June 17, 1952 M. C. RANSEEN 2,600,429

CARD SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 21, 1949 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

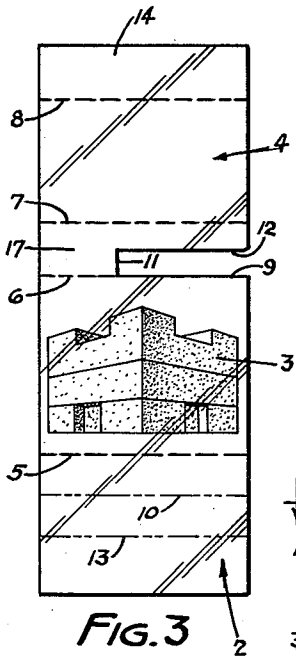


FIG. 3

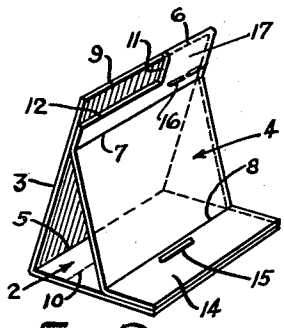


FIG. 2

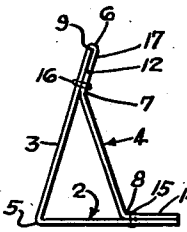


FIG. 4

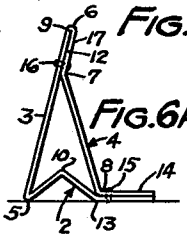


FIG. 6A

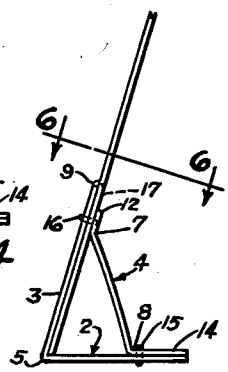


FIG. 5

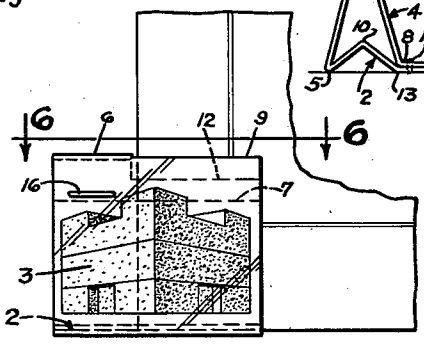


FIG. 1

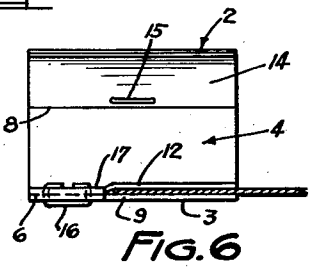


FIG. 6

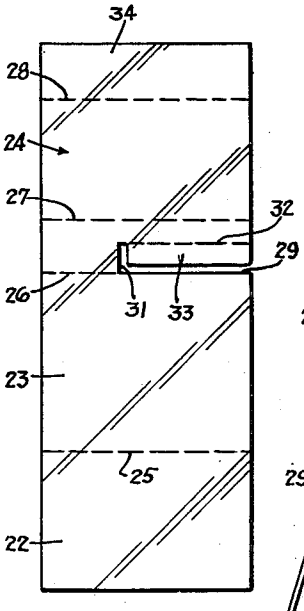


FIG. 8

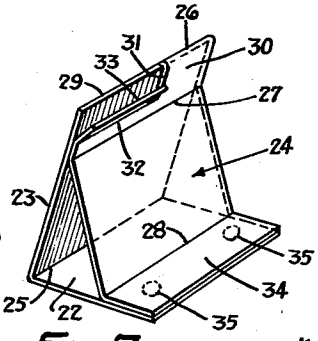


FIG. 7

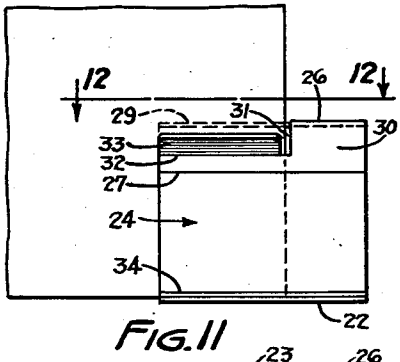


FIG. 11

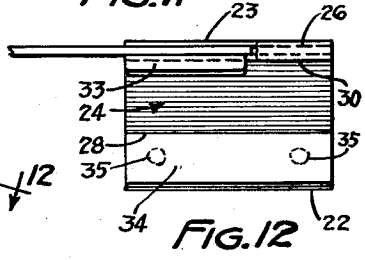


FIG. 12

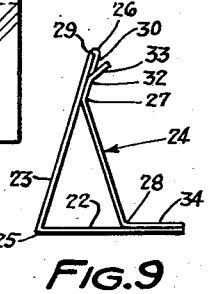


FIG. 9

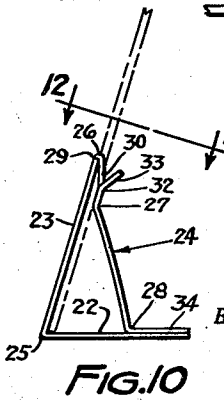


FIG. 10

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CARD SUPPORTING DEVICE

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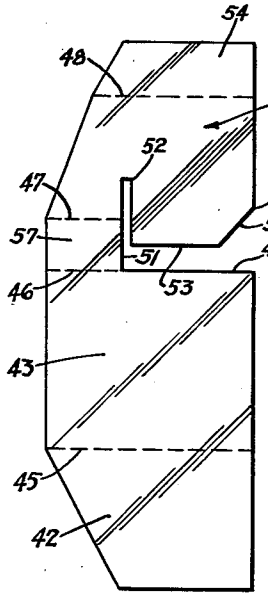


