July 21, 1936. G. L. KEESECKER 2,048,160

ICE CUBE TRAY

Filed April 4, 1935

Fig. 1.

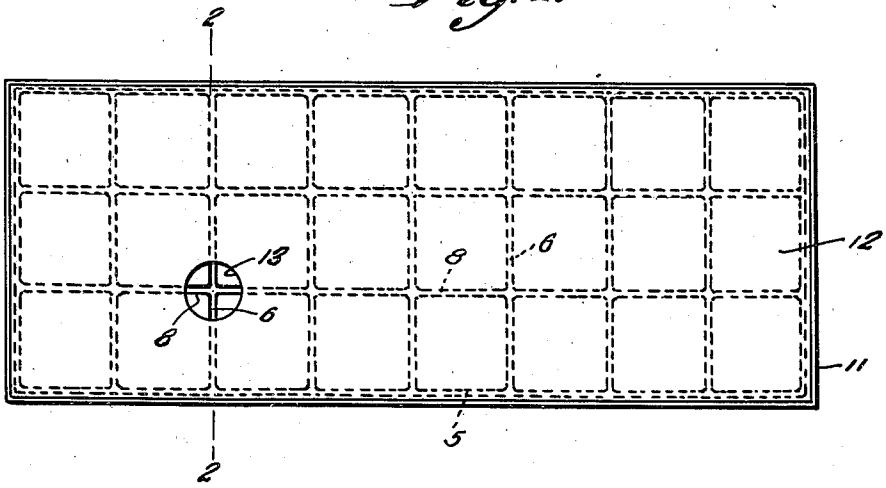
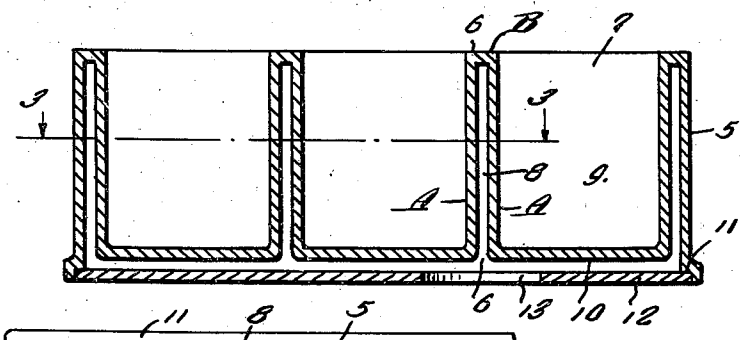


Fig. 2.



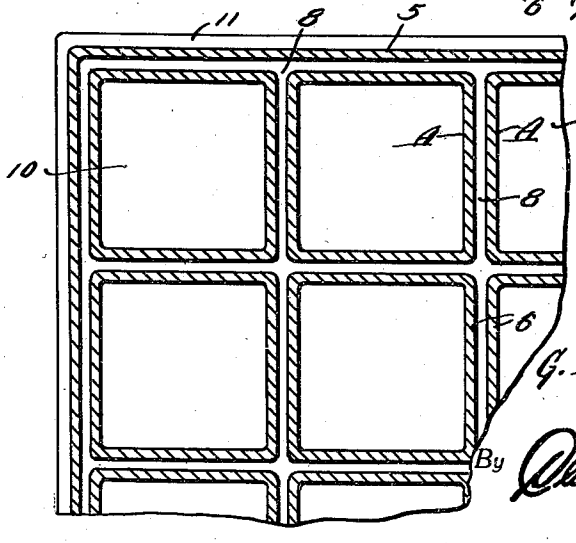


Fig. 3.

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Patented July 21, 1936

2,048,160

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,048,160

ICE CUBE TRAY

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Application April 4, 1935, Serial No. 14,682

2 Claims. (Cl. 62—108.5)

The present invention appertains to new and useful improvements in ice cube trays such as are employed in electric refrigerators for producing ice in small units or cubes.

