Nov. 11, 1969 R. V. HART 3,477,587

GUN RACK

Filed Aug. 30, 1967

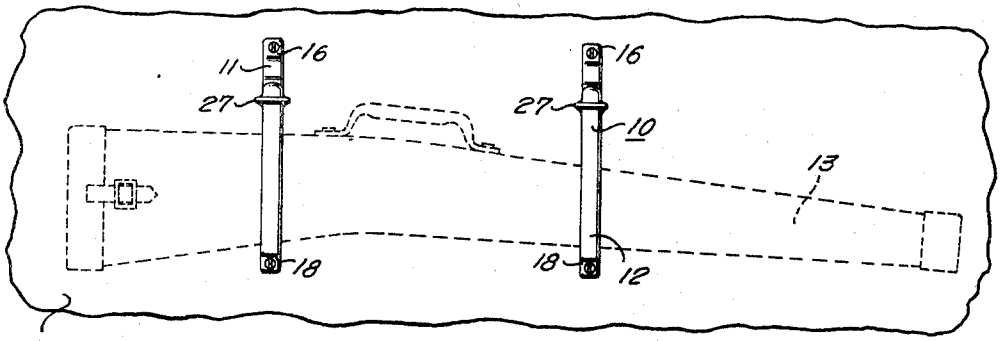


FIG. 1

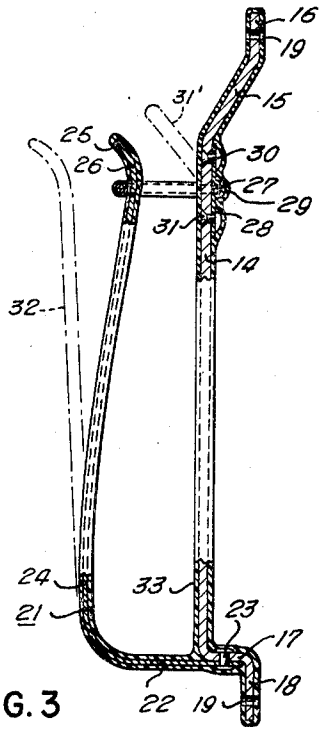


FIG. 3

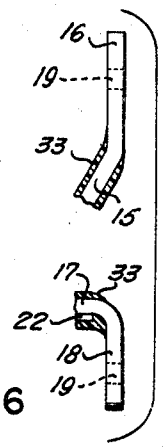


FIG. 6

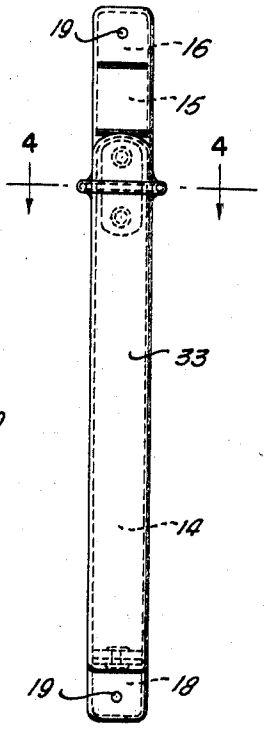


FIG. 2

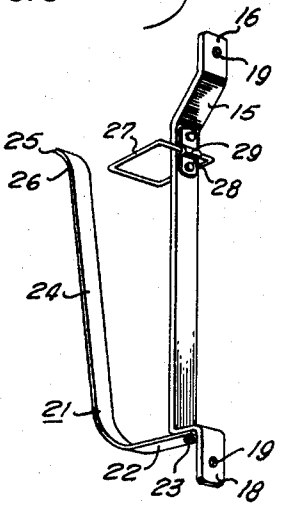


FIG. 5

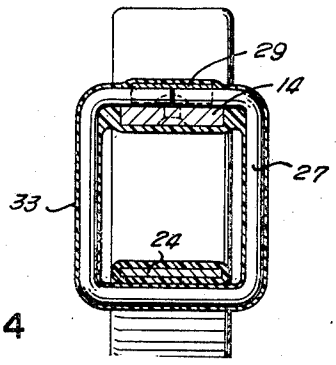


FIG. 4

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GUN RACK

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U.S. Cl. 211—64 5 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A gun rack into which a gun, such as a rifle or shotgun, may be latched so as to hold the gun in a positive fashion regardless of the position of the rack, which has a movable latch or link for holding the gun, and which is almost entirely, or entirely, including the movable latch or link, encased in at least a single homogeneous layer of a soft elastomer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The invention is directed to a gun rack which will hold a gun positively without chance of dislodgment, and which is particularly useful for mounting on the underside of motor vehicle trunk lids and in other locations subject to movement of a swinging nature. The rack includes moving parts and is entirely, or almost entirely, including the moving parts, encased in at least a single homogeneous layer of a soft elastomer.

