June 17, 1947. C. RICHARDS 2,422,261

PLATE HOLDER

Filed Nov. 22, 1944

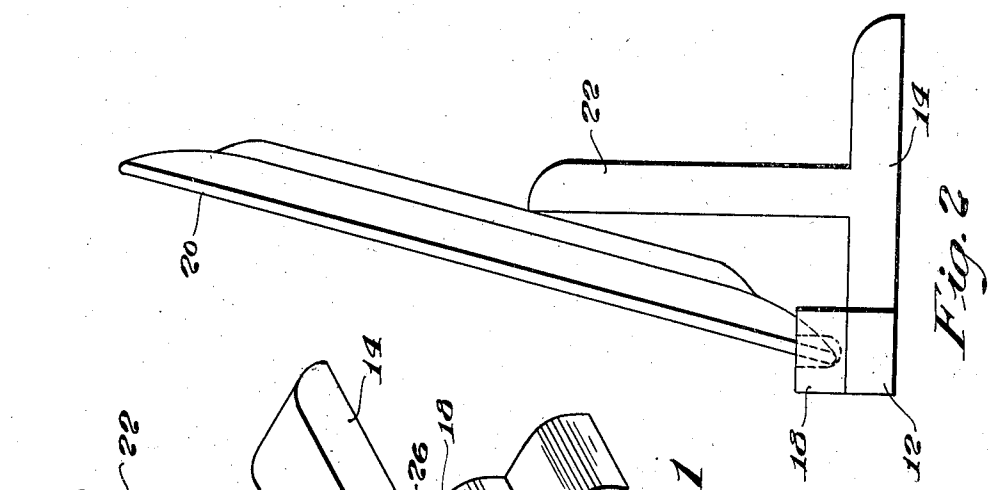


Fig. 2

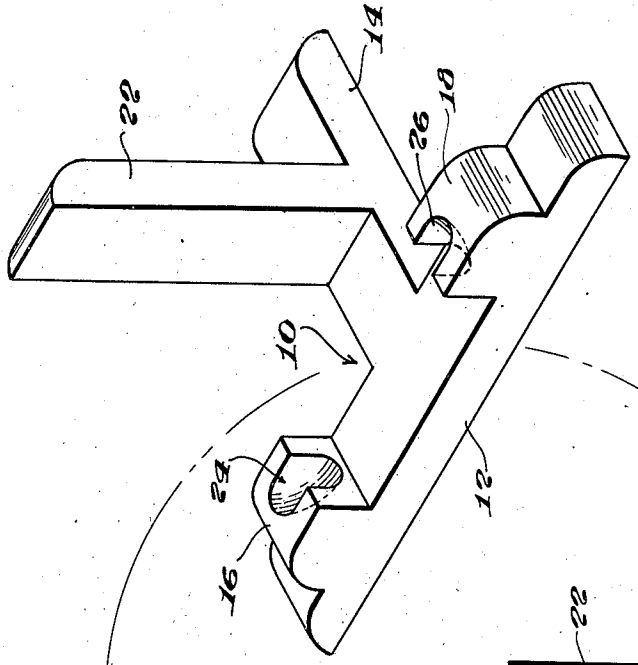


Fig. 1

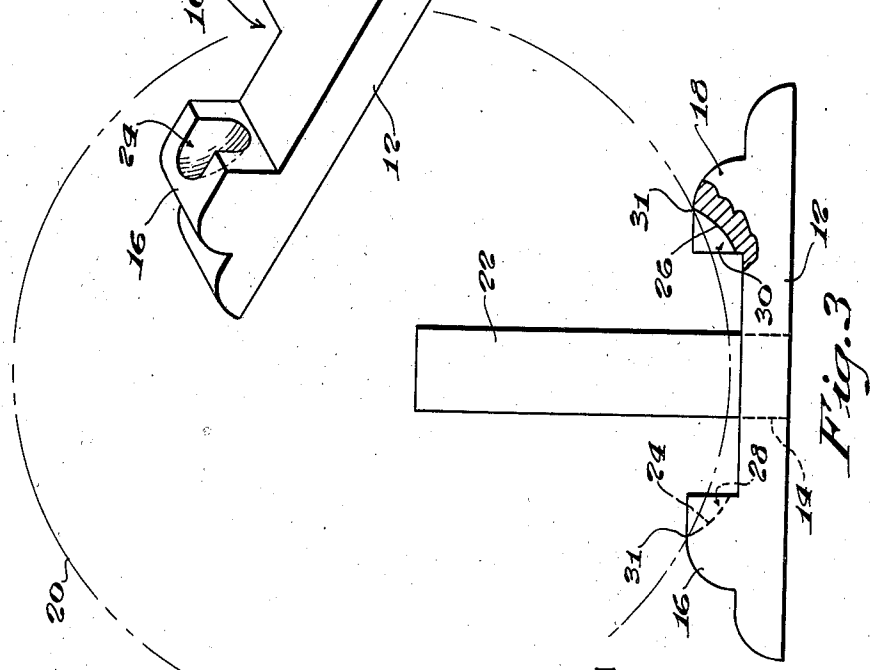


Fig. 3

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Patented June 17, 1947

2,422,261

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,422,261

PLATE HOLDER

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Application November 22, 1944, Serial No. 564,662

2 Claims. (Cl. 248—33)

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This invention relates to a holder for displaying a plate or the like.

The invention has for an object to provide a novel and improved plate holder for supporting a plate on edge for display and decorative purposes, which is simple in structure and which may be economically manufactured.

With this general object in view and such others as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the plate holder hereinafter described and particularly defined in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawings illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a plate holder embodying the present invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same; and Fig. 3 is a front elevation partly in cross section to be hereinafter referred to.

In general, the present invention contemplates a novel and improved plate holder adapted to rest on a flat surface such as a table or shelf and having provision for supporting a circular or irregular shaped plate or the like on edge in a substantially vertical or slightly tilted position for display purposes in a safe and evenly balanced manner. To this end, the present plate holder is provided with a base portion having spaced grooves for engaging the periphery of the plate at spaced points and having a back rest against which the back of the plate rests to display the plate at a slight angle from the vertical.

In practice the base portion comprises a T-shaped structure having its legs extended over a relatively wide area and proportioned so as to reduce to a minimum liability of tipping or overbalancing of the unit when supporting a relatively large or heavy plate. In the illustrated embodiment of the invention the provision of spaced grooved members and the disposition of the back rest provides a three point contact with the plate, that is, the periphery of the plate is engaged at two spaced points and the back of the plate at one point, the whole being proportioned so as to provide a safely balanced structure designed to minimize the liability of the plate rolling out sideways, slipping out of the grooves or tipping over should the unit be jarred.