FIG. 14

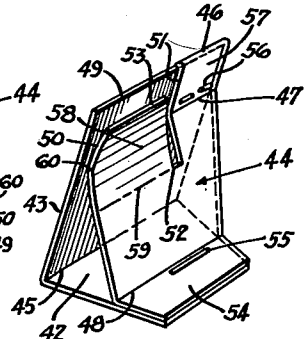


FIG. 13

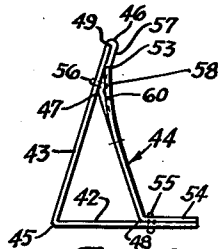


FIG. 15

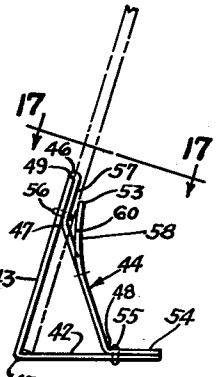


FIG. 16

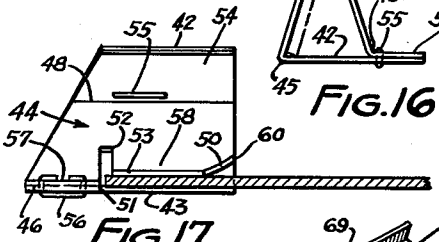


FIG. 17

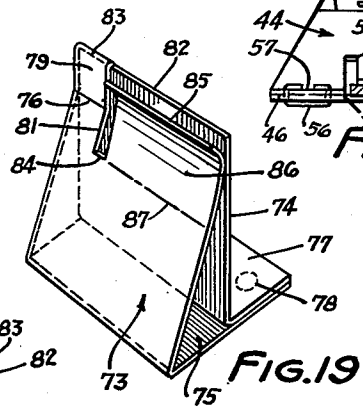


FIG. 19

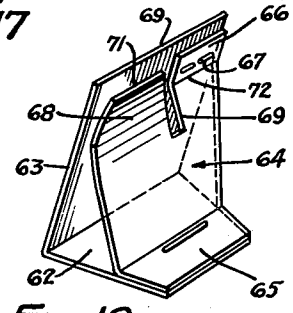


FIG. 18

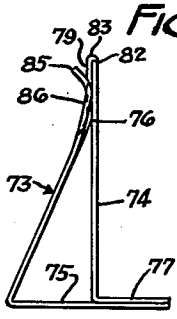


FIG. 20

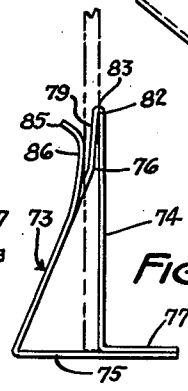


FIG. 21

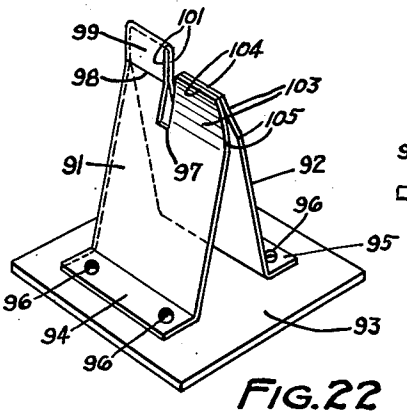


FIG. 22

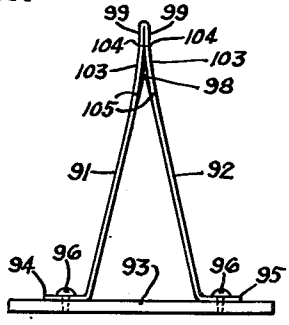


FIG. 23

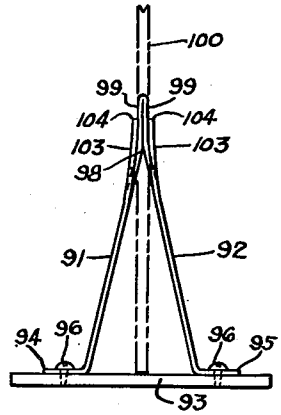


FIG. 24

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June 17, 1952 M. C. RANSEEN 2,600,429

CARD SUPPORTING DEVICE

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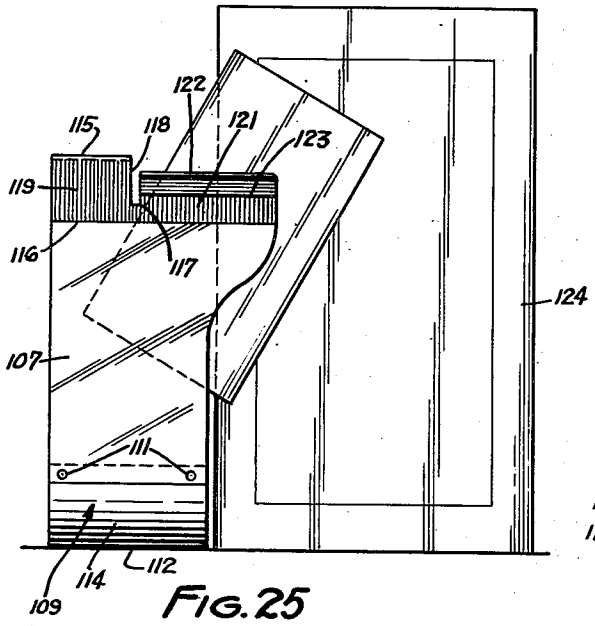


FIG. 25

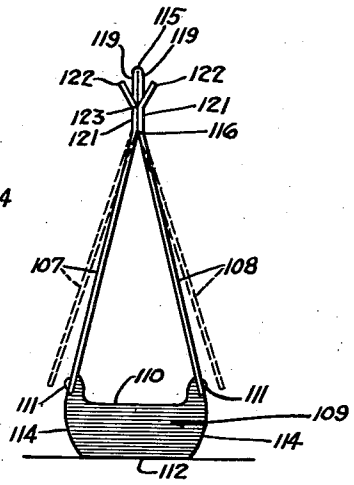


FIG. 26

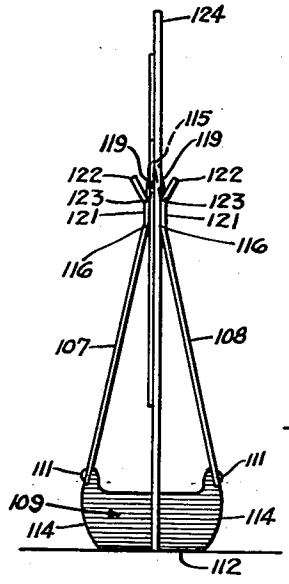


FIG. 27

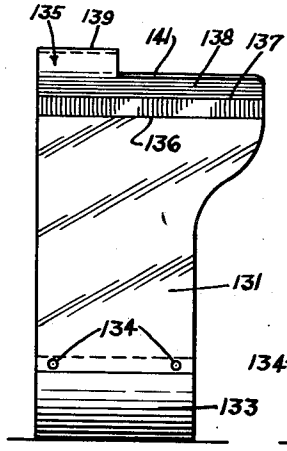


FIG. 28

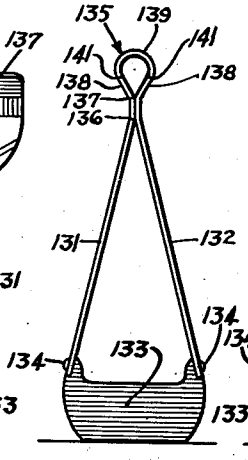


FIG. 29

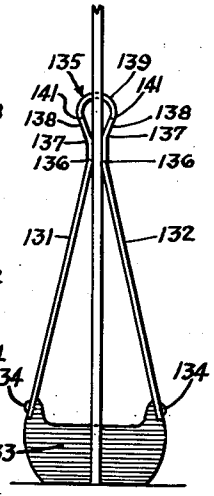


FIG. 30

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Patented June 17, 1952

2,600,429

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,600,429

CARD SUPPORTING DEVICE

Mauritz C. Ranseen, Minneapolis, Minn.

