April 12, 1966 A. F. KLINGBERG 3,245,175

HOLDER FOR SUPPORTING FLOWERS AND THE LIKE

Filed Dec. 30, 1963

Fig. 1

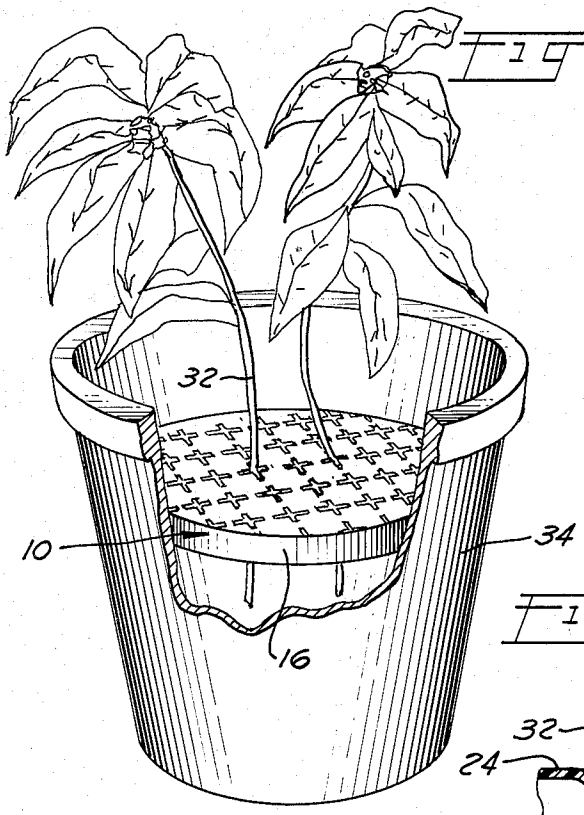


Fig. 3

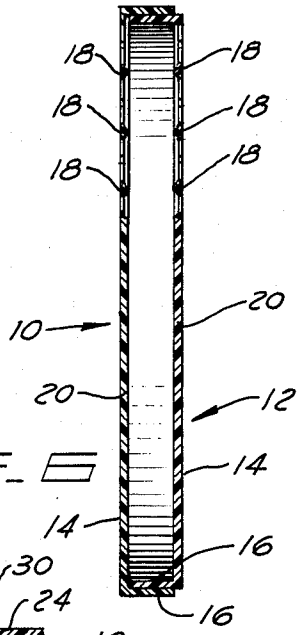


Fig. 6

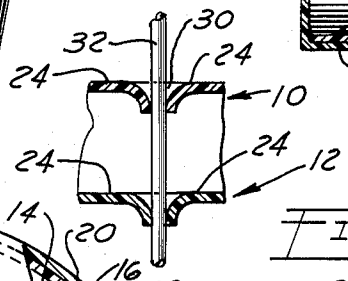


Fig. 2

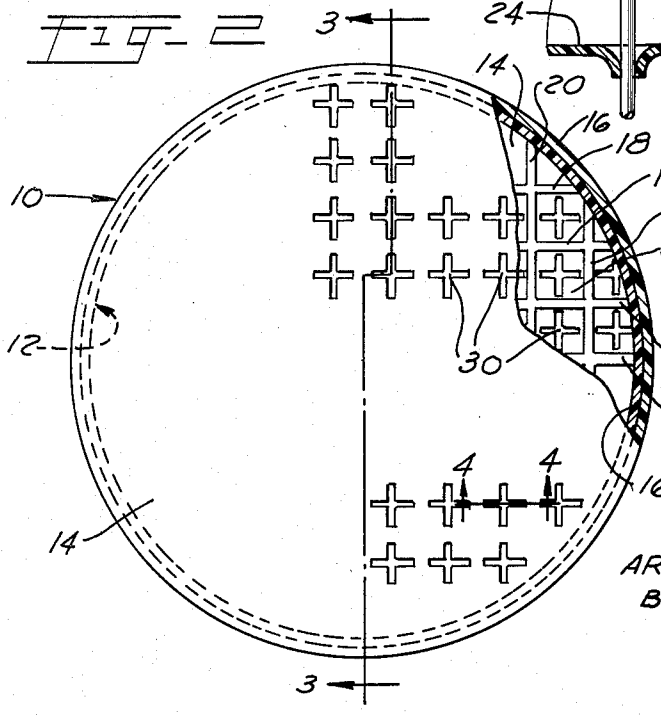


Fig. 5

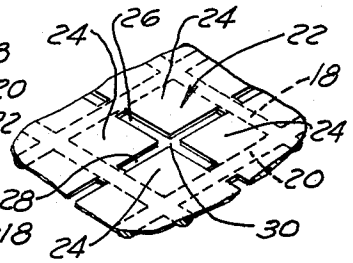


Fig. 4



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HOLDER FOR SUPPORTING FLOWERS AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 47—41.13)

This invention relates to a holder for supporting flowers and the like.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a holder adapted to be positioned in a container, such as a flower pot or the like for supporting flowers and the like.

