Jan. 12, 1954 R. J. LAKATOS 2,665,916

CARD HOLDER

Filed April 4, 1951 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

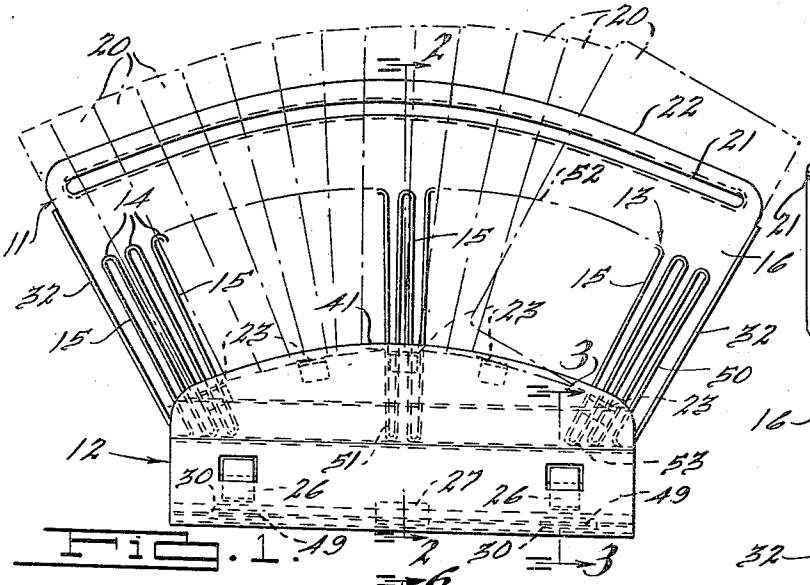


Fig. 1.

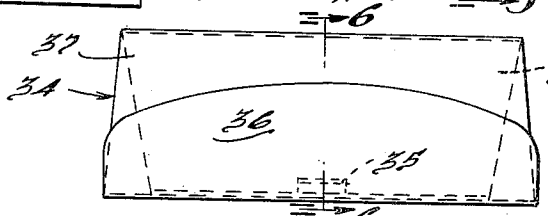


Fig. 5.

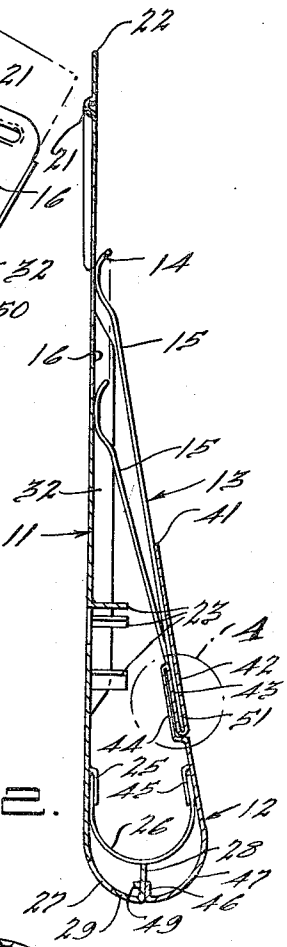


Fig. 2.

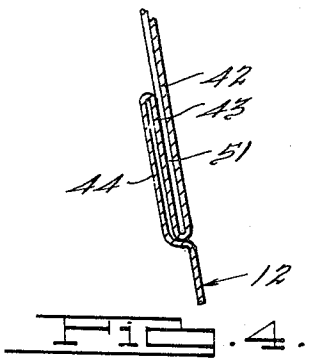


Fig. 4.

