

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 285 278** (13) **A**

(43) Date of A Publication **05.07.1995**

(21) Application No **9326418.2**

(22) Date of Filing **24.12.1993**

(71) Applicant(s)
George Keith Kennedy
511 Galston Road, Dural, NSW 2158, Australia

(72) Inventor(s)
George Keith Kennedy

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
David Kennedy
107 Langlea Avenue, Cambuslang, GLASGOW,
G72 8AN, United Kingdom

(51) INT CL⁶
F16B 2/22

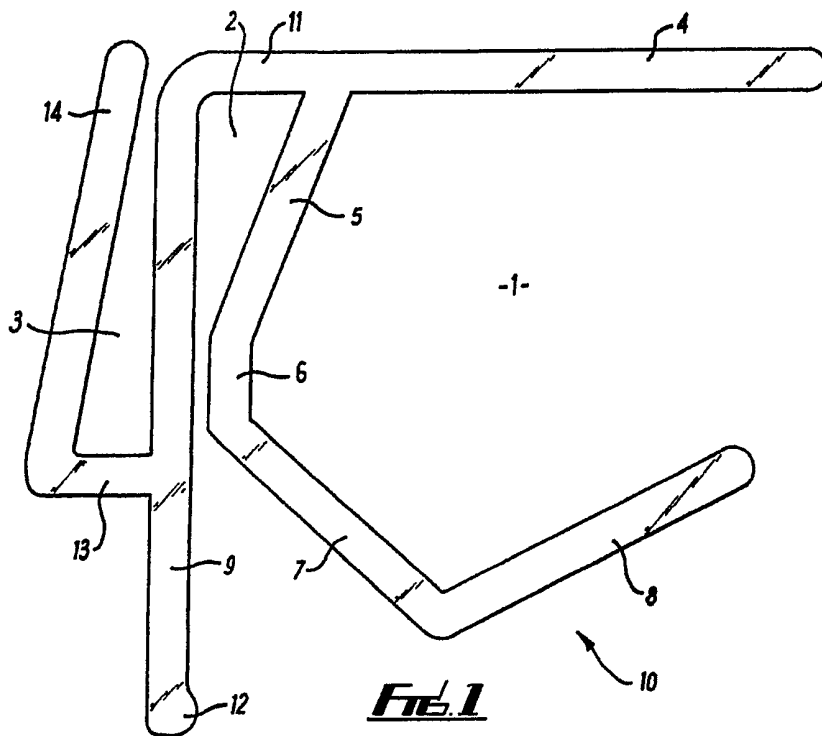
(52) UK CL (Edition N)
E2A AGB A370 A378 A424

(56) Documents Cited
GB 2121273 A GB 1254846 A GB 1176805 A
GB 0971426 A US 3983602 A US 3965540 A

(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition N) E2A AGB
INT CL⁶ F16B 2/20 2/22 5/06

(54) **Multi-purpose clip**

(57) The clip (10) has resilient gripping means (1, 2, 3) in the form of C-shaped arms, where adjacent gripping means share a common portion (5, 6). The clip finds particular application in the attachment of advertising or product identification material to the front of point-of-sale shelving and the attachment of table surrounds to tables.



