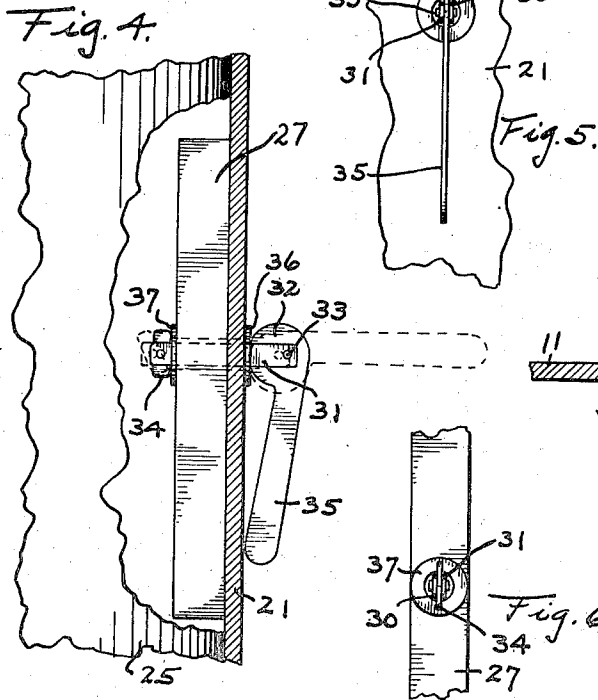
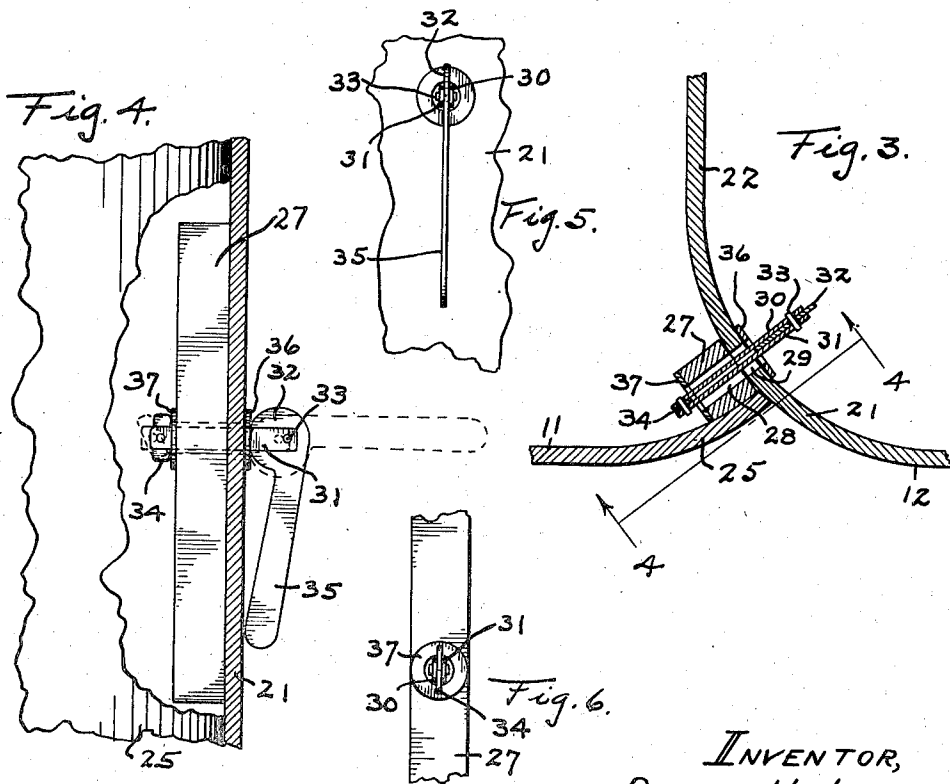
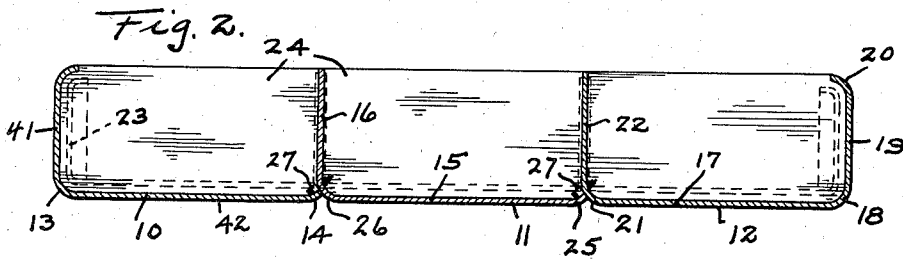
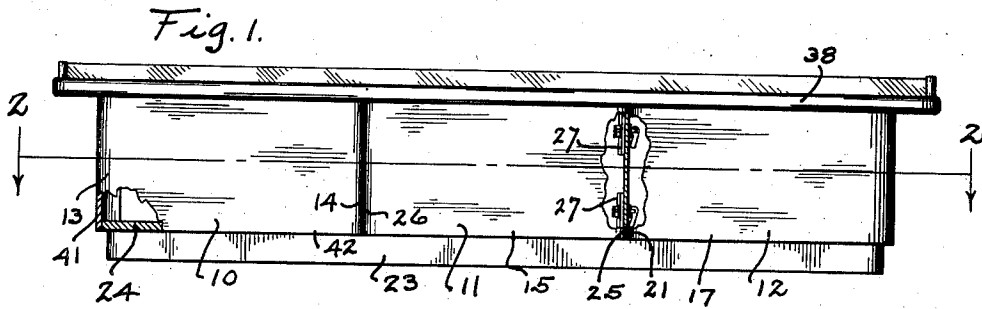