Application September 21, 1949, Serial No. 116,870

16 Claims. (Cl. 40—10)

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This invention relates to devices for supporting cards such as display cards, posters, pictures and analogous flat articles whereby such articles are supported in an upright position.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a card supporting device adapted to be positioned upon a suitable surface such as the top of a counter or in a display window whereby a card may be supported upon said surface in an upright tilted or vertical position.

An important object of the present invention is to provide a device for supporting a card whereby the device functions to maintain the card in an upright position in such manner that the weight of the card is largely translated to the surface upon which the device is positioned.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a card supporting device adapted to be frictionally maintained upon the card whereby the card and the device may be moved about as a unitary structure.

A feature of the present device is the provision of a base member having front and rear upright members secured thereto in spaced relation wherein the upright members converge and have portions of their upper ends secured together thereby resisting separation of separate portions of the upper ends of the upright members.

A particular feature of the present device is the provision of a triangularly configurated supporting structure comprising front and rear upright members wherein the upper portions of the upright members are fastened together across only part of their width whereby opposed separate portions are provided at the upper ends of the upright members between which a card may be positioned and clamped therebetween.

An important feature of the present device is the provision of a relatively short, yieldable clamping jaw or finger which may be provided in at least one of the upright members whereby a card or a plurality of cards may be positioned between the clamping finger and the opposed upright member with the clamping finger maintaining pressure against the card thereby to maintain the card in parallel relation against the opposed upright member.

Additional features of the present invention include the superimposed relation of opposed upper portions of the upright members of the device whereby relatively large clamping surfaces are provided the separate upper portions of the upright members between which a card is adapted to be positioned; the provision of a separate clamping portion at the upper end of one of the

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upright members which is positioned below the upper edge of the opposed upright member whereby when a card is positioned between the separate clamping portion and the opposed upright member the card will be maintained against the opposed upright member in parallel relation thereto; a base member having a triangular superstructure comprising front and rear upright wall members wherein portions of the upper ends of the upright members are secured together thus providing a very rigid supporting device; the provision of means whereby the device may be adjusted to vary the degree of rearward tilt to the card supported thereby; the rearward extension of the base member beyond the rear upright member thereby providing stability to the device; the flatwise disposition of upper opposed separate portions of the upright members in a perpendicular plane whereby when a card is clamped therebetween the card will be maintained in an upright perpendicular position; the provision of a resilient loop for connecting upper portions of the upright members; the provision of opposed yieldable clamping fingers; the provision of a card supporting device made in accordance with the present invention wherein a weighted base member is provided to maintain the device in an upright position and the provision of front and rear upright members secured to a weighted base member wherein portions of the upper ends of the upright members extend beyond the end of the base member.

Other objects and features of the invention will appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings and will be pointed out in the annexed claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of a card supporting device embodying features of the present invention and with a card supported thereby;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the device from the rear, with the card omitted;

Figure 3 is a view of the flat blank from which the device of the invention may be formed;

Figure 4 is a side view of the device as viewed from the right hand side of Figure 1 but with the card omitted;

Figure 5 is a similar view with a card supported in the device;

Figure 6 is a plan sectional view on the line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 6A is a side view similar to that of Fig. 4 showing how the device is adjustable to vary the degree of rearward tilt to a card when supported in the device;

Figures 7 to 12, inclusive, illustrate a card supporting device very similar to the above described structure but embodying novel structural features;

Figures 13 to 17, inclusive, illustrate a card supporting device embodying features of the present invention including a yieldable clamping finger;

Figure 18 illustrates a device similar to the above described structure but wherein the device is formed from two parts;

Figures 19 to 21, inclusive, illustrate a card supporting device wherein a yieldable finger is incorporated in the front upright member of the device;

Figures 22 to 24, inclusive, illustrate a device wherein yieldable clamping fingers are provided in both of the upright members of the device;

Figures 25 to 27, inclusive, illustrate an embodiment of the invention incorporating a weighted base member; and

Figures 28 to 30, inclusive are views illustrating a card supporting device embodying features of the invention including a resilient loop member which connects portions of the upper ends of the upright members of the device.

In the selected embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, there is illustrated in Figures 1 to 6A, inclusive, a card supporting device adapted to support a display card, poster or price tag in an upright position upon a suitable surface, such as the top of a counter or in a display window. The device, shown in rear perspective in Fig. 2, comprises a base member **2** having front and rear upright members **3** and **4**, respectively, secured to the base member in spaced relation. The device may be formed from a one piece flat blank such as shown in Fig. 3. The blank may be die-cut from a sheet of flat, flexible material such as paper, plastic or light metal. When resilient sheet metal or plastic is utilized in the fabrication of the devices of the present invention certain inherent characteristics and/or advantageous are obtained as will subsequently be pointed out. For ease in forming the device from the blank, for economy of manufacture and for general utility the present device may preferably be made of relatively stiff paper or cardboard.

As viewed in Fig. 3 the portion of the blank disposed below the horizontal score line **5** forms the base member **2** of the device of Fig. 2. The base member **2** may be provided with score lines **10** and **13**. The blank has additional score lines **6**, **7** and **8** and has a cut-away portion or slot which extends laterally from one side edge thereof said slot being defined by the edges **9**, **11** and **12**. Thus the blank embodies the base member **2**, as before mentioned, the front upright member **3** which is defined by the portion of the blank between the score line **5** and the score line **6** and the top edge **9**, the rear upright member **4** which is formed by the portion of the blank defined by the score line **6**, vertical edge **11**, horizontal edge **12** and the score line **8** and a flange member **14** defined by the portion of the blank above the score line **8**, all as viewed in Fig. 3.

