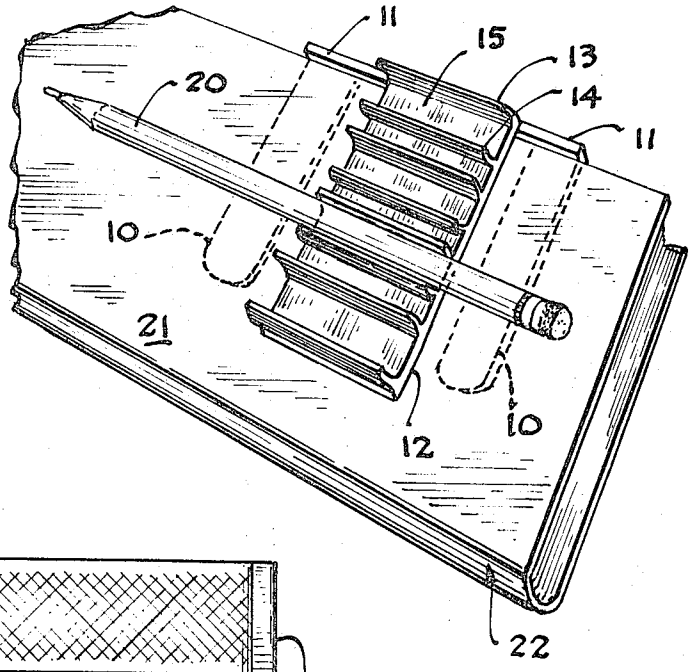
Feb. 23, 1971 C. R. KIRK 3,564,668

HOLDER FOR PENCILS OR THE LIKE TO BE CLIPPED ON BOOK

Filed July 29, 1969

Fig. 1



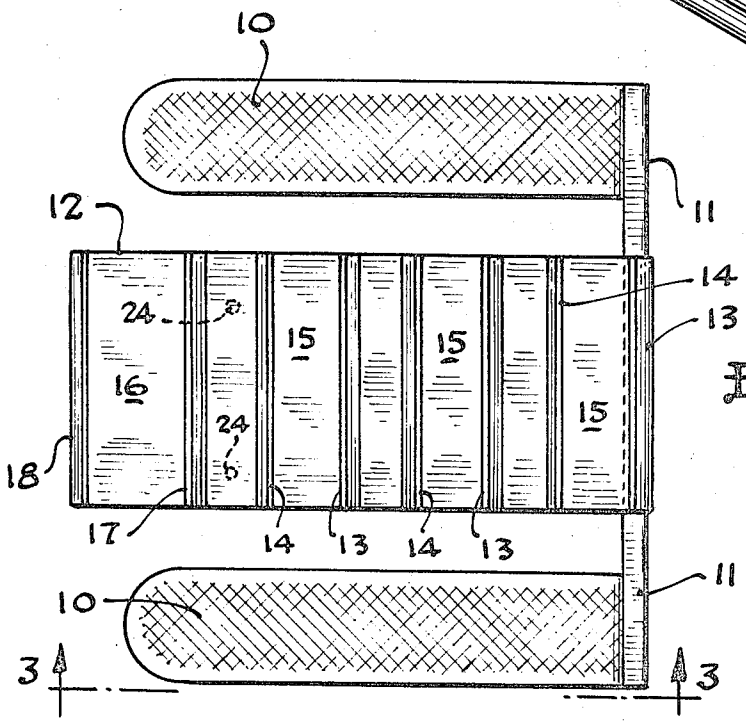


Fig. 2

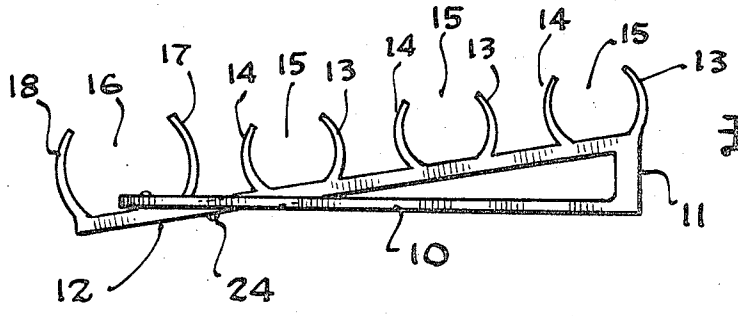


Fig. 3

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HOLDER FOR PENCILS OR THE LIKE TO BE CLIPPED ON BOOK

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A holder for pens and pencils and the like has a plurality of semi-cylindrical clips with a longitudinal opening along one side into which the object can be inserted to be engaged by the holder. These clips are positioned parallel to each other on a support. The support is connected to a back and is intermediate to fingers parallel to the support. This is a unitary apparatus formed of polypropylene by injection molding. The apparatus may be secured to an item, such as the cover of a book, by slipping the fingers across the inside of the cover with the support on the outside so that the cover is frictionally engaged therebetween.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an apparatus which is simple, inexpensive and sturdy for holding pens, pencils and the like on an item such as a book cover, an automobile sun visor and the like.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the invention holding a pencil and clip to the cover of a book;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the embodiment of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an end view as viewed at line 3—3 of FIG. 2.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENT

The following disclosure is offered for public dissemination in return for the grant of a patent. Although it is detailed to ensure adequacy and aid understanding, this is not intended to prejudice that purpose of a patent which is to cover each new inventive concept therein no matter how others may later disguise it by variations in form or additions or further improvements. The claims at the end hereof are intended as the chief aid toward this purpose, as it is these that meet the requirement of pointing out the parts, improvements, or combinations in which the inventive concepts are found.