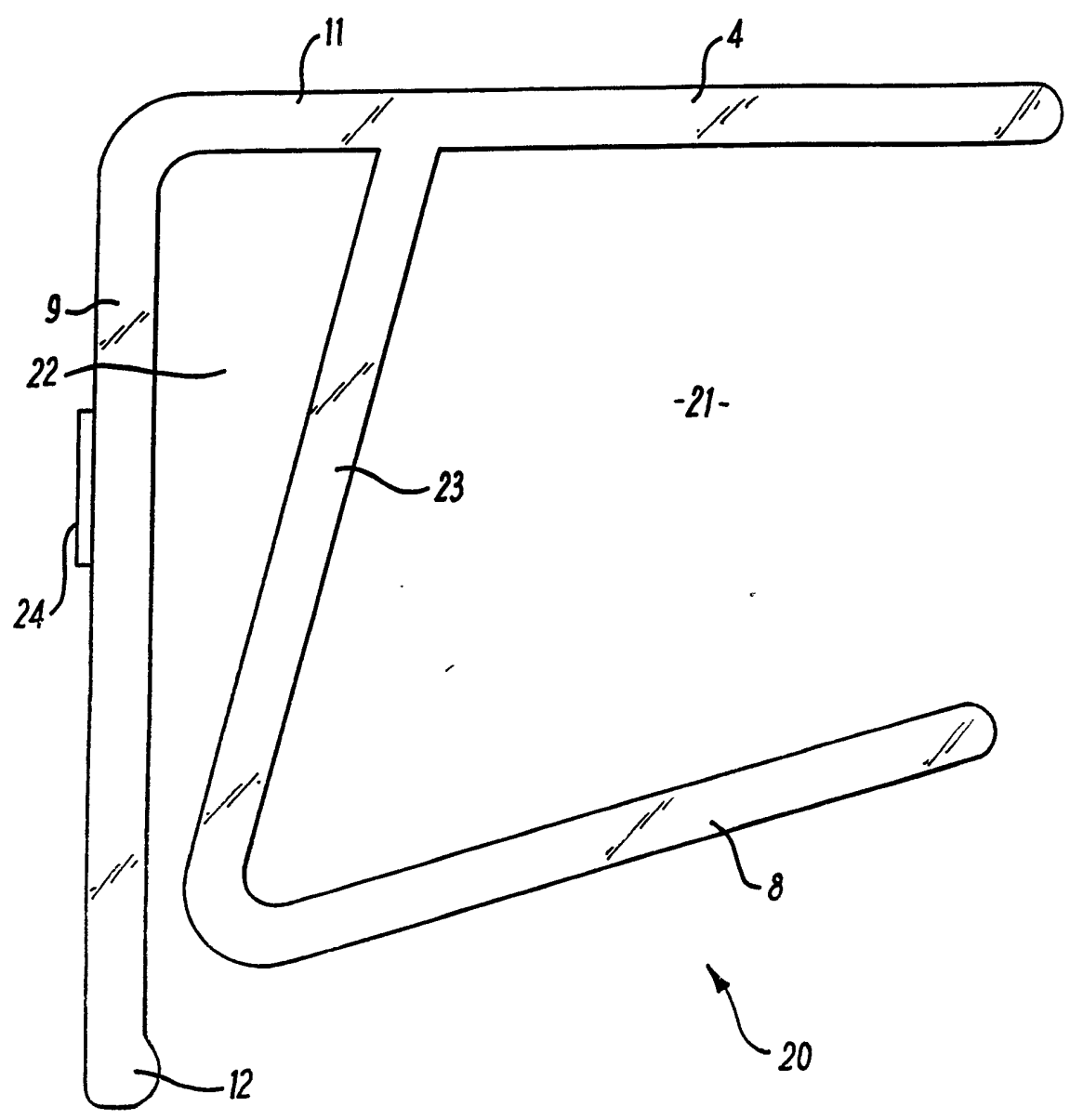
GB 2 285 278 A

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

This print takes account of replacement documents submitted after the date of filing to enable the application to comply with the formal requirements of the Patents Rules 1990.

2/2



-21-

FIG. 2

1 MULTI-PURPOSE CLIP

2 This invention is in the field of clips or fastening
3 devices used for utilitarian or display purposes. More
4 particularly, the invention relates to clips which
5 enable the attachment and/or presentation of two or
6 more articles in more than one plane.

7 Clips are widely known and may be used for a variety of
8 different purposes. However, their general purpose is
9 to provide an attachment means for at least two
10 articles. Most commonly, clips are used to fix
11 together two or more articles in the same plane. This
12 is the case, for example, with a paper clip or a
13 butterfly clip which are commonly used to hold a
14 plurality of sheets of paper or the like together.

15 Less frequently, clips are designed to provide the
16 attachment of two or more articles which are presented
17 to each other from differing planes, for example,
18 orthogonally. The attachment of advertising or product
19 identification material to the front of point-of-sale

1 shelving and the attachment of table surrounds or
2 flounces to tables are just two examples where this
3 latter type of clip is required. The present invention
4 relates to such out-of-plane clips.

5 According to the invention there is provided a multi-
6 purpose clip comprising a plurality of gripping means,
7 each gripping means having a resilient bias adapted to
8 cause the gripping means to compress and thereby grip
9 one or more respective articles, wherein a common
10 portion of each said gripping means is shared by an
11 adjacent said gripping means.

