

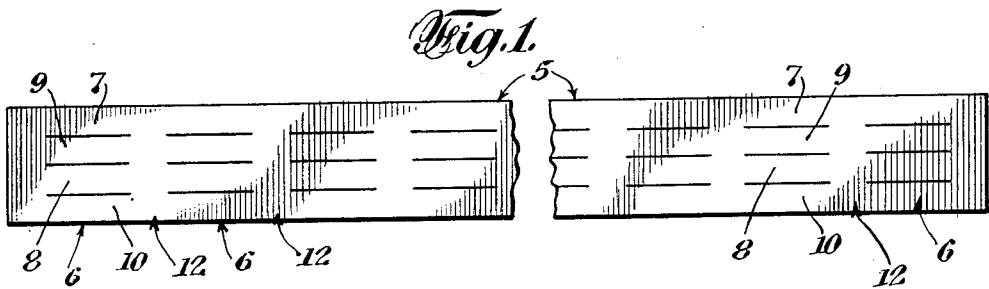
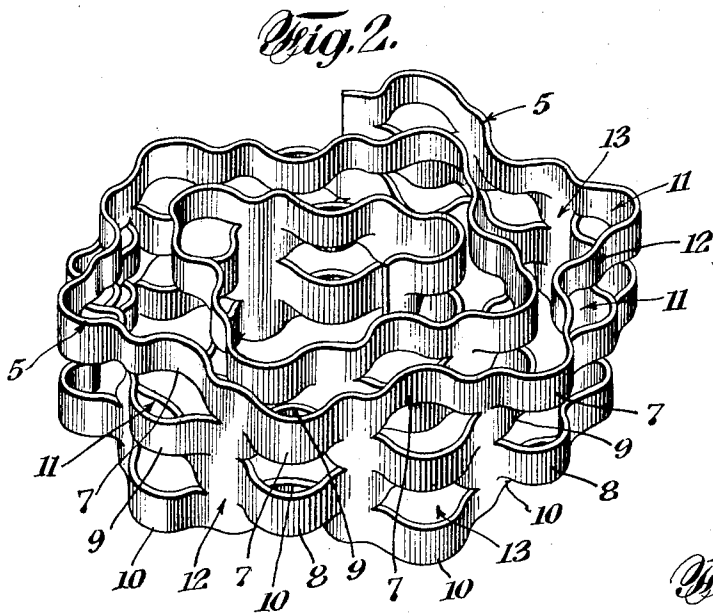
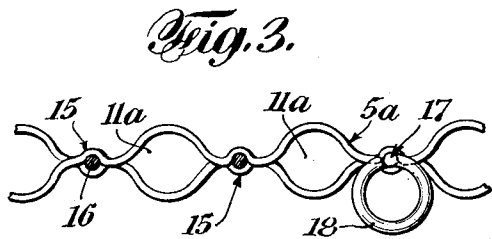
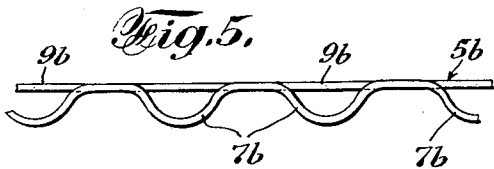
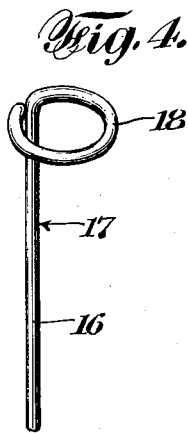
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FLOWER HOLDER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FLOWER HOLDER

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6 Claims. (Cl. 47-41)

My invention relates to improvements in flower supports or holders, and is especially designed to furnish means by which flowers, ferns and other ornamental plants can be artistically arranged and supported in such arranged position, especially in low vases, trays, or the like receptacles, partly filled with water, or, if preferred, without any other receptacle than the holders composing my invention.

One of the objects of my invention is the production of a flower support or holder composed of spaced individual stem holder supports or pockets, preferably made of a continuous strip of pliable sheet metal, and capable of supporting flowers or other ornamental plants therein either singly or in small bunches by means of their stems in a variety of artistic arrangements, the construction being such that the individual pockets are preferably of closed form so that the strip comprising the holder may be bent into any desired form without opening or closing the individual pockets into which the strip is formed.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the following description taken in connection with the drawing, in which

Fig. 1 shows a strip of metal slitted at spaced points to provide short parallel strip sections which may be bent out of the plane of the strip;

Fig. 2 shows such strip sections bent out of the plane of the strip to provide pockets and the strip itself bent into one suitable form;

Fig. 3 shows a modification provided with receptacles for auxiliary flower holders;

Fig. 4 shows one type of auxiliary flower holder which may be used with the modification shown in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 shows a modified form of holder.

In carrying out my invention I preferably employ a strip of flexible sheet metal, such as lead, to facilitate forming the final product in which the material itself acts to retain the shape given to it. It is to be understood, however, that other material may be used in so far as certain features of the invention are concerned.

In Fig. 1 is disclosed a strip of sheet metal, such as lead, which is shown as being of the same width throughout but which within the scope of my invention may be made wider at certain sections than others, depending upon the character of support desired. In producing this flower holder I provide the strip at spaced sections with slits defining short strip sections 7, 8, 9 and 10. It is obvious, of course, that the number of strip sections at each section of the strip may be decreased or increased from that of the number

shown, and that strips for composite use may be provided with different numbers of strip sections, depending upon the character of support desired. It is also obvious, of course, that the series of strip sections considered with respect to the length of the strip may be spaced uniformly lengthwise of the strip or at non-uniform distances and may be of different lengths, depending upon the type of holder to be produced and the desired spacing between adjacent pockets and the relative sizes of the various pockets in each strip.

