FIGURE 1 is a plane view of the layout chase of my present invention with type characters assembled therein;
FIGURE 2 is a vertical sectional view of the layout chase of FIGURE 1, taken substantially along the line
2—2 in FIGURE 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrows; and
FIGURE 3 is a vertical sectional view of the layout chase of FIGURE 1, taken substantially along the line
3—3 in FIGURE 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Referring now to the drawing, there is indicated generally by the reference numeral 10 the layout chase of
my present invention. The chase 10 comprises a horizontal lower wall or bottom portion 11, vertical side
walls 12 and 13, and vertical front and rear walls 14 and 15. The described elements serve to define a rec-
tangular frame having an enclosed bottom portion. As used herein, the term rectangular frame includes a square
frame. To add rigidity to the layout chase 10, the front and rear walls 14 and 15 may be formed, respectively,
with projecting end portions 14a and 15a that may be bent about and suitably secured, as by welding, to the
outer face of the side walls 12 and 13. To facilitate grasping and transporting of the layout chase, outward-
directed side flanges 16 and 17 are preferably provided along the top edges of the side walls 12 and 13.
In the fabrication of the layout chase 10, the bottom wall
portion 11, side walls 12 and 13, front and rear walls
14 and 15, and side flanges 16 and 17 may be integrally
formed, as by stamping, from a single sheet of metal.
The bottom portion 11 of the layout chase 10 serves to support type and slugs arranged within the confines of
the side walls 12 and 13 and front and rear walls 14 and 15. To make type and slugs fast within the frame
of the chase 10, suitable securing means, for example in the form of thumb screws 18, are threaded through
the front wall 14. A layout chase which is constructed in the manner described, and which serves to support
type and slugs as noted, permits type characters quickly and conveniently to be inserted into and removed from
the bed of a sign printing machine as an assembled group.

Arranged within the layout chase 10 are a plurality of parallel spacer slugs 19. Cooperatively related the
ends of the spacer slugs 19 are flange means 20 and 21
arranged along the top edges of the side walls 12 and 13.
The flange means 20 and 21 preferably comprise outwardly directed portions which are suitably secured,
as by welding, to the outwardly directed flanges 16 and 17, and inwardly directed portions which overlie the
ends of the spacer slugs 19 for retaining the latter within the
layout chase 10.

Disposition intermediate of a preselected number of the spacer slugs 19 at the ends thereof are quds 22. Aligned
transverse openings are formed in the corresponding ends of the spacer slugs 19 and in the associated quds
22 immediately below the inwardly directed portions of the flange means 20 and 21. Arranged within these
openings are elongated means in the form of parallel rods 23 and 24. The rods 23 and 24, which intersect the
slugs 19 and quds 22 and extend between the front and rear walls 14 and 15, serve to maintain the spacer
slugs 19 and quds 22 in assembled relation.

Type characters displaying the desired letters and numbers are adapted to be inserted between successive spacer
slugs 19 intermediate of the pairs of quds 22. Each line may be comprised of individual pieces of type 25 for
each letter and space, or a logo such as a Linotype slug. Linotype slugs may be cast with character faces of
the same size as the body of the slug, or may be cast, as shown at 26, with character faces that overhang one
or more of the adjacent spacer slugs 19. Normally, the
body of type in each line will be the same thickness as the quads 22 in the corresponding line. However, those skilled in the art will readily recognize that type of less thickness than the corresponding quads 22 in the same line may be used with the suitable addition of spacing leads.

By maintaining the spacer slugs 19 and quads 22 in assembled relation, a constant predetermined spacing is maintained between the separated spacer slugs 19. The measure of space between any two spacer slugs 19 and the ratio of the spaces between successive spacer slugs 19 is determined by the relative thickness of the corresponding pairs of quads 22 between the spacer slugs 19. With this predetermined spacing relationship, a series of signs having a uniform format and appearance may be conveniently printed in succession. That is, with the type size for each line and the spacing between each line being predetermined, a series of signs with a uniform message pattern thereon, but differing in message details, may be conveniently and quickly printed successively in a hand sign printing machine simply by changing or substituting type characters within each line where necessary between printings. In the fabrication of the layout chase 10, it will be understood that the thickness of the several pairs of quads 22 will be selected to accommodate a compatible ratio of type sizes and to meet the requirements of ultimate users.

Now while I have shown and described what I believe to be a preferred embodiment of my present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various modifications and rearrangements may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. A layout chase comprising a rectangular frame having an enclosed bottom portion for supporting type and slugs, a plurality of parallel spacer slugs arranged within and extending between two of the sides of said rectangular frame, flange means along the top of said two sides of said frame directed inwardly and overlying the ends of said spacer slugs for retaining the latter within the frame, quads disposed between successive spacer slugs at each of the ends thereof whereby spaces are defined between the successive spacer slugs intermediate of the quads for receiving the bodies of type characters, a pair of parallel rods one each underlying each of said flange means and extending transversely through said spacer slugs and said quads for maintaining the spacer slugs and quads in assembled relation, and means for making the slugs and type fast within the frame.

2. The layout chase of claim 1 wherein flange means are provided along the top of said two sides of said frame directed outwardly to facilitate grasping and transporting of the frame.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

921,974 Ginsberg May 8, 1909
980,012 Schmitz Dec. 27, 1910
1,522,691 Marsh Jan. 13, 1925
1,964,236 Welch June 26, 1934
1,985,551 Reardon Dec. 25, 1934
2,720,829 Berggren Oct. 18, 1955