The illustrated apparatus comprises a pair of spaced fingers **10** connected to a back **11** along one edge thereof. Between the spaced fingers is a support **12**. Support **12** is likewise connected to back **11** along the intermediate portion of the opposite edge thereof. A plurality of mated lips **13** and **14** are positioned in pairs transversely of support **12**. Along with portions of support **12**, the lips **13** and **14** form semi-cylindrical clips having a longitudinal opening **15**. A larger clip having an opening **16** is formed by mated lips **17** and **18**.

The cylindrical diametrical size (see FIG. 3) of the clip defined by lips **13** and **14** has a diameter slightly smaller than the cross-sectional diameter of an ordinary pen or pencil **20**. The opening **15** is somewhat smaller than that diameter. The sizes are such that the pencil **20** will not pass through opening **15** without some force being exerted to spread lips **13** and **14** and permit the entry of the pencil. However, once the pencil has passed through the opening **15**, the lips **13** and **14** return toward their original position, but not completely to it, so as to grip the pencil securely and hold it in the clip. The clip formed by lips **17** and **18** is for a similar object, but

one of a slightly larger diameter than that of pencil **20**. Such a larger item could be a fountain pen which has a barrel diameter approximately equal to the diameter of the curvature of the inside of lips **17** and **18**.

The entire apparatus **10–18** is a unitary object formed of polypropylene. These may be made by injection molding at a very nominal price per unit. Polypropylene is required so as to avoid cold flow, which occurs in many other plastics. If a plastic which was subject to cold flow were employed and pencil **20** was left in a clip for some period of time, the lips would take a permanent set at the slightly larger dimension to which they were forced by the pencil. Thereafter the pencil would not be gripped securely in the clip formed by the outwardly spread lips.

The apparatus is intended for use to hold a writing instrument on an item such as the cover **21** of a book **22**. This is done, as illustrated in FIG. 1, by placing the fingers **10** against the inside face of the cover **21** and the support **12** against the outside face. The operation of slipping the apparatus on the cover of a book or the like is facilitated by the fact that the support **12** is longer than the fingers **10**, thus the support **12** can be placed on the outside of the cover adjacent the edge thereof and the fingers **10** pushed downwardly until they will pass across the inside face of the cover. At that point the apparatus may be slid across (and the fingers **10** under) the cover of the book until it reaches the position illustrated in FIG. 1, at which the back **11** is against the edge of the cover of the book. The apparatus is held securely in place by friction. This is facilitated by the roughening of the gripping faces of fingers **10**, as illustrated by the cross hatching in FIG. 2. The underside of support **12** may be similarly roughened or have projecting points of the plastic, such as indicated at **24**. The frictional grip is enhanced by the angular positioning of support **12** with respect to fingers **10** when they are in the relaxed position. This is best seen in FIG. 3. As will there be apparent, the support **12** passes through the plane defined by fingers **10**. Thus, when the apparatus is affixed to a book cover, as illustrated in FIG. 1, the plastic is stressed and it wants to return to the FIG. 3 position. This provides a good gripping action on the book cover.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for attachment to an object of approximately a given thickness such as a book cover, a sun visor and the like for holding articles of approximately a given diameter such as a pen, pencil and the like, said apparatus comprising:

a back having two longitudinal edges;

a pair of fingers connected to said back at one of said edges and projecting in one general direction from the back, said fingers being spaced from each other along the length of the back, said fingers having portions lying generally in a common plane;

a support attached to said back at the other of said edges and projecting in said one general direction from the back, said support being between said spaced fingers, in the relaxed condition said support having a portion closer to said plane than said given thickness, said support having a face on the side thereof opposite said portion; and

a plurality of semi-tubular clips positioned side by side on said face, each of said clips comprising a pair of curved lips the main position of which are spaced approximately said diameter apart, said lips having distal edges which, in the relaxed condition are spaced slightly less than said diameter apart;

said back, fingers, support and clips all being polypropylene and a unitary item formed by injection molding whereby the item has suitable resiliency without cold flow and may be placed on said object by slipping said fingers to one side of the object with

said support on the opposite side and an article may be inserted into each of said clips by forcing the article against said distal edges to spread them sufficiently to permit the passage of the article.

2. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fingers and said support are planar and said support at the proximal end is at one side of said plane and at the distal end is at the opposite side of said plane.

3. An apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said support extends farther from said back than do said fingers.

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