After the band has been slitted and preferably while it is still in straight form, the strip sections 7 and 8 may be bent, as shown in Fig. 2, away from the center plane of the strip and substantially in semi-cylindrical form in the same direction from the plane of the strip, while the strip sections 9 and 10 may be bent in like fashion but in the opposite direction from the center of the strip. These strip sections, while preferably bent into cylindrical form, may be given any desired shape to form spaced pockets 11 as disclosed in Fig. 2, in which the strip has been given a spiral form. These spaced pockets are secured together by the non-slitted sections 12 of the strip, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. While the various adjacent corresponding strip sections have been shown as bent alternately in opposite directions from the plane of the strip it is obvious, of course, that all of the corresponding strip sections 7 and the corresponding strip sections 8 could be bent in the same direction from the center of the strip, while the strip sections 9 and 10 could all be bent in the opposite direction.

In Fig. 2 I have shown the strip arranged in a spiral form for the purpose of supporting flowers in substantially circular form. It is obvious, of course, that the strip can be bent into any form desired, such as rectangular, triangular, etc., or may be curved or left straight. When the strip is bent into spiral form, for example as shown in Fig. 2, an additional series of pockets 13 is formed between the strip sections of adjacent convolutions of the spiral, in which also flowers may be supported. The strip is preferably made of a relatively thick sheet of lead in order that it may retain the form given it.

It may also be desirable in an arrangement of the character shown in Fig. 2 to have the central portion of the holder higher than the outer portion, and this may be accomplished readily by raising or pulling up the inner convolution so that the holder will assume a substantially conical shape. The holder will retain this shape if the strip is made of relatively thick sheet material.

If a thin strip is used, any suitable means may be used as a support for the inner end of the strip or the outwardly bent strip sections of the inner convolutions may rest on the inwardly bent strip sections of the outer convolutions.

In Fig. 3, I have shown an edge view of a strip 5a which is provided with receptacles 15 located between adjacent pockets 11a of the strip. These receptacles and pockets may be made by slitting the strip and bending the alternate strip sections in opposite directions from the central plane of the strip in the same way in which the pockets 11 are formed. These receptacles are preferably cylindrical in form though they may take any shape preferably each conforming with the shank 16 of an auxiliary stem support 17 which, as shown in Fig. 4, may be made up of a single piece of wire provided with the shank 16 and a loop 18, as shown. The flowers supported in the loop 18 may have their stems, if the holder is given the form shown in Fig. 2, extend into the pockets 13 shown in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 5, I have shown a strip 5b in which certain of the strip sections, such as 9b, are left straight while others, such as 7b, are bent out of the plane of the strip producing a holder in which the pockets are located laterally of the plane of the strip. All of the strip sections 7b may be bent in the same direction or alternate strip sections 7b may be bent in opposite directions.

In quantity production, the slitting and bending operations may be performed simultaneously by suitable dies of the desired lengths and widths and contours. These dies draw the strip sections so that the strip in its final form is of the same length as that of the original blank strip. This operation makes possible the modified holder shown in Fig. 5 in which certain of the strip sections are left straight.

It is obvious that the pockets in any holder may be made of different heights, sizes and shapes, that the blank strip may be of any desired configuration, depending on the final shape desired, and that the strips may extend at any desired angle to the horizontal. The solid or unslitted portions of the strip, when made of lead or the like, may be readily bent to cause adjacent pockets to assume any desired relation to each other and the pockets may be pinched smaller or individually shaped to suit circumstances. The holder produced in accordance with my invention may readily be shaped into any suitable form.

While the invention for purposes of disclosure

has been described with reference to preferred forms and preferred methods of making the same, and also as to preferred material, it is to be understood that it is the intention to cover all changes, modifications, and embodiments which come within the principles of this invention.

What I claim is:

1. A flower holder comprising a spiral strip provided with integral opposed substantially arcuate strip sections on opposite sides of the plane of said strip defining pockets, the adjacent arcuate strip sections of adjacent convolutions of the spiral strip also defining pockets.

2. A flower holder comprising a strip of sheet material slitted at spaced points throughout its length defining narrow strip sections integral with said strip, certain of said strip sections being bent laterally away from the plane of the strip to provide pockets.

3. A flower holder comprising a strip of sheet material slitted at spaced points throughout its length to define narrow strip sections integral with said strip, the alternate strip sections at each point being bent in opposite directions from the plane of the strip and corresponding strip sections at adjacent points being bent in opposite directions from the plane of said strip.

4. A flower holder comprising a strip of sheet material slitted at spaced points throughout its length to define narrow strip sections integral with said strip, certain of said strip sections being bent away from the main plane of the strip to provide pockets for receiving flowers and other of said strip sections being bent away from the strip to provide receptacles to receive auxiliary stem supports.

5. A flower holder comprising a strip of sheet material provided at spaced points with relatively long slits defining narrow strip sections integral with said strip and also slitted at intermediate points defining short strip sections integral with said strip, certain of said long strip sections being bent away from the plane of the strip to define relatively large pockets to receive flowers, and certain of said short strip sections being bent away from the plane of said strip to define receptacles for auxiliary stem supports.

6. A flower holder comprising a series of spaced pockets made of relatively flexible non-resilient material readily bendable into any desired suitable form.

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