The embodiment of the present invention which is formed from the blank shown in Fig. 3 is shown in rear perspective in Fig. 2. The front upright member **3** forms a juncture with the forward edge of the base member **2** at the bend line **5** and extends upwardly at an acute angle to said base member. The rear upright member **4** forms a juncture with the top edge of the front

upright member **3** at the bend line **6** and extends downwardly in flatwise relation thereto to the bend line **7**. From the bend line **7** the rear member **4** is bent rearwardly at an acute angle to the front member **3** and meets the base member **2** at the bend line **8** to form an acute angle with said base. From the bend line **8** the flange member **14** which is integral with the rear upright member **4** is disposed in flatwise relation to the rear portion of the base member **2** and is secured thereto by suitable means such as a staple **15**.

To maintain the upper portions of the upright members **3** and **4** in flatwise relation the relatively narrow portion **17** of the rear upright member **4** which is disposed between the bend line **6** and the bend line **7** is secured to the front upright member **3** by suitable means such as a staple **16**. The staple is preferably positioned adjacent the bend line **7** immediately thereabove whereby the upright members **3** and **4** are secured together at the apex of the acute angle formed by the converging upright members **3** and **4** at the bend line **7**. Suitable glue or cement may be used instead of the staple **16** to secure this portion of the rear upright member to the front member if desired.

The cut-away portion of the blank which forms the slot defined by the edges **9**, **11** and **12** is disposed in the rear upright member **4** and as shown in Fig. 2 the edge **12** provides the top edge of the upper portion of the member **4** which is laterally disposed with respect to the narrow portion **17**. Thus it is to be noted that the upper portion of the member **4** which is disposed between the bend line **7** and the upper edge **12** thereabove is separate from the opposed upper portion of the front upright member **3** and is maintained in parallel relation thereagainst due to its integral relationship with the relatively narrow portion **17**. As the bend line **7** traverses the full width of the rear upright member **4** the angle thus formed in said upright member provides lateral rigidity to the upper separate portion thereof.

Thus it will be noted that the upper portions of the upright members **3** and **4** are secured together across only part of their width whereby the remaining upper portions thereof are separate thereby providing opposed clamping members adapted to flex apart when a card is inserted therebetween. The card may be inserted between the clamping members by positioning a corner of the card below the apex of the converging upright members **3** and **4** and moving the card upwardly between the clamping members thereby to flex them apart. The card is subsequently moved laterally and is positioned with its lower edge resting upon the base member **2** and when a relatively thin card is used the edge of the card may be moved against the vertical edge **11** which provides an abutment therefor. As the upper separate clamping portion of the rear upright member **4** is in parallel relation to the front upright member **3** it is to be noted that the card is thus maintained in flatwise relation against the front upright member **3** whereby the card will be maintained in a rearwardly tilted position, as shown in Fig. 5. This is a feature of the invention.

It is to be understood that the top edge **12** of the separate portion of the rear member **4** may be disposed at a point nearer the upper edge **9** of the front upright member **3** thereby providing separate opposed portions having larger clamping surfares. If desired the blank may be slitted only along a line coinciding with the edge

9 whereby the top edge 12 and the top edge 9 will be positioned in contiguous relation when the device is set up as shown in Fig. 2.

The triangularly configurated structure of the present device forms a very rigid supporting structure for a display card. By securing the upper portions of the upright members across only part of their width the opposed separate portions thereof which are disposed laterally of the secured portions are maintained in contacting relationship. Thus when a card is inserted between the separate portions said portions will flex apart and the secured-together portions of the upright members will resist such flexing whereby the card will be firmly clamped therebetween.

The triangular superstructure of the device comprising the converging upright members 3 and 4 may be formed to provide any desired degree of rearward tilt to the card supported thereby. Means are also provided whereby an already formed device, such as the device of Fig. 2, may be adjusted to vary the rearward tilt of the card. Such means include the provision of score lines 10 and 13 in the base member 2 of the device whereby the portion of said base member which is disposed between the score lines 5 and 13 may be bent upwardly as shown in Fig. 6A with the bend line 10 forming the apex thereof. Thus the spaced apart lower ends of the upright members 3 and 4 are brought closer together whereby the front upright member 3, against which the card is positioned, will assume a more vertical position thereby providing less rearward tilt to the card supported by the device.

It is to be noted that the portion of the base member 2 which extends rearwardly of the lower edge of the upright member 4 provides stability to the device and prevents rearward tipping of said device when a card is supported thereby. It is also to be noted that the lower edge of the card rests upon the base member 2 whereby a substantial portion of the weight of the card is translated to the surface upon which the device is positioned.

Figures 7 to 12, inclusive, illustrate a card supporting device which is very similar to the device herebefore described with the exception that the blank for forming the device is of resilient, flexible material such as sheet metal or plastic. Thus the resiliency of the material which forms the device provides added features of the invention as will be pointed out.

The device illustrated in rear perspective in Fig. 7 is formed from the blank shown in Fig. 8 which may be die-cut from resilient sheet metal or plastic as before stated. The device is formed by folding the blank along the lines 25, 26, 27 and 28 thus providing the base member 22, the front upright member 23, the rear upright member 24 and the integral flange member 34 which is suitably secured to the based member 22 by spot welding or cementing as indicated at 35 in Fig. 7. The upper portions of the rear upright member 24 disposed above the bend line 27 are positioned in flatwise relation to upper portions of the front upright member 23. Thus the portion of the rear upright member 24 which extends downwardly from the bend line 26 to the bend line 27 and the portion extending from the bend line 32 to the bend line 27 are normally positioned in flatwise relation to opposed upper portions of the front upright member 23. The relatively narrow portion 30 of the rear member 24 which is disposed immediately below the bend line 26 provides the connecting means between the rear upright member 24 and the front upright member 23, namely at the bend line 26.

The clamping surfaces of the two upright members 23 and 24 between which a card is to be positioned is defined by the opposed upper portions of the members 23 and 24 lying between the bend line 32 and the bend line 27 which normally are disposed in flatwise relation, as before stated, and are also adapted to be maintained in parallel relation when flexed apart by the card inserted therebetween. To facilitate insertion of a card between the opposed clamping surfaces an integral rearwardly bent flange member 33 extends upwardly from the bend line 32, as shown in Fig. 9, whereby the lower edge of the card may be positioned between the front upright member 23 and the flange 33 and the card then moved downwardly to flex apart the opposed clamping surfaces and thence downwardly to engage upon the base member 22, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 10 and in full lines in the rear view Fig. 11 and top view Fig. 12. The vertical edge 31 of the relatively narrow portion 30 provides a lateral abutment against which the side edge of the card may be positioned.

