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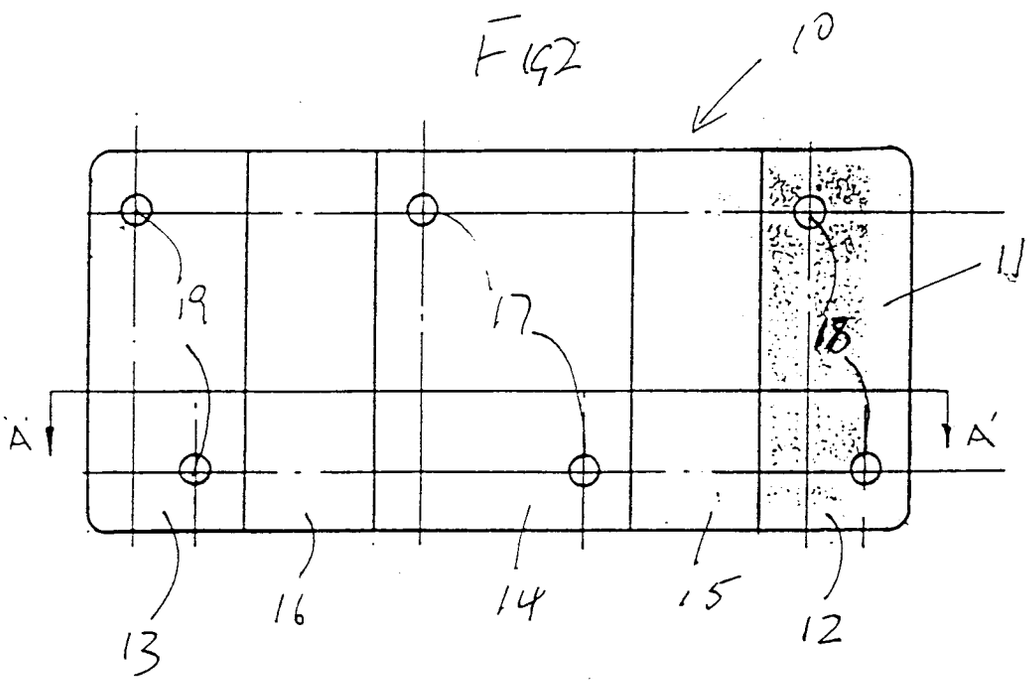
(54) Fencing bracket

(57) A fencing bracket (10) for securing wooden fencing panels (21) to wooden support posts (30) comprises a member (11) moulded from polypropylene having a centre section (14) and ends (12 and 13). The ends are joined to the centre section (14) by thinned areas (15,16) of substantially less thickness than the centre (14) and end sections (12,13). The thinned areas (15,16) extend transversely across the full width of the member (11) and allow the member (11) to be folded along a plurality of notional transverse lines positioned within the thinned area (15,16) to form a U-shaped bracket. The centre section (14) is nailed to the post (30) and the end sections (12,13) are nailed to the panel (21).



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Description

The present invention relates to an improved form of fencing bracket used to secure a fence panel to a support post.

In fencing of the type in which preformed wooden panels, e.g. larch overlap panels, are positioned between wooden support posts that are normally concreted into the ground, the panels are frequently secured to the posts by U-shaped metal brackets. Such brackets are first nailed or screwed to the tops and bottoms of the post and the panel then lowered between the arms of the U-shaped brackets which are finally secured to either side of the panel again by nails or screws.

This system suffers from the disadvantage that the brackets have to be sized for particular panel depths and also that the panels have to be lifted above the upper brackets in order to be fitted between the bracket arms.

The present invention relates to an improved form of bracket that overcomes these particular difficulties.

According to the present invention a fencing bracket comprises a flat elongate member having two end sections and a centre section the two end sections being conjoined to the centre portion by thinned areas which extend transversely of the full width of the member and which have a thickness substantially less than the thickness of the centre and end sections thereby allowing the member to be folded about any one of a plurality of notional transverse lines positioned within the said thinned area to form a U-shaped bracket in use.

The expression "notional transverse lines" is intended to denote that folding may occur along transverse lines positioned anywhere within the thinned areas. Preferably the thinned areas have a widthwise dimension of at least 10mm to allow for a number of possible fold lines in each area.

