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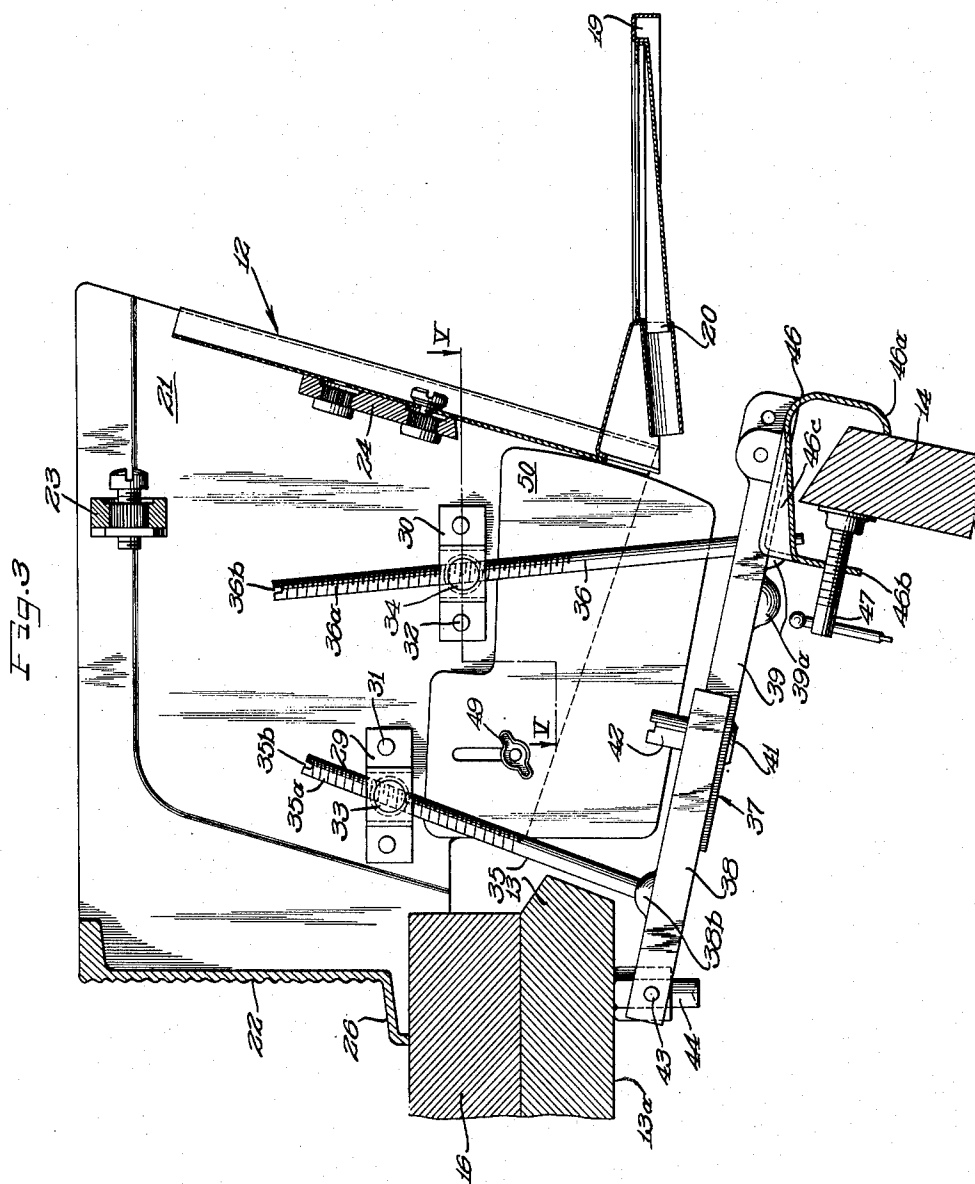
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ADJUSTABLE DISPENSER BASE