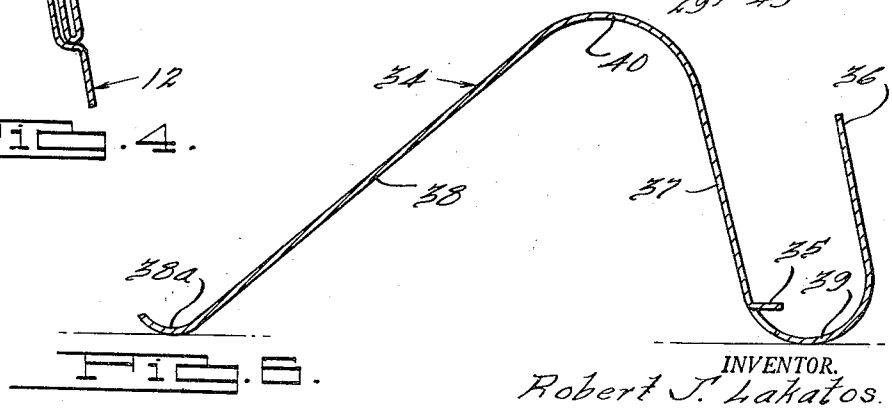


Fig. 6.

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CARD HOLDER

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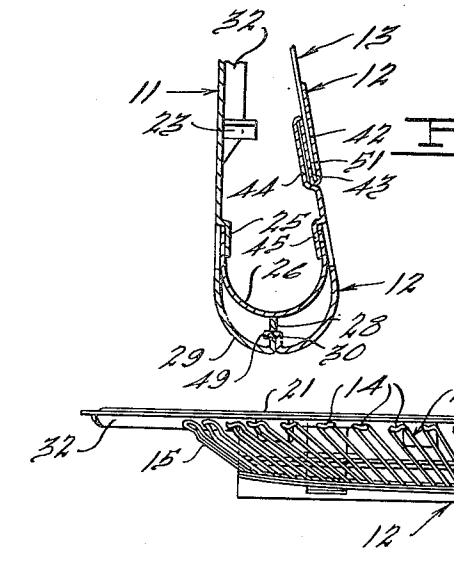


Fig. 3.

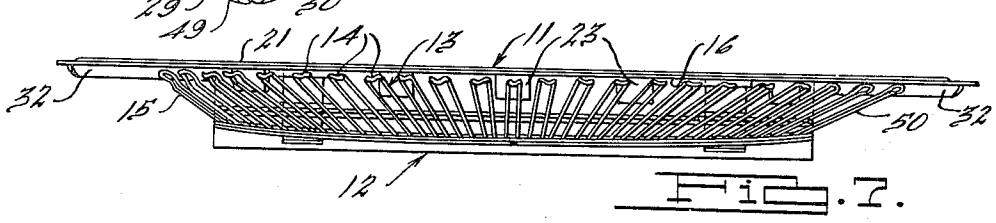


Fig. 7.

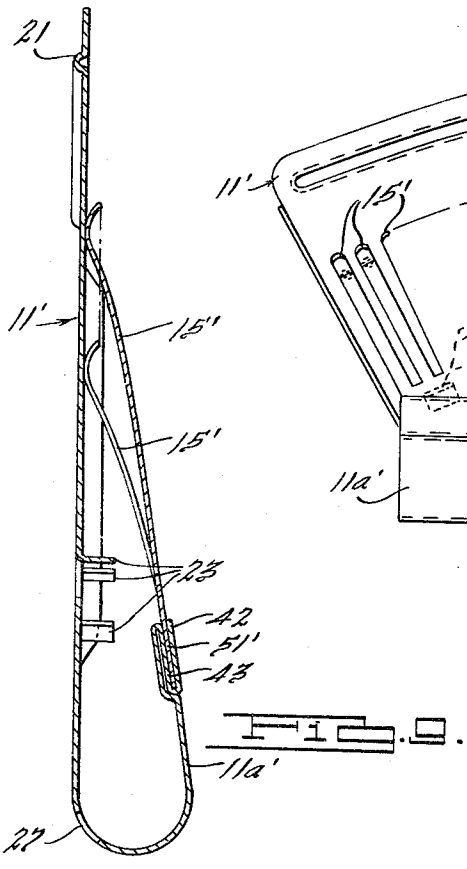


Fig. 9.

