Dec. 30, 1969 R. W. HAIN ET AL 3,486,610

CABINET TYPE KNIFE BOX

Filed Feb. 6, 1968

Fig. 1

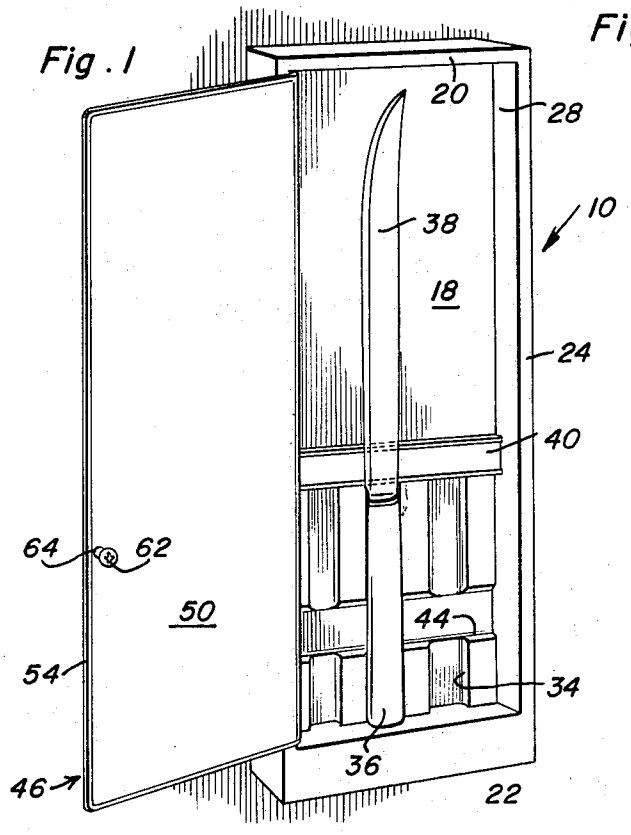


Fig. 3

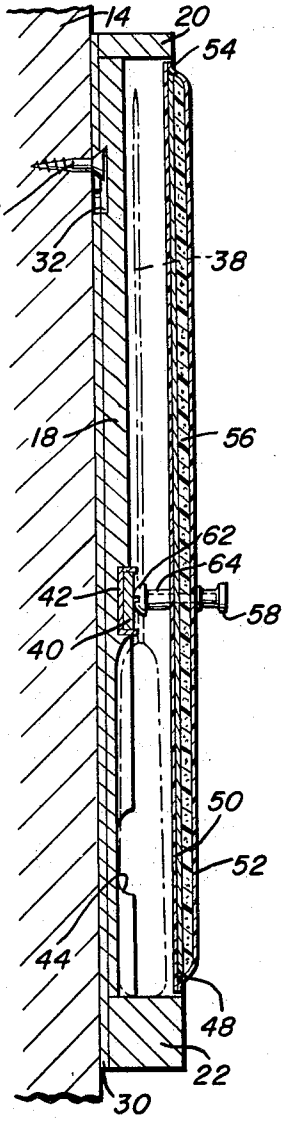


Fig. 2

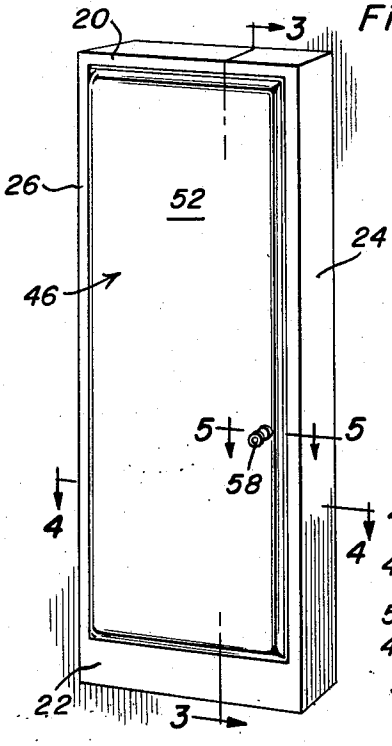


Fig. 4

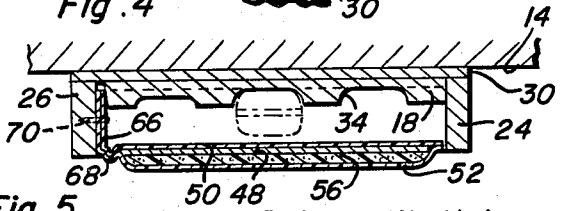
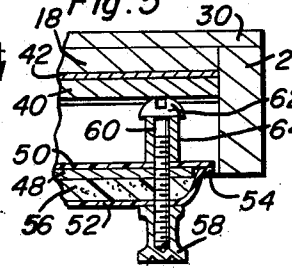


Fig. 5



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CABINET TYPE KNIFE BOX

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U.S. Cl. 206—16 7 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cabinet type knife box having a magnetic bar therein serving as a knife holder and also utilized to retain the door or cover in closed position by the use of an extension on the cover knob. The door or cover is encased in vinyl material which has an appearance similar to leather with the vinyl material being padded with one edge thereof including an extension creased to form a self-hinge with the extension of the vinyl being secured to the box to hingedly connect the door or cover thereto. The knife box may be employed as a hanging wall rack to simulate a cabinet or supported on a horizontal surface within a drawer or the like.

The present invention generally relates to a box container for knives in the form of a cabinet-like structure having a magnetic bar extending across a supporting surface. The magnetic bar serves to support a plurality of knives in generally parallel position with the handles of the knives being received in recesses within the inner wall or bottom of the box. The door, lid or cover is hinged along one edge of the box and an extension on the inner surface of the door or cover is associated with the magnet bar to releasably retain the door or cover in closed position by magnetic attraction. The door or cover is a rigid panel encased in leather-like vinyl material having a padding under the outer layer thereof to provide a cushioned exterior surface for the lid or door to not only provide an attractive appearance to the box but also to provide a feel of quality due to the padding of the vinyl material. One edge of the vinyl material is creased and provided with an extension which extends along the inner surface of the box and is attached thereto thus providing a self-contained hinge structure.

An object of the invention is to provide a knife box incorporating all of the previously mentioned features which is relatively simple in construction, relatively inexpensive but yet provided with the appearance and feel of a relatively expensive knife box which is not only attractive in appearance but effective for holding a plurality of knives either on a vertical wall surface or in a drawer or the like.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the knife box of the present invention with the door in open position illustrating one knife supported therein;

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FIGURE 2 is a perspective view similar to FIGURE 1 but with the knife box door in closed position;

FIGURE 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along a plane passing along section line 3—3 of FIGURE 2 illustrating the structural details of the knife box;

FIGURE 4 is a transverse, sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 4—4 of FIGURE 2 illustrating further structural details of the knife box; and

FIGURE 5 is a detailed sectional view, on an enlarged scale, taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 5—5 of FIGURE 2 illustrating the door knob and extension attached thereto for association with the magnet bar to retain the door in closed position.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, the numeral **10** generally designates the knife box of the present invention which is illustrated as being installed on a vertical wall surface **14** which has been provided with conventional wood screws or other fastener devices **16** in which the headed end thereof is spaced from the wall surface to provide support for the knife box **10** in a manner described hereinafter.

