

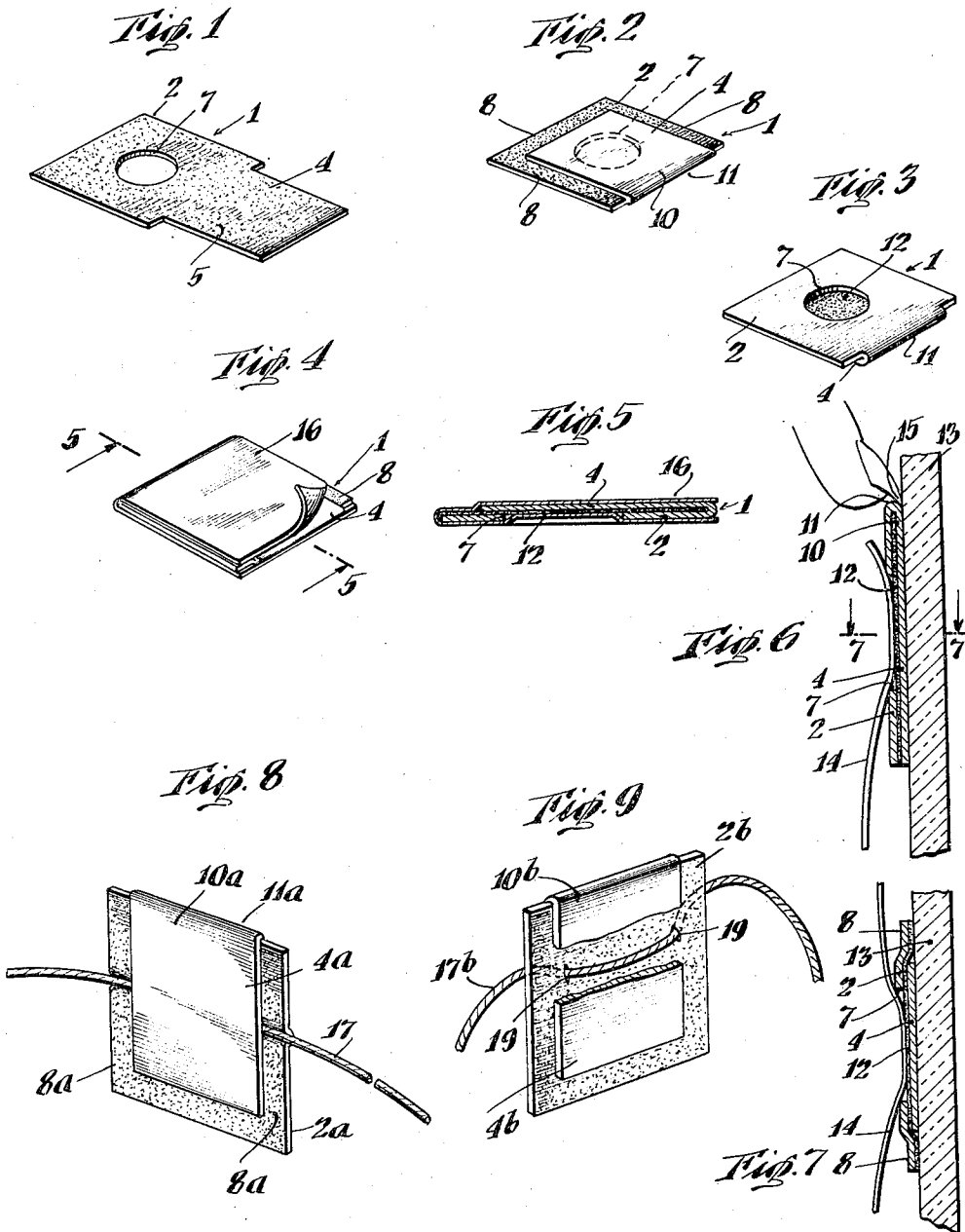
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W. W. GARDNER

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FASTENING DEVICE

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INVENTOR

Wallace W. Gardner

BY

Norman K. Holland

ATTORNEY

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## FASTENING DEVICE

Wallace W. Gardner, Glen Rock, N. J.

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1

The present invention relates to a fastening device, or sticker and more particularly to a fastening device adapted to be secured to a surface and to hold a notice or an article to be exhibited.

It is generally customary to post notices, advertisements or articles on bulletin boards by means of thumb tacks or by first perforating them and filing them on a nail or peg. The first method is objectionable since it perforates the backing and in many instances it is desired to post a notice or support an article on a hard surface which cannot be penetrated by a thumb tack. Putting the notices or articles on nails or pegs offers the disadvantage that only an uppermost notice is visible and since the nails or pegs are fixed in position it is not feasible to place the notice, advertisement or the like at a most desirable location on the bulletin board or surface.