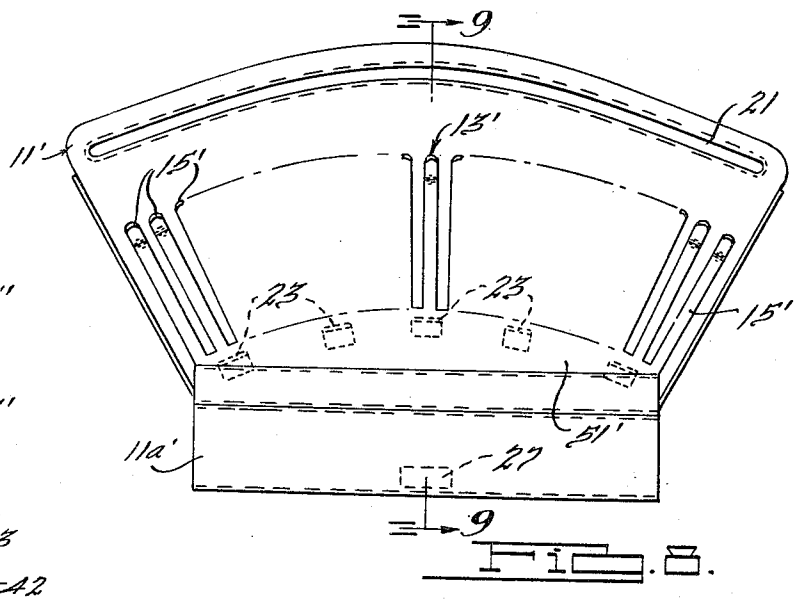


Fig. 8.

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CARD HOLDER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—150)

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This invention relates to a device for conveniently holding a large number of playing cards in a spread or fan shaped arrangement whereby the individual cards may be readily observed while being retained in an assembled arrangement that permits their ready removal either singly or collectively. This device is particularly designed to hold hands of canasta, or like games, where at times the player may be required to hold a very large number of cards for a relatively long period of time. The task of trying to hold a large number of cards in an arrangement where all the cards may be readily observed often becomes so arduous that it may detract from the pleasure of the particular game being played.

It is a primary object of this invention to provide a card holding device that may either be conveniently held by a single hand of the player or supported in a mating support or rack member in the event the player should not desire to retain the card holder in his hand.

It is another object of this invention to provide a card holder that will securely support a large number of cards in a properly displayed fashion and also permit the ready removal of one or more of the cards without disturbing the other cards in the holder.

It is still another object of this invention to provide a card holder and a supporting rack for the holder that are relatively simple in construction, strong and durable, comparatively inexpensive to manufacture, and most appealing in appearance.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a very lightweight card holder that is formed to readily fit the hand of the player or to be supported in an erect position by a mating rack member.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become readily apparent from a review of the attached specification and a consideration of the related drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the card holder device with the cards mounted in the holder being shown in broken lines;

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevational view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevational view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view in sectional elevation of the jointed connection between the front base portion of the card holder and the card retaining finger piece, this view being taken from Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a front elevational view of the rack member utilized to support the card holder;

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Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional elevational view taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the card holder shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 8 is a modified form of the invention shown in Figs. 1–7 that is somewhat simpler in construction and adapted to permit a substitution of materials in certain of the elements of the holder; and

Fig. 9 is a sectional elevational view taken along the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

The card holder shown in Figs. 1–4 and 7 comprises three major elements that are assembled into a unit. These elements are the rear support plate 11 of substantially J-shaped cross sectional configuration (see Fig. 2), the front support plate 12, also of substantially J-shaped cross sectional configuration and the plate-like assembly 13 of card retaining resilient fingers 15. The front and rear support plates 11, 12 are arranged in opposed relationship and their lower bent ends connected together. The finger assembly 13 is mounted on the front support plate 12 and arranged such that the free ends 14 of the individual fingers 15 normally bear against the front side 16 of the rear support plate 11. With the general arrangement hereinabove described it is possible to mount a large number of cards 20 between the free ends 14 of the spring fingers 15 and the adjacent front side 16 of the rear support plate 11.