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MULTIPLE UNIT FURNITURE

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MULTIPLE UNIT FURNITURE

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This invention relates to furniture and particularly that type of furniture as may be employed for display purposes in exhibiting goods for prospective customers as in stores and the like. Furthermore, the invention relates to that type of store furniture or counters wherein a plurality of preformed units are made up and assembled in the store in varying arrangement.

The invention consists primarily in the manner of uniting the several sections one to the other to form a unitary counter or cabinet all without the necessity of using standards and pilasters whereby not only an exceedingly attractive appearance is gained but also a material reduction in cost of assembly is achieved.

Other important objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those versed in the art in the following description of one particular form of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation and partial section of a structure embodying the invention;

Fig. 2, a transverse horizontal section on the line 2-2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, a detail on an enlarged scale in transverse horizontal section through the juncture of one section with another;

Fig. 4, a vertical section on the line 4-4 in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5, an end elevation of a clamp employed in uniting two sections; and

Fig. 6, an opposite end elevation of the clamp mechanism.

Like characters of references indicate like parts in the several views in the drawing.

Sections or shells are preformed and are preferably made of any suitable material which may be formed to have curved ends, such as ply wood, the many synthetic resins or plastic, metal, or even composition fibers bonded with resins and the like. The standard shells will usually be made up in two general forms, namely, L-shapes and U-shapes.

Referring to the drawing, two L-shells 10 and 11 are employed plus one U-shell 12. These shells in either form will be open from both top and bottom, and therefore comprise vertical walls only. Referring to the shell 10, as shown in Fig. 2, there is an end wall 41 and a side or front wall 42. The end wall 41 joins integrally by a bend 13 with the wall 42. Then the free end of the wall 42, that is, the vertical edge thereof, has an inwardly bent end 14 which is about half the circumferential length of the bend 13. The next adjacent shell 11, Fig. 2, is identical in shape

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and size in the present showing as the first described shell 10. The front wall 15 of the shell 11 may have a greater or less length than the wall 42 in the shell 10, but preferably the end wall 16 is of the same length as the wall 41 to facilitate assembly into one unitary counter.

The U-shaped shell 12 has a front wall 17 from one end of which there is a bend 18 merging into the outer end wall 19, from the rear edge of which there is preferably curved around inwardly a bend 20. From the other end of the front wall 17 extends a bend 21 merging into the inner end wall 22. This shell 12 likewise has its vertical height and all of its walls correspond to the heights of the shells 10 and 11.

In the present showing, the base 23 is employed over which is placed a floor 24. Preferably the floor 24 is formed in sections to fit within the lower ends of each of the shells 10, 11, and 12. The shell 12 is placed over the floor 24 and secured thereto in any suitable manner such as by gluing. Then the next adjacent shell 11 is brought up to have the end bend 25 of its front wall 15 abut the bend 21 of the shell 12 to have the faces of the walls 15 and 17 in the same vertical plane. Then the next adjacent shell 10 is brought up to have its end bend 14 abut the bend 25 of the shell 11 and to have the face of its front wall 42 in the plane of the faces of the walls 15 and 17. These shell sections are secured one to the other by an ingenious device which forms the subject matter of another application for United States Letters Patent being filed simultaneously herewith.