It has been attempted to post notices or displays by utilizing paste or adhesive. This method may be satisfactory in instances where an advertisement or notice is glued to the bulletin board over its entire area. Attempting to retain notices or displays by means of adhesive on the rear surfaces offers the objection that the adhesive area is not always located at the most advantageous position for securing it to a bulletin board or other backer. With such methods the notice or display is not readily removable and is generally torn or damaged during removal. Accumulation of such pasted areas on a bulletin board requires scraping and refinishing of the board after it has been in use for a period of time.

The present invention aims to overcome the above and other disadvantages or objections by providing a new and improved fastening device adapted to be used for retaining notices, displays or other articles in position on a supporting surface. The invention further contemplates the provision of a fastening device or sticker that may be readily removed from a supporting surface with a minimum tendency to tear the notice or display which is attached to it.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved fastening device.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved fastening device which may be readily placed in position to retain an article.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved fastening device which may be readily removed from a supporting surface.

2

Another object of the invention is to provide a fastening device which is reinforced for facilitating removal from a supporting surface.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved fastening device which may be manufactured from a single piece of material.

Other and further objects of the invention will be obvious upon an understanding of the illustrative embodiment about to be described, or will be indicated in the appended claims, and various advantages not referred to herein will occur to one skilled in the art upon employment of the invention in practice.

A preferred embodiment of the invention has been chosen for purpose of illustration and description and is shown in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the specification, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a preferred form of the present fastening device in an initial stage of manufacture;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing one surface or side of the preferred form of fastening device;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the opposite surface of the fastening device illustrated in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a preferred form of completed fastening device;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view showing the fastening device of Figs. 1 through 5 in use;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing a modified form of the invention; and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view showing a modified form of the invention along the lines of Fig. 8.

Referring again to the drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 thereof, there is shown a preferred form of the present fastening device or sticker. Fig. 1 shows an early state in the manufacture and illustrates a substantially flat member 1 comprising an enlarged portion 2 and a portion or tongue 4 of reduced width connected therewith. The roughly T-shaped member shown in Fig. 1 may be stamped out of or otherwise formed from a large sheet of suitable, strong, flexible material such as cloth, tough paper or gummed tape.

The enlarged portion 2 of the member 1 is preferably provided with an aperture or open-

ing 7. While this aperture may be located at any convenient part of the enlarged portion 2 it is shown for purposes of illustration, as approximately centrally located in the enlarged portion.

Preferably one surface or side of the member 1 is coated with an adhesive 5, the opposite surface being left free of adhesive so that there is no tendency for this latter surface to adhere with any surface with which it may be placed in contact. While any suitable type of adhesive may be applied to the member 1 it has been found preferable to utilize a type which does not require wetting before application of a fastener to a surface or article. Suitable adhesive materials are those which may be referred to as rubber compounds and which are commercially available; this type of adhesive facilitates repeated application and removal of an adhesive surface without the appreciable deterioration of the adhering effect.

Fig. 2 illustrates a subsequent step in the manufacture of the present fastening device. In this figure the tongue, tab or portion 4 of reduced width is shown folded or turned to a position overlying the enlarged portion 2 of the member 1. In this relationship the tongue extends over and covers the aperture 7 previously formed in the enlarged portion 2. The pressed together adhesive surfaces of the enlarged and reduced width portions of the member 1 serve to retain the tongue in folded relationship against the surface of the enlarged portion.

By reason of the somewhat smaller dimensions of the tongue portion 4 there remains exposed a substantially marginal portion 8 coated with adhesive, which extends around a portion of the folded tongue 4. As shown in Fig. 2 this marginal portion extends around three edges of the tongue 4, which is shown as of substantially square shape. Since the exposed surface of the tongue 4 shown in Fig. 2 is not coated with adhesive, there will be no adhering effect at that part of the fastening device when it is placed into contact with an article or a surface. The portion 10 adjacent the folded edge 11 of the tongue 4 provides a very desirable removal feature, which will be hereinafter brought out.

In Fig. 3, which shows the opposite side of the fastening device of Fig. 1, it will be noted that the adhesive surface 12 of the tongue 4 is exposed to view through the opening 7 in the enlarged portion 2 of the fastening member. Adjacent surrounding areas of the enlarged portion 2 are free of adhesive and hence do not adhere to an article or surface with which the fastening device may be placed in contact. The only adhesive effect at this side of the fastening device is embodied in the exposed surface 12 available through the opening or aperture 7.

From the foregoing description it will be clear that the fastening device illustrated more particularly in Figs. 2 and 3 possesses adhesive surfaces at opposite sides thereof. The effective adhesive surface at one side of the device (Fig. 2) comprises a substantially marginal area 8 and the exposed or available adhesive surface at the other side of the device (Fig. 3) comprises that portion of the adhesive surface of the tongue 4 which is exposed through the opening or aperture 7. As brought out hereinabove, the adhesive material or composition is preferably one which readily adheres to various surfaces and yet which may be readily stripped from the surfaces with-

out marking or marring the surface and without leaving adhesive on the surface.

