Dec. 9, 1947. T. W. KERR 2,432,241

SUPPORTING BRACKET

Filed June 18, 1946

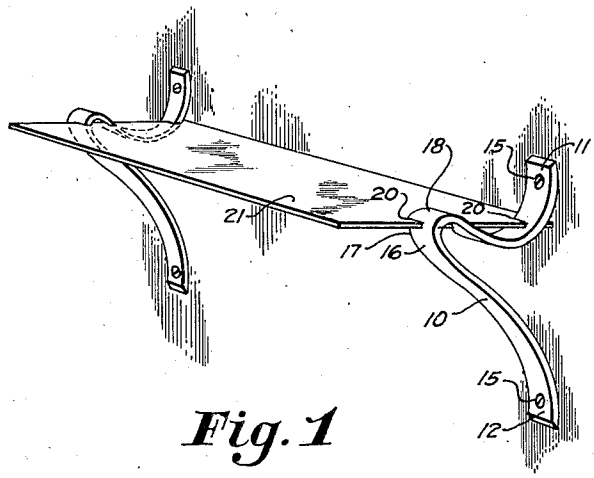
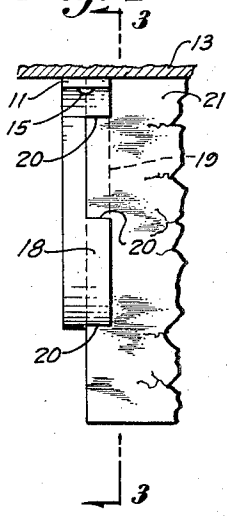


Fig. 1

Fig. 2



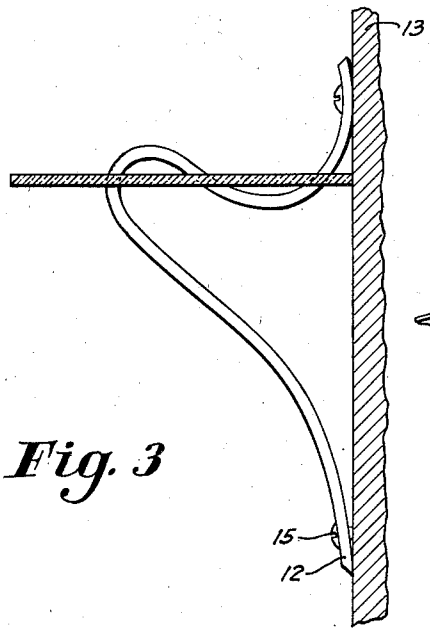


Fig. 3

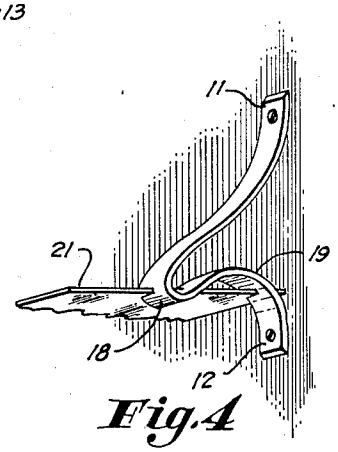


Fig. 4

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SUPPORTING BRACKET

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3 Claims. (Cl. 248—248)

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My invention relates to brackets and more particularly to brackets intended to support a flat object such as a shelf engaged thereby, and has as a principal object the provision of a bracket of simple and inexpensive construction so formed as to be able to securely hold a shelf or like object without the use of clamps, retaining flanges or other added holding means.

A further object of my invention is to provide a bracket in which a simple strip of suitable material is so formed as to constitute a truss for the support of a shelf and coincidentally to limit end motion of the shelf and to provide end guards for articles thereon.

Another object is to provide a bracket wherein utility and pleasing appearance are interrelated and a slight flexing of graceful curves produces a clamping action upon the object supported. Still another object is to provide a bracket which may be reversed without sacrifice of ornamental or functional characteristics.

How the above, as well as other objects and advantages of my invention, are attained will be readily understood by reference to the following description and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrative of the manner in which my invention may be used to support a shelf;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the bracket shown at the left in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an elevation as viewed on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, a wall and a supported shelf being shown in section; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to Fig. 1, illustrating a reversed position of the bracket.

With reference to the details of the drawings, 10 indicates a strip of relatively rigid material having end portions 11 and 12 adapted to engage a wall or other surface 13 and having holes 14 by which the strip may be attached to such surface by attaching devices 15. The central portion 16 of the strip 10 is bent outwardly from the surface 13 at the end portion 12, and the outward apex 17 of the portion 16 is inclined toward the end portion 11, so that the portion of the strip 10 from adjacent the apex 17 to the end portion 11 intersects a straight line at three points, of which one is preferably at the apex 17 or closely adjacent thereto, and is divided into intercepts 18 and 19. The line so intersected is preferably normal to the surface 13 but may be at a slight inclination thereto if desired for reasons presently to be explained.

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At the three stated points of intersection, the strip 10 is provided with marginal recesses or slots 20, formed therein so as to have their margins substantially parallel with the intersected line, and thereby adapted jointly to receive the edge of the shelf or like flat object 21, which may be supported, as illustrated, by two such strips having their slots 20 in their opposed margins.

The strip 10 may be made of metal or of ornamental plastic such as "Lucite," and is preferably of sufficient flexibility to allow a slight springiness in the central portion 16. If the shelf 21 is so thin as not to be tightly held by the slots 20, the end portions 11 and 12 may be sprung either towards each other or away from each other and fastened in such sprung position. As the distortion from normal shape so produced will be distributed along the central portion 16 it will cause distortion of the slots 20 from their normal alignment on the line of intersection, now defined and illustrated by the edge of the shelf 21, and from their parallelism thereto, causing them to clamp tightly upon the shelf. When the strip 10 is so clamped upon the shelf 21, either normally or by distortion, the intercepts 18 and 19 form with the shelf a rigid truss supported by the end portions 11 and 12 and supporting the shelf firmly at three points.

As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4 the strip 10 is reversible relative to the shelf 21, the two strips which jointly support the shelf being of course interchanged in such reversal. It will be seen that the truss formed by the intercepts 18 and 19 exists in either of these reversed positions, and that the intercept 18 extends above the shelf in one position, forming an end guard for articles upon the shelf, while the intercept 19 and end portion 12 act as end guards in the other position. The inner margins of slots 20 further act to prevent end-wise movement of the shelf 21 without added fastenings for that purpose.

Having now described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention fully capable of accomplishing the objects thereof, I wish it understood that changes may be made in the structure and arrangement herein shown and described for illustrative purposes without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. As a supporting bracket, a strip of relatively rigid material having end portions parallel and in one plane, and a central portion having three recesses in one lateral margin, said strip being of such conformation that said recesses lie on a line

substantially normal to said plane, the lateral margins of said recesses being substantially parallel to said line and adapted thereby to receive jointly the margin of a thin flat object.

2. As a supporting bracket, a strip of relatively rigid material having end portions parallel and in one plane, and having opening means receptive to attaching devices, and a central portion having three recesses in one lateral margin, said strip being of such conformation that said recesses lie on a line substantially normal to said plane, the lateral margins of said recesses being substantially parallel to said line and adapted thereby to receive jointly the margin of a shelf, said strip being sufficiently flexible to permit distortion of said central portion to move said recesses from said line into bearing position upon a shelf thinner than the width of said recesses.

3. As a supporting bracket, a strip of relatively rigid material having end portions adapted to engage a supporting surface and a central portion intersecting at three points a line normal to said surface, said central portion having slots at said three points adapted to receive jointly the margin of a thin flat object.

THEODORE W. KERR.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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