

June 21, 1949.

E. G. SLATER

2,473,771

TOWEL RACK

Filed June 17, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

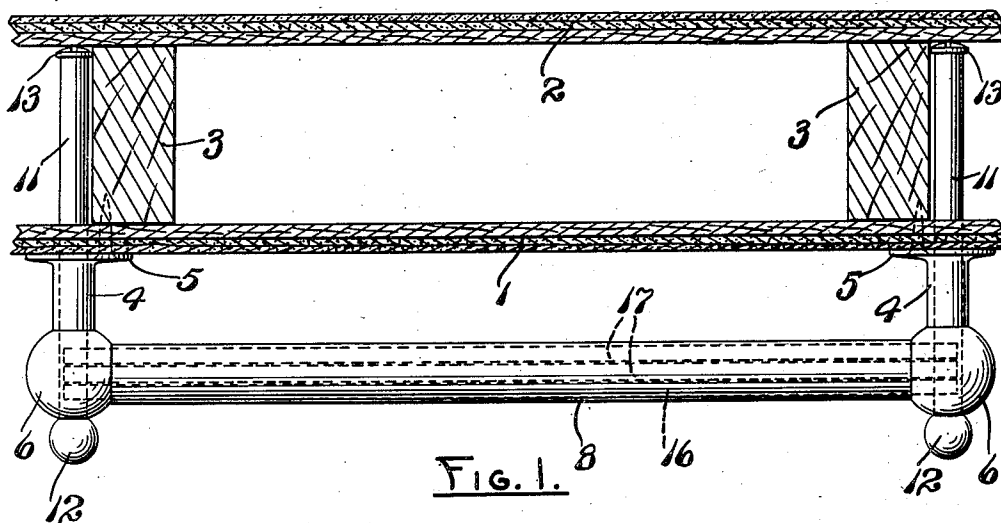


FIG. 1.

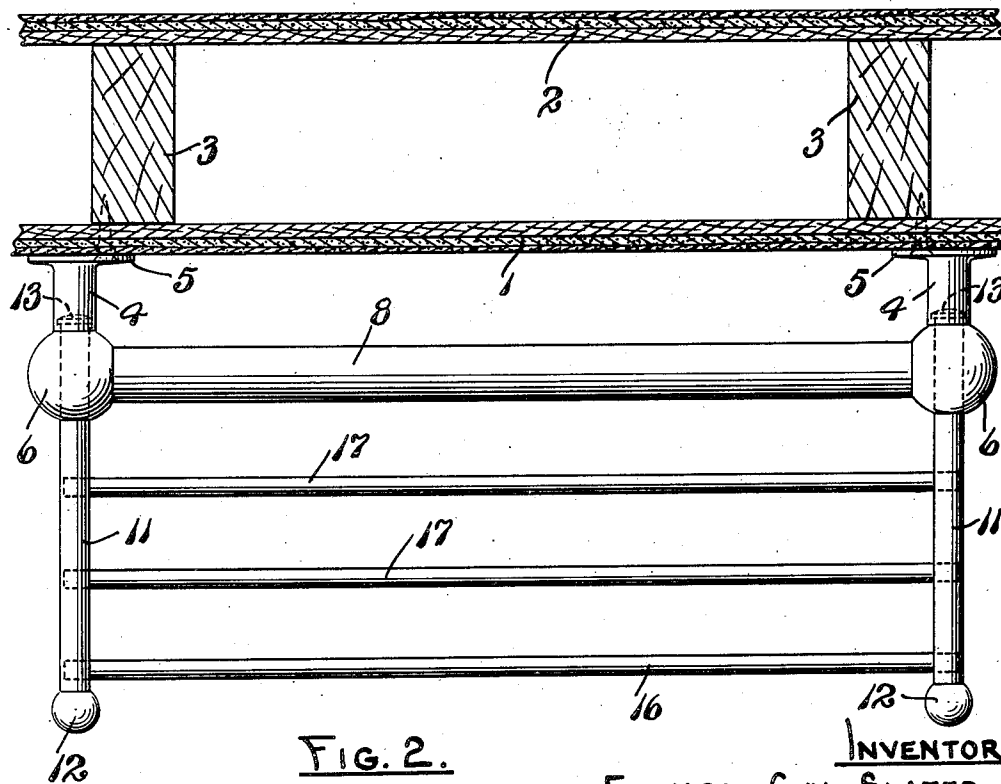


FIG. 2.

