W. E. McLAREN.

SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 23, 1915.

1,246,629. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

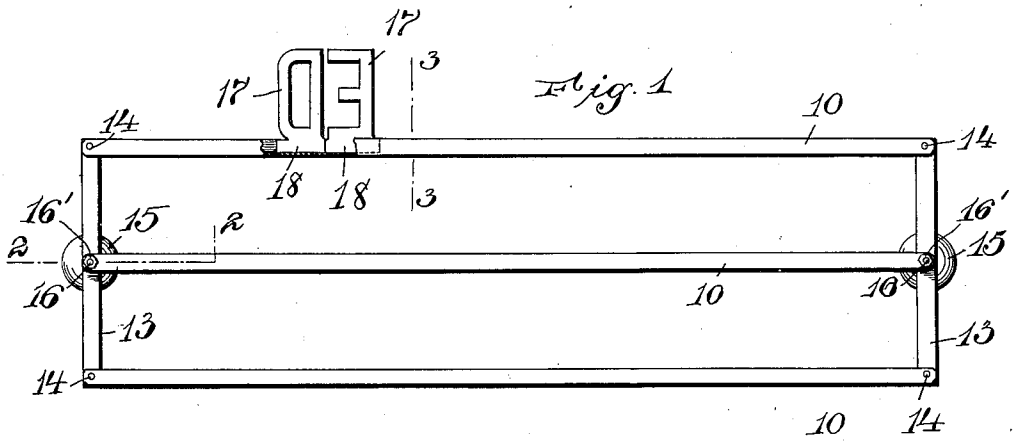


Fig. 1

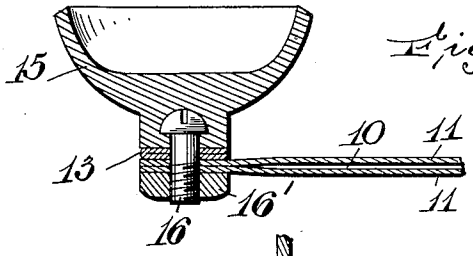


Fig. 2

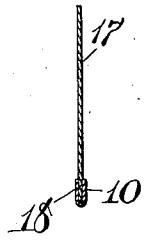


Fig. 3

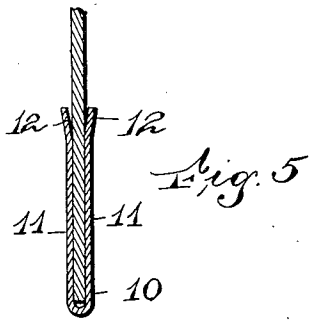


Fig. 5

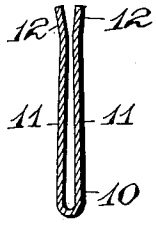


Fig. 4

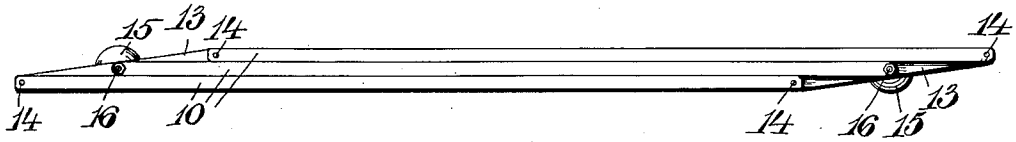


Fig. 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SIGN.

1,246,629. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

Application filed July 23, 1915. Serial No. 41,448.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. McLAREN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, county of New York, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in signs, and more particularly to that class of signs in which the characters are removably and replaceably held so that the subject-matter thereof may be readily and conveniently changed as occasion demands.

