July 8, 1969 M. V. DINGES 3,454,166

BAG HOLDER AND DISPENSER

Filed May 15, 1967

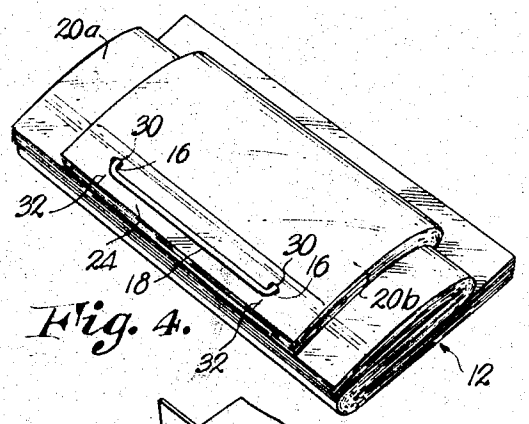


Fig. 4.

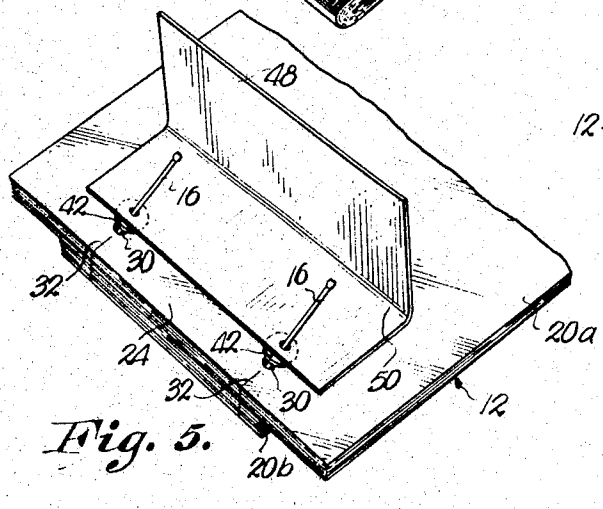


Fig. 5.

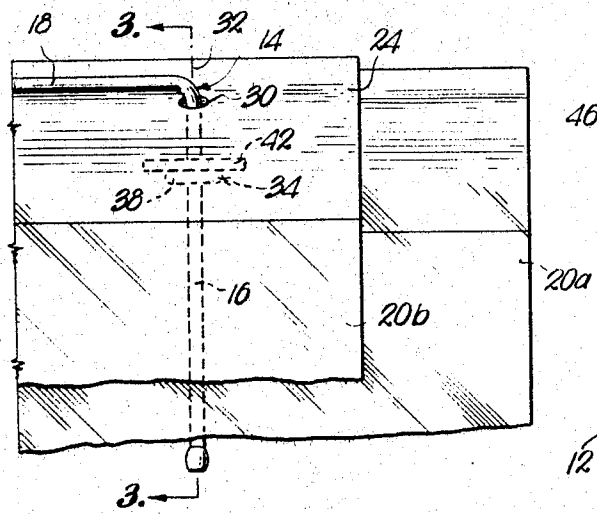


Fig. 2.

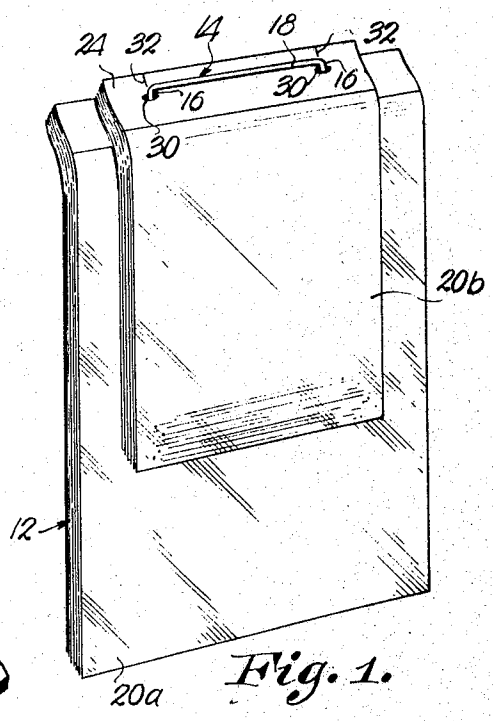


Fig. 1.

