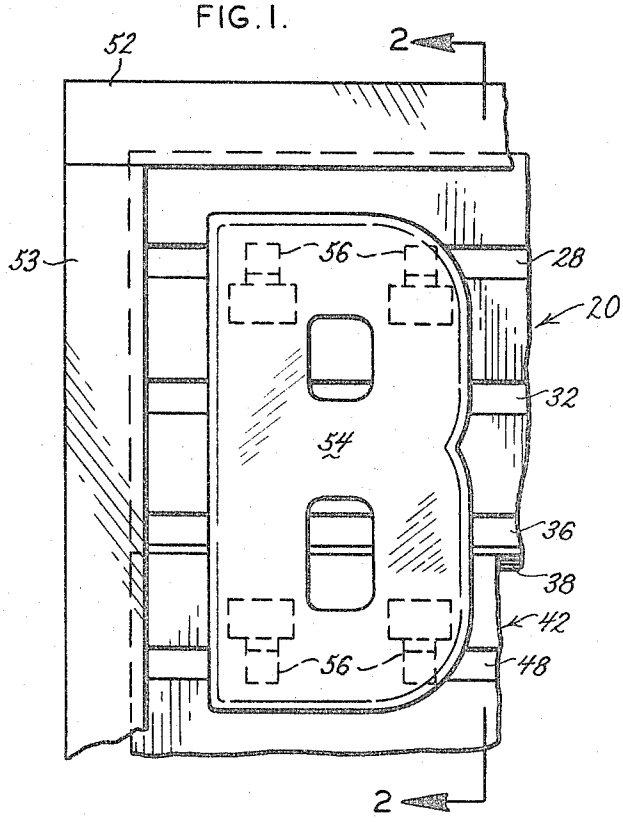
Dec. 6, 1966 L. N. EDWARDS 3,289,340

DISPLAY SIGNS

Filed May 23, 1966

FIG. 1.



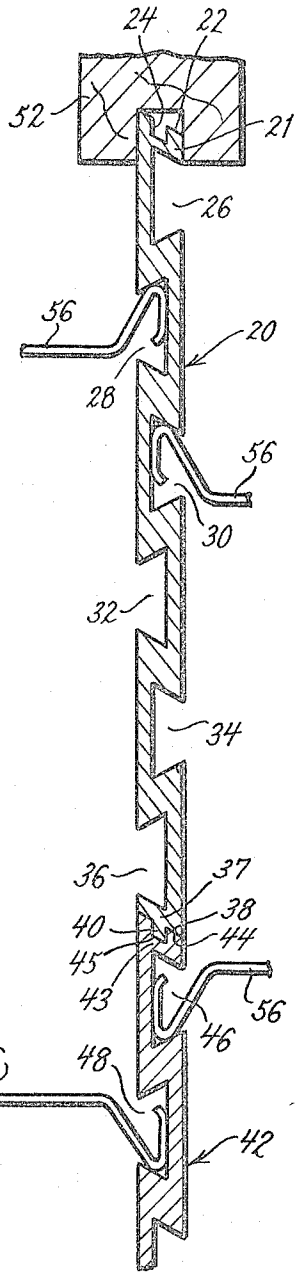


FIG. 2.

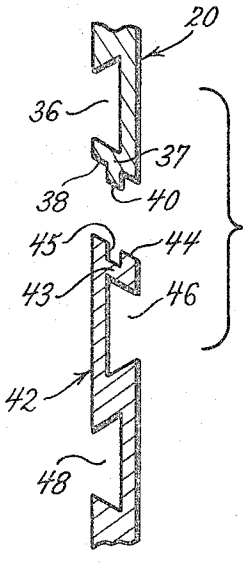


FIG. 3.

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DISPLAY SIGNS

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8 Claims. (Cl. 40—143)

This invention relates to improvements in display signs. More particularly, this invention relates to improvements in display signs which can support indicia at both of the faces thereof.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide an improved display sign which can support indicia at both of the faces thereof.