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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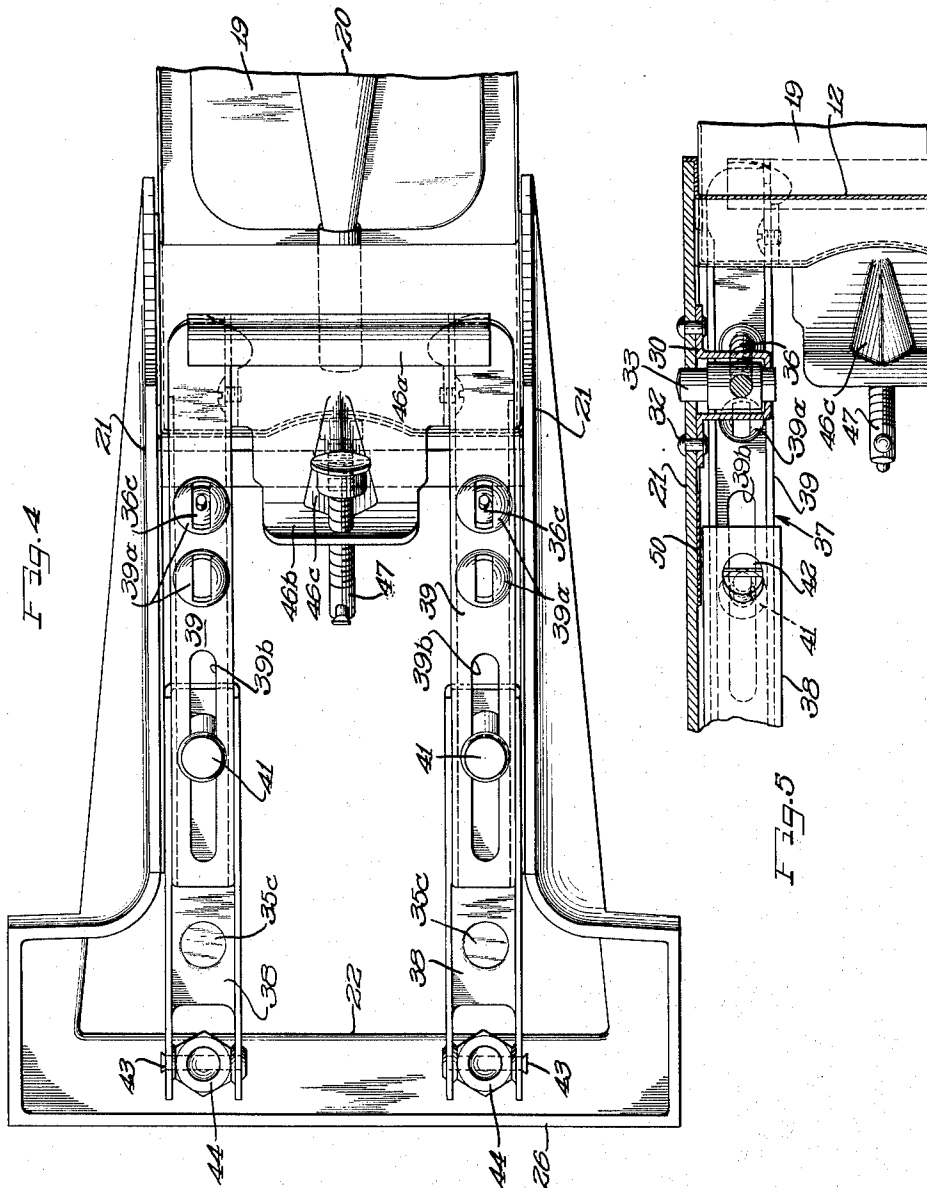
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ADJUSTABLE DISPENSER BASE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 248—360)

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This invention relates generally to base structures for drink dispensers.

It is well known that contemporary soda fountains are usually provided with a syrup rail disposed immediately to the rear and below the counter of a soda fountain. The syrup rail includes front and back members which are arranged to receive syrup jars in an inclined position so that the syrup contained therein may be conveniently withdrawn during the course of concocting a soda fountain confection.