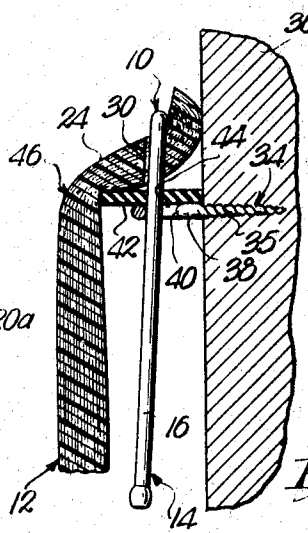


Fig. 3.

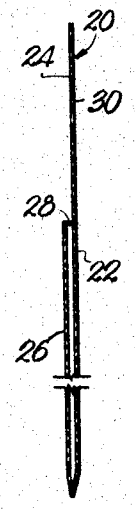


Fig. 6.

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BAG HOLDER AND DISPENSER

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U.S. Cl. 211—57 3 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The spaced, parallel lges of a U-shaped bracket are received through a pair of spaced holes in the normally uppermost marginal edge of each of a plurality of stacked bags presenting a sheaf of the latter. An annular, resilient spacer element is slidably received on each leg in frictional engagement therewith for holding the sheaf of bags against the bight of said bracket.

A pair of spaced eyelet screws are mounted on a wall in a position for receiving the legs of the bracket downwardly therethrough so that the bight of the latter and the normally uppermost marginal edge of the bags are disposed thereabove. The bags and the bracket may be handled as a single unit and after insertion of the legs through the eyelets, the bags may be efficiently dispensed one at a time as the need therefor arises.

This invention relates to devices for holding and dispensing bags and the like, and particularly to a bag-hanging device which permits ready handling of a sheaf of bags as well as efficient storage of the same coupled with rapid dispensing of the bags one at a time from the device.

It is the primary object of the instant invention to provide a bag holder and dispenser wherein is included structure operable for maintaining a plurality of individual bags in substantially stacked relationship to present a sheaf of bags which may be readily handled as a unit and for hanging the sheaf in a disposition to permit efficient dispensing of the bags one at a time.

A very important object of the invention is the provision of such bag-hanging structure wherein the same is configured for hanging a sheaf of bags of various sizes in a position such that a bag of any of the sizes may be selectively dispensed at any given time.

Another very important object of the present invention is to provide such a bag holder including a bracket configured for clamping the stack of bags together to present a sheaf of bags and wall fixture means adapted for receiving the bracket while the same remains in clamping relationship to the sheaf of bags whereby the latter may be handled with ease and deposited in a dispensing position with a minimum of effort. In this respect, it is to be particularly appreciated that the instant invention provides a hanger for bags of the type often utilized by housewives and thus convenience of handling is desirable, especially in view of the difficulty of handling a loose stack of bags constructed of polyethylene or the like which have extremely slippery surfaces.

Yet another important object of the invention is the provision of such a bracket which is configured to permit packaging of the same with the sheaf of bags clamped thereby so that the bags and the bracket may be merchandized as a unit.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a front perspective view of a bag hanger embodying the principles and concepts of the instant invention and a sheaf of bags held in a dispensing position thereby;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary, enlarged, front elevational view thereof;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a sheaf of bags in a folded, merchandizing condition;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the sheaf in an unfolded condition; and

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of one of the bags of the sheaf.

A bag holder and dispensing device in the nature of a bag hanger **10** is utilized for holding a sheaf **12** of bags in a position permitting dispensing of the bags one at a time. Hanger **10** includes a U-shaped bracket having a pair of spaced-apart, generally parallel legs **16** and a bight **18** interconnecting the legs **16**.