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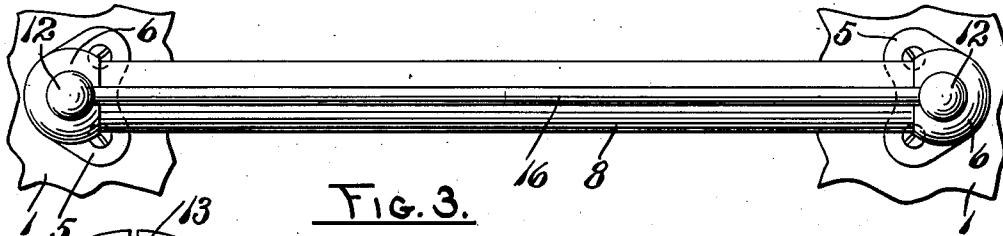


FIG. 3.

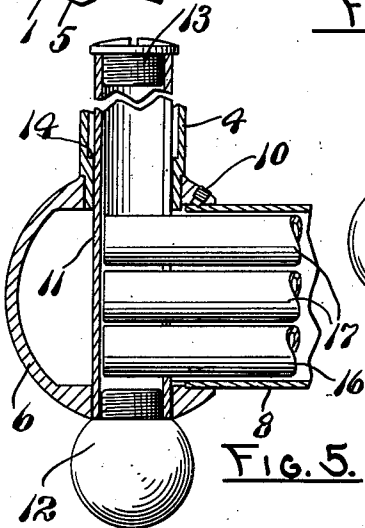


FIG. 5.

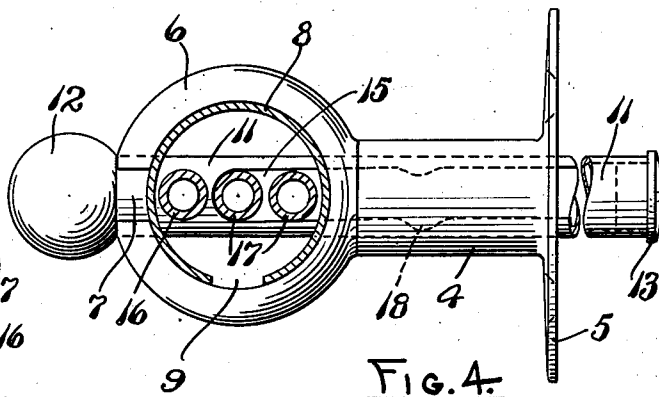


FIG. 4.

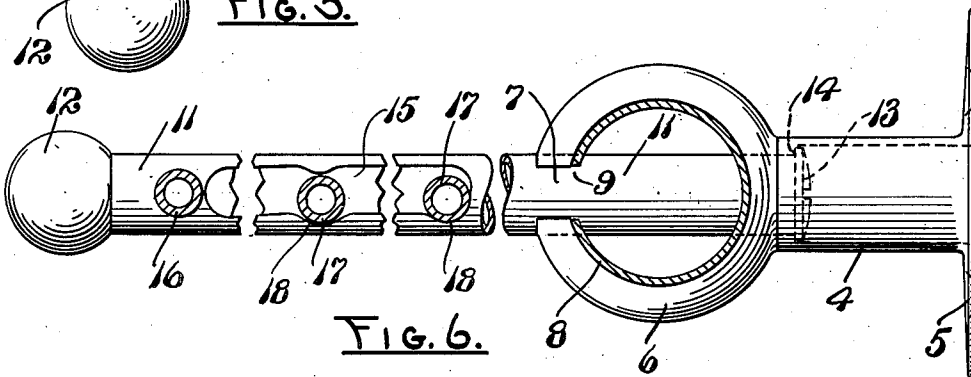


FIG. 6.

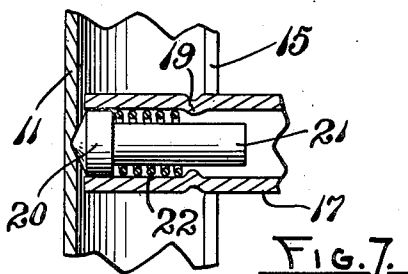


FIG. 7.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## TOWEL RACK

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8 Claims. (Cl. 211-123)

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This invention relates to towel bars. It includes a towel bar structure adapted to be mounted on the wall of a room or similar vertical support, but which has incorporated therewith a supplementary rack structure which may be pulled out to operative position to provide a number of additional spaced bars or rods on which towels or other fabric articles may be hung, and which may be pushed back to closed or retracted position in which the several bars are housed within the main towel rack bar and are not seen, there being presented what appears to be a conventional towel rack consisting of a horizontal bar between its two supporting brackets which are connected to and extend outwardly from a wall or other vertical support.

