Feb. 27, 1962 T. G. FAULKNER 3,022,592

CHANGEABLE EXHIBITERS

Filed Nov. 21, 1958

Fig. 1

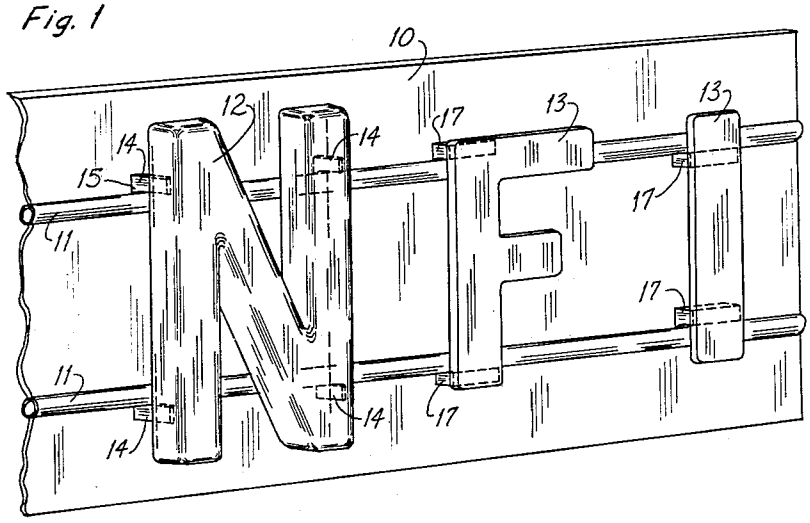


Fig. 2

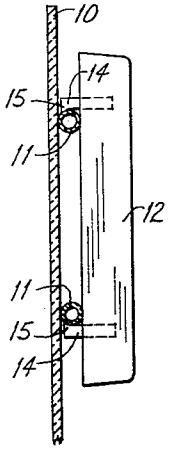


Fig. 3

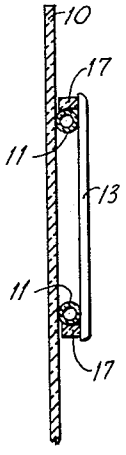


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

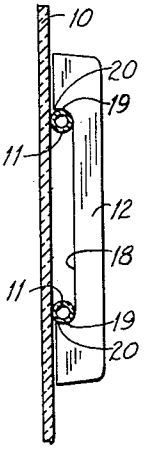


Fig. 6

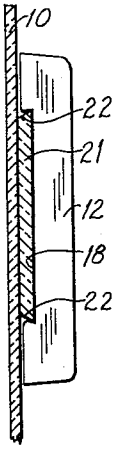


Fig. 7

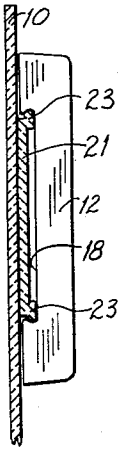


Fig. 8

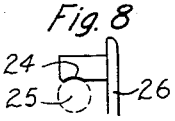


Fig. 9

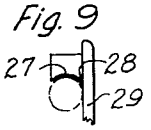


Fig. 10

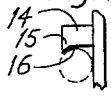
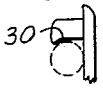


Fig. 11



Thomas G. Faulkner
INVENTOR.

BY A. T. Sperry
ATTORNEY

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CHANGEABLE EXHIBITERS

Thomas G. Faulkner, 4504 E. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa, Fla.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—140)

The invention relates to changeable exhibiters and is particularly concerned with exhibiting structures and a readily releasable means for firmly securing characters thereto. The present application is a continuation in part of my earlier filed application entitled "Changeable Exhibiters," filed August 11, 1958, Serial Number 754,206, and is a companion application to my co-pending application entitled "Display Characters," filed September 9, 1958, Serial Number 759,996.

In the above identified parent application, Serial Number 754,206, I have disclosed a changeable sign character adapted for removable, but secure, attachment to spaced parallel supporting rods. In one embodiment of the invention as therein presented, the releasable securing means was constituted by furcated plastic elements defining a rod receiving opening and restricted throat leading thereto, through which the rod passed. The yieldable furcations defining the throat being adapted to engage the rod to retain the character in position. In a modified embodiment of the invention disclosed in FIGURE 17, yieldable fingers are so disposed in parallel spaced relation as to individually engage oppositely directed spaced surfaces of the supporting means. The present invention is a further development of the inventive concept of the last mentioned form of character retention.