Description of the prior art

Previously known gun racks were of the bracket or clip type, even when intended for use in moving vehicles, and failed to hold a gun positively against accidental dislodgement. Thus, the previously known racks when used, for instance in a "Jeep" type vehicle in rough terrain, did not necessarily always hold the gun in place. Further, the earlier type racks would not always perform satisfactorily when used on the underside of a trunk lid of a vehicle where the rack is substantially inverted when the lid is closed. The gun rack of the present invention overcomes all of these problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention comprises a gun rack formed of a bracket adapted to be mounted on movable portions of a motor vehicle carrying a spaced, parallel flexible arm or bar and a pivotally mounted latch or link adapted to swing away from the arm so that a gun may be placed between the bracket and the arm, and to be swung back over the arm to latch the gun in the rack, the entire rack and latch or link, with the possible exception of the extremities of the bracket, being entirely encased in at least a single homogeneous layer of a soft elastomer. Normally, the brackets are used in pairs but could be used singly to hold a handgun.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a front, elevational view of a pair of the gun racks constructed in accordance with this invention, showing in dotted lines a gun case mounted therein,

FIG. 2 is a side, elevational view, partly in section, of the gun rack, the open position of the parts of the rack being shown in dotted lines,

FIG. 3 is an enlarged, front, elevational view of the gun rack,

FIG. 4 is a further-enlarged, horizontal, cross-sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 2,

FIG. 5 is a rear, perspective view of the gun rack in its open position with the elastomer coating deleted, and

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary, vertical view, partly in elevation and partly in section, showing a modification of the invention in which the extremities of the upper and lower offset portions of the bracket are not encased in the elastomer.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described, together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein examples of the invention are shown.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the drawing, the numeral **10** designates generally a gun rack constructed in accordance with this invention. Normally, the racks are used in pairs, as shown at **11** and **12** in FIG. 1, and are mounted in spaced, parallel relationship to hold an elongate gun such as a rifle or shotgun in or out of a conventional guncase **13**. A single rack could be used, however, to hold a handgun, dependent on the dimensions of the rack, but such a use would be unusual and possibly not advisable except under particular circumstances.

The gun rack includes a rigid, elongate bracket **14** formed of metal or some other suitable strong, rigid material. At its upper end the bracket is offset at an angle rearwardly, as shown at **15**, and then vertically upwardly, parallel to the main body of the bracket, to form an upper extremity **16** of the bracket. At its lower end the bracket is also offset rearwardly at right angles to form a short horizontal leg **17** and then bent downwardly at right angles to form a depending lower extremity **18** of the bracket vertically alined with the upper extremity **16**. Both the extremities **16** and **18** have transverse openings **19** for receiving suitable fasteners, such as screws or bolts, for attaching the bracket to any desired surface **20** with the main portion of the bracket parallel to but spaced from such surface. Of course, the upper and lower ends of the bracket need not be offset to the same degree and the bracket, when mounted, need not be parallel to the surface **20**.

An L-shaped arm **21** formed of a flexible, springlike material such as steel or some other suitable material has its shorter, horizontal leg **22** extending beneath the leg **17** of the bracket and suitable secured thereto as by the rivet **23**, the longer leg **24** of the arm **21** curving upwardly and vertically from the shorter leg **22** in substantial parallelism to the bracket **14**. At its upper extremity **25** the leg **24** is curved arcuately outwardly from the bracket to form a link receiving concavity **26**.