There are various forms of trays on the market, some of which are in the form of containers having removable partition structures and others are in the nature of flexible or rubber trays which can be flexed to permit displacement of the cubes. However, in both forms of trays considerable difficulty is sometimes experienced in disconnecting the cubes and in addition to this, in practically all forms of trays, all the cubes are loosened simultaneously. In other words when a person desires two or three cubes only, in the conventional tray, all of the cubes are incidentally loosened in the act of displacing these two or three cubes.

The principal object of the present invention contemplates the provision of a tray from which a predetermined number of cubes can be displaced without inconvenience within a fraction of the time required to displace cubes from conventional trays.

During the course of the following specification other important objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to the reader.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 represents a bottom plan view of the improved tray.

Figure 2 represents a transverse sectional view taken substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 represents a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawing wherein like numerals designate like parts, it can be seen that the tray consists of a rectangular shaped side wall 5, as well as fixed longitudinally and transversely extending partitions 6—7 respectively.

These partitions 6—7 are hollow to provide longitudinally and transversely extending passageways 8, thus defining in each partition a pair of vertical walls A—A which are connected at their upper ends as at B and spaced at their lower ends as at C. Thus pockets 9 in which the cubes are formed are defined by these partitions and each pocket is provided with an individual bottom 10, as is clearly shown in Figure 2.

The side wall 5 extends down below the bottoms 10 of the pockets 9 and has its edge rabbeted as at 11 for the reception of the edge portion of the sub-bottom or plate 12, which has a water admission port 13 therein. The side wall 5 extends downwardly to a point below the bottoms of the pockets 9 to such an extent that with the plate 12 in place, the plate will be sufficiently spaced from the bottom of the pockets 9 to permit water entering through the opening 13 to readily pass into the passageways 8 around any or all of the pockets 9.

It will be observed in Figure 1 that the tray represented is of the twenty four cube capacity, with the port 13 located in the plate 12 over the intersection of one of the longitudinal partitions at the intersection thereof with the second transverse partition, counting from one end of the tray.

It can now be seen that by putting the tray under a faucet and allowing water to run into the passageways 8 through the opening 13 (with the tray inverted), and then subsequently disposing the tray on one end upon a suitable support, with the opening 13 closer to the support than to the opposite end of the tray, only the first two rows of cubes will be released, as an over supply of water beyond these rows will overflow through the opening 13. If the tray has water therein and is set in the position shown in Figure 1, only one longitudinal row will be released, and on the other hand if the tray is set on its opposite longitudinal side, from that shown in Figure 1, two longitudinal rows of cubes will be affected by the high temperature water.

It can be seen also that three fourths of the cubes of the tray can be released by setting the tray on one end with the opening 13 closer to the top end than to the support upon which the tray rests. In each instance, any surplus water will overflow so that only a predetermined number of the cubes will be affected by the water and obviously the empty pockets can be refilled with water and the tray replaced in the refrigerator without disturbing those cubes which are frozen and ready for use.

While the foregoing specification sets forth the invention in specific terms, it is to be understood that numerous changes in the shape, size, materials may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as claimed hereinafter.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. An ice cube tray comprising a receptacle having longitudinal and transverse partitions defining cube forming pockets, said partition being hollow and opening through the bottom of the receptacle to define water receiving passageways surrounding said pockets, and a sub-bottom for the said receptacle provided with a filler and over-

flow opening therein at a point inwardly from the ends and sides of the tray.

2. An ice cube tray comprising a receptacle having longitudinal and transverse partitions defining ice cube forming pockets, said partitions being hollow and opening through the bottom of the receptacle to define water receiving passageways surrounding said pockets, and a sub-bottom for the said receptacle provided with a filler and overflow opening therein located at a point below one intersection of said passageways and spaced from the sides and ends of the tray to permit the draining off of water from contact with the cube pockets which are positioned above said opening when the tray is set upon one end or on one side to release all cubes in the pocket below the horizontal plane of the said openings.

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