12 Preferably, the multi-purpose clip comprises a
13 relatively large and generally C-shaped primary
14 gripping means and one or more relatively narrow
15 secondary gripping means, wherein said primary gripping
16 means is adapted to grip an edge of a shelf or table or
17 the like and each said secondary gripping means is
18 adapted to grip or secure one or more sheet form or
19 relatively thin articles.

20 Preferably, the clip comprises two said secondary
21 gripping means, wherein a first said secondary gripping
22 means is open in a downwards direction and a second
23 said secondary gripping means is open in an upward
24 direction when said primary gripping means is gripping a
25 horizontal table or shelf. Alternatively, the clip may
26 have any other number of secondary gripping means,
27 depending upon the number of articles required to be
28 held.

29 The multi-purpose clip is preferably extruded from a
30 resilient and transparent plastics material.

1 Preferably, the clip includes a tape located on an
2 outside face of a said secondary gripping means
3 furthestmost from the primary gripping means, wherein
4 the tape is adapted to provide chemical or mechanical
5 bonding of one or more articles to said clip.

6 Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by
7 way of example only, with reference to the accompanying
8 Figures, in which:

9 Figure 1 is a side view of one embodiment of a multi-
10 purpose clip in accordance with the invention, and
11 Figure 2 is a side view corresponding to Figure 1 of an
12 alternative embodiment of a multi-purpose clip, also in
13 accordance with the invention.

14 Referring firstly to Figure 1, a multi-purpose clip,
15 generally described at 10, comprises a primary gripping
16 means 1 and two respective secondary gripping means 2,
17 3. The clip 10 is formed as one piece in a single
18 extrusion, but will be divided herein into various
19 segments or components for ease of description.

20 The primary gripping means 1 comprises a generally
21 C-shaped profile which includes a top segment 4, an
22 upper side segment 5, a vertical side segment 6, a
23 lower side segment 7 and a bottom segment 8. In use,
24 the top segment 4 and the bottom segment 8 are adapted
25 to compress on an upper and lower face of one or more
26 articles, such as desks, tables, shelves or the like,
27 the compression of the one or more articles by the two
28 segments enabling attachment of the clip thereto.

29 The secondary gripping means 2 shares a portion of the
30 primary gripping means 1 and in particular the upper

1 side segment 5 and the vertical side segment 6 is
2 common to the primary gripping means 1 and the
3 secondary gripping means 2, the secondary gripping
4 means 2 also includes a vertical limb 9 which connects
5 to an extension 11 of the top segment 4.

6 In use, the secondary gripping means 2 enables sheet
7 form or relatively thin articles to be held downward
8 from and orthogonal to the article attached by the
9 gripping means 1. In particular, a thin article, such
10 as a table surround or the like, is gripped by and
11 between the vertical side segment 6 and the vertical
12 limb 9.

13 A bead 12 is also provided at the extremity of limb 9
14 to cause frictional or physical resistance to the
15 escaping of an article held by the gripping means 2.

16 In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, a further gripping
17 means 3 is provided which, in this case, is adapted to
18 hold articles which may extend upward from and
19 orthogonal to the article attached by the primary
20 gripping means 1. The gripping means 3 comprises the
21 vertical limb 9, which is partially common to both
22 secondary gripping means 2,3, a base segment 13 and a
23 face member 14. From its junction with the base
24 segment 13, the face member 14 is inclined inwardly
25 towards the limb 9 when not acted upon by an external
26 force to thereby enable a degree of flexibility in the
27 thickness of an article which may be held by this
28 gripping means 3. In a similar manner each gripping
29 means is manufactured to enable such flexibility.

30 While it has been suggested that sheet form or
31 relatively thin articles may be held in the secondary

1 gripping means, the invention is not limited in this
2 way. Indeed, the channels or cavities formed within
3 the gripping means 2,3 may be used to support cables,
4 ties, floral displays and so on. Moreover, the
5 secondary gripping means could be designed to also
6 accommodate relatively large articles, although it is
7 suggested that applications for clips of this type may
8 be fewer.

9 An alternative embodiment of a multi-purpose clip 20 is
10 given in Figure 2. The clip 20 comprises a generally
11 C-shaped primary gripping means 21 and a downwardly
12 opening secondary gripping means 22. The primary
13 gripping means 21 has a top segment 4, a side segment
14 23 and a bottom segment 8. In likeness to the previous
15 embodiment, the top and bottom segments 4,8 provide
16 means for clamping on an article.

