Aug. 29, 1950 E. S. WEGMAN 2,520,380

BEVERAGE DISPENSING APPARATUS

Filed Oct. 4, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

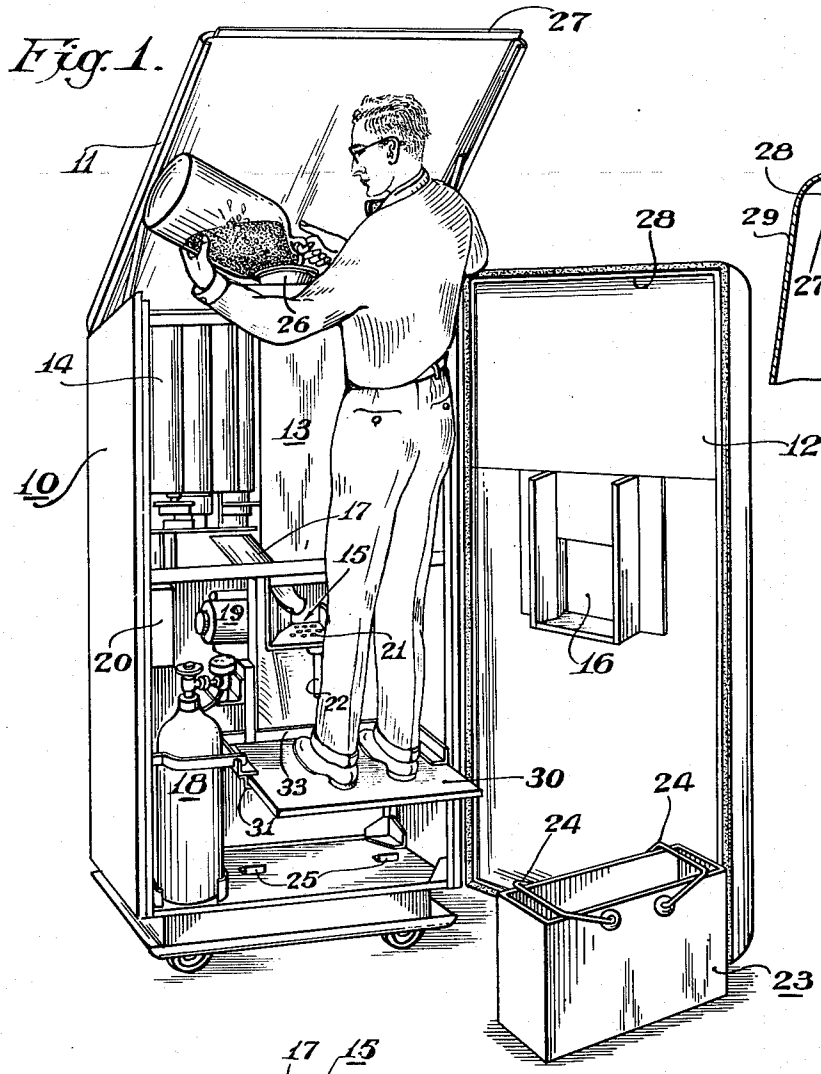
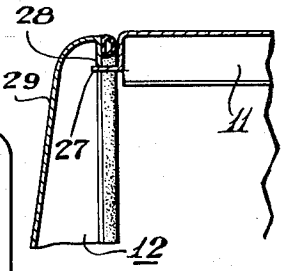


Fig. 5.



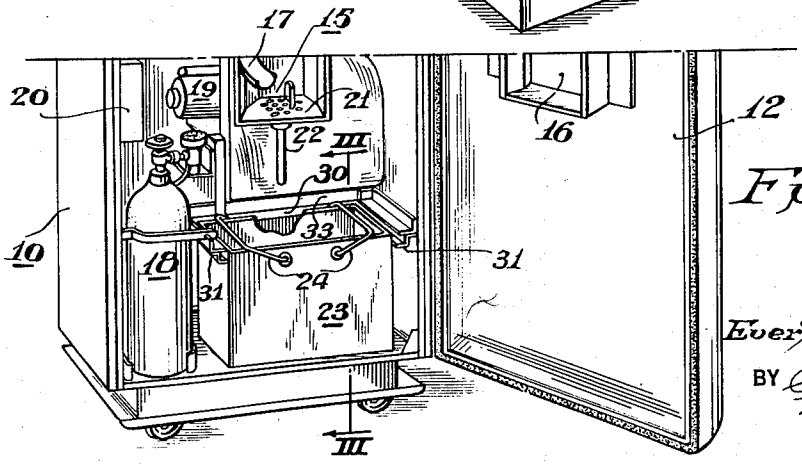


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR
Everett S. Wegman
BY Roy M. Ewald
ATTORNEY