Another object of this invention is to provide means for supporting flowers and the like in a display position. This invention facilitates the display of natural or artificial flowers and the like in a flower pot or other container. The flower stem is readily inserted into the holder to be held therein and is likewise easily removable. The holder is very simple and inexpensive to manufacture and is easy to use.

Other objects will become apparent as this description progresses.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a view showing this invention positioned in a flower pot.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the holder with a portion broken away to show the opposite member.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on lines 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on lines 4—4 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged view of one of the sections, which sections form the wall surface, and

FIG. 6 is an enlarged sectional view showing a flower stem inserted in and supported by the holder.

The holder comprises a pair of members designated by the numerals **10** and **12**, which are of identical construction and which are adapted to be secured together to form the holder. Since both members are identical a detailed description of one will suffice.

The members **10** and **12** are each integrally molded, preferably of a plastic material such as polyethylene. It includes an anuular wall **14** provided with an annular depending rim **16**. The wall **14** is formed with spaced intersecting ribs which divide the entire wall into a plurality of rectangular-like sections bounded by the intersecting ribs. The ribs **18** which are equally spaced and parallel extend in the same direction and intersect the equally spaced parallel transversely extending ribs **20** at right angles to form the rectangular-shaped box-like sections **22** throughout the entire wall of the members. The ribs **18** and **20** extend inwardly of the top surface.

Overlying and connected by the ribs **18** and **20** and formed integrally therewith are wall surfaces **24** which extend into the sections **22** and form the wall surfaces of the sections. Each rectangular-shaped section **22** is provided with intersecting slotted portions **26** and **28**, intersecting at right angles, which in effect form a slotted cross within each section **22**. The slots **26** and **28** extend to the ribs.

The center or intersecting point of the slots **26** and **28**, indicated by the numeral **30**, is the point at which the stem **32** of the flower is inserted. Thus, each rectangular-shaped section **22** consists of four spaced rectangular-shaped wall surfaces **24**, with the intersecting slots **26** and **28** having a common center opening **30**. The rectangular-shaped wall surfaces **24** have a degree

of resiliency sufficient to permit flexing thereof when the stem **32** is inserted and withdrawn. Each rectangular-shaped section **22** is bordered by the spaced intersecting ribs **18** and **20** and such sections extend across and form the entire wall surface of the member.

The member **12**, which is formed like member **10**, is adapted to be positioned so that the annular rim **16** of member **12** rests within the annular rim **16** of the member **10**, and the wall **14** of member **12** is in spaced relation to the wall **14** of member **10**, as best seen in FIG. 3. The two members form a nested enclosure and are held in such nested position by a friction tight fit therebetween. The two members **10** and **12** may be formed from the same mold. Due to the pliableness or give of the material one can be compressed into the other for the purpose described. When the two members are connected, as aforesaid, and properly alined, the centers **30** of the intersecting slots **26** and **28** of the two members will be in substantial alinement.

The holder comprising the two members **10** and **12**, joined as aforesaid, is inserted into a container **34**, such as a flower pot, in a horizontal position and is positioned below the top thereof and held therein by a friction fit. When a flower stem **32** is inserted in the member which forms the top of the holder, for example member **10**, the stem will cause the rectangular wall surfaces **24**, particularly the edge surfaces contiguous to the center **30**, to flex inwardly to grip the stem and the corresponding edges in the lower member **12** will flex outwardly to also grip the stem. The stem is thus gripped along its length at two spaced areas, one below the other, to support the stem. The edges of the four rectangular wall surfaces provide in effect fingers to perform the gripping action.

It will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made from the foregoing without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for supporting a plurality of stems of flowers or the like within a container in spaced relation, comprising a pair of identical members inserted in the container, each member having a wall and an annular rim, the members being so arranged that the members are inverted with respect to each other with the annular rim of one nested within the annular rim of the other and the wall of one member positioned opposite and in spaced relation to the wall of the other, each wall including a plurality of spaced intersecting ribs and a plurality of sections formed by said intersecting ribs, each said section having a pair of intersecting slots with one slot substantially at right angles to the other and forming at the intersection an opening adapted to grippingly and frictionally receive a stem, so that the stem is supported by said pair of members engaging the stem at spaced areas along the length thereof.

2. A structure defined in claim **1** in which the members are formed of a plastic material having a degree of resiliency.

3. A structure defined in claim **1** in which each section is of a rectangular shape with the slots extending to the ribs.

4. A structure defined in claim **1** which is formed of a yieldable plastic material and in which each section has four spaced equally sized members formed by the intersecting slots with the four spaced equally sized members at said intersecting opening yielding to receive the stem when inserted so that it is frictionally and grippingly engaged.

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