The rear support plate 11 is of more or less fan shaped outline and has a stiffening boss 21 extending across its upper portion and arranged to project from the rear side thereof. Boss 21 is arranged so that it is more or less concentric with the upper edge 22 of the rear support plate 11. Punched out of the lower portion of the rear support plate 11 are a plurality of forwardly extending card supporting flanges 23. The card supporting flanges 23 are arranged to be more or less concentric with respect to the upper edge 22 of the plate 11 and are spaced close enough together to support the lower edges of the cards 20. Also punched out of the lower portion of the rear support plate 11 adjacent each side edge thereof are a pair of downwardly opening cleats 25. The cleats 25 are each adapted to receive one end of a C-shaped spring element 26 that is utilized to hold the front and rear support plates 11, 12 in assembled relationship. Located centrally of the length of the rear support 11 and positioned in the lower portion thereof adjacent the bent lower edge of the plate 11 is an opening 27. The opening 27 is adapted to receive a positioning finger 35 carried by the holder rack

or supporting stand 34 that will be presently described. The free edge 28 of lower bent portion 29 of rear support plate 11 is reversely bent to provide an upstanding lower flange portion. Adjacent each end of the flange 28 there is provided a longitudinally extending slot formation 30 that is adapted to receive a finger-like projection carried by the front support plate 12. Each side edge of the rear support plate 11 has a forwardly projecting flange 32 extending along its upper portion. Flanges 32 serve as side supports to assist in retaining the cards 20 erect in their arranged positions against the front face of the rear support plate 11.

The front support plate 12 has its upper edge 41 shaped so that it is more or less concentric with the upper edge 22 of the rear support plate. The longitudinally extending mid-portion of the front support plate 12 is reversely bent upon itself to provide a substantially S-shaped formation composed of the superimposed portions 42, 43 and 44 respectively. A space is left between the portions 42 and 43 which space is adapted to receive the base portion or lower edge portion 51 of the finger assembly 13. The lower portion of the front support plate 12, adjacent each end thereof has a cleat 45 formed therein. The cleats 45 in front support plate 12 are similar to and aligned with the cleats 25 formed in the rear support plate 11. As clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the C-shaped spring clips 26 are anchored in and extend between the opposed cleats 25, 45 so that the front and rear support plates 11, 12 are continuously urged towards one another and held in assembled relationship. The free edge 46 of the lower bent portion 47 of the front support plate 12 is bent so as to extend substantially vertically and abut the flange portion 28 of the rear support plate 11. At the portions of the front support plate lower flange 46 that are adjacent the slots 30 in the rear support lower flange 28, the front support plate flange 46 is provided with rearwardly extending fingers 49. Fingers 49 are adapted to matingly engage the slots 30 in the flange 28 of the rear support plate 11 to prevent relative movement between the support plates 11, 12.

The resilient spring finger assembly 13 that is rigidly mounted in the folded joint portions 42, 43 of the front support plate 12 is preferably formed from a continuous length of spring wire 50. The wire 50 is bent back and forth upon itself to provide a substantially fan-shaped assembly having a substantially straight lower edge 53 that fits in the folded joint 42, 43 and a curved upper edge 52 that is concentric with the open edge 22 of the rear support plate 11. As clearly shown in Fig. 2 the upper ends 14 of the several spring fingers 15 of the assembly 13 are bent outwardly to provide a rounded portion to engage the cards 20 and facilitate the card insertion and removal between the fingers 15 and the rear support plate 11.

The support or rack member 34 that is adapted to support the card holder is formed from a substantially S-shaped piece of metal or the like. Rack 34 comprises spaced flange portions 36, 37 and 38 that are connected by bent bight portions 39 and 40 respectively. The upwardly opening U-shaped space between the flange portions 36, 37 receives the lower rounded end portions of the card holder device. As previously mentioned, the rack portion 37 has a forwardly protruding finger 35 that is adapted to seat in the slot 27 formed

in the lower portion of the rear support plate 11. Finger 35 prevents relative movement between the card holder and its supporting rack member when these two members are arranged in assembled relationship. The flange portion 38 provides a leg to support the rack in upright position. The free end of the flange portion 38 may be rolled upwardly a bit, as shown at 38*a*, to provide a rounded support for the rear end of the rack 34. It will thus be seen that the rack is firmly supported by the two rounded spaced apart, portions 38*a*, 39 so that there is little danger of the support scratching the surface on which it rests.