Sheaf **12** comprises a plurality of individual bags **20** which may be formed from polyethylene or the like, each of which, as illustrated in FIG. 6, includes a sheet **22** having a normally uppermost marginal edge **24** and a sheet **26** disposed in partially overlapping relationship with respect to sheet **22** to present a pocket **28** therebetween. Thus, it is to be understood that bags **20** are of the type which are often utilized by housewives for the storing of vegetables, packing of sandwiches, etc. Each bag **20** also has a pair of spaced openings **30** in the marginal edge **24** thereof, and a slit **32** (see FIG. 1) adjacent each opening **30** presenting a line of weakness extending from the outer periphery of edge **24** toward the corresponding opening **30**. Sheaf **12** may include bags of different sizes, for example, large bags **20***a* and smaller bags **20***b*.

Hanger **10** also includes wall fixture means in the nature of a pair of spaced screws **34**, each having a threaded shank **35** adapted for being threadably connected to an upright wall **36** and an eyelet **38** presenting an opening **40**. Only one of the screws **34** is illustrated in the drawing; however, it is to be appreciated that the same are identical in construction and the openings **40** thereof are spaced apart a distance equal to the spacing between legs **16** of bracket **14**.

Hanger **10** further includes structure in the nature of spacer means comprising a resilient, annular element for each leg **16**. Elements **42** have an aperture **44** therethrough adapting the same for being slidably received on its leg **16** in frictional engagement therewith. Thus, elements **42** are disposed for holding the normally uppermost marginal edge **24** of the sheaf **12** against bight **18**.

The legs **16** are received through corresponding openings **40** of the screws **34** as best illustrated in FIG. 3 and, therefore, screws **34** support sheaf **12** which, in turn, supports bracket **14** by the interaction between the uppermost edge **24** and bight **18**. It is to be particularly noted that elements **42** are disposed between and in engagement with wall **36** and sheaf **12** for maintaining the sheaf spaced from the wall beneath screws **34**. Elements **42** also cause a bend **46** to be presented in sheaf **12** whereby a downward pull on one of the bags results in a pulling force thereon at the openings **30** and slits **32** thereof which is in a lateral direction of the legs **16** to thereby orient the pulling forces to cause the bag to quickly tear across the shortest distance between openings **30** and slits **32**. Elements **42** also extend outwardly from wall **36** farther than screws **34** and thereby hold the sheaf **12** out of engagement with leg **16** beneath elements **42**.

For ease in handling, sheaf **12** may be stored or packaged for merchandizing with the bracket **14** and the elements **42** attached thereto. In this connection, a flexible guard **48** may be provided for covering legs **16** to prevent the same from damaging the bags of the sheaf **12**. Guard **48** may be formed from cardboard or the like and

has a line of fold **50** (FIG. 5) permitting the same to be folded over the top of legs **16**, whereby the sheaf **12** may be folded into the configuration illustrated in FIG. 4. Thus, the folded sheaf **12** may be packaged for convenient storage or merchandizing thereof.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a sheaf of bags, a hanger comprising:

a U-shaped bracket having a pair of legs extending through the sheaf adjacent the normally uppermost marginal edge of the latter, and a bight interconnecting the legs and overlapping the sheaf at said edge; and

wall fixture means for said legs beneath said sheaf, said fixture means having a pair of spaced openings therethrough, each opening receiving a respective one of said legs; and

spacer means disposed for engagement with the sheaf and the wall to maintain the sheaf spaced from the wall beneath the fixture means,

said spacer means comprising a resilient element for each leg respectively,

said elements being slidable on and in frictional engagement with their legs, whereby the same tend to hold the sheaf against said bight.

2. The invention of claim **1**,

said elements extending outwardly from the wall farther than the fixture means for holding the sheaf out of engagement with the legs beneath the elements.

3. The invention of claim **2**,

said fixture means comprising a pair of spaced screws, each having an eyelet, the eyelets, presenting said openings.

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