17 The secondary gripping means 22 comprises an extension
18 11 of the top segment 4, a vertical limb 9 and the side
19 segment 23. One or more articles may be held by the
20 gripping means 22, particularly by and between the side
21 element 23 and the limb 9.

22 The clip 20 also includes a tape 24 attached to the
23 outer face of the limb 9. The tape in this embodiment
24 is actually VELCRO (trade mark), although double-sided
25 adhesive tape or any other tape adapted to provide
26 chemical or mechanical bonding of one or more articles
27 to the clip 20 may be employed.

28 In the invention, the clips 10, 20 are resiliently
29 biased to enable elements or jaws of the gripping means
30 to be pulled apart to allow insertion of one or more
31 articles to be attached and then compressibly act in a

1 clamping or biting action on the article or articles.

2 It is realised in the invention that while reference is
3 made to respective "top" and "bottom" segments,
4 "vertical" sides and so on, a clip in accordance with
5 the invention may also be used in an inverted or
6 otherwise disoriented position to that described in the
7 specification, and no such disorientation of a clip
8 should fall outwith the scope of the invention intended
9 herein.

10 A multi-purpose clip in accordance with the invention
11 is inherent with advantages over clips hereinbefore
12 known. With the exception of the optional tape 24, the
13 clip 24 may be produced from a single extrusion
14 process, which is generally cheaper and less
15 complicated than the multi-stage moulding and
16 fabrication methods sometimes used.

17 The clip also finds application in an extensive
18 diversity of uses which demonstrates its unique
19 practicality and versatility. For example, it may be
20 utilized for product identification, article pricing,
21 advertising and the like on product shelving in retail
22 outlets, store rooms and warehousing. Moreover, the
23 clips may alternatively be used as connectors for
24 partitioning systems or in domestic environments, such
25 as in garages or workshops.

26 It is realised and should be noted that further
27 modifications and improvements may be made to the
28 embodiments described in this specification without
29 departing from the scope and spirit of the invention
30 herein intended.

1 CLAIMS

2 1 A multi-purpose clip comprising a plurality of
3 gripping means, each gripping means having a
4 resilient bias adapted to cause the gripping means
5 to compress and thereby grip one or more
6 respective articles, wherein a common portion of
7 each said gripping means is shared by an adjacent
8 said gripping means.

9 2 A multi-purpose clip as claimed in Claim 1
10 comprising a relatively large and generally
11 C-shaped primary gripping means and one or more
12 relatively narrow secondary gripping means,
13 wherein said primary gripping means is adapted to
14 grip an edge of a shelf or table or the like and
15 each said secondary gripping means is adapted to
16 grip or secure one or more sheet form or
17 relatively thin articles.

18 3 A clip as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 comprising
19 two said secondary gripping means, wherein a first
20 said secondary gripping means is open in an upward
21 direction when said primary gripping means is
22 gripping horizontal table or shelf.

23 4 A clip as claimed in any one of the preceding
24 Claims being extruded from a resilient and
25 transparent plastics material.

26 5 A clip as claimed in any one of the preceding
27 Claims including a tape located on an outside face
28 of a said secondary gripping means furthestmost
29 from the primary gripping means, wherein the tape
30 is adapted to provide chemical or mechanical

- 1 bonding of one or more articles to said clip.
- 2 6 A clip substantially as described and illustrated
- 3 in the accompanying description and drawings.

Relevant Technical Fields

- (i) UK Cl (Ed.N) E2A (AGB)
 (ii) Int Cl (Ed.6) F16B (2/20; 2/22; 5/06)

Search Examiner
 P J SILVIE

Date of completion of Search
 24 MARCH 1995

Databases (see below)

- (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.
 (ii)

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
 ALL

Categories of documents

- X:** Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step. **P:** Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.
Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category. **E:** Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. **&:** Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2121273 A (LINAR) whole document	1, 2
X	GB 1254846 A (POWER PLAY) whole document	1, 3
X	GB 1176805 A (BALL) whole document	1, 3
X	GB 0971426 A (UNITED-CARR) whole document	1-3
X	US 3983602 A (BARRY) whole document	1, 2
X	US 3965540 A (ARMSTRONG) whole document	1, 2

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).