This invention relates to improvements in holders for tools and the like, such as wrenches, and more particularly to an improved holder for a set of open end wrenches of the sort having a shank or handle provided at opposite ends with rigid jaws for engaging nuts or bolts.

One object of the invention is to provide a holder which is of simple and inexpensive construction and composed of the minimum number of parts, and is adapted to hold a set or plurality of wrenches or analogous tools in an orderly, convenient and compact arrangement, enabling any one or more of the tools to be removed from the holder and replaced without disturbing the others.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a holder of the sort mentioned, which consists of a body or main member formed from a single metal plate, and a single-piece retaining member movably connected to the body and adapted to be releasably secured in tool-holding position; and also to provide a holder for wrenches and analogous devices having the other features of improvement and advantage hereinafter described and set forth in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front view or elevation of a holder embodying my invention and showing a set of wrenches in place in the holder.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the body of the holder, the wrenches being removed and a portion only of the hasp or cover being shown.

Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the holder showing the hasp in the open position.

Fig. 4 is a top or side view of the holder with the hasp or cover in closed position.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of the holder on line 5—5, Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a transverse section of the holder and wrenches on line 6—6, Fig. 1.

The holder comprises a body 10 and a movable cover or tool-retainin member 11 which is preferably hinged at one end to one side of the body of the holder and is adapted to be releasably secured in a position overlying or across the shanks of the tools so as to retain the same on the body.

The body is preferably made from a single plate or stamping of sheet metal which is bent or formed to provide side walls 12 and 13 at the opposite side edges of the body plate and extending forwardly from the body plate perpendicularly thereto, and spaced fingers 14 projecting forwardly from the end portions of the body plate, thereby providing seats between the spaced fingers 14 and between the fingers and side walls in which the shanks of the tools 15 are adapted to be seated.

Different sized wrenches of the open end type are usually made of different lengths, the shanks being graduated in length in accordance with the variations in size of the heads or jaws of the wrenches, and because of this difference in lengths of the shanks of the wrenches, the ends of the body plate of the holder preferably converge from one side of the holder toward the other, or the spaced fingers 14 are arranged in converging stepped series, or that is, with each pair of fingers nearer together than the next adjacent pair.

The wrenches are adapted to be placed in the holder, as shown in the drawings, with the shank of each wrench seated in two seats formed at the opposite ends of the body by the fingers 14, and because of their stepped arrangement, the fingers for each wrench are adapted to engage the wrench shank at or adjacent the shoulders at the inner ends of the heads or jaws of the wrench so that notwithstanding the different lengths of the wrenches, each wrench is thus held from shifting endwise in the holder by engagement of said shoulders with two opposite fingers of the holder.

The cover or retaining member 11 which is hinged to one side wall of the body, for instance, the wall 12 thereof, is adapted to extend across the shanks of the several wrenches in the holder, as shown in Figs. 1 and 6, and when secured in this position will prevent the displacement of the wrenches from between the fingers of the holder. As shown, the cover or retainer 11 is hinged to the wall 12 by providing an integral hinge tongue or loop 16a on one end of the retainer, which extends loosely through a slot near the upper or forward edge of the wall 12, and the free or opposite end of the re-
A retainer is formed with an integral catch or projection 16 and a finger piece 17. When the retainer or cover is moved to closed position, the catch 16 is adapted to spring over the edge of the wall 13 of the holder and snap into a slot 18 in the wall to thereby releasably retain the cover or retainer in closed position. The retainer can be readily released by pressure on the finger piece 17.

By this construction, the complete holder consists of only two sheet metal parts, and the retaining member shown, which is relatively narrow, can be made from the left over metal pieces remaining when cutting out the body plates. The retainer could be of any other suitable construction adapting it to be releasably fastened in closed position.

The wrenches are retained in the seats between the fingers 14 by the cover or retainer 11 when the latter is closed, and the wrenches are thus prevented from moving laterally either parallel with the plane of the body plate or outwardly away from the body plate, and the disposition of the fingers at the shoulders or inner portions of the heads or end enlargements of the wrenches prevents endwise shifting of the wrenches in the holder.

It will be seen that the fingers form in effect a series of spaced longitudinal seats positively holding the tools in parallel spaced relation. For reasons of economy in the use of stock the seats are thus formed by the fingers, but obviously other forms of projecting parts forming longitudinal seats for this purpose could be substituted for the fingers, if desired.