When a card is inserted between the opposed clamping members as indicated in Fig. 10 it is to be noted that the narrow portion 30, which is secured to the front upright member 23 at the bend line 26, flexes rearwardly from said bend line 26 as the clamping members move apart. The card is indicated in dotted lines to more clearly illustrate the rearward flexing of the portion 30. As the bend line 27 extends across the full width of the rear upright member the angularity thus formed in the rear member 24 provides lateral rigidity to the separate clamping portion of the member 24 which is disposed between the bend line 27 and the bend line 32. Thus the clamping portion of the member 24 becomes in effect an integral part of the narrow portion 30 thus causing said portion 30 to flex rearwardly as the clamping portion of member 24 flexes away from the front upright member 23 when a card is inserted therebetween.

It is to be noted that the upper edge of the clamping area of member 24, namely the bend line 32, is maintained in contact with the rear surface of the card due to the resistance against flexing of the narrow resilient portion 30 from the bend line 26. Similarly the lower edge of the clamping area, namely the bend line 27, is maintained in contact with the card due to the resistance against rearward flexing of the rear upright member 24 along the bend lines 27 and 28. Thus the card is positively maintained in parallel relation against the rear face of the upright member 23. When a relatively thick card is positioned between the clamping portions of the members 23 and 24 the lower portion of the rear upright member 24 may tend to bow rearwardly as indicated in Fig. 10.

Thus it will be noted that a card supporting device is provided wherein the card is very firmly clamped between the two upright members due to the specific construction of the rear upright member 24 wherein the separate clamping portion thereof is adapted to flex rearwardly against the tension of the relatively narrow portion 30 and against the resistance to flexing of the angularly configurated rear wall member at the bend lines 27 and 28. The disposition of the opposed clamping areas of the members 23 and 24

below the top edge 29 of the front upright member 23 provides added means for maintaining the card in parallel relation to the front upright member 23.

Figures 13 to 17, inclusive, illustrate a card supporting device comprising two upright members wherein one of said upright members is slitted from the top edge thereof thereby providing a relatively short, yieldable clamping member or finger adapted to maintain a card in an upright position between the two upright members.

Thus the device illustrated in rear perspective in Fig. 13 is formed from the blank of Fig. 14 which may be die-cut from sheet material such as paper, metal or plastic. The base member 42, the front upright member 43, the rear upright member 44 and the integral flange member 54 are formed by folding the blank along the lines 45, 46, 47 and 48. The flange member 54 extends rearwardly from the lower edge of the rear upright member 44 and is secured to the base member 42 by the staple 55 or by spot welding or cementing as may be required. The relatively narrow portion 57 of the rear upright member 44 which is disposed between the bend lines 46 and 47 is secured in flatwise relation to the upper portion of the front member 43 by suitable means such as a staple 56 or by spot welding or cementing.

Thus the base member 42 and the two upright members 43 and 44 form a rigid triangular supporting structure wherein the apex or meeting point of the two upright members coincides with the bend line 47. The bend line 47 is provided in the rear upright member 44 across only part of its overall width, namely across the narrow portion 57 which is secured to the front upright member 43 as shown in Fig. 13.

The rear upright member 44 is provided with a slit or slot 52 adjacent the narrow portion 57 said slot extending downwardly from the top edge 53 of the member 44 to a point below the bend line 47 or to a median portion of the upright member 44. Referring to Fig. 14 it is to be noted that the horizontal edge 53 of the blank is disposed on a line between the bend lines 46 and 47 whereby when the blank is folded to form the device of Fig. 13 the top edge 53 will be disposed above the bend line 47. Thus the upper portion of the upright member 44 which is disposed laterally of the relatively narrow secured portion 57 thereof provides a relatively short, yieldable clamping member or finger 58 having its upper edge 53 engaging against the front upright member 43 at a point above the meeting point of the triangularly disposed portions of the members 43 and 44. Thus the yieldable clamping finger 58 will assume an initial curvature, as shown in Fig. 15, whereby the top edge 53 thereof will engage against the front upright member 43 with an initial clamping pressure. Thus a relatively short clamping finger is provided which upon flexing rearwardly has a normal bend line 59 which coincides substantially with the bottom of the slot 52.

The yieldable portion 58 preferably has its outer corner cut on a bias as shown at 59 whereby the corner 60 on the upright side edge of the member 44 is normally spaced away from the front upright member 43 whereby the edge of a card may be inserted between the front member 43 and the yieldable portion 58 of the rear member 44 and subsequently moved into clamping engagement between the upper end of the yieldable finger 58 and the front upright member 43 as shown in Figs. 16 and 17. The vertical edge 51 provides an abutment against which the card may be positioned.

Thus a card supporting device comprising opposed upright panel members is provided wherein an upper separate portion of one of said upright members provides a yieldable clamping member whereby a card may be securely clamped between said yieldable member and the opposed upright member with relatively little distortion to the other portions of the upright member of which said yieldable member forms a part. As the yieldable member 58 is provided with an initial pressure against the opposed upright member 43 it is apparent that a very thin card may be securely clamped and maintained in an upright position between said upright members. When a relatively thick card is interposed between said members the yieldable finger 58 will exert a relatively greater clamping action thereagainst. If desired the depth of the slot 52 may be varied thus increasing or decreasing the length of the yieldable member 58. Thus when the depth of the slot 52 is decreased from that shown in Fig. 13 the length of the yieldable member 58 is decreased whereby the clamping action of said member 58 will be correspondingly increased.

It is to be noted that the upper edge 53 of the yieldable member 58 is disposed below the top edge 49 of the front upright member 43 whereby the card is positively maintained in flatwise relation against the front upright member 43 when supported in the device as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 16.

The panel members of the device which form the rear portion thereof may have their left side edges cut on a bias, as viewed in the top view Fig. 17, whereby the rear portion will not be so readily visible when the device functions to support a card in a display window.

A further modification of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 18 and the structure shown in said view differs from the device of Fig. 13 in that the device is formed from two separate parts rather than from a single blank. Thus the base member 62 and the front upright member 63 may be formed of relatively heavy cardboard and the rear upright member 64 and the integral flange 65 may be of resilient sheet metal or plastic. If desired the two parts forming the device may be of the same material, it being understood that no limitation is claimed as to the material used. The device of Fig. 18 lends itself to specific designs of the front upright member 63 wherein the upper edge 69 thereof may have an irregular contour which may be representative of the outline of a building or of a skyline.

The relatively narrow upper portion 66 of the rear upright member 64 is secured in flatwise relation against the opposed upper portion of the front upright member 63 by suitable means such as a staple 67. The upper portion of the rear member 44 which is laterally disposed with respect to the secured portion 66 comprises a separate portion 68 the upper end of which is adapted to engage against the opposed upper separate portion of the front upright member 63. The separate portion 68 of the rear member 64 is made relatively yieldable with respect to the front upright member 63 by the provision of a slot 69 in the rear wall member 64, said slot extending downwardly from the top edge 71 of the portion 68 to a point below the bend line 72 which traverses the narrow portion 66. Thus the separate portion 68 of the rear upright member 64

provides a relatively short, yieldable finger adapted to flex rearwardly without causing any distortion to the triangularly disposed portions of the upright members 63 and 64.