It would be desirable to provide a display sign which could support indicia at both of the faces thereof, which could provide uniform center-to-center spacings for the fasteners of those indicia, and which could be made in sectional form. Such a display sign could be made economically, could be shipped with a minimum of cost, and could be used effectively in the field. The present invention provides such a display sign; and it does so by forming a number of identical sections which can be connected together to provide a panel of the desired height for the display sign. Each of the sections has recesses at the opposite faces thereof, and those recesses have the same center-to-center spacings. Furthermore, the sections of the panel have abutting portions that are formed and dimensioned to enable the adjacent recesses in adjacent sections of the panel to have the same center-to-center spacings which the rest of the recesses in those sections have. It is therefore, an object of the present invention to provide sections, for the panel of a display sign, which have recesses in each face thereof with uniform center-to-center spacings and which have abutting portions that are formed and dimensioned to enable the adjacent recesses in adjacent sections of the panel to have the same center-to-center spacings which the rest of the recesses in those sections have.

Other and further objects and advantages of the present invention should become apparent from an examination of the drawing and accompanying description.

In the drawing and accompanying description a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown and described but it is to be understood that the drawing and accompanying description are for the purpose of illustration only and do not limit the invention and that the invention will be defined by the appended claims.

In the drawing, FIG. 1 is an elevational view of part of the upper left hand corner of a display sign that is made in accordance with the principles and teachings of the present invention,

FIG. 2 is a sectional view, on a larger scale, through the part of the display sign shown in FIG. 1, and it is taken along the plane indicated by the line 2—2 in FIG. 1, and

FIG. 3 is a sectional view, on the scale of FIG. 2, showing two sections of the display sign in juxtaposition.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the numeral **20** generally denotes one section of the panel of a display sign that is made in accordance with the principles and teachings of the present invention. That section has an upper abutting portion **21** with an inclined upper face **22**, as shown particularly by FIG. 2; and that inclined upper face has an elongated slot **24** therein. The numerals **26, 28, 30, 32, 34** and **36** denote recesses in the opposite faces of the section **20**; and those recesses are trapezoidal in cross section. The recesses **28, 32** and **36** open to the front face of the section **20**, while the recesses **26, 30** and **34** open to the rear face of that section. The center-to-center spacings of

the recesses **28, 32** and **36** are uniform; and the center-to-center spacings of the recesses **26, 30** and **34** also are uniform. Moreover, the center-to-center spacings of the recesses **26, 30** and **34** are equal to the center-to-center spacings of the recesses **28, 32** and **36**. It will be noted that the recesses **26, 30** and **34** are vertically offset from the recesses **28, 32** and **36**. This is desirable because it means that the overall thickness of the section **20** is no greater than the depth of any recess plus the thickness of the metal defining the inner end of that recess. As a result, the section **20** has a desirably small thickness.

The numeral **37** denotes a lower abutting portion with an inclined lower face **38**. The inclination of that lower face is identical to the inclination of the upper face **22**. As a result, the inclined faces **22** and **38** lie in planes which are parallel to each other. An elongated rib **40** extends downwardly from the inclined face **38** on the lower abutting portion **37** of the section **20**. That elongated rib is in vertical registry with the elongated slot **24** in the inclined upper face **22**. Moreover, the elongated rib **40** is dimensioned to fit neatly within an elongated slot of another section which is comparable to the section **20**.

One such other section is shown in FIGS. 1–3, and it is generally denoted by the numeral **42**. That section will have three trapezoidal recesses in the front face thereof which are similar in configuration, size, and center-to-center spacings to the recesses **28, 32** and **36** of section **20**. One of those recesses is shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, and it is denoted by the numeral **48**. Also, the section **42** will have three trapezoidal recesses in the rear face thereof which are similar in configuration, size, and center-to-center spacings to the recesses **26, 30** and **34** of section **20**. One of those recesses is shown in FIG. 3, and it is denoted by the numeral **46**.