I claim as my invention:

1. A holder for a set of tools each having a shank and spaced enlargements, said holder comprising a body having spaced forwardly opening seats in each of which the shank of one of said tools is removably seated with the tools arranged side by side and said enlargements projecting beyond the ends of said seats, a retaining member which extends across the shanks of said tools at the open sides of said seats to retain said tools in said seats, and which is releasably secured to said body and is operable to permit removal of said tools from said holder, and said holder having parts engaging said tool enlargements to prevent lengthwise movements thereof, relatively to said holder.

2. A holder for a set of relatively elongated tools, said holder comprising a plate having integral forwardly projecting spaced portions forming a series of spaced seats in each of which one of said tools is removably seated, said portions being arranged to abut portions of said tools to prevent substantial lengthwise movement of the tools in the holder, and a retaining member movably connected to a portion of said plate, so as to extend across said tools to retain them in said seats and which is releasably secured to said plate in retaining position and is movable to permit the removal of said tools from said holder.

3. A holder for a set of tools having shanks of graduated lengths and opposite end enlargements, said holder comprising a body having a series of parts forming spaced forwardly opening seats in which said tool shanks are removably seated with the tools arranged side by side, said parts having their opposite ends arranged in converging order and engageable with the end enlargements of said tools for preventing substantial endwise movement of said tools in said seats, and means for retaining said tools in said seats and which is releasable to permit removal of said tools from said holder.

4. A wrench set unit, comprising a plurality of wrenches stacked side by side; and binder means extending about said wrenches; said binder means and said wrenches having interbutting means for preventing any substantial relative longitudinal movement in either direction between said binder means and said wrenches; whereby said wrenches are held both against separation and against shifting; said binder means however having a portion hinged and openable, to permit ready removal and replacement of said wrenches; and latch means for holding said portion closed.

5. A wrench set unit, comprising: a plurality of wrenches each provided at each end with an enlargement, and each having also a shank extending between its said enlargements connecting said enlargements, said wrenches being stacked side by side; and binder means extending about said wrenches and of a span opposite each wrench substantially equal to the distance between the said enlargements of that said wrench, whereby said wrenches are maintained so stacked held against both separation and shifting; said binder means however having one of its sides alongside the stacked wrenches hinged and openable, to permit ready removal and replacement of any of said wrenches.

6. A wrench set unit, comprising: a plurality of wrenches stacked side by side; binder means extending about said wrenches, said binder means and said wrenches interbutting to prevent any substantial relative longitudinal movement between said binder means and said wrenches, whereby said wrenches are held against both separation and shifting; and spacer means associated with said binder means and extending between adjacent wrenches.

7. A wrench set unit, comprising: a plurality of wrenches each provided at each end with an enlargement, and each having also a shank extending between its said enlargements connecting said enlargements, said wrenches being assembled side by side; binder means extending about said shanks and of
a span opposite each wrench substantially equal to the distance between the said enlargements of that said wrench, whereby said wrenches are maintained so assembled held against both separation and shifting; and spacer means associated with said binder means and extending between adjacent wrenches, said binder means having a side alongside said wrenches hinged and openable, whereby any of said wrenches may readily be removed or replaced.

8. A wrench set unit, comprising a plurality of wrenches stacked side by side, and binder means extending about said wrenches, said binder means and said wrenches having interbutting means for preventing any substantial relative longitudinal movement in either direction between said binder means and said wrenches, whereby said wrenches are held both against separation and against shifting, said binder means however having a releasable portion which extends across the several wrenches of the stack and retains them in place but is openable to permit removal and replacement of said wrenches, any of the wrenches being removable without displacing the remaining wrenches when said portion is opened.

9. A wrench set unit, comprising a plurality of wrenches each provided at each end with an enlargement, and each having also a shank extending between its said enlargements connecting said enlargements, said wrenches being stacked side by side, and binder means extending about said shanks and at a span opposite each wrench substantially equal to the distance between the said enlargements of the said wrench, whereby said wrenches are maintained so stacked held against both separation and shifting, said binder means however having a releasably held hinged side which extends across the several wrenches of the stack and retains them in place but is openable to permit removal and replacement of said wrenches, any of the wrenches being removable without displacing the remaining wrenches when said hinged side is opened.