The members are preferably moulded from a plastics material such as polypropylene and preferably also contain holes in the ends and centre sections to enable the bracket to be secured to fence posts and panels.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a representation of a prior art bracket.
Figure 2 is a representation in plan view of a bracket according to the present invention;
Figure 3 is a cross section along the line A-A of Figure 2;
Figure 4 is an illustration of the bracket of Figure 2 secured to a fencing post;
Figure 5 is an illustration of a portion of a panel secured to a fencing post by the bracket of Figure 2.

A prior art bracket generally indicated at 1 and as illustrated in figure 1, comprises a base portion 2 and parallel side portion 3 and 4 extending therefrom at right angles. Holes 5, 6, and 7 are provided for securing the bracket to a fence post and to either side of a fencing panel. Typically such brackets are made of mild steel and are of fixed size which means that different sized brackets are required for panels of different depths. Furthermore the bracket is not readily secured to an upright fence post by reason of interference of the arm portions 3 and 4 when nailing or securing the bracket to the post.

Figure 2 and 3 illustrate a bracket according to the present invention generally indicated at 10 and comprising a flat member 11 having end sections 12 and 13 and a centre portion 14 separated from ends 12 and 13 by parallel thinned sections 15 and 16. Holes 17, 18 and 19 are provided to allow the bracket to be secured to a fence post and either side of a panel respectively. The member is preferably moulded from polypropylene plastics material and typically has an overall length of 108mm, the end sections being 20mm long, the centre section 34mm and the thinned areas 17mm measured along the longitudinal axis of the member. Typically the member is 3mm thick with the thinned areas 15 and 16 being 1.5mm thick.

In use the bracket is first secured to a fencing post 30 as shown in figure 4. The bracket may be secured to the post by use of nails or screws passing through holes 17. This operation is relatively easy since the member is in a flat condition and sections 12 and 13 do not interfere.

A fencing panel 21 (Figure 5) is then offered up to the post 30 and end portion 12 of bracket 10 is folded over against the end section 22 of the panel 21 and secured to the panel by nails or screws. End 13 is then folded against the other side of support 22 and again secured by nails or screws.

Because the thinned areas extend over a substantial longitudinal length of the member the bracket is enabled to accommodate panels of different depths, typically between about 38 and 70mm.

In securing the member 10 to the fence post it is preferably that the centre section 14 is located adjacent the post with the flat surface 20 of the member facing outwardly to provide sharper fold lines when secured to the panel.

Whilst the above embodiment has been described with reference to a moulded plastics member, the member could equally be prepared from a metal capable of being readily folded at thinned areas. However the plastics material has the advantage of being non-corrodible under atmospheric conditions and therefore of longer potential life.

Claims

1. A fencing bracket (10) comprising a flat elongate member (11) having two ends (12 and 13) and a centre portion (14), the two end sections being conjoined to the centre portion by thinned areas extending (15) transversely of the full width of the member

and having a thickness substantially less than the thickness of the centre and end sections, thereby allowing the member to be folded about any one of a plurality of notional transverse lines positioned within the said thinned area (15) to form a U-shaped bracket, in use.

2. A bracket according to Claim 1, in which the member is moulded from a plastics material.

3. A bracket according to Claim 2, in which the plastics material is polypropylene.

4. A bracket according to any of the preceding claims in which there are holes (17, 18 and 19) in the end and centre sections to enable the bracket to be secured to fence posts and panels.

5. A bracket according to any of the preceding claims in which the transverse areas are at least 10mm wide.

6. A bracket according to any of the preceding claims in which the thinned area is 1.5mm thick.

7. A fencing system comprising wooden support posts (30), preformed wooden panels (21), and brackets (10) according to any of the preceding claims, the centre sections (14) of the brackets being secured to the support posts (30), the brackets being folded against end sections of the panels (21) along the lines that are transverse of the thinned areas (15) and the end sections (12 and 13) being secured to the panels (21).

8. A fencing system according to Claim 7, in which each member is flat on one side (20) and concaved in the thinned areas (15) on the other side of the member, the bracket being mounted on the support post with the flat side facing outwardly.