Among the objects of the present invention are the improvement of devices of this character in numerous important particulars; the provision of a supporting member for the characters, as numbers or letters, which is simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture and in which the characters, while securely held, may readily be inserted and removed or replaced; the provision of a plurality of holding members associated together in a frame in such manner that the frame may be readily collapsed so as to take up less space, as in packing for shipment; the provision of means whereby the character holding frame may be readily secured to any supporting member, as the glass of a show window; and the provision of characters, such as numbers or letters, having a projection formed thereon which is adapted to be received in and hidden by the holding member when the sign is arranged for display. Such projections may and preferably are of such form and shape as to give an automatically correct spacing of the characters in the holding member, or they may serve simply as a securing and holding means without having this automatical spacing feature. With the foregoing and related objects in view, my invention consists in the parts, improvements and combinations herein set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, and wherein the same reference numerals are applied uniformly to designate the same parts throughout, Figure 1 is a front elevational view partly in cross section of one form of frame containing sign characters and constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view taken on the line 3—3, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view on a larger scale showing the preferred form of holder. Fig. 5 is a similar view showing the holding member with a sign character in place therein and held thereby, and Fig. 6 is a diagrammatical view showing how a frame of the form shown in Fig. 1 may be collapsed in order to lessen the amount of space taken up thereby.

The character holding members are provided with a groove for receiving the projecting portions with which the sign characters are provided. Such character holding members are preferably formed from thin material as sheet metal shaped into U-form with the legs of the U quite close together, thus providing a holding member having spring walls with a groove therebetween which will readily spring apart to permit the character being inserted and after its insertion will spring together and securely hold the same in place, but nevertheless will readily permit the removal and replacement of the characters at will.

Such holding member is designated by the reference numeral 10 in the drawing and the walls 11, 11 thereof are preferably converged toward one another near their open edges until they come nearly or partly into contact with one another, and are preferably provided with outwardly tapering lips 12, 12 to facilitate the insertion of sign characters.

One or as many more of such sign character holding members as may be desired are provided, and when a plurality of such holding members are provided the same are preferably arranged in a frame with the character holding members preferably arranged horizontally and parallel to one another, though different arrangements may be resorted to if desired. A desirable form of such frame work arrangement is illustrated in Fig. 1, in which there are three of the character holding members 10 arranged horizontally and parallel to one another and connected together by connecting members 13. Such connecting members may be of various forms. As shown in the drawing, these members 13 have the form of bars and the same are pivotally secured to the lowermost and uppermost of the members 10 as by screws or rivets 14. When it is desired to provide means for securing such a sign to a surface such as a show window, vacuum cups 15 may be provided for this purpose, and

with a frame of the sort shown in Fig. 1 they may be and preferably are arranged midway from the top to the bottom thereof and secured in place by the same means which pivotally secure the intermediate member 10 to the bars 13, in the form shown a bolt 16 and nut 16′ being provided for this purpose.

With such arrangement, the holding members 10 and crosswise connecting members 13 being pivotally secured to one another, the frame may readily be collapsed edgewise, as shown in Fig. 6, so that considerably less room is required for storage of the frame when collapsed, and smaller shipping containers may be used.

The sign characters 17 are provided with projecting portions 18 adapted to enter the grooves in the holding members with the holding members arranged with their grooves opening vertically upward. With such a holder these projecting portions 18 are provided on the lowermost part of the sign characters and are adapted to fit in the grooves in the holder, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, so that they may serve to support and hold the characters in place and at the same time be out of sight, being received and hid within the groove in which they are placed. These projecting portions 18 are preferably of slightly greater extent than the dimension of the characters with which they correspond, such additional extent being sufficient to permit characters being placed with the portions 18 thereof abutting against one another, thereby enabling the characters to be automatically spaced in proper relation by the insertion of the projection 18 thereof into grooves, such projections belonging to adjacent characters lying snugly against one another as is shown in Fig. 1. This, however, is not essential and such projections need not be so extended; in such case the judgment or taste of the person inserting the characters being relied upon to secure a pleasing arrangement.

It is to be understood that the precise construction shown is for the purpose of illustration and for affording a clear understanding of my invention only, and that my invention is not limited thereto, but that departures therefrom and modifications therein may be resorted to within the scope of my claim and without departing from my invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

In a portable sign, a frame having longitudinal members adapted to detachably receive sign characters and rigid end members pivotally connecting the longitudinal members, all of said members being in substantially the same plane whereby said frame is rendered collapsible in said plane, and suction cups attached to the side of the frame whereby it may be secured substantially parallel and close up to a supporting surface.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereto set my hand, this 20th day of July, 1915.

WILLIAM E. McLAREN.