It is a primary object and purpose of my invention to provide a novel and particularly useful towel rack and extensible supplementary rack structure associated and combined therewith, having the properties and functions stated, and to provide a novel structure in which a hollow towel rack bar is longitudinally slotted at one side for the passage therein to and the movement outwardly therefrom of the auxiliary supporting rods which when not in use are housed within the main towel rack bar; and said bar is turnable about its longitudinal axis to locate the slot in a position for receiving the auxiliary rods, or for permitting their movement outside. When said auxiliary rods are within the main towel rack bar, said bar may be turned through an arc of 90 degrees to automatically lock the auxiliary rods and their supports against movement and to position the towel bar so that its slotted side is at the bottom and is not normally seen.

An understanding of the invention may be had from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan of the structure of my invention in retracted position and showing the wall structure on which mounted in horizontal section.

Fig. 2 is a similar view with the supplementary supporting rod structure pulled out to operative position.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the extended structure shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section through the towel bar structure in its retracted position, one of the supporting brackets being shown in side elevation.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary horizontal section taken substantially at a central horizontal plane at one end of the main towel rod member and its support.

Fig. 6 is a transverse vertical section through

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the extended structure, the section being taken between the ends of the rods, or from front to rear in Fig. 2, and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary enlarged detail of a structure illustrating the movable mounting of part of the supplementary supporting rods and a means usable for releasably holding them at a desired location.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in the different figures of the drawings.

The support for the towel bar structure of my invention in general will be a vertical wall of a room which may have spaced, opposite vertical sides 1 and 2 constructed in the usual manner, one at each side of spaced studding 3. It is at an outer side of the wall structure that the towel rod is to be mounted, and in the present disclosure, it is at the outer side of the wall side 1, though it could be mounted at the outer side of the opposite side 2 quite as effectively.

In the structure which I have made, two spaced supporting brackets 4 having bases 5 are secured by means of screws passing through said bases. The brackets 4 are hollow and at their outer ends a knob 6 of generally spherical contour may be secured. Said knobs at their inner sides have openings for the reception of the ends of the main towel bar and from said openings, horizontal slots 7 (Fig. 6) extend outwardly, as shown.

The main towel bar 8 is a hollow tube of sheet metal which, at one side, is longitudinally slotted for its full length providing a slot 9 of substantially the same width as the slot 7. The tubular bar 8 at its ends is received in sockets in the knobs 6 and may be held in place by screws 10, one at each end. As shown in Fig. 5, the inner ends of the screws are received in grooves shaped to receive them made in the outer surface of the rod 8. Said screws are not brought into binding engagement but there is a sufficient looseness or play of the screws in the grooves that the tubular bar 8 may be turned around its longitudinal axis through a 90 degree arc, so that the slot 9 may be brought into alinement with the slots 7 in the knob 6, as in Fig. 6, or turned to a down position, as in Fig. 4. Therefore, the grooves which receive the inner ends of the screws 10 may be of a length of substantially one-quarter of the circumferential distance around the tube 8, providing stops at their ends for properly positioning and locating the tube 8 at its two extremes of rotative movement.

The supplemental rack structure has two spaced, horizontal tubular supports 11 slidable passing through the knob 6 and the brackets 4,

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The outer ends of tubes are closed by decorative balls 12, threaded thereto and at their inner ends by screws 13, the exterior diameter at the heads of which permits their passage into the tubular arms 4 until stopped by engagement against the shoulders 14 therewithin, best shown in Fig. 5. Thus the supporting rods 11 may be pulled out until the heads 13 engage such shoulders or they may be pushed back until the balls 12 come against the knobs 6.

The tubular rods 11 are slotted at their inner sides making somewhat elongated horizontal slots 15 closed at both ends, (Fig. 6). Immediately adjacent the outer ends of the slots 15 a rod 16 of small diameter extends between the two telescoping rods 11. Two additional rods 17 of the same diameter have their ends received in the slots 15 and are, therefore, movable lengthwise of said slots. As a simple means of locating the rods 17 when the supplementary rack structure is extended, said slots at their under sides, at their rear ends and midway between their ends are shaped to provide concave recesses 18 into which the end portions of the rods 17 are received. Thus when the telescoping rods 11 are pulled out, the outermost rod 16 moves with them, while the two inner rods 17 are moved to properly space them from each other and from the rod 16 and bar 8 being seated in the recesses at 18. Another form of structure for releasably retaining the inner and intermediate rods 17 in proper position is shown in Fig. 7. Each of the rods 17 a short distance from each end thereof is provided with an inwardly rib 19. A releasable latch head 20 having a conical outer end is located within each end of each rod 17 and has an inwardly extending stem 21 with a coiled spring 22 around it between the head 20 and the rib 19. The telescopic supporting rod 11 may be provided with properly spaced conical seats for the outer ends of the heads 20. It is evident that the rods 17 in this manner may be releasably held at desired positions.

