May 25, 1937. P. H. MEYER 2,081,635

FOUR-WAY SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed July 31, 1936

Fig. 1.

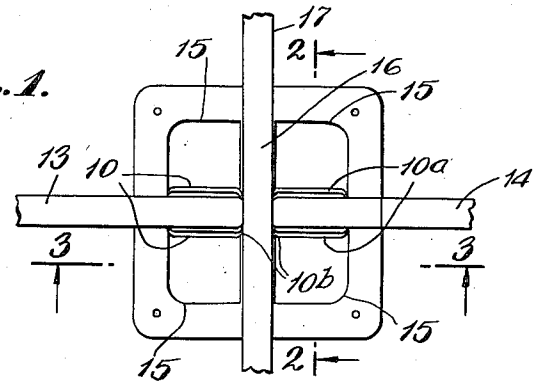


Fig. 2.

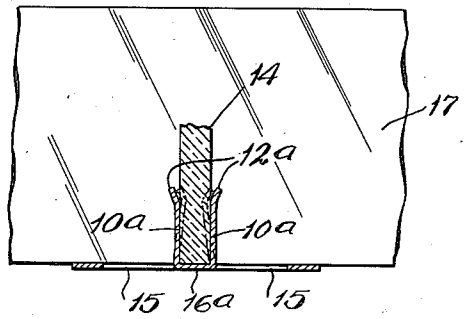


Fig. 3.

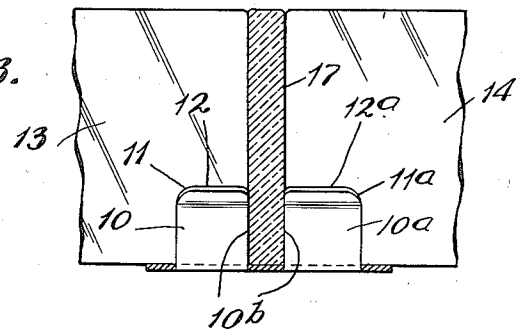
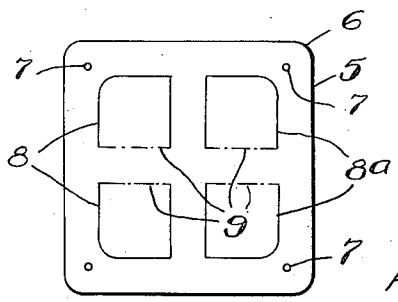


Fig. 4.



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FOUR-WAY SUPPORTING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 312—140)

This invention relates to supporting devices designed primarily for use in supporting partitions of shelving and counter displays, and the object of the invention is to provide a device of the class described, fashioned from a single rectangular sheet which is die cut and fashioned to form two pairs of spaced partition receiving and supporting clips, so arranged and spaced as to provide for the support of partition members arranged in cross relation with respect to each other or extending four-ways from the central portion of said support; a further object being to provide a device of the class described which is provided with a widespread bearing or supporting surface preferably apertured to permit its attachment to a supporting surface; a further object being to provide a device of the class described, the base plate of which consists of an outer rim or peripheral portion joined by cross webs, one of said cross webs including, as an integral part thereof, pairs of resilient clips forming U-shaped partition supporting members; and with these and other objects in view the invention consists in a device of the class and for the purpose specified which is simple and economical in construction, efficient in use and which is constructed as hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing one method of supporting partitions by one of my improved devices.

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the blank from which the device is formed.

In carrying my invention into effect, I first blank and die cut from a sheet of metal or other suitable material, a blank 5 as seen in Fig. 4 of the drawing. This blank is substantially rectangular in form and is preferably provided with rounded corners 6, the corner portions having apertures 7 to facilitate attachment of the device, when desired, to a suitable supporting surface.

