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S. BLOOMFIELD
COUNTER RACK

2,183,805

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Fig. 1.

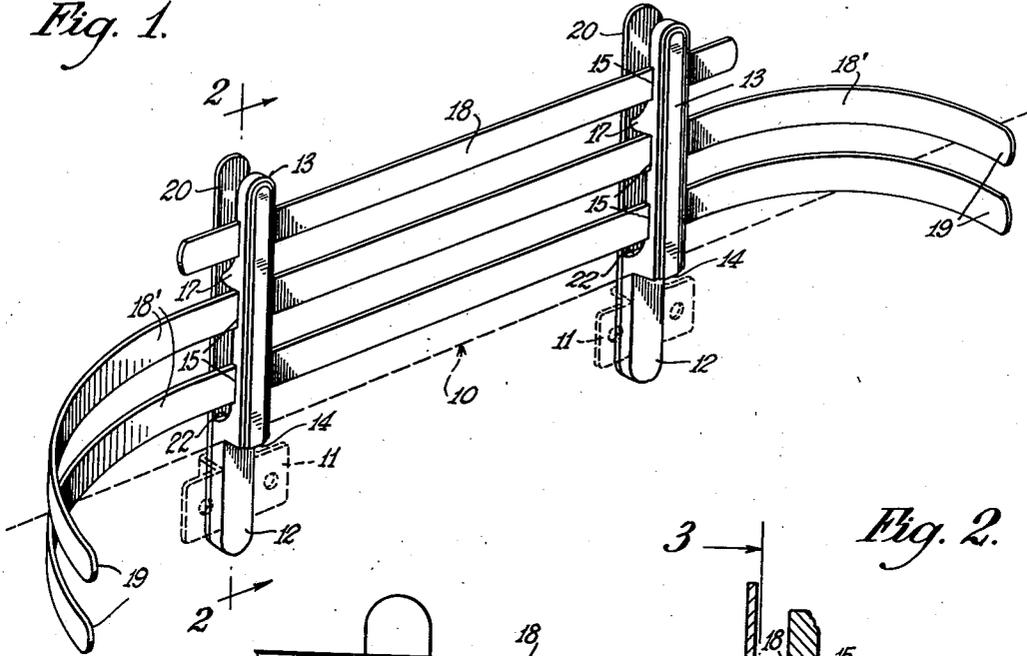


Fig. 2.

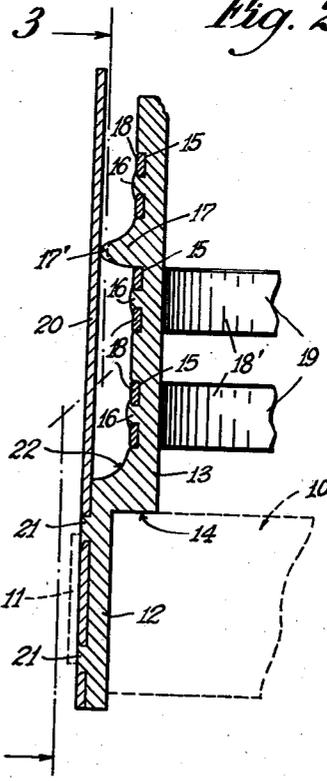


Fig. 3.

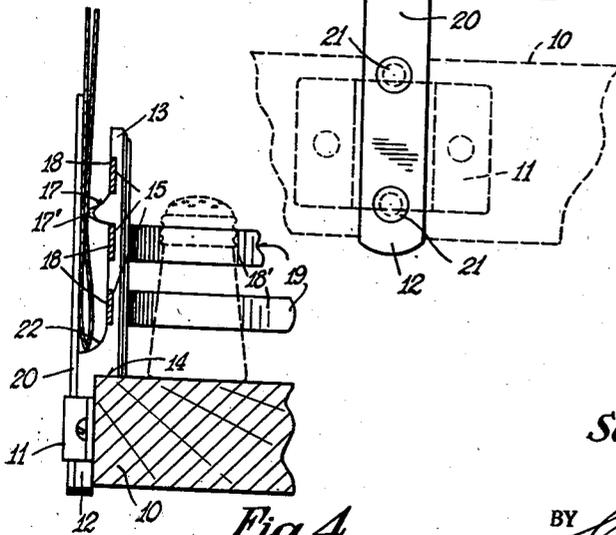


Fig. 4.

