82 secured between the channel section members 138 and 140, in place of the plate or web members 48 and 50 of the other structure.

The members 80 and 82 are shown to include a cross sectional shape which provides shoulder portions 84 and 86 in spaced relation to the flanges 116 and 118 of the channel recessed members 138 and 140. The shoulder portions 84 and 86 correspond to the ends 56 and 58 of the spring clips 54 of the other structure. A closed tubular structure is provided by members 80 and 82 and the space 88 thereof corresponds to, but is larger than, the space 52 of the other structure. Thus it is apparent that the members 80 and 82 which connect the channel recessed members 138 and 140 together serve the same functions as the closure plates 48 and 50 and the spring clips 54 of the columnar members of FIGS. 1 and 2.

The shelf supporting members 70 are shown by FIGS. 4 and 5 to have a part cut-away from the face thereof that is received against the back 90 of the drawer chest 64. This enables the upper ends of the supports to rest on the counter top 92 of the drawer chest. The cut-away side of the supports is closed by a closure member 94, as shown in FIG. 7. Angle brackets 96 and 98 are secured to the closure member 94 near the lower and upper ends of the cut-away part of the shelf supporting members. These brackets are secured to the underside of the platform 66 and counter top 92 and are hidden from view, as shown in FIG. 4.

Both the partition wall supporting columns of FIGS.

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1 and 2, and the display counter supports of FIGS. 3-7 are adapted to receive and support shelf members at adjustable positions thereon. The channel sectioned members 38 and 40 of supports 10 and the corresponding members 138 and 140 of supports 70 each include a plurality of successive apertures or slots 100 formed through the channel web thereof. Such apertures 100 are best shown by FIG. 6, as formed in the supports 70.

The actual shelf brackets which are engaged within the receiving apertures 100 are not disclosed. Such brackets do not directly form a part of this invention and they are considered sufficiently well-known that their manner of cooperation and adjustment will be understood without specific illustration.

The columnar supports 10 and 70 which have been heretofore disclosed are of closed tubular construction for added structural strength. The channel shape of members 38, 40, 138 and 140 serve as additional strengthening members. The form of the connecting web members 80 and 82 of supports 70 also provides greater structural strength. In both supports 10 and 70 the tubular construction is formed from a minimum of parts which are adapted to also serve other purposes. The basic member of the disclosed supports is the channel recessed members which also serve as shelf receiving columnar members. Both of the supports 10 and 70 are symmetrical and therefore require fewer different parts. This also makes a more versatile support member. The shelf supporting part of each support is hidden or obscured within the channel recesses 14 or 114 and is deep within the support for better distribution of the weight of the shelf and anything supported thereon.

While a preferred embodiment and a modification of this invention has been described it will be understood that other modifications and improvements may be made thereto. Such of these modifications and improvements as incorporate the principles of this invention are to be considered as included in the hereinafter appended claims unless these claims by their language expressly state otherwise.

I claim:

1. A support column for vertical wall members and the like, said support column comprising; a pair of channel shaped members disposed in parallel spaced relation and having the connecting webs thereof disposed in back-to-back relation, transversely disposed flat flanges provided on the free ends of the side walls of said channel shaped members, and parallel spaced members connected to said channel member side walls, said spaced members including a resilient shoulder portion provided thereon and disposed in parallel spaced relation to said flanges, and end portions extending parallel to and adjacent said side walls of said channel-shaped members on the outside thereof, said end portions being fixed to said side walls; said members forming a closed tubular column therebetween and said flanges and resilient shoulder portions being spaced to receive wall forming members therebetween.

2. A vertical wall supporting member, comprising: parallel spaced channel sectioned members having connecting webs secured therebetween and forming a closed tubular column therewith, said channel sectioned members having the open sides thereof disposed outwardly, transversely disposed flanges extended from the side walls of said channel sectioned members near the open side thereof, and spring clips secured to said connecting webs and having the ends thereof disposed in spaced relation to said transversely disposed flanges for receiving a wall board member therebetween.

3. A vertical wall and horizontal shelf supporting member for use with display counters and the like, and comprising: a pair of parallel spaced channel sectioned members having the open sides thereof oppositely disposed and connecting web members secured between the coplanar side walls thereof, said channel sectioned members and connecting web members forming a closed tubu-

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lar column therebetween, said channel sectioned members having transversely disposed flanges formed from the side walls thereof adjacent the open faces thereof, said connecting webs including resilient shoulder portions spaced from said flanges for providing a wall board receiving space therebetween, a succession of adjustable shelf bracket receiving accesses formed within said channel sectioned members, one of said pair of channel sectioned members being longer than the other thereof, and a closure member received and secured between said connecting webs for providing a closed tubular column with said other channel sectioned member and an end face readily securable to a vertically disposed supporting wall.

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