Figures 19, 20 and 21 illustrate an embodiment of the invention wherein a device is provided which is adapted tto support a card or a plurality of cards in upright parallel relation with respect to the rear upright member of the device. The device may be utilized as a desk piece for supporting blotters, memoranda notes and so forth and has added utility wherein the open ended compartment formed by the upright wall members is adapted to receive pencils and the like.

The device is preferably made of resilient sheet metal or plastic and may be formed from a relatively long, narrow blank of the selected material. As shown in Fig. 19 the front upright member 73 is bent upwardly from the front edge of the base member 75 and meets the rear upright member 74 at the bend line 76 to form an acute angle therewith. The rear upright member 74 is preferably perpendicularly disposed with respect to the base member 75 and has a rearwardly extending integral flange portion 77 which is secured to said base by cementing or spot welding as indicated at 78.

The bend line 76 traverses only the relatively narrow upper portion 79 of the front upright member 73 said narrow porton being defined by the portion of the front wall disposed between the vertical edge 81 and the vertical side edge of the front wall member adjacent thereto. The narrow portion 79 above the bend line 76 is disposed in flatwise relation against the opposed upper portion of the rear upright member 74 and is integrally joined to the top edge 82 thereof at the bend line 83. If desired the narrow portion 79 above the bend line 76 may be cemented to the rear member but it is a feature of the instant device that this portion be unsecured and thus free to flex along the juncture line 83 as will subsequently be described.

The vertical edge 81 defines one edge of a slot 84 which extends downwardly from the top edge 85 of the front upright member 73 to a point below the bend line 76 as shown in Fig. 19. Thus the upper portion of the front upright member 73 which is disposed laterally with respect to the relatively narrow portion 79 and separated therefrom by the slot 84 provides a resilient, yieldable clamping finger 86. The upper end of the clamping finger 86 is bent forwardly as shown in Fig. 20 and is provided with a curved portion adjacent its top edge 85 adapted to engage against the rear upright member 74 at a point below the top edge 82 of the member 74 and above the bend line 76 of the front upright member 73. Thus the resilient finger 86 is provided with an initial tension whereby the upper end thereof is maintained in clamping relation against the opposed upper end of the rear upright member 74. Thus when a card is positioned between the upright members 73 and 74 said card will be maintained in parallel relation to the rear member 74 due to the clamping engagement of the upper end of the resilient finger 86 against the card at a point below the top edge 82 of the rear upright member 74.

When a relatively thin card is positioned between the yieldable finger 86 and the rear upright member 74 said finger 86 may flex forwardly about the bend line 87 which is disposed approximately on a line with the bottom of the slot or slit 84. When a plurality of cards or a relatively thick card is inserted between the finger 86 and the member 74 the forward flexing of the relatively wide finger 86 will cause said flexing action to be translated across the full width of the front upright member 73 whereby the narrow portion 79 of said member 73 will flex forwardly about the bend line 83 as indicated in Fig. 21. Thus the narrow portion 79 provides a resilient connection between the front upright member 73 and the rear upright member 74, namely at the bend line 83, whereby the entire front upright member 73 may flex forwardly when increased pressure is applied to the yieldable finger 86 thus preventing permanent deformation of the finger 86 at the bend line 87.

The present device provides a card supporting device adapted to maintain a card or a plurality of cards in a vertical position as shown in Fig. 21. The card which is supported between the upright members 73 and 74 rests upon the base member 75 at a median portion thereof whereby the portion of said base member which is disposed between the lower ends of the upright members 73 and 74 prevents forward tipping of the device. The portion of the base member 75 which extends rearwardly of the upright member 74 and to which the flange member 77 is secured prevents rearward tipping of the device. Thus a stable supporting device is provided adapted to be utilized as a desk piece for supporting blotters, papers and so forth and the open ended compartment provided between the spaced apart upright members 73 and 74 makes a convenient depository for pencils and the like. If desired a calendar may be incorporated in the front upright member 73 thereby lending further utility to the device.

Figures 22, 23 and 24 illustrate an embodiment of the invention wherein two upright members 91 and 92 are secured to a base member 93 and converge from said base to form a card supporting device having the configuration of an isosceles triangle, when viewed from one side thereof as shown in Fig. 23. Integral flanges 94 and 95 provide means whereby the members 91 and 92, respectively, may be secured to the base member 93 by suitable means such as screws 96. Opposed slots 97 are provided in the upper portions of the members 91 and 92 said slots extending downwardly from the upper edges thereof to a point below the bend line 98 said bend line defining the meeting point or apex of the triangularly disposed portions of the upright members 91 and 92, as shown in Fig. 22. The opposed slots 97 are spaced inwardly from one side edge of the device whereby opposed relatively narrow upright portions 99 are provided between the vertical edges 191 of the slots 97 and the adjacent side edges of the members 91 and 92.

The bend line 98 extends across only a part of the width of the upright members 91 and 92, namely across the narrow portions 99. The parts of the narrow portions 99 which lie above the bend line 98 are disposed in a perpendicular plane and are preferably secured together in flatwise relation by cementing or other suitable means.

The upper portions of the upright members 91 and 92 which are disposed laterally of the narrow portions 99 and separated therefrom by the slots 91 are separate and provide yieldable clamping members or fingers 103 having their upper edges 104 disposed on a line above the bend line or apex 98 of the members 91 and 92, as shown in Fig. 23. Thus the clamping fingers 103 assume a bowed configuration whereby an

initial clamping action is imparted to the opposed upper ends of said fingers. When a relatively heavy card 100 is positioned between the yieldable fingers 103, as indicated in Fig. 24, the fingers will flex apart and the upper ends of said fingers will maintain parallel relation against opposite sides of the card thus maintaining the card in a perpendicular upright position relative to the base member 93. The upper ends of the fingers 103 are preferably cut on a bias, as shown in Fig. 22, whereby normally spaced apart corners 105 are provided whereby the edge of the card may readily be inserted therebetween and the card subsequently moved into clamping engagement between the fingers 103.

The upright members 91 and 92 of the present device comprise a superstructure adapted to be mounted upon any suitable base whereby a rigid supporting device is provided adapted to maintain a card or a plurality of cards in a perpendicular position with respect to said base. As the card rests upon the base member 93 the weight of said card is carried by the base and the opposed upright members 91 and 92 positively maintain the card in an upright position.

