second sidewalls at a point distal to the hinge pin. The second width is greater than the first width. said second width being sized to permit rotation of said bracket about said cross member when said cross member is positioned within said second portion of said channel.

The invention also includes, in combination, a cross member and a bracket for mounting an item to the cross member. In an example embodiment the bracket comprises a first arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed, and a second arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed. A hinge pin extends between the first ends of the first and second arms thereby pivotably attaching the arms to one another. An opening is defined between the arms for receiving the item. The arms are movable between an open position wherein the second ends of the arms are spaced apart from one another thereby allowing access to the opening, and a closed position wherein the second ends are proximate to one another thereby capturing the item between the arms. Each of the first and second arms comprises respective first and second sidewalls arranged in spaced apart relation from one another. The first and second sidewalls of the first and second arms form a channel therebetween. A first portion of the channel has a first width measured between the first and second sidewalls at a point proximate the hinge pin. The first width is sized so that the first portion of the channel receives the cross member in engagement sufficient to prevent rotation of the bracket about a longitudinal axis of the cross member. A second portion of the channel has a second width measured between the first and second sidewalls at a point distal to the hinge pin. The second width is sized to permit rotation of the bracket about the longitudinal axis when the cross member is positioned within the second portion of the channel.

The invention also encompasses a method of reorienting a bracket mounted on a cross member. In one example embodiment the method comprises:

moving the bracket so that the cross member is positioned in a wide channel portion of the bracket, the wide channel portion having a width

What is claimed is:

1. A bracket for mounting an item to a cross member, said bracket comprising:

a base defining an opening for receiving said item;

an arm movably mounted on said base, said arm being movable between an open position wherein said arm is not overlying said opening and thereby allowing access thereto, and a closed position wherein said arm overlies said opening to capture said item between said arm and said base; wherein said base comprises:

first and second sidewalls arranged in spaced apart relation from one another;

a back wall extending between said first and second sidewalls, said back wall and said first and second sidewalls forming a channel, a first portion of said channel having a first width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point proximate to said back wall, a second portion of said channel having a second width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point distal to said back wall, said second width being greater than said first width.

2. The bracket according to claim 1, wherein said opening is defined by said first and second sidewalls comprising said second portion of said channel.

3. The bracket according to claim 1, wherein said first channel portion has a rectangular cross section.

4. The bracket according to claim ~~A~~1, wherein said first channel portion comprises two sidewalls arranged in parallel, spaced apart relation.

5. The bracket according to claim 1, wherein a first end of said arm is hingedly mounted on said base for pivoting motion between said open and said closed positions.

6. The bracket according to claim 5, further comprising:

a latch mounted on a second end of said arm in spaced relation to said first end;

a shaft mounted on said base, said shaft being movable relatively to said base between a first position engaging said latch, thereby retaining said arm in said closed position, and a second position disengaged from said latch, thereby permitting said arm to pivot into said open position.

7. The bracket according to claim 6, wherein said shaft threadedly engages said base, said shaft being movable between said first and second positions by rotating said shaft about a longitudinal axis of said shaft.

8. The bracket according to claim 7, wherein said latch comprises a surface engageable by said shaft, said surface being angularly oriented with respect to said longitudinal axis such that motion of said shaft into said first position forces said arm into said closed position.

9. In combination, a cross member and a bracket for mounting an item to said cross member, said bracket comprising:

a base defining an opening for receiving said item;

an arm movably mounted on said base, said arm being movable between an open position wherein said arm is not overlying said opening and thereby allowing access thereto, and a closed position wherein said arm overlies said opening to capture said item between said arm and said base; wherein said base comprises:

first and second sidewalls arranged in spaced apart relation from one another;

a back wall extending between said first and second sidewalls, said back wall and said first and second sidewalls forming a channel, a first portion of

said channel having a first width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point proximate said back wall, said first width being sized so that said first portion of said channel receives said cross member in engagement sufficient to prevent rotation of said bracket about a longitudinal axis of said cross member, a second portion of said channel having a second width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point distal to said back wall, said second width being sized to permit rotation of said bracket about said longitudinal axis when said cross member is positioned within said second portion of said channel.

10. The combination according to claim 9, wherein said opening is defined by said first and second sidewalls comprising said second portion of said channel.

11. The combination according to claim 9, wherein said first channel portion has a rectangular cross section and said cross member has a rectangular cross section.

12. The combination according to claim 9, wherein said cross member has an outer dimension equal to said first width.

13. The combination according to claim 9, wherein a first end of said arm is hingedly mounted on said base for pivoting motion between said open and said closed positions.

14. The combination according to claim 13, further comprising:

a latch mounted on a second end of said arm in spaced relation to said first end;

a shaft mounted on said base, said shaft being movable relatively to said base between a first position engaging said latch, thereby retaining said arm in said closed position, and a second position disengaged from said latch, thereby permitting said arm to pivot into said open position.

15. The combination according to claim 14, wherein said shaft threadedly engages said base, said shaft being movable between said first and second positions by rotating said shaft about a longitudinal axis of said shaft.

16. The combination according to claim 15, wherein said latch comprises a surface engageable by said shaft, said surface being angularly oriented with respect to said longitudinal axis such that motion of said shaft into said first position forces said arm into said closed position.

17. A method of reorienting a bracket mounted on a cross member, said method comprising:

moving said bracket so that said cross member is positioned in a wide channel portion of said bracket, said wide channel portion having a width sufficient to permit rotation of said bracket about a longitudinal axis of said cross member;

rotating said bracket about said longitudinal axis of said cross member to a desired orientation;

moving said bracket so that said cross member is received within a narrow channel portion of said bracket, said narrow channel portion having a width sufficient to engage said cross member and prevent rotation of said bracket about said longitudinal axis of said cross member.

18. A bracket for mounting an item to a cross member, said bracket comprising:

a first arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed;

a second arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed;

a hinge pin extending between said first ends of said first and second arms thereby pivotably attaching said arms to one another;

an opening being defined between said arms for receiving said item, said arms being movable between an open position wherein said second ends of said arms are spaced apart from one another thereby allowing access to said opening, and a closed position wherein said second ends are proximate to one another thereby capturing said item between said arms;

each of said first and second arms comprising respective first and second sidewalls arranged in spaced apart relation from one another;

said first and second sidewalls of said first and second arms forming a channel therebetween, a first portion of said channel having a first width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point proximate to said hinge pin, a second portion of said channel having a second width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point distal to said hinge pin, said second width being greater than said first width, said second width being sized to permit rotation of said bracket about said cross member when said cross member is positioned within said second portion of said channel.

19. In combination, a cross member and a bracket for mounting an item to said cross member, said bracket comprising:

a first arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed;

a second arm having first and second ends oppositely disposed;

a hinge pin extending between said first ends of said first and second arms thereby pivotably attaching said arms to one another;

an opening being defined between said arms for receiving said item, said arms being movable between an open position wherein said second ends of said arms are spaced apart from one another thereby allowing access to said opening, and a closed position wherein said second ends are proximate to one another thereby capturing said item between said arms;

each of said first and second arms comprising respective first and second sidewalls arranged in spaced apart relation from one another;

said first and second sidewalls of said first and second arms forming a channel therebetween, a first portion of said channel having a first width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point proximate said hinge pin, said first width being sized so that said first portion of said channel receives said cross member in engagement sufficient to prevent rotation of said bracket about a longitudinal axis of said cross member, a second portion of said channel having a second width measured between said first and second sidewalls at a point distal to said hinge pin, said second width being sized to permit rotation of said bracket about said longitudinal axis when said cross member is positioned within said second portion of said channel.