This securing mechanism consists primarily of a clamping device interengaging members of two adjacent shells at the abutments of the curved members thereof. To the inner face of the bend 25, for example, is secured one or more vertical cleats 27, herein shown as two spaced cleats. These cleats 27 are united to the shell in any suitable manner, such as by adhesives. The cleat 27 in each instance is provided with a bore 28 therethrough approximately parallel to the face of the cleat in contact with the shell bend 25. The bend 21 against which the end of the bend 25 abuts is provided with a hole 29 formed therethrough to register with the bore 28 of the cleat 27.

A quick engaging clamp is formed to consist essentially of a pair of straps 30 and 31 between corresponding ends of which is pivoted a cam member 32 by means of a pin 33; and a crossbar 34 rockably carried between the opposite ends of the straps 30 and 31. In use, the cam 32 is rocked to its release position by pulling the oper-

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ating lever 35 around to the dash line position, Fig. 4, and the crossbar 34 is rocked to be parallel with the straps 30 and 31; and then this assembly is inserted through a plane washer 36, the hole 29, the bore 28, and a washer 37; whereupon the crossbar 34 is rocked to its transversely extending position, Fig. 4, and then the lever 35 rocked from the dash line position to the full line position to place the straps 30 and 31 under tension to compressibly engage the cleat 27 against the outer face of the bend 21 by the clamping action thereby exerted. This manner of interconnecting the two adjacent shells (any desired number of these clamps may be used throughout the vertical height of the shells, two being shown in Fig. 1) is but one of many conceivable methods of rigidly interconnecting the shells one to the other at the abutments thereof, wood screws for example, being one such other method (not shown). The use of the clamps however gives a very quick and low cost method of assembly since the assembler does not have to crawl inside of the respective shells to enter screws and draw them up tightly for the proper securing of the shells one to the other.

The external appearance of the finished unit is quite striking by reason of the regular appearance along the counter and the V-grooves formed in effect at the junctures between shells. The counter is finished in the usual manner by putting a top 38 thereover, which may be secured to the shells in any suitable manner, such as by using the clamp mechanisms herein described.

It is to be observed that the complete unit may be assembled in any desired length and even angular shapes by abutting one shell against another to have the free edge of one wall abut the bend of the next adjacent one. Any slight variations in the straightness of the edges or bends in the vertical direction are not visible by reason of their being back within the groove appearing from the outside. Furthermore, the one shell tends to brace the next shell in a structural sense. Shelving, if desired, may be placed within each shell in the usual manner, or the space may be left open for full height storage as desired.

While I have herein shown and described my invention in the one form as now best known to me, it is obvious that structural changes may be employed without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I therefore do not desire to be limited to that precise form beyond the limitations as may be imposed by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In an article of furniture, a pair of shell sections, each having a front and an end wall, and a curved portion interconnecting those walls; the end of one of said front walls opposite said

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end wall having a rearwardly curved portion, the edge of which abuts said curved portion of the other shell; and means interconnecting said shells at said abutment; the radius of curvature of both of said curved portions being substantially the same; and said abutting curved portion having substantially half the circumferential length as that of the abutted curved portion and abutting that curved portion at substantially midway of its length.

2. In an article of furniture, a pair of shell sections, each having a front and an end wall, and a curved portion interconnecting those walls; the end of one of said front walls opposite said end wall having a rearwardly curved portion, the edge of which abuts said curved portion of the other shell; and means interconnecting said shells at said abutment; said interconnecting means comprising a cleat secured on the rear side of said rearwardly curved portion, and fastening means extending through said interconnecting curved portion engaging said cleat.

3. An article of furniture comprising a plurality of shells, L- and U-shaped, with curved end corner portions, wherein an inwardly curving end of a leg of one shell abuts by an edge the face of a rearwardly curving corner portion of a second shell to form a V-like groove therebetween.

4. An article of furniture comprising a plurality of shells, L- and U-shaped, with curved end corner portions, wherein an inwardly curving end of a leg of one shell abuts by an edge the face of a rearwardly curving corner portion of a second shell to form a V-like groove therebetween; and means uniting adjoining shells back of said abutment to maintain that abutment under compression.

5. An article of furniture comprising a plurality of shells, L- and U-shaped, with curved end corner portions, wherein an inwardly curving end of a leg of one shell abuts by an edge the face of a rearwardly curving corner portion of a second shell to form a V-like groove therebetween; and cam clamp means for compressibly maintaining said abutment.

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