The blank 5 has two pairs of similar U-shaped die cuts 8—8*a*. In bending or folding the blank along the dotted lines 9, the portion of the blank within the die cuts 8—8*a* will form upon one surface of the blank U-shaped spring clips 10—10*a*, the upper corners of which are preferably rounded as indicated at 11—11*a*, note Fig. 3, and the upper or free ends 12—12*a* of the side walls forming said clips are preferably flared outwardly, as clearly seen in Fig. 2 of the drawing, so as to facilitate the insertion of partition members such as 13—14, note Fig. 1, in said clips. It is also preferred that the upper end portions of the side walls forming the clips 10—10*a* will normally be flexed inwardly, as indicated in dotted lines of Fig. 2 of the drawing, so that in inserting the partitions, said walls will be sprung outwardly in order to firmly engage the side surfaces of the partitions.

In forming the U-shaped spring clips 10—10*a*, as above described, the base plate of the blank will have four substantially rectangular apertures 15, or in other words, the base plate will consist of an outer rim portion joined by a cross web structure 16, one part of the web structure forming the base or bottom walls 16*a* of the U-shaped clips 10—10*a*, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

In the use of the device, as seen in Fig. 1 of the drawing, a partition 17 is arranged between and bears upon adjacent edges 10*b* of the U-shaped spring clips 10—10*a*, it being understood that the distance between said adjacent edges 10*b* will be such as to receive a partition of predetermined thickness, or in other words, the width of the webs 16 between the U-shaped clips is equal or substantially equal to the distance between the side walls of the clips where they join the crosshead or web portions 16*a*. In this mounting, the adjacent ends of the partitions 13 and 14 abut the side surfaces of the partition 17, as clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawing. With this construction, a cross or four-way coupling of partitions is formed.

It will be understood, however, that the device may be used as a support for a single partition wall by arranging one continuous wall in both of the clips 10—10*a*, whereas the same may be used as a three-way coupling with a partition 17 in the position shown and with one of the partitions 13—14 in one of the U-shaped clips 10—10*a*. In the latter event, one of the clips may be left in unextended position if desired.

One of the distinctive features of my improved device lies in the fact that a long bearing surface is provided for the partition on the device as well as a widespread support of the device on a counter, shelf or other surface which provides a more rigid and secure mounting of the partitions.

It will be understood that the device is designed for use in the support of glass and similar partition strips commonly employed in the sub-division of a shelf or counter to form display sections or compartments in which various kinds and classes of merchandise may be displayed.

In addition to the three-way arrangement or mounting of the partitions in connection with the supporting device as above described, a partition wall such as **16** may be arranged, for example, along the side edge of the base with the partition abutting the outer edges of the walls **10**, and another partition such as **13**, **14** may be arranged in both of the clips or between the walls **10**, **10***a* with the end of the latter partition abutting the side surface of the first named partition between the walls **10**. This type of mounting is especially adaptable to counters where the partition **16**, mounted as above described, forms the front upstanding wall of the counter or a corresponding rear wall, and the partition **13**—**14** would constitute one of the partitions arranged transversely of the counter or forwardly and backwardly.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A device for supporting two or more partition walls disposed in angular relation with respect to each other, said device comprising a rectangular flat base plate adapted to be secured to a supporting surface, a pair of U-shaped clips projecting upwardly from one surface of said base plate and adjacent edges of the pair of clips being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the distance between the side walls of said clips where they join the base plate.

2. A device for supporting two or more partition walls disposed in angular relation with respect to each other, said device comprising a rectangular flat base plate adapted to be secured to a supporting surface, a pair of U-shaped clips projecting upwardly from one surface of said base plate and adjacent edges of the pair of clips being spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the distance betwen the side walls of said clips where they join the base plate, and the upper ends of the side walls of said clips being flared outwardly.

3. A supporting device of the class described comprising a rectangular flat base adapted to be secured to a supporting surface, said base consisting of a continuous peripheral edge portion and a central cross web portion integral with said edge portion and forming four substantially rectangular apertures in said base and opposite side edges of one of the cross webs including integral upwardly extending walls forming in conjunction with said web two U-shaped clips arranged in common alinement on the base and spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the width of the other web of the cross web structure.

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