The section **42** has an upper abutting portion **43** with an inclined upper face **44** thereon; and the inclination of that upper face is complementary to the inclination of the lower face **38** on the lower abutting portion **37** of the section **20**. An elongated slot **45** is formed in the inclined upper face **44**, and that elongated slot is dimensioned to neatly accommodate the elongated rib **40** on the inclined lower face **38** of the lower abutting portion **37** of the section **20**. As a result, the inclined lower face **38** of the abutting portion **37** of the section **20** can be set in abutting relation with the inclined upper face **44** of the upper abutting portion **43** of the section **42**; and the elongated rib **40** can be disposed neatly within the elongated slot **45**, as shown particularly by FIG. 2. Whenever the elongated rib **40** is disposed within the elongated slot **45**, it will hold the lower abutting portion **37** of the section **20** in registry with the upper abutting portion of the section **42**.

The bottom of the section **42** will have a lower abutting portion comparable to the lower abutting portion **37** on the section **20**. Also, the bottom of the section **42** will have an elongated rib which is comparable to the elongated rib **40** on the section **20**. This means that the bottom of the section **42** can be assembled with the top of a further section which is similar to the sections **20** and **42**. With this arrangement, panels of different heights can be made for display signs by merely interconnecting the desired number of sections **20** and **42**.

The tops of panels for display signs, formed from sections **20** and **42** and from similar sections, will be supported and confined by a slot in the lower edge of a horizontally-directed frame member **52**. Similarly, the bottoms of such panels for display signs will be supported and confined by a slot in the top edge of a horizontally-directed frame member, not shown. The ends of those panels for display signs will be supported by slots in vertically-directed frame members **53**, one of which is shown in FIG. 1. Those frame members will be suit-

ably secured together to constitute a sturdy and rigid frame structure for the display sign.

The vertical dimension of the abutting portion 21 of the section 20 is less than the vertical dimension of the portion of that section intermediate the recesses 26 and 28. Similarly the vertical dimension of the abutting portion 37 of the section 20 is less than the vertical dimension of the portion of that section intermediate the recesses 26 and 28. In addition, the vertical dimension of each of the abutting portions of the section 42 is less than the vertical dimension of the portion of section 20 intermediate the recesses 26 and 28. As a result, when the two sections 20 and 42 are connected together, as shown by FIG. 2, the combined width of the abutting portions 37 and 43 is equal to the width of the portion of section 20 intermediate the recesses 26 and 28. This is important, because it provides the same center-to-center spacings for all of the recesses in the same face of the panel for the display sign.

The numeral 54 generally denotes an indicia which can be supported by either of the faces of the panel of a display sign made from the sections 20 and 42 and similar sections. That indicia has elongated flexible clips 56 with bent feet. Those feet are urged apart by the resiliency of those clips; and those feet are dimensioned so they fit easily within the recesses in the panel of the display sign formed from the sections 20 and 42 and similar sections. Those feet will bear against the inclined edges of those trapezoidal recesses to releasably hold those indicia in position adjacent the panel of the display sign. Because the center-to-center spacings of the recesses 26, 30, 34 and 46 are the same as the center-to-center spacings of the recesses 28, 32, 36 and 48, the indicia 54 can be interchangeably secured to either face of the panel of the display sign made from the sections 20 and 42 and similar sections. If desired, as illustrated by FIG. 2, the indicia 54 can have different spacings between the flexible clips 56 thereof. Specifically, the indicia 54 shown at the front face of that display sign has the resilient clips 56 therof spaced apart to fit into every fourth recess; whereas the indicia, not shown, at the rear face of that display sign has the resilient clips 56 thereof spaced apart to fit into every third recess. The primary requirement of the spacing of the flexible clips 56 of any indicia is that it be an integral multiple of the center-to-center spacing of the recesses in either face of the panel of the display sign.

Whereas the drawing and accompanying description have shown and described a preferred embodiment of the present invention it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the form of the invention without affecting the scope thereof.