Samuel Bloomfield
INVENTOR.

BY *Clarence C. Threddy*
HIS ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COUNTER RACK

Samuel Bloomfield, Chicago, Ill.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40-11)

This invention pertains to racks, a particular object of the invention being the provision of an improved counter rack for use on lunch counters, service fountains and the like, the rack being of simplified and relatively inexpensive construction and, at the same time, being rugged, of pleasing appearance, and having certain features of construction which provide means for mounting menu cards and the like.

Viewed from another aspect, the invention provides a counter rack having members secured together by means similar to rivets or the like, the rivet formations being cast integrally in certain of the rack parts, the resulting construction being of improved appearance by virtue of the fact that the securing means or rivets are hidden from view.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a counter rack including a pair of spaced uprights each having lateral notches cut therein, and a plurality of collaterally extended bars seated in the notch formations in the uprights and secured in the latter by integral stud or rivet formations cast in the uprights and in the notches and extended through holes in the bars, and thereafter peened over to secure the uprights and bars in rigid relation.

Another object is the provision of a counter rack of the type characterized, in which each of the uprights has an offset foot portion extending in a direction collateral to that of the uprights, each upright having a strap secured to its foot portion so as to extend collaterally in spaced relation to the corresponding upright, thus providing a sort of forked upright construction, the uprights having notches formed on their inner surfaces opposite the straps, and transverse bars being seated in the notches in the spaced uprights, each upright having a protuberance extending therefrom toward the corresponding strap, and the straps having a degree of yieldability so that a menu card or the like may be slid in between the straps and the protuberances of each pair of uprights to be yieldingly and yet securely maintained in position on the counter.

Other objects and novel aspects of the invention will appear as the following description proceeds in view of the drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a preferred form of the rack;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section through one of the uprights, as seen along line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary rear elevation of the upright structure, as viewed along line 3-3 of Fig. 2; while

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary side section of an upright to reduced scale, illustrating the card-retaining arrangement.

The invention contemplates the provision of a counter rack adapted to be mounted particularly along the rear edge portions of lunch counters and the like so that service items, such as mustard jars, sugar bowls and the like, may be positioned close to the rear edge of the counter without danger of their being dislodged therefrom, and, moreover, providing a suitable repository for menu cards and the like.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, there are mounted on the rear vertical edge portion of a counter 10, U-shaped brackets or plates 11 into which are fitted the offset foot portions 12 of a pair of upright supporting members or bars 13, the offset base portions 14 of which rest on the surface of the counter closely adjoining the rear edge thereof and limiting the descent of the uprights into their brackets.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the bars or uprights 13 are identical in construction, the main or upper portions (as distinguished from the feet 12) being provided with a plurality of transverse notches 15 in the channel portions of which are integral protuberances or studs 16, constituting rivet members, for attachment with the rack bars. Between the base portion and the top of each of the main uprights is a protuberance or nose 17 which projects laterally from the surface in which the notches are formed, the protuberances being adapted to bear against strap members to retain menu cards in position.

A plurality of rack bars 18 of relatively flat form are seated in the aligned notches 15 in the pair of uprights so that the bars extend in substantially parallel directions and some of the bars 18' having their opposite end portions 19 curved to provide end guards.

It is important to observe that the rack bars 18 are secured in assembled relation with the uprights by having holes formed therein through which the rivet formations 16 in the several upright notches extend when the bars are fitted into place, the head portions of the protuberances or integral rivet formations thereafter being peened over (Fig. 2 particularly) in the manner of a rivet nose to prevent withdrawal of the rack bars from their respective notches or seats.

A particular advantage gained from the foregoing method of mounting the rack bars resides in the fact that the front side of the uprights 13, which faces the patron at the counter, will not be defaced by exposure therein of screws, rivets or

other attaching means, the uprights being cast with this object in view, so that the notch formations 15 and the rivet formations 16, as well as the feet 12 and the protuberances 17, may all be formed at one operation, thus achieving an additional advantage in the form of reduced manufacturing cost.