The present embodiment of the generic inventive concept may be broadly defined as providing a pair of oppositely directed spaced support engaging surfaces facing inwardly or outwardly in opposed relation to individually and resiliently engaged opposed surfaces. More specifically, this form of the invention provides yieldable and preferably plastic securing lugs arranged as opposite pairs, each pair defining inwardly or outwardly directed opposed surfaces adapted to engage the outer or inner surfaces, respectively, of parallel character supporting surfaces. Thus, the outwardly facing surfaces may yieldably engage the inner surfaces of parallel securing rods to retain the character in position or conversely, inwardly facing surfaces may yieldably engage outwardly facing surfaces of such parallel securing rods. In one embodiment of the invention, the securing elements are integrally secured members, engaged as by plastic welding, to a plastic character body and supported on parallel rods. It will be noted, however, that in another embodiment of the invention, the inwardly facing yieldable surfaces may be constituted by opposed inwardly directed terminal wall of a recess formed in the edge of a hollow character. It is also to be noted that the support may be in the form of a flat strip or opposed flange as an alternate to the rods.

As a continuation in part of the parent application above referred to and as a companion application to my second co-pending application above referred to, this application partakes of the objects, features and advantages therein set forth and hereby incorporates such applications, by reference, in the present disclosure. Therefore, it is therewith among the objects of the present invention to provide a novel improved signboard and character assembly for releasably securing characters to changeable exhibiter supports. Further, it is an object of the present invention to provide a simple, effective and efficient means for releasably retaining a character on or between parallel supporting surfaces. A feature of the invention is that of providing for a releasable securement of such characters by a simple means, avoiding the necessity of

furcated structures, the partitions of which saddle a single supporting bar. As distinct from such furcations, the present invention utilizes resilient pressure created between spaced parallel support surfaces and opposed character surfaces for the retention of a character.

Numerous other objects, features and advantages of the present invention may be apparent from a consideration of the following specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which,

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a signboard character assembly formed in acordance with the present invention.

FIGURES 2 to 7 inclusive are end elevations of various forms of the present invention, and

FIGURES 8, 9, 10 and 11 are detailed views of various modifications of the support engaging elements for the characters.

Throughout FIGURES 1 to 7, the signboard itself is indicated by the numeral **10** and may be of any conventional size, shape and style. As here shown the board is an elongate, generally flat member, preferably formed of plastic material. If desired, where illumination is to be provided from the rear of the signboard, the material of the board will be transparent or translucent and of such color as may be desired. In FIGURES 1 to 5 of the drawing, the support elements are disclosed as rods **11**, which may be a circular, hollow cross-section as illustrated and formed of plastic material to facilitate mounting on the board **10** by plastic welding. It will, of course, be understood that in accordance wtih the disclosure of my parent application, the rods **11** may be other than of circular cross-section here shown. They may be of other material than plastic and the hollow characteristic depicted has no patentable significance. Throughout the drawings, the numeral **12** indicates hollow formed letters having side edges to be disposed in planes normal to the plane of the board when the letters are supported by the rods. The means of securement of the present invention is equally applicable to flat letters which are indicated in the drawings by the numeral **13**.

For securing the hollow letter **12** of FIGURES 1 and 2, the edges of the hollow letter are provided with extending securing clips **14**, preferably joined to the letter as an integral part thereof by plastic welding, the letter and the clip being formed of plastic material in a preferred form of the invention. As illustrated, the clips **14** are arranged in pairs at the opposite edges of the letter with their inner ends preferably secured to the inner face of the edges as by plastic welding and extend outwardly therefrom in a juxtaposed parallel plane with the letter edge. The vertical spacing between the clips **14** of each letter is determined by the spacing of the rods **11**. Where the clips are arranged wtih their engaging surfaces facing inwardly in opposition to each other as shown in FIGURE 2, the longitudinal axes of the clips are spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the spacing between the longitudinal axes of the rods. Each clip **14** is provided with an inwardly directed terminal end **15** forming an inclined rod engaging surface **16** as shown in FIGURE 10. The arrangement and spacing of the clips is such that upon inward pressure of the letter in the direction of the face surface of the board **10**, the clip ends **15** will yield outwardly to pass over the outer surface of the rods. The material of the clip is such as to permit such passage, and while plastic material is ideally suited for the purpose, it will be understood that the invention is in no way limited to such material and equivalent material having the desired elasticity may be employed. It is, of course, understood that after the letter has been pressed in the direction of the face of the board and surfaces **16** pass the maximum vertical thickness of the rods **11**, the clip ends will spring inwardly to engage the outer surface of the

rods inwardly of their maximum vertical thickness to releasably retain the character in position.