Referring now to the drawings, the illustrated plate holder comprises a T-shaped base 10 having a transverse portion 12 extending across the front of the unit and a leg 14 extending rearwardly from substantially the center of the transverse base portion 12. Equidistantly spaced from the center of the transverse portion 12, a pair of grooved rim engaging members 16, 18 are provided for engaging the periphery of the plate 20 at spaced points along its lower edge, and, upstanding from the rearwardly extended leg 14 is an upright member 22 comprising a back rest for the plate, as illustrated. The structure is particularly suitable for manufacture from the various mouldable plastic materials, from wood, or any other material which may prove of advantage and may be relatively light in weight as compared to the weight of the plate which it is adapted to support.

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As herein shown, the rim engaging members or blocks 16, 18 are mounted on the top of or formed integrally with the transverse portion 12 and are provided with grooves or slots 24, 26 extending substantially diagonally across the inner corners of the blocks 16, 18, and, as best shown in Fig. 3, the slotted portion may be concave to provide recesses as indicated at 28, 30, so that a relatively small portion 31 of the closed end of each slot engages the periphery of the plate to be supported. In other words the curvature of the concave recesses is intentionally made to differ from that of the plates which the unit is designed to support. The recesses 28, 30 also provide clearance for that portion of the plate extending between the rim engaging portions 31 and the latter are disposed at a height sufficient to support the lowermost edge of the plate free of the top surface of the transverse portion 12. The closed ends 31 of the spaced slots engaging the plate prevent the same from rolling out sideways and the side walls of the slot engage the sides of the plate to prevent the same from slipping forward or backward. The slots may and preferably will be of sufficient width to provide ample clearance for a relatively thick plate.