Aug. 29, 1950 E. S. WEGMAN 2,520,380

BEVERAGE DISPENSING APPARATUS

Filed Oct. 4, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

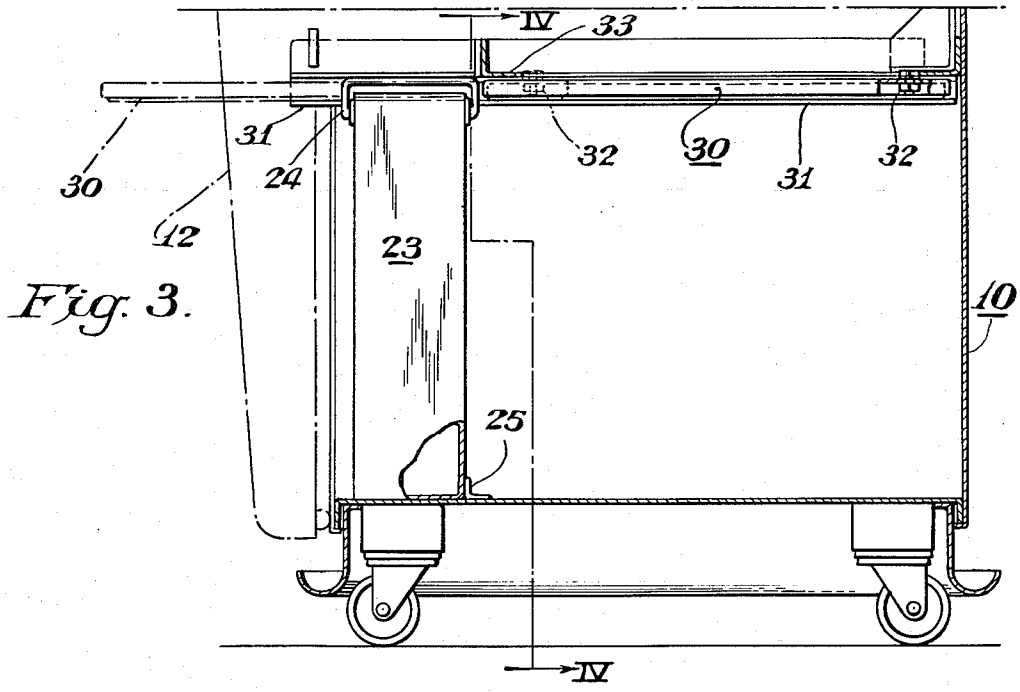


Fig. 3.