It is also to be understood that the base member 93 may be disposed in a plane other than a horizontal position whereby the resilient fingers 103 will maintain the card between the members 91 and 92 in perpendicular relation to said base.

Figures 25, 26 and 27 illustrate an embodiment of the invention wherein opposed upright supporting members are mounted upon a weighted base wherein portions of the upright members extend beyond the end of the base member thus providing means for supporting an upright card that is resting upon the surface upon which the base member is positioned. The device of the present invention also has utility as a desk piece wherein notes and papers may be inserted between the clamping portions of the upright members of the device and the weighted base member of the device adapts it for use as a paper weight.

The upright members 107 and 108 are preferably made of resilient sheet metal or plastic and have their lower ends secured to the base member 109 by suitable means such as rivets 111. The base member 109 is preferably of metal or other relatively heavy material and a flattened bottom 112 provides a relatively large supporting surface for said base member whereby the device is maintained in an upright position. The sides of the base member are preferably rounded as shown at 114 whereby the device will return to a vertical position if accidentally tipped over on its side.

The upright members 107 and 108 converge from the base member 109 and meet at the bend line 116, said bend line defining the apex of the isosceles triangle formed by the members 107 and 108 and the top surface 110 of the base member 109. The upper portions of the members 107 and 108 immediately above the bend line 116 are disposed in superimposed relation in a perpendicular plane as shown in Fig. 26 and opposed relatively narrow portions 119 continue upwardly therefrom in flatwise relation and extend to the bend line 115, as shown in Fig. 25, said bend line 115 forming the juncture between the upright members 107 and 108.

The upright members 107 and 108 are provided with slots 117 in the upper portions thereof said slots extending downwardly from their upper edges in opposed relation and terminating preferably above the bend line 116 as shown in Fig. 25. The vertical edge 118 defines one side of the slot 117 and also forms one edge of the relatively narrow portion 119 of each of the members 107 and 108 respectively.

The upper portions of the upright members 107 and 108 which are disposed on opposite sides of the slots 117 from the relatively narrow portions 119 are separate and provide yieldable, opposed clamping jaws 121 having their upper edges 122 flared outwardly from the bend lines 123, as shown in Fig. 26, whereby the lower edge of a card may readily be inserted therebetween and the card subsequently moved downwardly into clamping engagement between the clamping jaws 121.

It is to be noted that the upper portions of the upright members 107 and 108 which include the opposed clamping jaws 121 are wider than the lower ends of the members 107 and 108. Thus the members 107 and 108 have overhanging upper portions whereby the clamping jaws 121, which form a part thereof, extend laterally beyond the end of the base member 109, as shown in Figs. 25. Thus a card 124 may be inserted between the clamping jaws 121 and with the lower edge of the card resting on the surface upon which the base member 109 is supported the card will be maintained in the upright position shown in Figs. 25 and 27.

It is to be noted that the bend line 116 extends across the full width of the upper portion of each of the upright members 107 and 108 thereby stiffening said portions along the bend line 116. The bend line 123, disposed above the bend line 116, defines the upper edge of each of the clamping areas of the opposed clamping jaws 121 and the bend line 116 defines the lower edges of said areas. The bend line 123 cooperates with the bend line 116 to provide lateral rigidity to the clamping jaws 121.

Thus when the clamping jaws 121 are flexed apart by the insertion of a card therebetween the flexing of the jaws will translate outward flexing to the relatively narrow portions 119 along the bend line 116, as shown in Fig. 27, said narrow portions flexing along the bend line or juncture 115. As the narrow portions 119 resist outward flexing of the clamping jaws 121 it is to be noted that when a card is inserted between the jaws 121 the upper edges 123 of the clamping areas will be maintained against opposed sides of the card and similarly the lower edges 116 of the opposed clamping areas will be maintained against the card due to resistance against outward flexing of the upright members 107 and 108 which are secured at their lower ends to the base member 109. Thus the clamping jaws 121 are maintained in parallel relation to the upright card and the card is thus maintained in a perpendicular upright position with respect to the base member 109.

In pre-forming the upright members 107 and 108 the lower portions of the members 107 and 108 may assume the configuration shown in dotted lines in Fig. 26 whereby when the lower ends of the members 107 and 108 are subsequently secured to the base member 109, as shown in full lines, an initial tension will be imparted to the opposed clamping jaws 121 as will be understood.

If desired the upright members 107 and 108 of the instant device may be made separately instead of from a single blank as above described. When made separately each upright member is

pre-formed to the configuration shown in Fig. 26 and the lower ends of said members are secured to the base member 109 in spaced relation the same as previously described. The upper ends of the relatively narrow portions 119 of the members 107 and 108 are secured together by a staple or other securing means adjacent their top edges 115. This is an anticipated embodiment of the invention but as it is an obvious expedient it is not thought necessary to further disclose it in the drawings.

Figures 28, 29 and 30 illustrate a device which is very similar to the device of Fig. 25 with the exception that the instant device has an integral resilient loop which provides the connecting means between the upper portions of the upright wall members of the device.

The upright wall members 131 and 132 are made from a single blank preferably of resilient sheet metal or plastic and have their lower ends secured to the base member 133 by suitable means such as the rivets 134. The upright members 131 and 132 converge from the base member 133 and meet in an acute angle at the bend line 136. From the bend line 136 the wall members extend upwardly to the bend line 137 in superimposed relation in a perpendicular plane. From the bend line 137 the members 131 and 132 flare outwardly in opposed relation thereby providing angularly disposed flat wall portions 138 which extend across the full width of the upper portions of the members 131 and 132 as shown in Fig. 28.

Across part of the width of the upper portions of the members 131 and 132 the angularly disposed wall portions 138 are joined together by an integral arcuate member 139. Thus the arcuate member 139 and the angularly disposed wall portions 138 immediately therebelow provide a resilient connecting loop 135 for the upper portions of the upright wall members 131 and 132 as shown in Figs. 29 and 30.

The portions of the outwardly flaring opposed wall portions 138 which are laterally disposed with respect to the resilient loop member 135 are separate and have their upper edges 141 disposed in spaced relation, as shown in Fig. 29, whereby the lower edge of a card may be positioned therebetween and the card subsequently moved downwardly between the opposed perpendicular wall portions disposed between the bend lines 136 and 137, as shown in Fig. 30.