For the extension or retraction of the supplementary rack structure, the tubular towel rod 18 is turned to the position in Fig. 6, with slots 7 and 9 in conjunction. In such position the supplementary rack side supports 11 may be pulled out until stopped by the screw head 13 engaging the shoulders 14; and the rod 17 located in their desired spaced positions, as in Figs. 2 and 6. When the supplementary rack structure is retracted, it is merely necessary to push the side supporting rod 11 inwardly until the balls 12 come against the knobs 6. In this movement, the rods 17 and, lastly, the rod 16 will pass through slots 7 and 9 and the inner rod 17 coming against the inner side of the housing rod 8, the two rods 17 will be moved along the slots 15 and, with the three rods 16 and 17 wholly located within and housed by the main towel bar 8. After this retracting movement has been completed the tubular rod 3 is turned through a 90 degree arc from the position shown in Fig. 6 to that in Fig. 4, the slot 9 in the rod 8 being moved to the under side thereof and an automatic locking or holding of the extensible supplementary rack structure obtained.

The structure described is of a very novel, practical and useful character. The structure can be used solely as a towel rod having a single bar support; or it may be extended as described to provide a large addition for the support of towels or other articles of fabric make, and after

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it has served its purpose, retracted and out of the way out of sight as described.

While I have described a practical and serviceable structure, various modifications in detail may be resorted to, and the invention is not to be restricted to the specific form disclosed.

The invention is defined in the appended claims, and is to be considered comprehensive of all forms of structure coming within their scope.

I claim:

1. In a construction as described, a towel rod having horizontally spaced supporting brackets and a hollow bar extending between them, and a supplemental rack including slidably mounted parallel bars, one extending through outward openings in each of said brackets, and a cross rod extending between and connected to said slidably mounted bars adapted to be received within the hollow bar, said bar being longitudinally slotted at one side for such reception.

2. A construction as defined in claim 1, and means for rotatably mounting said hollow bar on its brackets for turning about its longitudinal axis, whereby the slot therein may be moved into horizontal alignment with the cross rod for it to pass therethrough, and after such passage be turned to another position.

3. A rack structure as described comprising, two horizontally spaced tubular supporting brackets, a hollow rack bar extending between the brackets, a supplemental rack including two parallel spaced side supporting rods each slidably extending through an opening in each of said brackets and movable inward and outward with respect thereto, and a plurality of rods extending between said side supporting rods and movably mounted thereon, whereby they may be spaced from each other or be brought closely adjacent to each other, said hollow bar having a longitudinal slot therein through which said last mentioned rods may pass to be housed in the hollow rack bar.

4. A construction as defined in claim 3, said side supporting rods each having a longitudinal slot at its inner side slidably receiving the end portions of the rods extending between them, whereby said rods are movable to different positions relative to each other.

5. A construction as defined in claim 3, said hollow rack bar between the brackets being mounted at its ends for rotation about its longitudinal axis, to locate the slot therein in position for passage of the supplemental rack rods; and to be thereafter turned to locate said slot at the under side of the hollow bar.

6. A construction as defined in claim 3, said side supporting rods of the supplemental rack structure each having a longitudinal slot therein into which the end portions of the rods extending between them are received; and means for releasably retaining said last mentioned rods at preselected spaced positions when the supplemental rack is extended outwardly.

7. A rack structure as described comprising, two hollow horizontally spaced bracket arms having hollow knobs at their outer ends, a hollow rack bar extending between said knobs, a supplemental rack structure including two parallel spaced hollow rods telescopically mounted on and extending through said hollow brackets and knobs, a horizontal rod extending between and connected to said last mentioned spaced rods near the outer ends thereof, additional rods parallel thereto extending between and movably mounted on

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said telescoping rods for spacing from each other and from the first mentioned rod carried by the side rods, or for movement to bring all of said rods extending between the side supporting rods closely adjacent each other, said hollow bar having a longitudinal slot in one side, and said knobs being similarly slotted at their outer portions and inner sides whereby all of the rods extending between said side supporting rods are receivable within said hollow bar when the supplemental rack is moved inwardly.

8. A construction as defined in claim 7, said hollow bar extending between said bracket knobs being mounted for rotation about its longitudinal axis thereon, and means for limiting said rotation and for stopping said hollow bar at two extreme positions of movement, in one of which the slot therein is positioned for the passage of said rods extending between the side supporting

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rods into the hollow bar, and in the other position of which said slot is turned to be at the under side of said hollow bar and interpose a stop against extension of the supplementary rack structure.

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