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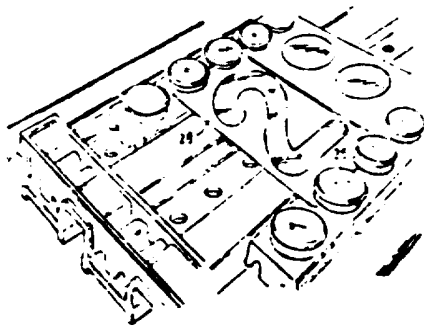
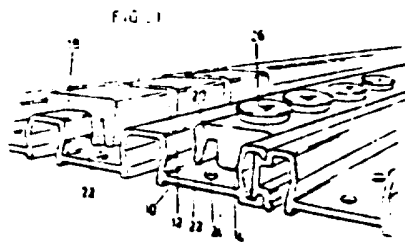
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(54) Title: Improvements relating to teaching methods and aids.

(57) Abstract:



A teaching aid comprising a base having a plurality of spaced parallel ridges which define channels between adjacent ridges, the ridges having an inverted U section and the channels having a corresponding U section and the ridges having sides which bulge outwardly into the adjacent channels; and a plurality of pieces adapted to engage releasably ridges and to be retained on the ridges or in the channels by the bulges.

Preferably the pieces clip resiliently onto the ridges

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(56) References cited: US 3377,071  
 US 4188,817

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## IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO TEACHING METHODS AND AIDS

### BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a teaching aid.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention there is provided a teaching aid comprising a base having a plurality of spaced parallel ridges which define channels between adjacent ridges, the ridges having an inverted U section and the channels having a corresponding U section and the ridges having sides which bulge outwardly into the adjacent channels; and a plurality of pieces adapted to engage releasably ridges and to be retained on the ridges or in the channels by the bulges.

Preferably the pieces clip resiliently onto the ridges.

In one embodiment the channels have spaced holes in their bases and the pieces which are adapted to engage channels have projections adapted to fit into the holes to prevent those pieces from sliding in the channels, with spigot-like projections on their upper surfaces adapted to engage edges of indicia-carrying cards, the cards being retained between the spigot-like projections of adjacent pieces.

Some of the pieces may carry indicia such as letters or numerical on their upper surfaces.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a teaching aid according to the invention, with two different kinds of removable pieces;

Figure 2 shows the teaching aid with indicia-bearing elements retained thereon.

### DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, the teaching aid has a base 10 which is formed with a number of parallel ridges 12 which have a generally inverted - U section and which are evenly spaced. The ridges 12 define channels 14 between adjacent ridges, the channels 14 having a U section. The walls of the ridges 12 are bowed outwardly and bulge into the channels 14. The base 10 is strengthened by a transverse clip-fit brace 16 which is clipped onto the base 10 over the ridges 12 at either edge of the base 10.

Two different kinds of removable pieces 18 and 20 are shown, which engage the base 10 by means of resilient lips 22. The short pieces 18 clip over the ridges 12, while the elongate pieces 20 clip into the channels 14. The pieces 18 can slide along the ridges 12.

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The bottom of the channels are provided with spaced holes 24 into which spigots(not shown) on the underside of the pieces 20 fit. The holes in all the channels are aligned, so that the pieces 20 are aligned with other pieces 20 in adjacent channels. On the top of each piece 20 is a spigot 26. As shown in Figure 2, a card 28 of stiff material is retained between the spigots 26 of aligned pieces 20 in different channels, by simply being snapped into position. The surface of the card bears an indicium such as a letter, numerical, picture or the like. Thus, the teaching aid can be used to build up words, numbers or even, for example, a composite picture similar to a jigsaw puzzle.

The pieces 18 can also have letters or numeral on their upper surfaces. The letters or numerals can be provided on removable plastics strips or discs which are retained by clips on the top of the pieces 18, or simply printed or embossed on the pieces 18.

CLAIMS:

1. A teaching aid characterised in that the base has a plurality of spaced parallel ridges which define channels between adjacent ridges; the ridges have an inverted U-section and the channels have a corresponding U-section and the ridges have sides which bulge outwardly into the adjacent channels; and a plurality of pieces adapted to engage releasably ridges and to be retained on the ridges by the bulges.
2. An aid according to Claim 1 in which the pieces clip resiliently onto ridges.
3. An aid according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the pieces which are adapted to engage ridges are slidable along the ridges.
4. An aid according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 in which the channels have spaced holes in their bases and the pieces which are adapted to engage channels have projections adapted to fit into the holes to prevent those pieces from sliding in the channels, with spigot-like projections on their upper surfaces adapted to engage edges of indicia-carrying cards, the cards being retained between the spigot-like projections of adjacent pieces.
5. An aid according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 in which at least some of the pieces carry indicia on their upper surfaces.
6. An aid according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 in which the base has an engaging formation on one edge and a complementary engaging formation on an opposite edge so that two or more bases can be attached to one another.

DATED this 16th day of October 1985.

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