In recent years at soda fountains as at present constructed, mixed drink dispensers are also employed. In order to effect a saving of valuable counter space intended for general service to customers, base structures for drink dispensers have been devised to provide means for mounting the mixed drink dispenser superjacent the syrup rail thereby leaving the serving counter free and clear.

The instant invention is intended, therefore, to provide a novel and improved base structure for a drink dispenser to be mounted superjacent a syrup rail.

It is a principal object of this invention to provide an improved adjustable dispenser base structure which is universal in its adaptability to substantially all known forms of syrup rails provided in contemporary soda fountains.

Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable dispenser base structure which may be easily installed with a minimum number of assembly tools.

An important object of this invention is to provide an adjustable dispenser base structure which is capable of obtaining a firmer grip on stronger foundations than has heretofore been possible.

A further object of this invention is to provide an adjustable base structure which may be simply adjusted to accommodate differences in three potential dimensional variables.

Many other advantages and objects of the instant invention will become manifest to those versed in the art upon making reference to the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view, partly in section and partly broken away, illustrating the application of an adjustable dispenser base structure embodying the principles of my invention to a conventional type of contemporary soda fountain;

Figure 2 is an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of a portion of the base structure shown in Figure 1;

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Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken in side elevation showing the details of construction of the base structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a bottom plan view of a base structure embodying the principles of my invention removed from the syrup rail of a soda fountain; and

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line V—V of Figure 3.

On the drawings:

In order to effect the utilitarian positioning of a mixed drink dispenser superjacent the syrup rail of a contemporary soda fountain, a base structure must be so designed as to be adaptable to various types of soda fountains which differ in dimension and configuration.

One such variation is the difference in height between the top of a counter ledge and the bottom of the horizontal face usually provided on a syrup rail back member.

A second variation is the difference in dimension between the top of the inner face of the syrup rail back member and the opposing inner face of the syrup rail front member. It will be apparent that this second variation frequently depends upon the relative heights of the syrup front and back members.

A third variation is the difference in dimension in the internal depth of a syrup jar container opening. This dimension can be most accurately described as the distance between the inner face of the syrup rail back member and the inner face of the syrup rail front member when measured along a horizontal plane.

The three so-called variations aforementioned may be considered as the components of a variable right angle triangle. The short leg of the triangle would correspond to the difference in height between the top of the counter ledge and the bottom of the syrup rail back member, the long leg of the triangle would correspond to the internal depth of the syrup jar container opening, and the hypotenuse of the triangle would correspond to the dimension measured between the face of the syrup rail back member and the face of the syrup rail front member along an inclined plane joining these two points.

Having thus described the environment to which an adjustable dispenser base structure must be adapted, the particular features of my invention which make my base structure universally applicable to all known soda fountains under manufacture will be described.

Referring first to Figure 1, a drink dispenser having an outlet 11 controlled by a valve (not

shown) is mounted on an adjustable base structure indicated generally by the reference numeral 12.

The drink dispenser 10 and the base structure 12 are shown positioned superjacent a syrup rail having a syrup rail back member 13 and a syrup rail front member 14. As is well known, the syrup rail is so constructed as to lie to the rear of and below a counter ledge 16 intended for the general service of patrons at the soda fountain.

It will be apparent that the space between the syrup rail back member 13 and front member 14 may be employed to receive a plurality of syrup jars (not shown). Thus, supplies of variously flavored syrups may be positioned in proximate relation to freezer or ice cream receptacles 17 sealed by a cover structure 18.

As appears on the drawings, the base structure 12 may be provided with an extending support member 19 projecting into a area below the aperture 11 of the dispenser 10. The support member 19 may be provided with an overflow channel 20 and is used to support glasses or other receptacles suitable for containing liquids emanating from the aperture 11 of the dispenser 10.

The base structure 12 is made up of what may be referred to as an upper section and a lower section. The upper section of the base structure 12 is essentially a unitary bifurcated structure having walls 21 extending away from a back member 22. For purposes of strength and for ease in manufacturing, I prefer to make the upper section in the form of an integral casting defining wall portions 21 and a back portion 22 as well as a top brace 23 and a front brace 24; the braces lying between and serving to space the wall portions 21 (Figure 3).