The knife box **10** is in the form of an elongated container construction which includes a bottom or inner wall **18** peripherally engaged by a top or end wall **20**, a bottom or opposite end wall **22** and side walls **24** and **26** which are connected to form a relatively shallow and hollow interior **28**. The ends of the side walls **24** and **26** are connected to the end walls **20** and **22** in any suitable manner so that the joint is not readily visible. For example, a conventional rabbeted joint may be provided therebetween. Also, it is noted that the bottom end wall **22** is wider than the top end wall inasmuch as the bottom end wall will receive the weight of the knives when installed in a vertical position and also simulates a cabinet structure. On the rear surface of the box holder, there is provided a covering panel **30** laminated thereto by adhesive or the like which completely covers the rear surface of the wall **18** as well as the end walls **20** and **22** and side walls **24** and **26**. The covering panel **30** and the wall **18** is provided with a conventional keyhole slot **32** formed centrally therein adjacent the top thereof for receiving the headed end of the wood screw **16** to support the knife box in vertical position on the wall surface **14** in a well-known manner. Inasmuch as the keyhole slot **32** forms no projection on the rear surface of the knife box, it may be supported on a flat surface or received within a drawer or the like for storage.

The inner lower surface of the wall **18** is provided with a plurality of longitudinal grooves or recesses **34** which receive the handles **36** of a plurality of knives **38** supported in the knife box. For supporting the knives **38** in place and retaining them within the knife box, a bar magnet **40** is disposed transversely of the wall **18** intermediate the ends thereof and adjacent the upper ends of the grooves or recesses **34** thus attracting the blades of the knives **38** when the handles are disposed in the recesses **34**. The bar magnet **40** is supported within a recessed channel-shaped member **42** which is disposed in a transverse groove in the wall **18** and secured in place by suitable adhesive or other fastening means. The channel-shaped member **42** is of metallic construc-

tion subject to magnetic attraction so that the bar magnet **40** will be retained in the channel-shaped member by magnet attraction thereto thus enabling easy assembly of the bar magnet and also removal and replacement thereof if necessary.

The bar magnet **40** is slightly recessed below the top edge of the channel-shaped member **42** so that the knife blade **38** rests against the upper edges of the channel-shaped member **42** rather than the bar magnet **40** thus effectively retaining the knives **38** in position within the knife box but yet enabling them to be removed therefrom by grasping the handle **36**. To facilitate grasping of the handles **36** of the knives **38**, a transversely extending recess or groove **44** is provided in the wall **18** in intersecting relation to the longitudinal recesses of grooves **34**. The groove **44** enables the thumb and forefinger to be inserted under the handle **36** or at least around the curved inner edges of the handle to facilitate grasping thereof so that the knives may be removed by grasping the handles rather than the blades having sharpened edges thereon thereby eliminating any possible danger of the fingers being cut when removing the knife by the blade. The transverse groove **44** also facilitates placement of the knives **38** into the knife box by bringing the butt end of the knife handle **36** against the inner surface of the bottom end wall **22** and then pivoting the knife inwardly until it is retained in position by the bar magnet **40**.

A closure door or lid generally designated by numeral **46** is provided for the shallow hollow area **28** and includes a relatively thin rigid panel **48** covered by an inner layer of vinyl material **50** and an outer layer of vinyl material **52** having the edges thereof secured together by heat sealing as at **54**. The outer layer **52** is slightly larger than the inner layer or panel **50** and is spaced from the rigid panel **48** by a layer of resilient cushioning material **56** such as foam plastic or the like to provide a soft cushioned exterior feel to the door or lid **46** and at the same time providing down curved and rounded peripheral edges for the lid or door **46** to enhance the appearance characteristics thereof. The surface of the vinyl covering material may be textured and colored in such a manner to have a leather-like appearance thereby enhancing the appearance characteristics of the knife box. Suitable indicia may be placed on the exterior surface of the door or lid **46** such as the name of the knives within the container, a trademark or the like.

A knob **58** is provided for one side edge of the door **46** and is decorative in appearance and provided with a concave peripheral wall. The knob **58** is secured in position by an elongated screw-threaded fastener **60** which extends through the door **46** and is provided with a headed end **62** spaced from the inner surface of the door **46** by a spacer sleeve **64**. The combined length of the spacer sleeve **64** and the head **62** on the screw **60** is such that they form an extension substantially equal to the depth of the area **28**. The knob and screw **60** is so positioned that the head **62** will be engaged by and attracted by the bar magnet **40** when the door **46** is in closed position substantially parallel to the wall **18** thereby releasably retaining the door **46** in its closed position by virtue of the extension formed by the screw **60**, screwhead **62** and sleeve **64**.