Means are provided for cooperation with the protuberances 17 for holding a menu card in place on the rack, this means being in the form of a strap 20 mounted flush against the rearward surface of each of the feet 12 by means of integral rivet formations 21 projecting through holes in the bottoms of the straps and peened over, as in the case of the member 16 for attaching the rack bars. As a result of this arrangement, the straps 20 extend in a direction collateral with the uprights 13 and the offset feet 12, but are disposed in spaced parallel relation with the main or upper portions 13 of the uprights to provide a forked or bifurcated formation, with the straps 20 fitting closely against the outer rounded nose portions 17' of the protuberances 17.

The upper end portions of the straps 20 in the region of the protuberances 17 are bent inwardly or biased so that they bear against the protuberances, and have a degree of inherent yieldability particularly in the region of their attaching means 21 so that they may be sprung away from the nose portions 17' to permit the introduction and attachment of the menu card, the uprights 17 being spaced apart a distance such that the usual length of card will fit into the holding means, that is, between the straps 20 and the protuberances 17 in both uprights, as illustrated in Fig. 4. By the provision of the end guard formations 19, the counter rack forms a sort of cove into which various jars, bottles, and containers usually found on counters of the class described may be collected as close to the rear edge of the counter as possible without danger of dislodgement, thereby improving the neat appearance of the counter and providing for an orderly arrangement of the counter service items within reach of the patrons.

It will be observed that the protuberances 17 are curved at their upper junctures with the main portions of the upright, the curvature descending toward the nose portion 17 from the upright and facilitating the guidance of a menu card quickly toward the nose portion for movement between the latter and the strap.

Similarly, in the region of the juncture between the base portion and the foot 12 in each upright, there is provided a downwardly curved portion 22 constituting a card-seating means effective to guide the lower edge portion of the menu card downwardly close against the strap 20 so that the card will bear uniformly against the strap in the regions between the base 14 and the protuberance 17, and hence throughout the length of the strap. Thus, the cards are automatically guided into a proper upright position in their respective holding means.

The advantages and objects of the invention

may be accomplished by various modifications of the specific means described herein for purposes of illustration, and it is to be understood that the invention is not restricted to the precise form of the preferred embodiment described, but is to be broadly interpreted as provided in the appended claims.

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

1. In a counter rack of the type including a pair of fork-shaped uprights arranged for mounting along the edge of a counter, and means joining said uprights, card holding means comprising the provision on each of said uprights of a protuberance formed on the inner side of one of the fork portions thereof, the other fork portion of each upright being constructed to bear yieldingly against the corresponding protuberance, whereby to provide card-retaining means, each of said protuberances having a downwardly curved portion directed toward the opposite fork portion of the corresponding upright to guide the lower edge portion of a card between said protuberance and said opposite fork portion, and each upright further having a downwardly curved portion in the lower part thereof for guiding the lower edge of a card toward said opposite corresponding fork portion.

2. In a counter rack, comprising a pair of uprights adapted for mounting on a counter, each of said uprights having a collaterally extending strap secured to the lower portions thereof so as to extend in parallel spaced relation with the upper parts thereof, each of said uprights having a protuberance projecting laterally from the surface thereof opposite said straps, said straps being biased to bear against the end portions of said protuberances, whereby to provide clip means for a menu card, each of said uprights having a downwardly curved portion in its lower region constituting a card seat and adapted to guide the lower edge of a card toward said straps.

3. In a counter rack, comprising a pair of uprights, each having a collaterally extending strap secured to the lower portions thereof so as to extend in parallel spaced relation with the upper parts thereof, each of said uprights having a protuberance projecting laterally from the surface thereof opposite said straps, said straps being biased to bear against the end portions of said protuberances, whereby to provide clip means for a menu card, each of said uprights having a downwardly curved portion in its lower region constituting a card seat and adapted to guide the lower edge of a card toward said straps, and each of said protuberances having a downwardly curved portion leading from the region of its juncture with the corresponding upright toward the corresponding strap, whereby to guide the edge of a card toward the end portion of the protuberance for passage between the latter and the corresponding strap.