As will be noted on Figures 1, 3 and 4, the back portion 22 is provided with an integral foot portion 26 which is adapted to be seated upon one edge of the counter ledge 16.

Referring particularly to Figures 1 and 3, it will be noted that the walls 21 are apertured at 27 and 28 and are further provided with apertured support clips 29 and 30 in registry therewith. The clips are firmly assembled on the inside of the wall portions 21 by means of fasteners 31 and 32, respectively, in order to provide a journal support for threaded screw links 33 and 34.

A pair of stay rods 35 having a left-hand threaded portion 35a are threaded through each of the screw links 33. The stay rods 35 are provided with suitable grooves 35b to receive a screw driver in cooperation therewith.

A pair of stay rods 36 having right-hand threaded portions 36a are turned into the screw links 34. The stay rods 36 are also provided with grooves 36b to cooperate with a screw driver.

The lower portion of the base structure 12 comprises a frame device 37 which is provided with a plurality of extensible elements. More particularly, the frame device 37 includes a pair of back portions 38 and a pair of front portions 39. The back portions 38 and the front portions 39 preferably take the form of U-shaped structures and may be adapted for overlapping, one by the other, to provide for telescopic adjustment along the longitudinal dimension defined by the frame device 37.

To effect the telescopic adjustability of the frame device 37, each of the front portions 39 is provided with a suitable slot 39b for receiving a locking stud 41. Each stud 41 passes through an aperture 38a formed in the back portions 38

and threadedly engages a corresponding stud nut 42. Thus, the front portions 39 may be telescoped relative to the back portions 38 and securely locked in any desired position by tightening the stud nuts 42 upon the studs 41 (Figures 2 and 5).

The back portions 38 also define suitable socket joints 38b, each being adapted to receive a swivel 35c formed on the end of each stay rod 35 (Figure 2).

The ends of the back portions 38 may also be provided with registering apertures to pivotally journal pins 43 supporting positioning studs 44 for a limited rotative movement thereabout.

The front portions 39 are provided with a plurality of spaced socket joints 39a to receive in cooperative seating relationship a locating swivel 36c formed on the end of each stay rod 36.

Positioned between the front portions 39 is a vise screw assembly including a body 46 bent to shape a hook portion 46a and a support portion 46b suitably apertured to receive in threaded assembly therewith a screw 47. The body 46 may be bent to form a centrally disposed rib 46c to provide the requisite strength necessary to preclude collapsing of the vise screw assembly when tightened upon a syrup rail front member to which it may be attached.

It will be apparent that the structure described above is actually universal in its adaptability to all known forms of soda fountain syrup rails. Because the frame device 37 is carried by the stay rods 35 and 36, which are adjustably and pivotally suspended in the screw links 33 and 34, variations in the dimension between the top of the counter ledge 16 and the horizontal face 13a of the syrup rail back member 13 and variations in the dimension between the face of the syrup rail back member 13 and the syrup rail front member 14 may be accommodated by selective positioning of the frame device 37 relative to the upper section of the base structure 12.

As shown on Figures 1, 2 and 3, the base structure 12 gets its purchase or grip by compression between the top of the counter 16 and the horizontal face 13a of the syrup rail back member 13 by virtue of the relative registered alignment of the foot portion 26 and the positioning studs 44 on the back portions 38 of the frame device 37. No matter what the angle of inclination defined by the syrup rail back member 13 and the syrup rail front member 14, the stay rods 35 and 36 may be adequately adjusted to accommodate such angle of inclination and at the same time maintain the relative registered alignment of the foot portion 26 and the positioning studs 44.

Variations of the horizontal dimension corresponding to the internal depth of the syrup jar container opening may be accommodated by virtue of the telescoping effect of the frame device 37. Thus, the longitudinal distance between the positioning studs 44 and the vise screw assembly may be varied by loosening the stud nuts 42 and telescoping the front portions 39 into the back portions 38.