What I claim is:

1. A display sign that comprises:

(a) a panel that has a plurality of sections,

(b) indicia, and

(c) securing elements that releasably secure said indicia to said panel,

(d) one section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the front face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(e) said one section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the rear face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel,

(f) said spaced-apart surfaces at said front face of said one section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(g) said spaced-apart surfaces at said rear face of said one section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel,

(h) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said rear face of said section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(i) said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of said securing elements,

(j) said recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of further of said securing elements,

(k) said one section of said panel having an abutting portion at one edge thereof,

(l) a second section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the front face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(m) said second section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the rear face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel,

(n) said spaced-apart surfaces at said front face of said second section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(o) said spaced-apart surfaces at said rear face of said second section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel,

(p) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(q) said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of still further securing elements,

(r) said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of additional securing elements,

(s) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(t) said second section of said panel having a further abutting portion at one edge thereof,

(u) said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel being disposed in abutting relation with said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel,

(v) said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel and said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel having a combined width substantially equal to the spacing between adjacent recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(w) whereby the center-to-center spacing between recesses which are in said front face of said panel and which are disposed on opposite sides of said one abutting portion of said one section and of said further abutting portion of said second section of said panel will be substantially equal to the center-to-center spacings between the other recesses in said front face of said panel,

(x) said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel and said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel permitting full and free access to said recesses in said front and rear faces of said one section and of said second section of said panel.

2. A display sign as claimed in claim 1 wherein said

second section of said panel and said one section of said panel are substantially identical, wherein the further abutting portion of said one section of said panel is adapted to be disposed in abutting relation with the one abutting portion of a third section of said panel, and wherein the one abutting portion of said second section of said panel is adapted to be disposed in abutting relation with the further abutting portion of a fourth section of said panel.

3. A display sign as claimed in claim 1 wherein said recesses in said front face of said panel are offset relative to said recesses in said rear face of said panel and wherein said securing elements are springy clips that have feet which are dimensioned to fit easily within said recesses.

4. A display sign as claimed in claim 1 wherein said recesses in said front and rear faces of said sections of said panel are trapezoidal in cross section and wherein said abutting portions and said further abutting portions at the edges of said sections of said panel are inclined relative to said front and rear faces of said sections of said panel.

5. A display sign as claimed in claim 1 wherein said abutting portions and said further abutting portions at the edges of said sections of said panel have complementary interlocking surfaces thereon to prevent relative forward and rearward displacement of said abutting portions and said further abutting portions at the edges of said sections of said panel.

6. In a multi-section panel for a display sign that comprises:

(a) one section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the front face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(b) said one section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the rear face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel,

(c) said spaced-apart surfaces at said front face of said one section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(d) said spaced-apart surfaces at said rear face of said one section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel,

(e) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(f) said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of securing elements,

(g) said recesses in said rear face of said one section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of securing elements,

(h) said one section of said panel having an abutting portion at one edge thereof,

(i) a second section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the front face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(j) said second section of said panel having a plurality of spaced-apart surfaces at the rear face thereof to define a plurality of recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel,

(k) said spaced-apart surfaces at said front face of said second section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(l) said spaced-apart surfaces at said rear face of said second section of said panel being spaced apart to provide equal center-to-center spacings for said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel,

(m) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel,

(n) said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of securing elements,

(o) said recesses in said rear face of said second section of said panel being adapted to receive portions of securing elements,

(p) said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said second section of said panel being substantially equal to said center-to-center spacings between said recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(q) said second section of said panel having a further abutting portion at one edge thereof,

(r) said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel being disposed in abutting relation with said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel,

(s) said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel and said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel having a combined width substantially equal to the spacing between adjacent recesses in said front face of said one section of said panel,

(t) whereby the center-to-center spacing between recesses which are in said front face of said panel and which are disposed on opposite sides of said one abutting portion of said one section and of said further abutting portion of said second section of said panel will be substantially equal to the center-to-center spacings between the other recesses in said front face of said panel,

(u) said abutting portion at said one edge of the first said section of said panel and said further abutting portion at said one edge of said second section of said panel permitting full and free access to said recesses in said front and rear faces of said one section and said second section of said panel,

7. A multi-section panel for a display sign as claimed in claim 6 wherein said second section of said panel and said one section of said panel are substantially identical, and wherein said recesses in said front face of said panel are offset relative to said recesses in said rear face of said panel.

8. A multi-section panel for a display sign as claimed in claim 6 wherein said abutting portions and said further abutting portions at the edges of said sections of said panel are inclined relative to said front and rear faces of said sections of said panel and wherein said surfaces which define said recesses also are inclined relative to said front and rear faces of said sections of said panel.

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