In that form of the invention shown by the letter "F" in FIGURE 1 and depicted in FIGURE 3, the clips may be applied to the inner face of flat letters, the same general type of clip being here illustrated and identified by the numeral **17**. As indicated by the letter "I" of FIGURE 1 and shown in FIGURE 4, the clips may be spaced a distance apart slightly less than the distance between the rods so that the clips will engage the inner faces of the rods as distinct from their outer engagement shown in FIGURES 2 and 3. It will, of course, be understood that with the clips so arranged for engagement with the inner surfaces of the rods, the position of the clips is reversed so their engaging surfaces **16** will face outwardly, the clips thus being disposed in spaced back to back opposed relation. In this form of the invention, the application of the letter and the resilient clamping action of the clips is in the manner of the clip arrangement of FIGURES 2 and 3, but in reverse pressure operation, the pressure of the clips being outwardly against the rods in this form of the invention as opposed to the inward pressure exerted by the clips of FIGURES 2 and 3.

As indicated in FIGURES 5, 6, and 7, hollow letters having side edges adapted to be disposed in a plane normal to the face of the signboard, may form the securing clips by elongate recesses **18** with the terminal ends **19** thereof turned inwardly as at **20** to form inwardly projecting support engaging surfaces. In this instance, the body of the letter is formed of such material as will readily yield under inward pressure of the letter toward the signboard to resiliently deform. In that form of the invention illustrated in FIGURES 6 and 7, it will be noted that in place of the spaced rods **11**, a solid member in the form of a flat plate **21** with inwardly inclined beveled edges **22** of FIGURE 6, is shown, or with outwardly directed flanges **23** as in FIGURE 7. In either instance, the parallel side edges of the flat plate **21**, constitutes the equivalent of the spaced rods **11**. While FIGURES 6 and 7 depict such flat plates as supporting hollow type letters cut away in the manner described with respect to FIGURE 5 it will, of course, be understood that the same flat plate may be utilized for the support of letters formed with inwardly directed clips in the manner of FIGURE 3.

It will be further noted that the contour of the rod or plate engaging surfaces of the clips may be variously formed. Thus, as in FIGURE 8, the rod or plate engaging surface **24** is of circular form so that the clip may engage a rod, such as indicated at **25**, at a point substantially spaced from the body of letter indicated at **26**. However, a similar curvature may be employed as indicated in FIGURE 9, where the surface **27** is circular but

blends into the plane of the inner face **28** of the letter body **29**. While FIGURE 10 shows a flat, inclined rod engaging surface as hereinbefore described, FIGURE 11 indicates a curved surface **30** in lieu of the flat angular plane **16** of FIGURE 10.

In the practice of the invention, numerous changes, modifications and full use of equivalents may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as outlined in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A changeable exhibiter comprising a supporting plate adapted to be positioned upright in a vertical plane, a pair of substantially round rods secured to one face of the plate in vertically spaced horizontal parallel relation, a display character comprising a hollow plastic body having side walls providing substantially vertically extending free edge portions vertically separated by substantially the spacing between said rods, and means for detachably mounting said character on said supporting plate comprising a pair of clips mounted on each side of said character and each clip comprising a relatively thin flat body of resilient plastic disposed in a vertical plane normal to the plane of the supporting plate and having a forward portion integrally secured to one of said side portions and a rear portion rearwardly projecting therefrom and formed with a curved edge, said curved edges of the two clips on each side of the character being relatively opposed whereby said two clips are engageable with opposite surfaces of the respective rods and are adapted to be resiliently snapped onto and off of said rods.

2. A changeable exhibiter as claimed in claim 1 in which the lower edges of the upper clips and the upper edges of the lower clips on the sides of the character are curved and said clips engage respectively the upper side of the upper rod and the lower side of the lower rod.

3. A changeable exhibiter as claimed in claim 1 in which the upper edges of the upper clips and the lower edges of the lower clips on the sides of the character are curved and said clips engage respectively the lower side of the upper rod and the upper side of the lower rod.

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