The modified form of card holder shown in Figs. 8 and 9 differs from the form shown in Figs. 1–4 and 7 in two respects. First, the rear support plate 11' and the front support plate 11*a*' in the Fig. 9 form are a single sheet of material of more or less J-shaped cross sectional configuration. With such a unitary construction the cleats 25, 45 and connecting clips 26 of the Figs. 1–4 form of the invention can be eliminated. Also, the interconnecting flanges 29, 46 at the lower ends of the front and rear support plates of the Figs. 1–4 form can be eliminated in this form of the invention. It is thought to be obvious that the Figs. 8 and 9 construction is simpler and less expensive to manufacture than the other form of card holder shown in Figs 1–4. The second distinction between the two forms of the invention resides in the plate-like spring finger assembly 13'. Assembly 13' is stamped out of a sheet of material that is of the proper composition to provide resilient finger elements 15'. The finger elements are nothing more than spaced strips of metal that are connected together at their lower ends by a base portion 51' that is adapted to be clenched between the portions 42, 43 of the fold in the front support plate portion 11*a*'. All other portions of the two forms of the invention are the same and identical reference numerals have been assigned to like elements.

I claim:

1. A card holder comprising a support member of substantially J-shaped cross-sectional configuration formed from a pair of connected front and rear support plates, each support plate being of substantially J-shaped cross sectional configuration and arranged in opposed relationship to the other plate with the bent ends of the plates engaged by interlocking tongue and slot connections, resilient means connected between said support plates urging them together, said front support plate having the upper edge thereof spaced forwardly of and beneath the upper edge of the rear support plate, said rear support plate having a stiffening boss extending longitudinally across the upper portion thereof and a plurality of forwardly extending shelf portions along its lower end portion adapted to support the lower edges of the cards mounted on the holder, said front support plate having the upper portion thereof reversely bent upon itself to provide an integral, upwardly opening, U-shaped joint, and a card retaining assembly having a base portion clampingly mounted in the U-shaped joint of the front support plate, said base portion having a plurality of spaced, resilient, finger elements projecting upwardly from said base portion towards the front side of said rear support plate.

2. A card holder comprising a support member of substantially J-shaped cross-sectional configuration formed from a pair of connected front

and rear support plates, each support plate being of substantially J-shaped cross sectional configuration and arranged in opposed relationship to the other plate with the bent ends of the plates engaged, resilient means connected between said support plates urging them together, said front support plate having the upper edge thereof spaced forwardly of and beneath the upper edge of the rear support plate, said rear support plate having a plurality of forwardly extending shelf portions along its lower end portion adapted to support the lower edges of the cards mounted on the holder, said front support plate having the upper portion thereof reversely bent upon itself to provide an integral, upwardly opening, U-shaped joint, and a card retaining assembly having a base portion clampingly mounted in the U-shaped joint of the front support plate said base portion having a plurality of spaced, resilient, finger elements projecting upwardly from said base portion towards the front side of said rear support plate.

3. In combination, a card holder comprising a support member of substantially J-shaped cross-sectional configuration formed from a pair of connected front and rear support plates, each support plate being of substantially J-shaped cross sectional configuration and arranged in opposed relationship to the other plate with the bent ends of the plates engaged by interlocking tongue and slot connections, resilient means connected between the lower ends of said support

plates urging them together, said front support plate having the upper edge thereof spaced forwardly of and beneath the upper edge of the rear support plate, said rear support plate having a stiffening boss extending longitudinally across the upper portion thereof and a plurality of forwardly extending shelf portions along its lower end portion adapted to support the lower edges of the cards mounted on the holder, said front support plate having the upper portion thereof reversely bent upon itself to provide an integral, upwardly opening, U-shaped joint, a card retaining assembly having a base portion clampingly mounted in the U-shaped joint of the front support plate and mounting a plurality of spaced, resilient, finger elements formed from a wire element sinuously bent to provide card retaining fingers that project upwardly from said base portion towards the front side of said rear support plate.

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