10. A wrench set unit comprising a plurality of wrenches stacked side by side, binder means extending about said wrenches, said binder means and said wrenches inter-abutting to prevent any substantial relative longitudinal movement between said binder means and said wrenches, whereby said wrenches are held against both separation and shifting, spacer means associated with said binder means and extending between adjacent wrenches, said binder means having a releasable portion which extends across the several spaces between said spacer means and retains the several wrenches in place, but is openable to permit removal and replacement of said wrenches, any of said wrenches being removable without displacing the remaining wrenches when said portion is opened.

11. A wrench set unit comprising a plurality of wrenches arranged side by side, and a holder extending about said wrenches and holding them against separation, said holder comprising a body open at one side and having seats facing said open side in which the wrenches are separately seated, and an openable member which crosses said open side and retains the wrenches in said seats, said holder and wrenches interbutting to prevent substantial longitudinal movement of the wrenches in the holder, any of the wrenches being removable from the holder without displacing the remaining wrenches when said openable member is opened.

12. A wrench set unit comprising a set of wrenches each having opposite end enlargements and a connecting shank, and a holder in which the wrenches are arranged side by side and which extends about the shanks of the wrenches between their enlargements and has portions adapted to engage said enlargements to prevent substantial shifting of the wrenches lengthwise in said holder whereby the wrenches are held against both separation and lengthwise shifting, said holder being readily openable to permit removal and replacement of the wrenches and having fastening means for releasably retaining the holder closed about the wrenches.

13. A wrench set unit, comprising a plurality of wrenches each provided at each end with an enlargement and with a shank connecting said enlargements, said shanks varying in length, and said wrenches being assembled side by side, and binder means extending closely about said shanks and being of a span opposite each wrench substantially equal to the distance between the said enlargements of that said wrench, whereby said wrenches are maintained so assembled and held against both separation and longitudinal shifting, said binder means however being readily openable to permit removal and replacement of said wrenches.

14. A wrench set unit, comprising a plurality of wrenches stacked side by side, binder means extending about said wrenches and holding said wrenches so stacked, and spacer means associated with said binder means and extending between adjacent wrenches, said binder means having a side alongside said wrenches hinged and openable, whereby any of said wrenches may be readily removed or replaced without displacing the remaining wrenches.

15. A holder for a set of wrenches arranged side by side, said holder being adapted to extend about and hold said wrenches from separation and comprising a body in which the wrenches are positioned and which is open at one side, and an openable member which crosses said open side and re-
tains the wrenches in said body against separation, said holder having portions arranged to abut portions of the wrenches to prevent substantial longitudinal shifting of the wrenches in the holder, any of said wrenches being removable through said open side of the body without displacing the remaining wrenches when said member is opened.

16. A holder for a set of wrenches assembled side by side and each having opposite end enlargements and a connecting shank, said holder being adapted to extend about the shanks of the wrenches between said end enlargements and hold said wrenches from separation, and having portions adapted to engage said end enlargements to prevent substantial shifting of the wrenches lengthwise in said holder whereby the wrenches are held against both separation and lengthwise shifting, said holder being readily openable to permit removal and replacement of the wrenches, and said wrenches being disposed in the holder so that when the holder is opened, any of the wrenches can be removed without displacing the remaining wrenches.

17. A tool holder of the character described comprising a body provided at opposite end portions with spaced fingers projecting forwardly from the body and forming between them open seats arranged in pairs at opposite end portions of the holder in which the tools are adapted to be independently and removabley seated side by side, and a retaining member releasably secured to said body in a position crossing said tools so as to prevent displacement of the tools from said seats except when said retaining member is released, said holder and tools having interbutting parts which prevent substantial longitudinal shifting of said tools in said holder.

18. A tool holder of the character described comprising a body provided at opposite end portions thereof with forwardly opening spaced seats in which tools having opposite end enlargements and connecting shanks are adapted to be removabley seated side by side with the enlargements disposed adjacent the ends of said seats whereby the tools are prevented from lengthwise displacement by the engagement of said enlargements with said seats, and a retaining member for said tools releasably secured in a position crossing and bearing against the tools located in the seats so as to prevent displacement of the tools from the seats except when said retaining member is released.

19. A tool holder of the character described comprising a body provided with converging series of forwardly projecting fingers arranged in stepped order and forming open seats in which a set of tools of graduated lengths and having end enlargements and connecting shanks are adapted to be removabley seated, with the end enlargements arranged to engage said fingers to prevent lon-