A substantially rectangular link **27**, wider than the arm **21**, is pivotally mounted or connected to the rearward face of the bracket **14** immediately beneath the upper angular offset **15** by a clip **28** having U-shaped central section **29** which receives the link **27** and is secured to the rearward face of the bracket by any suitable means such as the rivets **30**, the forward portions **31** of which are beveled as to be flush with the surface of the bracket. As shown in FIG. 3, when the link **27** is swiveled upwardly, as shown in dotted lines at **31**, to release the arm **21**, the latter is inclined slightly forwardly from the bracket as shown in dotted lines at **32**. Thus, a gun is readily received between the arm **21** and the bracket **14**. After the gun has been positioned, the arm **21** is manually pressed rearwardly toward the bracket **14**, the flexibility of the arm **21** permitting it to conform to the shape and size of the gun. The link **27** is then swung downwardly over the upper end of the arm **21** to be received in the concavity **26** and thereby lock the gun in the rack. Due to the resiliency of the arm **21**, the concavity **26** tends to move forwardly

from the bracket **14** and thus holds the link securely in the concavity as shown in solid lines in FIG. 3.

After the complete rack has been assembled, it is suitably coated or encased in any suitable manner, as by spraying or dipping, in a suitable soft elastomer such as rubber, synthetic rubber, polyvinyl chloride, or any of the other well-known synthetic resins which are moderately soft and flexible yet capable of forming a relatively thick coating over the entire gun rack. Desirably the gun rack is so coated in its open position, as shown in FIG. 5 so as to form the relatively thick homogeneous layer **33** which encases the entire rack, including the clip **28** and link **27**. The resiliency and flexibility of the coating **33** will, however, permit the movement of the arm **21** and the vertical swinging of the link **27**.

In the alternative, the entire gun rack with the exception of the upper and lower extremities **16** and **18** may be so coated or encased, as shown in FIG. 6.

The coating **33** may be applied in a single layer or may be built up in several layers being of such a nature as to protect the surfaces of the gun mounted in the rack against scratching or marring and adequately flexible and resilient to permit the necessary movement of the several parts of the rack. Thus, although the entire rack, or almost the entire rack, is encased in at least a single homogeneous layer, the various parts thereof are permitted to move as needed without injury to or rupture of the encasing elastomer.

The link **27** is normally horizontal, as shown in FIG. 5 so that the encasing coating **33** is normally under very little, or no, stress or strain.

This novel gun rack permits it to be mounted in any desired location and is satisfactory for mounting in vehicles subjected to much bouncing or tilting, as, for instance, a vehicle used for transversing rough and hilly terrain, and is also extremely useful for mounting on moving parts of a motor vehicle such as a door or other portion. The rack is particularly useful for mounting on the underside of a trunk lid of a vehicle since the lid may be swung upwardly, the guns received and latched in their sets of racks after which the trunk lid may be closed, which substantially inverts the rack, and yet the gun will be held securely in position by the engagement by the arm **21** and the link **27**. The gun is readily removed at any time by pressing the arm **21** inwardly and swinging the link **27** upwardly so that the rack is opened and the gun removed.

The gun cannot become dislodged from the rack regardless of the orientation or the position the rack may assume since the gun is firmly held against movement in any and all directions.

The foregoing description of the invention is explanatory thereof and various changes in the size, shape and materials, as well as in the details of the illustrated construction may be made, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A gun rack especially adapted for mounting on movable portions of a motor vehicle such as on the underside of a trunk lid including

an elongate bracket rearwardly offset at its upper and lower ends for securing to a portion of a motor vehicle body,

the offset lower end of the bracket including a short leg extending transversely between and connecting said offset lower end to said bracket,

an L-shaped flexible arm having its shorter leg secured to the short transverse leg of the offset lower end of the bracket and projecting forwardly therefrom and its longer leg extending upwardly in spaced substantial parallelism to said bracket,

the upper extremity of the longer leg being deformed outwardly from the bracket,

and a link wider than the arm pivotally connected to the bracket below the offset upper end of said bracket,

the link being swingable upwardly to admit a gun between the bracket and the arm and swingable downwardly over the upper end of the arm to confine the gun between said bracket and the arm regardless of the orientation of the rack,

the entire rack, including the link but not necessarily including the extremities of the offset portions of the bracket, being encased in at least a single homogeneous layer of a soft elastomer.

2. A gun rack as set forth in claim **1** wherein the entire rack is enclosed in the elastomer.

3. A gun rack as set forth in claim **1** wherein the link is pivotally secured to the rearward side of the bracket by a U-shaped clip carried by the bracket, the clip being encased in the elastomer.

4. A gun rack as set forth in claim **1** wherein the upper extremity of the longer leg of the arm is curved arcuately outwardly from the bracket and adapted to be engaged by the clip.

5. A gun rack as set forth in claim **1** wherein the longer leg of the arm terminates at about the lower end of the offset upper end of the bracket.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

248—201