Our invention relates to receptacles for small articles, such as dental burrs, or other tools, and has for a principal object the provision of a receptacle of this character, made of sheet metal, in the form of a block provided with a series of pockets adapted to receive and hold the articles in separated relationship.

A further important object is the provision of a holder block of this character in which the pockets are formed without the necessity of perforating the material, or using material of expensive type or construction.

A further object is the provision of a device of this character in which the pockets may be formed of different depths whereby they are adapted to hold articles of different size, with portions thereof exposed and adapted to be readily grasped for removal of the article.

A further object is the provision of a holder block of unitary form composed of a plurality of parts arranged and held in such manner as to constitute, to all intents and purposes, a solidly constructed member. Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as it is better understood from the following description, which, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, disclose a preferred embodiment thereof.

Referring to the drawings,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a holder block constructed in accordance with our invention, a part thereof being broken away for convenience in illustration;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the holder arranged in upright position; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective of one of the sheet metal units with the spreader member shown in separated relationship.

The structure shown on the drawings, for purposes of illustration, comprises primarily a container 11, which, as shown, is of rather large and shallow form and has disposed therein a series of sheet metal units 12, which are so formed as to provide pockets 13 for the articles when said units are arranged side by side, as shown in Fig. 1. Said units 12 are formed of sheet metal bent over on lines of bend 14 and 15 to provide vertical flanges, or wall parts, 16 and 17 adapted to rest on the bottom of the container. Side units 18 and 19 are provided adjacent the container wall 21, which extends above the surface provided by the tops of the sheet metal units, and is slightly bent over, or curled, as shown at 22, to hold the units in exact position and prevent easy removal thereof.

The side walls, or flanges, 16 and 17 are embossed to provide grooves 23, which are of U-shape and may be varied in length for articles of different size. These grooves terminate within the edge of the wall to form bottoms for the pockets and, as shown, certain grooves, indicated by the reference character 24, are relatively short, it being understood that any size or arrangement may be employed, in accordance with the pocket size desired.

When the units are inserted in the container, adjacent grooves are brought into registration to form the pockets 13. Said grooves are preferably inclined so that the pockets are disposed diagonally when the holder is arranged in upright position, as shown in Fig. 2, or in substantially upright position, as may be the case with certain forms of holders provided for supporting the block in convenient position. The burrs, or tools, 25 may then be dropped into the pockets and protrude sufficiently to be easily engaged by the fingers for withdrawal.

A spacing member 26 is positioned between the side walls 16 and 17 and, as shown, is formed to engage said walls substantially along the line defined by the bottoms of the pockets. In order that these members may be held in place, an end portion 27 is disposed between two of the grooves 23 and, it will be noted, that the opposite end 28 of the member is bent upwardly toward the plane of the bottoms of the grooves 24. End plates 29 may be employed to hold said units in desired fixed positions and notches 31 may be provided in the ends of the wall parts 16 and 17 to facilitate the removal of the units 12. Indentations 32 may be employed in the top of said members 12 to indicate a line of division between the pockets of different size.

It is thought that the invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description, and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and
arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.

We claim:
1. A sheet metal holder for small articles, comprising a container, a series of separate units disposed side by side within the container and having side flanges correspondingly grooved, said units forming a substantially continuous surface with adjacent grooves together forming pockets adapted to hold the articles in separated relationship, and spacing members between the flanges of said units.

2. A sheet metal holder for small articles, comprising a container, and a series of separate units disposed side by side within the container and having side flanges of sheet metal corresponding to form grooves, said units forming a substantially continuous top surface within the container with adjacent grooves together forming pockets of varying depth adapted to hold articles of different size in separated relationship.

3. A sheet metal holder for small articles, comprising a container, a series of separate units disposed side by side within the container and having side flanges correspondingly grooved, said units forming a substantially continuous surface within the container with adjacent grooves together forming pockets of varying depth adapted to hold articles of different size in separated relationship, and spacing members arranged between the flanges of said units and engaging the same substantially along the line defined by the lower ends of said pockets.

4. A sheet metal holder for small articles, comprising a series of inwardly flanged sheet metal units bent and thereby provided with U-shaped grooves extending inward at an acute angle to the front formed by the units, said grooves being adapted to be arranged in registration and terminating within the flange edges to form a series of pockets for the articles, and a container in which the units appropriate to the tools to be held and displayed are kept in cooperative relationship.

5. A sheet metal holder for small articles, comprising a series of inwardly flanged sheet metal units provided with inclined grooves adapted to be arranged in registration to form a series of pockets for the articles, and a spreader member disposed between the flanges of a unit and formed to register with the bottoms of the inclined pockets, and a container in which the units appropriate to the tools to be held and displayed are kept in cooperative relationship.

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