Fig 1

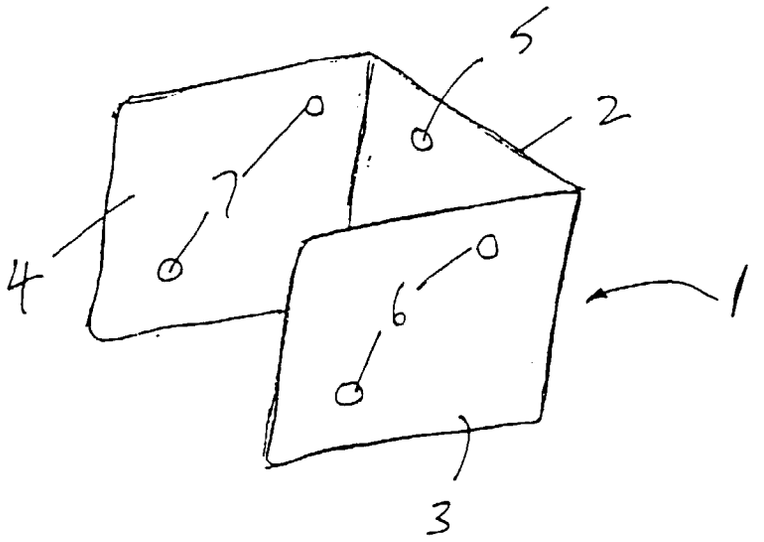


Fig 2

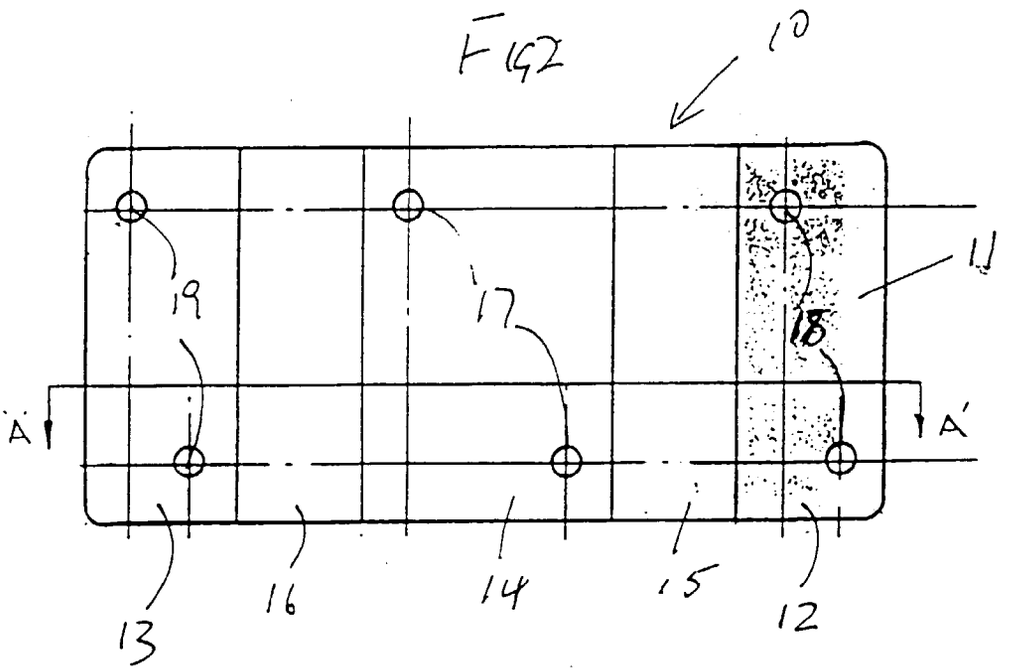


Fig 3

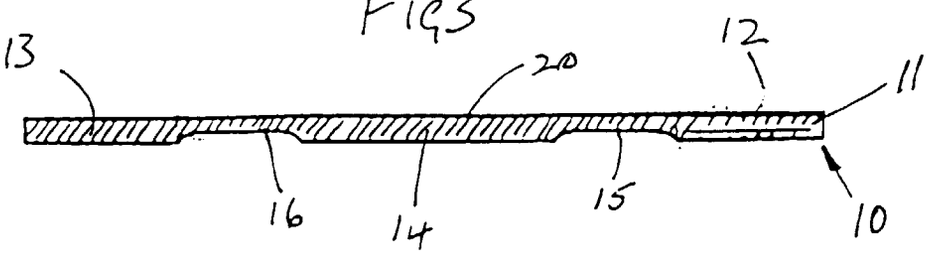


FIG 4

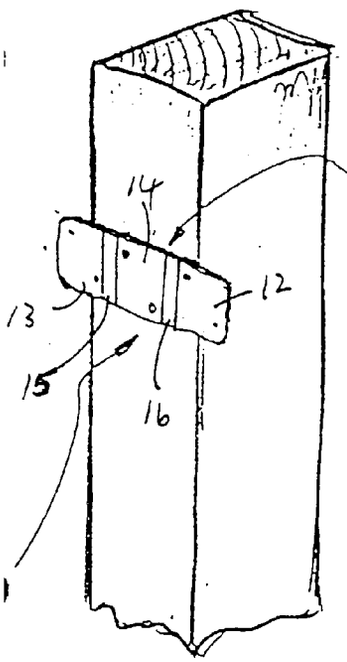
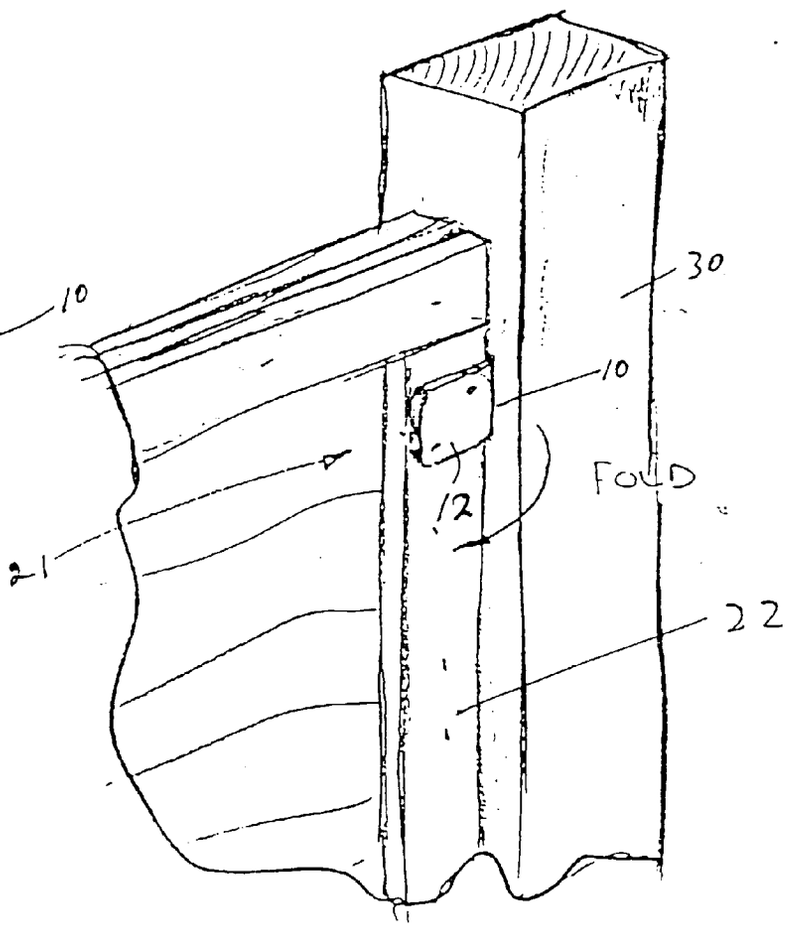


FIG 5



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 5170

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GB-A-2 248 642 (FURFIX PRODUCTS LIMITEDV) * the whole document *	1,4	E04H17/16
Y		7	
Y	GB-A-1 589 864 (D. J. MILLS) * the whole document *	7	
A		1	
A	US-A-4 386 926 (J. HELLER) * the whole document *	2,3	
A	GB-A-2 264 514 (L. A. CHARLTON) * the whole document *	1,7	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

E04H

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	24 October 1996	Delzor, F

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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