It should be noted that the selective seating arrangement provided by virtue of the socket seats 39a being cooperative with the locating swivel 36c permits an especially wide potential range of adjustment.

When the instant base structure 12 is installed superjacent a syrup rail of a soda fountain, it will be noted that a screw driver may be turned clockwise in every instance to tighten all adjustable elements including the left-hand threaded

stay rods 35, the right-hand threaded stay rods 36, and the stud nuts 42. This feature permits a simplicity of construction which is highly desirable since it permits fine adjustment of the instant base structure with great facility.

The base structure 12 may be further provided with an aperture 48 to receive a wing nut 49 arranged to cooperate with a slotted movable slide 50. The slides 50 may serve as covers or spacers to conceal the open or void space between the sides of the base structure 12 and the sides of the syrup jar opening.

It will be apparent to those versed in the art that I have described an adjustable base structure for supporting a mixed drink dispenser superjacent a syrup rail of a soda fountain which obtains a firmer grip on stronger foundation than has been possible on the structures heretofore provided. It will also be apparent to those versed in the art that the instant base structure may be simply adjusted to compensate for variations in all possible dimensions so as to permit a universal application of drink dispensers to soda fountains.

Although I have resorted to detail in the description of my invention for the sake of clarity, it will be readily evident that many modifications may be suggested to those versed in the art without marking a departure from the spirit of my invention. I do not contemplate, therefore, to be limited to the preferred embodiment herein shown and described by way of illustrative example.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a drink dispenser base structure defining a foot portion seatable on the edge of a counter ledge and adapted to be positioned superjacent a syrup rail in a soda fountain, a frame device adapted to extend across said syrup rail subjacent said base structure, means connecting said frame device to said base structure, said frame device having extensible adjusting elements operably connected for effecting variable horizontal adjustment thereof across spaced syrup rail elements, a vise screw assembly pivotally carried on one extension element thereof and having clamping means adapted to be locked to a syrup rail element, and a positioning stud means on the other extension element thereof to lie in subjacent registry with said foot portion of said base, whereby the counter ledge may be clamped between the frame device and the foot portion.

2. A drink dispenser base structure comprising, in combination, a base member, screw links pivotally carried on said base member, a pair of left-hand threaded stay rods threadedly carried by said screw links, a pair of right-hand thread-

ed stay rods threadedly carried by said screw links, and a frame device having a swivel connection with said pair of left-hand threaded stay rods, and seating means for selectively seating said right-hand threaded stay rods, said frame device adapted to extend across a soda fountain syrup rail subjacent said base structure, and including back and front extensible elements operably connected for effecting variable horizontal dimensional adjustment thereof across spaced soda fountain syrup rail elements, said front element having a vise screw assembly pivotally assembled therewith and having clamping means lockable to a syrup rail front member, said back element having positioning stud means to lie in subjacent registry with a foot portion formed on said base.

3. A drink dispenser base structure comprising, in combination, a base member, a first pair of screw links pivotally carried on said base member, a second pair of screw links spaced from said first pair of screw links and pivotally carried on said base member, a pair of left-hand threaded stay rods each defining an end swivel threadedly carried by said first pair of screw links, a pair of right-hand stay rods each defining an end locating swivel threadedly carried by said second pair of screw links, and a frame device having a swivel connection with said pair of left-hand threaded stay rods, and cooperating seating means for seating said right-hand threaded stay rods, said frame device including back and front extensible elements operably connected for effecting variable horizontal dimensional adjustment thereof across spaced apart elements of a soda fountain syrup rail, said back elements carrying said left-hand threaded stay rods, said front element defining a plurality of socket seats for selectively positioning said right-hand threaded stay rods along their length, and a vise screw assembly including a body shaped to provide a hook portion and a screw carrying support portion spaced therefrom, said hook portion and said screw together forming an adjustable clamp, said vise screw assembly being pivoted between said front elements to obtain a locking purchase on a syrup rail front member.

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