While the present fastening may be conveniently sold in packages in the form shown in Figs. 2 and 3 it may be desirable to minimize the possibility of one or more of the fasteners adhering together by reason of the normally exposed adhesive surfaces 8 and 12. In Figs. 4 and 5 the fastening device is shown combined with a means for minimizing this possibility. As shown in each of these latter figures the fastening device is provided with a cover member 16 fitting over the fastener and adhered thereto by the exposed adhesive surfaces 8 and 12. The cover 16 may be manufactured from gauze, cellophane, waxed paper or any other suitable material easily removable by stripping it from the adhesive surfaces. The feature shown in Figs. 4 and 5 is not absolutely essential but its use may be desired in order to minimize adhering together of fastening devices or to prevent objectionable soiling of them.

In Figs. 6 and 7 the preferred embodiment of fastening device is shown in use applied to a bulletin board or other vertically disposed supporting surface 13 and retaining in position a notice, display or article 14. The present device is preferably utilized with the marginal areas 8 adhered in position against the supporting surfaces 13 and with the adhesive area 12 at the opposite side thereof adhesively retaining the notice or article 14. The fastening device is shown with the folded reinforced edge 11 located uppermost or in such position that it is easily available for use in connection with removal of the fastener from the supporting surface. It was brought out in the description of Fig. 2 that the surface 10 adjacent the folded edge 11 is preferably not coated with adhesive; with this construction a thumb nail, knife, coin or other thin article may be inserted into the space 15 behind the unadhered surface of the fastener and intermediate the fastening device and supporting surface 13. As the folded upper portion 10 is pulled outwardly away from the supporting surface 13 the adhesively secured marginal portions at opposite sides of the fastening device move out of contact with the supporting surface 13. The folded upper edge of the fastener provides a reinforced or strengthened edge which facilitates removal from a surface with minimum danger of tearing the fastener.

Fig. 8 shows a modified form of the invention which is adapted to be used for retaining an article in display position. In this form of the invention the fastening device is provided with an enlarged portion 2a and a portion 4a of reduced width similar to that described in connection with the preferred embodiment. The tongue 4a and enlarged portion 2a are also preferably of one piece construction, as hereinbefore described. A substantially marginal area 8a is also formed on the enlarged portion 2a extending about the walled or turned tongue 4a. The enlarged portion 2a may be provided with an aperture or opening for retaining an article in display position.

In addition, the fastening device is shown provided with a string, wire, or other flexible member extending between the contiguous or folded portions of the enlarged portion 2a and tongue 4a, with the ends of the member projecting outwardly for securing around an article to be retained by the fastening device. In use the device of Fig. 8 may be pressed against a wall or other

5

supporting surface and retained in position by the adhesive marginal areas 8a; the flexible member 17 may be wound or tied around an article. Here again the reinforced edge 10a formed by the turn 11a of the tongue or tab facilitates removal of the fastener from the wall upon insertion of a thumb nail behind the portion 12a of the fastener.

In Fig. 9 there is illustrated a modified form of the invention generally similar to that described in connection with Fig. 8. In this latter form of the invention a flexible member or string 17b is shown extending through recesses or apertures 19 formed in the enlarged portion 2b of the fastening device. This modified form may be used similarly to that described in connection with Fig. 8 and may be also easily removed from a supporting surface upon insertion of a thumb nail or coin between the supporting surface and the reinforced turned edge 10b.

It will be seen that the present invention provides a new and improved fastening device or sticker which may be manufactured from a single piece of material and which embodies a most desirable reinforced edge feature for facilitating ready removal of the fastening from a supporting surface. A protective cover minimizes the possibility of separate fastening devices adhering together and maintains them in unsoiled condition. The modified form of the invention may be used for retaining displays, articles or irregularly shaped objects in viewing position. One or more of the fasteners may be applied to any convenient position on a surface and to any suitable part of a display or article; their use does not result in marring a wall or article.

As various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention and without sacrificing any of its advantages, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

6

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a member having a tongue of reduced width at one side thereof, said tongue being folded and normally lying against a larger portion of said member, and an adhesive intermediate said tongue and larger portion and on an area extending partially about said tongue.

2. A device of the class described comprising, a member having an aperture, an adhesive on one surface of said member, and a portion of said member being folded upon itself to a position overlying said aperture.

3. A device of the class described comprising, an apertured member having a portion of reduced width, adhesive on one surface of said member, and said portion of reduced width normally lying against a larger portion of said member and extending over said aperture.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a member having a tongue of reduced width secured to one side thereof, said tongue being folded and normally lying against a larger portion of said member, an adhesive intermediate said tongue and larger portion and on an exposed area extending partially about said tongue, and an article-securing member having a portion thereof retained intermediate said tongue and larger portion.

WALLACE W. GARDNER.

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