May 10, 1949. C. P. MOLLA 2,469,885

COLLAPSIBLE FIREBOX

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Fig. 1.

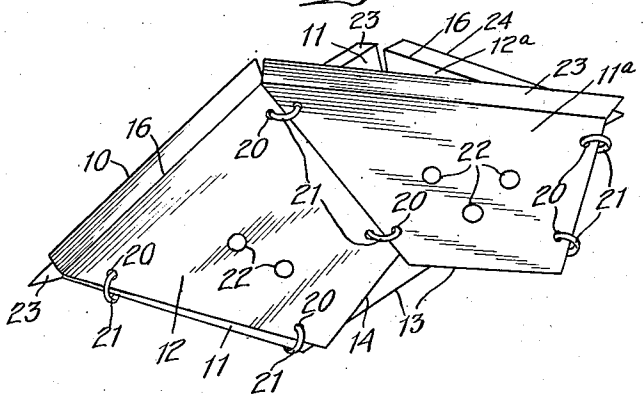
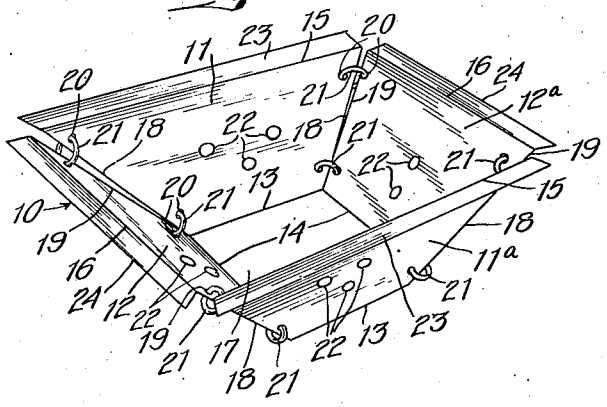


Fig. 2.



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COLLAPSIBLE FIREBOX

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1 Claim. (Cl. 126—144)

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This invention relates to barbecue devices or the fire-boxes of devices of this kind. More particularly, the invention deals with collapsible fire-box units whereby the complete fire-box may be packed in a substantially flat comparatively thin package in shipment and when not in use, thus adapting the fire-box to barbecue devices of knockdown or collapsible construction so that the entire device may be packed or stored in a small space. The novel features of the invention will be best understood from the following description when taken together with the accompanying drawing, in which certain embodiments of the invention are disclosed, and in which the separate parts are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view showing a fire box in folded or collapsed condition; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view diagrammatically illustrating the fire-box in a set-up condition.

In barbecue devices of the kind under consideration, it has been customary to construct the fire-box of a solid or integral wall construction, thus presenting a large bulky and difficult to pack and store structure, which has been objectionable not only from the handling and use standpoint, but also from the standpoint of manufacture and shipment. In illustrating one adaptation of my invention, I have shown what might be termed a hopper-shaped fire-box, as generally seen at 10 in Fig. 2 of the drawing. This box is composed of comparatively thin sheet metal parts, and for this reason, the illustration is diagrammatic in the sense that the thickness of the sheet metal is not shown.

The box 10 is formed from two substantially similar side parts 11 and 11*a*, and two substantially similar and smaller end parts 12 and 12*a*. The parts 11 and 11*a* have lower edges 13 and the parts 12 and 12*a* lower edges 14, all of which are considerably shorter than the upper edge portions 15 and 16 respectively of said parts to form a comparatively small rectangular opening 17 at the bottom of the fire-box and a considerably larger opening at the top thereof defined by the edge portions 15 and 16. In other words, the side edges 18 of the parts 11 and 11*a* and the side edges 19 of the parts 12 and 12*a* are tapered upwardly, thus producing of all of the assembled parts the hopper shaped formation of the fire-box.

Adjacent edge portions 18 and 19 of the respective parts of the fire-box have alined apertures 20 adapted to receive coupling rings 21 for hingedly coupling adjacent edges in a sufficiently loose mounting to provide collapsing of the several parts one upon the other in the manner shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing. For example, with the part 12 resting upon the inner surface of the part 11 and the part 11*a* resting upon the inner surface of the part 12*a*, it being understood that portions of the parts 11 and 11*a* overlap each other, as will be apparent. Each of the parts 11—11*a* and 12—12*a* include in the body portion thereof draft apertures 22 to encourage a draft upwardly through the walls of the fire-box to encourage better combustion.

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While the assembled or extended fire-box may be mounted in any desired manner in connection with a frame of the barbecue device, not shown, one method of providing a quick and readily detachable mounting is in the inclusion of supporting flanges at the upper edges of the various wall parts of the fire-box. For example, the flanges 23 on the wall parts 11—11*a* and the flanges 24 on the wall parts 12—12*a*. These flanges may simply rest upon a frame bordering the periphery of the upper portion of the fire-box, as will be readily apparent.

With smaller types of fire-boxes, the opening 17 in the bottom of the fire-box will be sufficiently small to prevent the dropping through of any large particle of the fuel employed. However, when larger fire-box units are desired, a supplemental open wall part or grate may be placed in the lower portion of the fire-box as in the common use of grates in fire-boxes of any apparatus or fire-places of various kinds and classes.

It will be understood that the hinge connection between the wall parts of the fire-box through the medium of the rings engaging the alined apertures, facilitates shifting movement of adjacent wall parts one with respect to the other longitudinally of the edge portions thereof in moving the wall parts into collapsed position. This particular hinge construction also provides small passages between adjacent edges of the wall parts which further stimulates the draft through the fire-box, as will be apparent.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A collapsible fire box comprising a pair of similar opposed wall plates, having side edge portions converging from the upper edge to the lower edge thereof, another opposed pair of similar but smaller wall plates having side edge

portions converging from the upper edge to the lower edge thereof, side edge portions of both pairs of plates having alined apertures inwardly of and adjacent upper and lower edges, rings mounted in alined apertures of adjacent plates in providing a free hinge coupling between said plates, said hinge coupling producing of the assembled plates a substantially hopper-shaped fire box body wherein the wall plates are adapted for movement into collapsed position with one wall plate of each pair disposed upon an adjoining wall plate of each pair, the upper edge portion of at least one pair of wall plates having outwardly extending supporting flanges, said wall plates having small draught apertures centrally thereof, and other draught apertures formed between side edges of adjacent plates.

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