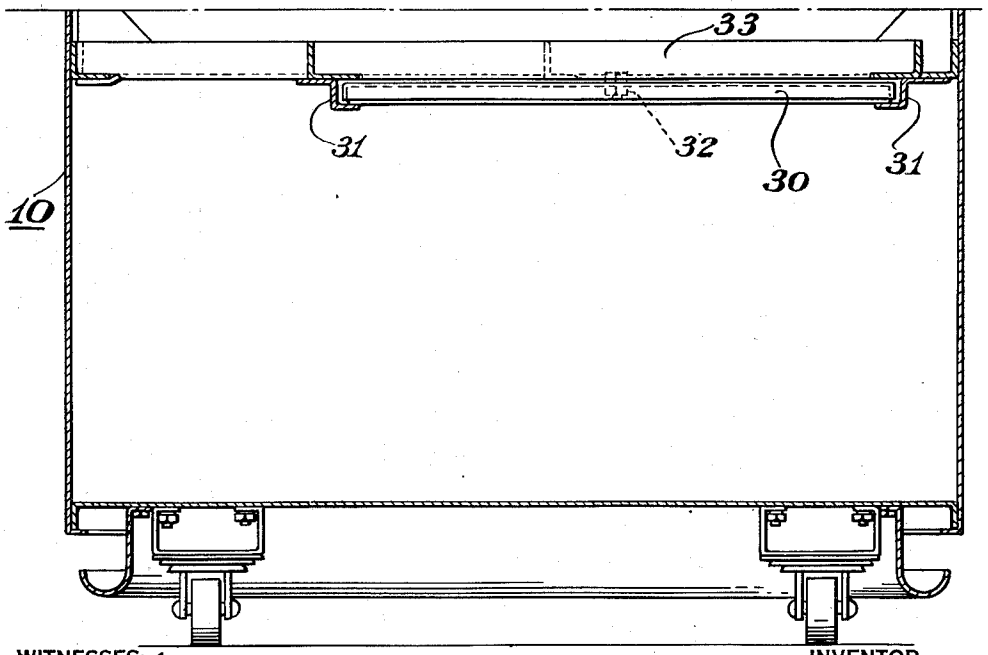


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:
William J. Lwezey
D. J. McCarty

INVENTOR
Evert S. Wegman
BY R. J. Emrall
ATTORNEY

Patented Aug. 29, 1950 2,520,380

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,520,380

BEVERAGE DISPENSING APPARATUS

Evert S. Wegman, Springfield, Mass., assignor to Westinghouse Electric Corporation, East Pittsburgh, Pa., a corporation of Pennsylvania

Application October 4, 1947, Serial No. 777,959

2 Claims. (Cl. 312—188)

1

This invention relates to beverage dispensing apparatus and particularly to apparatus of the type wherein a quantity of the beverage is dispensed into a disposable cup.

It has been found desirable in this type of apparatus to provide a cabinet in which the various components of the dispensing mechanism are enclosed. In order that the dispensing nozzle and cup station shall be at a height readily accessible to the customer, it is advisable that both the beverage container and the cup storage and dispensing mechanism be disposed above the nozzle. Both the cup mechanism and the beverage container are filled from their tops and the height of the cabinet is usually such that the filling spout of the beverage container and the open top of the cup storing mechanism are not readily accessible to the service man without the aid of a ladder or its equivalent.

In apparatus of this type, a cup is first dispensed beneath the nozzle after which the beverage is discharged into the cup. The cup usually rests on a perforated platform through which any overflow from the cup may drain. This overflow is directed by a suitable hose or pipe to a waste can disposed beneath the perforated platform. Because of space limitations within the cabinet it is important that this waste can be emptied frequently, at least as often as the machine is serviced.

For servicing the machine it has heretofore been proposed that the service man carry a portable ladder or platform. Such a ladder, however, only adds to the load of cups, portable beverage containers, tools, waste receptacle and other things which the service man must carry to perform the normal servicing operation. Further, the use of such a ladder or platform offers no assurance that the drain can supplied with the beverage dispensing apparatus will be emptied at each servicing operation.

An object of the invention, therefore, is to provide a construction in which a movable servicing platform is associated with the apparatus in such a manner that the waste can must be removed from the cabinet before the platform can be moved to its servicing or usable position.

A further object is to provide a service platform which may be readily stored within the cabinet in a minimum space but which may be readily moved to its servicing position when the front closure member of the cabinet is opened.

These and other objects are effected by my invention as will be apparent from the following description and claims taken in connection with

2

the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a beverage dispensing apparatus showing the service platform in use and the waste can removed;

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective view of the lower part of the apparatus of Fig. 1, but showing the apparatus with the platform concealed and the waste can in its normal position;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on an enlarged scale taken on line III—III of Fig. 2 and looking from the right-hand side of the cabinet;

Fig. 4 is a vertical section taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a vertical section showing an interlock between the cover and front door of the cabinet.

Referring to Fig. 1, there is shown a cabinet 10 having a hinged top cover 11 and a front door 12.

The component parts of a typical beverage dispensing apparatus are located within the walls of the cabinet. In the example shown, these comprise a beverage tank 13 located in the upper right-hand corner of the cabinet and a cup dispensing mechanism 14 located in the upper left-hand corner of the cabinet alongside the storage tank 13. A cup station 15 is in the cabinet 10 beneath the beverage storage tank. This station is accessible to the customer through an opening 16 provided in the door 12. This station receives a paper cup from the cup dispenser 14 through a chute 17, after which the beverage is dispensed into the cup from the storage tank 13 through a suitable nozzle (not shown). Other parts of the beverage dispensing apparatus which are disposed within the cabinet may include a carbon dioxide cylinder 18, a water pump 19 and a control box 20. The cup station has a perforated platform 21 and is provided with a drain pipe 22 by which spilled or waste liquid is directed to a waste can 23. This can may be provided with handles 24 so that it can be readily moved.