The bend lines 136 and 137 extend across the full width of the upper portions of the members 131 and 132 thereby providing lateral rigidity to the opposed perpendicularly disposed wall portions between the bend lines 136 and 137. Thus the opposed wall members between the bend lines 136 and 137 provide rigid clamping jaws between which a card may be received and maintained in an upright perpendicular position, said wall members being maintained in parallel relation to the card due to the connecting resilient loop member 135 and the connections of the lower ends of the members 131 and 132 to the base member 133.

As shown in Fig. 28 it is to be noted that the clamping jaws extend laterally beyond the end of the base member 133 whereby a card may be clamped between the jaws and with the lower edge of the card positioned adjacent the end of the base member 133 the card will be maintained in an upright position, as shown in Fig. 30, with the card resting on the surface upon which the base member is supported.

If desired the integral resilient loop 135 may be disposed at a median portion of the upper ends of the upright members 131 and 132 whereby clamping jaws may be provided at both ends of the upper portions of said members. Thus a card or a plurality of cards may be inserted between the clamping jaws on either or both sides of the resilient loop member 135 and due to the inherent characteristic of said resilient loop and the securing of the lower ends of the wall members 131 and 132 to the base member 133, as before described, the insertion of a card between the clamping jaws on one side of the resilient loop will increase the tension between the jaws on the opposite side of said loop. Thus the removal or insertion of a card from one side of the loop will not disturb the relative position of a card disposed between the jaws of the opposite side of the loop.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal objects of my invention, and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments herein described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, and that the invention is capable of uses and has advantages not herein specifically described; hence it will be appreciated that the herein disclosed embodiments are illustrative only, and that my invention is not limited thereto.

What I claim is:

1. A card supporting device comprising a base member, a front upright member and a rear upright member, said upright members being attached to said base member, the upper portions of said upright members being fastened together across only a part of their width, the unsecured upper portions of said front and rear upright members being disposed in yieldable relation, whereby a card may be interposed between said yieldable upper portions in contacting relation therewith and be maintained in an upright position between said upright members.

2. A card supporting device according to claim 1 in which the base member and one upright member are integral and comprise a sheet folded about a transverse line.

3. A card supporting device according to claim 1 in which the base member and the two upright members are formed from a sheet by bending the sheet at the juncture of the base and one upright member and at the juncture of the two upright members.

4. A card supporing device comprising a base member, a front upright member extending upwardly and backwardly over the base member, a rear upright member extending upwardly and forwardly from the rear portion of the base member, said upright members being joined together along their upper edges across part of their width and being separate inwardly from one lateral edge.

5. A card supporting device formed from a blank of sheet material transversely scored to facilitate folding the blank to provide a base member, and front and rear upright wall members the rear upright member being attached to the base member, and the upper edge portions of said front and rear wall members being severed inwardly from one edge and partially across the width of said wall members for the reception therebetween of an article to be displayed.

6. A card supporting device comprising a base member, a front upright member extending upwardly at an acute angle to the base member, a

rear upright member having a base portion bent to overlie the rear portion of the base member and being secured thereto, the front and rear upright members meeting in an acute angle at a point below the top of the front upright member, a portion of the rear upright member extending upwardly from said meeting point along the front upright member, and being attached to the front upright member.

7. A card supporting device comprising a base member, a front upright member extending upwardly at an acute angle to the base member, a rear upright member having a base portion bent to overlie the rear portion of the base member and being secured thereto, said rear upright member extending upwardly from said base member at an acute angle thereto, the rear upright member having a slit extending generally vertically therein from the upper edge, the portion of the rear upright member to one side of said slit being attached to the front upright member, the remaining portion of said rear upright member maintaining yielding contact with said front upright member.

8. A card supporting device according to claim 7 in which the attached portion of the rear upright member lies parallel to the front upright member, and the unattached portion has its upper edge bent back for ease of insertion of a card between the front and rear upright members.

9. A card supporting device comprising a base member, upright wall members having their lower ends secured to said base member in spaced relation, said wall members extending upwardly from said base member and meeting in an acute angle, said wall members extending upwardly from said meeting point, one of said wall members having a slit extending generally vertically therein from the upper edge to a point below the meeting point of said wall members, a portion of said slitted wall member to one side of said slit extending upwardly from said meeting point in parallel relation to said other wall member and being attached thereto, the portion of said slitted wall member disposed on the other side of said slit being separate and adapted to maintain yielding contact with said other wall member at a point above the meeting point of said wall members whereby the yieldable separate portion will be provided with an initial tension.

10. A card supporting device according to claim 9 in which the top of said yieldable separate portion engages said other wall member at a point below the top edge of said other wall member whereby when a card is interposed between the yieldable separate portion and said other wall member said card will be maintained in parallel relation to said other wall member.

11. In a device for displaying flat articles such as cards, and the like, a base member, upright front and rear members secured to said base member and having elongated upper marginal edge portions disposed in flatwise relation and means for securing together said upper marginal edges for a portion of their length only, from one edge of the device, whereby the remaining unsecured upper edge portions of said upright members may be separated to receive and support an article therebetween.

12. A card supporting device comprising front and rear wall members adapted to be maintained in an upright position, the upper portions of said wall members being disposed in flatwise relation and secured together across only a part of their width, said upper portions being separate laterally of said secured portions whereby a card may be interposed between said separate portions and maintained in an upright position between said wall members.

13. A card supporting device comprising a base member having upright wall members secured thereto in spaced relation, the upper end portions of said upright wall members meeting at an acute angle and having portions extending upwardly from said meeting point, one of said wall members having a slit extending downwardly from its upper edge to a point below the meeting point of said wall members, a portion of said slitted wall member to one side of said slit extending upwardly from said meeting point in parallel relation to said other wall member and being secured thereto, the portion of said slitted wall member disposed on the other side of said slit being unsecured and adapted to maintain yielding contact with said other wall member to support therebetween a card or other sheet-like article for display purposes.

14. A card supporting device comprising a base member having upright wall members secured thereto in spaced relation, one of said wall members having a flexible upper portion normally engaging said other wall member, and means spaced laterally from said flexible wall portion for constantly resisting flexing of said flexible wall portion in a direction away from said other wall member.

15. A card supporting device comprising front and rear upright wall members having their lower ends disposed in spaced relation to maintain the device in an operative position, and the upper ends of said wall members being secured together across only a part of their width, upper portions of said wall members being detached from one another and disposed in yieldable relation relative to one another, whereby a card may be inserted therebetween and maintained in an upright position for display purposes.

16. A card supporting device comprising front and rear wall members having their lower ends disposed in spaced relation to support the device in an upright position, one of said wall members having a portion of its upper end secured to said other wall member, and having its remaining unsecured upper end portion yieldably engaged with said other wall member whereby a card may be inserted between the unsecured portions of said wall members to be maintained in an upright position between said wall members.

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