For hingedly supporting the opposite edge of the door **46** to the box, the inner and outer panels **50** and **52**, respectively, are extended to form an extension **66** with the extension including a crease **68** generally in the area of the heat seal thereof to define a hinge axis for the door **46**. The extension **66** is disposed along the inner surface of the wall **26** and secured thereto by a plurality of fasteners **76** such as staples or the like. To define the hinge axis at the crease **68**, the extension **66** may also be reinforced to rigidify the same so that a substantially fixed hinged axis is provided for the door **46** to enable swinging movement thereof. Even when the door is swung to the fully opened position, the cushioned outer surface thereof will engage the outer surface of the side wall **26** to provide a cushion and stop for the outward swinging movement of the door **46**. The peripheral heat seal **54** may be so arranged that it will engage the inner periphery of the area **28** just prior to the headed end **62** of the screw **60** engaging the magnet **40** to cushion the closing movement of the door **46**.

With this construction, the hinge for the door is completely concealed as is the fastening device and the vinyl material is cushioned and textured to have a leather-like appearance thereby enhancing the appearance characteristics of the box while retaining the cost thereof at a desired minimum.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A knife box comprising a shallow container defined by a peripheral wall and an inner wall, said inner wall including at least one longitudinal recess therein for receiving a knife handle, magnetic means in the inner wall for magnetically attracting the blade of a knife to support it in position within the shallow container, and a closure for the container, said closure being hingedly attached to the peripheral wall, and means on an opposite edge of the closure for magnetic attraction to said magnetic means for retaining the door in closed condition, said magnetic means including a transversely extending bar magnet, a channel member recessed in the inner wall and secured fixedly thereto, said channel member being of material subject to magnetic attraction, said bar magnet being disposed in said channel member and being secured in the channel member by the magnetic attraction therewith and at the same time holding the knife blade in position and the closure in closed position.

2. The structure as defined in claim **1** wherein said inner wall includes a transverse recess communicating with the longitudinal recess to facilitate grasping of the knife handle.

3. A knife box comprising a shallow container defined by a peripheral wall and an inner wall, said inner wall including at least one longitudinal recess therein for receiving a knife handle, magnetic means in the inner wall for magnetically attracting the blade of a knife to support it in position within the shallow container, and a closure for the container, said closure being hingedly attached to the peripheral wall, and means on an opposite edge of the closure for magnetic attraction to said magnetic means for retaining the door in closed condition, said closure including a rigid panel, a covering of flexible material enclosing the panel, said flexible material including an extension along one side of the rigid panel, said extension disposed against and secured to the inner surface of the peripheral wall to define a hinge axis for the closure.

4. The structure as defined in claim **1** wherein said flexible material is vinyl, and a cushioning panel disposed between the rigid panel and the outer layer of vinyl material.

5. A holder for a knife comprising a supporting surface having a recess therein receiving a handle of a knife, and magnetic means carried by said supporting surface for retaining a knife by magnetic attraction of the knife blade, said magnetic means including a bar magnet extending transversely of the recess at one end thereof with the supporting engagement between the magnetic means and the knife blade being spaced laterally of the inner surface of the recess thereby enabling the knife handle to lie generally flat in the recess.

6. The structure as defined in claim **5** together with a movable cover selectively covering the knife and the supporting surface, and means on said cover operatively asso-

ciated with said bar magnet to releasably retain the cover in knife covering position.

7. The structure as defined in claim 6 wherein said cover includes a flexible extension along an edge thereof, and means supporting the extension from the supporting surface to support the cover therefrom, said extension including a hinge structure incorporated therein to pivotally support said cover in relation to the supporting surface.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

211—60; 312—245, 329