In Fig. 2, the waste can is shown in its normal position within the cabinet and beneath the drain pipe 22. A pair of stops 25 serve to position the waste can in the cabinet.

The servicing operation for the apparatus includes the emptying of beverage from portable containers into the storage tank 13. This is done by the attendant pouring the beverage into the tank through a funnel 26 provided in the top of the tank. It is also necessary that servicing of the parts of the apparatus located in the storage tank be done from the top of that tank.

Also, cups are supplied to the cup dispenser 14 through the top of the dispenser.

Before any of these servicing operations may be done, the front door 12 of the cabinet is unlocked and opened and the hinged top cover 11 is raised. The front edge of this cover is provided with a horizontal flange 27 which, when the cover is lowered, is adapted to be engaged by the upper portion 28 of the inner flange of the door pan 29. Thus, when the cover 11 is properly lowered and the door 12 is closed, the cover 11 cannot be raised by any unauthorized person.

The height of the tops of the beverage storage tank and the cup dispenser above the floor level is such that they cannot be reached for servicing purposes by an average person standing on the floor. To avoid the use of a portable platform or ladder which must be carried from machine to machine by the service man, I provide a movable platform 30 which is an integral and permanent part of each machine, but which is so arranged that when it is not needed it is movable to a position inside the cabinet where it does not in any way interfere with the parts of the beverage dispensing apparatus. Further, the platform is so disposed that the waste can 23 must be removed from the cabinet before the platform can be slid forward to its usable servicing position.

To these ends, I provide a slidable platform which is engaged at its sides on rails 31, which rails are, in turn, attached to the frame supporting the dispensing apparatus. The platform is located a suitable distance above the floor and is made available for use by the service man by his removal of the waste can 23 from the cabinet. After this has been done, the platform may be pulled from the cabinet to the position shown in Fig. 1, where it is accessible as a step for the servicing operation. It is important that the height of the platform and of the waste can be so correlated that the can extends up above the lower edge of the platform when the can is in its normal position (Fig. 2) or else the can must be provided with a portion or attachment which extends in front of the platform (for example, the handles of the can) when it is so positioned. While the removal of the can gives no assurance that it will be emptied, it does serve as a reminder that it should be emptied.

In Figs. 3 and 4, the sliding platform is shown in greater detail. A bolt and nut assembly 32 projects through the platform 30 at its rear or inner end. This bolt serves as a stop to limit forward movement of the platform by engaging a bracing member 33 forming part of the framework of the apparatus when the platform is pulled from its normal or full line position in Fig. 3

to its usable or dotted line position in the same figure.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that the invention provides a compact readily accessible and convenient arrangement by which a servicing platform is made available with each dispensing cabinet. It also provides a platform which is readily disposable inside the cabinet when not in use; and it further provides an arrangement of the platform which ensures removal of the waste can by the service man whenever the platform must be used for servicing the apparatus.

While I have shown my invention in but one form, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited, but is susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof.

What I claim is:

1. In a beverage dispensing apparatus, the combination of a vertical cabinet for containing components of the apparatus, a front closure member for said cabinet, a beverage container in the upper part of said cabinet, said container having an opening in its top surface through which beverage is supplied to the container by a manual operation, a movable platform disposed in said cabinet between the beverage container and the bottom of the cabinet, means within the cabinet for supporting said movable platform, said platform being normally disposed within the cabinet with its front edge spaced a considerable distance from the closure member when the latter is closed, and a portable receptacle for receiving waste from said beverage container, said receptacle being normally disposed within said cabinet below the beverage container and in front of the movable platform when the latter is in its retracted position, whereby the receptacle must be removed from the cabinet before the platform can be moved to its usable position.

2. Structure according to claim 1 wherein the supporting means within the cabinet comprises a pair of spaced guiding rails and wherein the movable platform is slidably supported on said rails.

EVERT S. WEGMAN.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
487,117	Farner	Nov. 29, 1892
2,441,728	Stanitz	May 18, 1948
2,471,529	La Barre	May 31, 1949