As best shown in Fig. 2, the upstanding back rest 22 is mounted on or formed integrally with the rearwardly extended leg 14, the back rest being of a predetermined height and spaced from the rim engaging member 16, 18 so as to support the plate at an appropriate angle from the vertical for display purposes. The distance from the front face of the back rest to the rim engaging members is preferably made relatively short and the height of the back rest is proportionately short, thus reducing to a minimum the overall dimensions of the unit. Thus, as shown in Fig. 2, the back rest is disposed to support the plate at an angle of approximately 15 degrees from the vertical and the point of engagement of the back rest with the plate is below the center of the plate. A smaller diameter plate may be engaged a slight distance above the center thereof, but, in general,

the back rest is preferably of a height such as to engage the average size plate to be displayed (about eight inches in diameter) at approximately the center thereof, or, at most, a relatively short distance above or below the center according to the diameter of the plate. This structure, together with the extension of the leg 14 rearwardly, for a substantial distance beyond the back rest 22 ensures stability of the unit even when subjected to jarring.

In order that the plate may be balanced in the unit, it will be observed that the leg 14 of the base extends a substantial distance beyond the face of the back rest, thus counteracting any tendency of the plate to tip over backward. Thus in practice, the unit may be proportioned so that the distance from the front face of the transverse member 12 to the further end of the rearwardly extended member 14 is at least twice the distance from said front face to the face of the back rest 22, and, the height of the back rest from the floor will not exceed the distance from said front face to the end of the rearwardly extended member 14. Also, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, the length of the transverse portion 12 may be substantially twice that of the rearwardly extended leg 14.

From the above description it will be observed that the present plate holder is designed to accommodate plates of a wide range of sizes, the grooved rim engaging members being arranged to support the rim of different diameter plates at spaced points and in a manner such as to dispose the lowermost edge of the plate free from engagement with the upper surface of the transverse member 12. It will also be observed that the grooved rim engaging members are designed to prevent lateral displacement of the plate from the unit, and that the unit is so proportioned that although the unit may be relatively light in weight and the overall dimensions thereof relatively small, the unit is enabled to support a relatively large and heavy plate without danger of overbalancing and tipping.

It will be observed that the present unit is simple in construction and lends itself to manufacture at minimum expense.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A plate holder for supporting a plate for display purposes comprising a T-shaped base structure having a transversely extended forward member and a longitudinal member extended rearwardly therefrom, said transverse member having two spaced-apart rim-engaging members and an intermediate portion disposed a substantial distance below said rim-engaging portions, said transverse member extending substantially beyond each rim-engaging member to impart stability to the base, said rim-engaging members being provided with grooves extending from their inner and adjacent faces to the upper surfaces thereof, each groove having sidewalls and an outer end wall and being opened at its inner face, said walls being adapted to cooperate with the rim portion of a plate supported in the grooves and upon the base member, to prevent forward, rearward and lateral displacement of the plate from the grooves, said longitudinal member having an upright supporting member adapted to engage and support the back of the plate.

2. A plate holder for supporting a plate for display purposes comprising a T-shaped base structure having a transversely extended forward member and a longitudinal member extended rearwardly therefrom, said transverse member having two spaced-apart rim-engaging members and an intermediate portion disposed below said rim-engaging portions, the inner and adjacent faces and the upper surfaces of said rim-engaging members being provided with grooves, each groove having sidewalls and an outer end wall and being opened at its inner face, said walls being adapted to cooperate with the rimmed portion of a plate supported in the grooves and upon the base member to prevent forward, rearward and lateral displacement of the plate from the grooves, said longitudinal member having an upright supporting member adapted to engage and support the back of the plate, said transversely extended forward member, said rearwardly extended longitudinal member, and said upright being formed integrally with one another.

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