April 22, 1958 M. E. FRY 2,831,956

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE

Filed Jan. 19, 1954 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

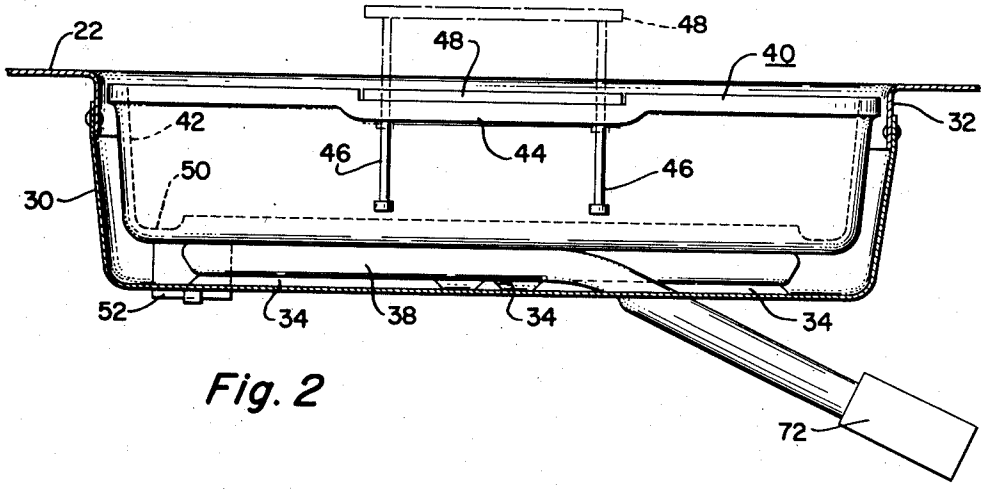
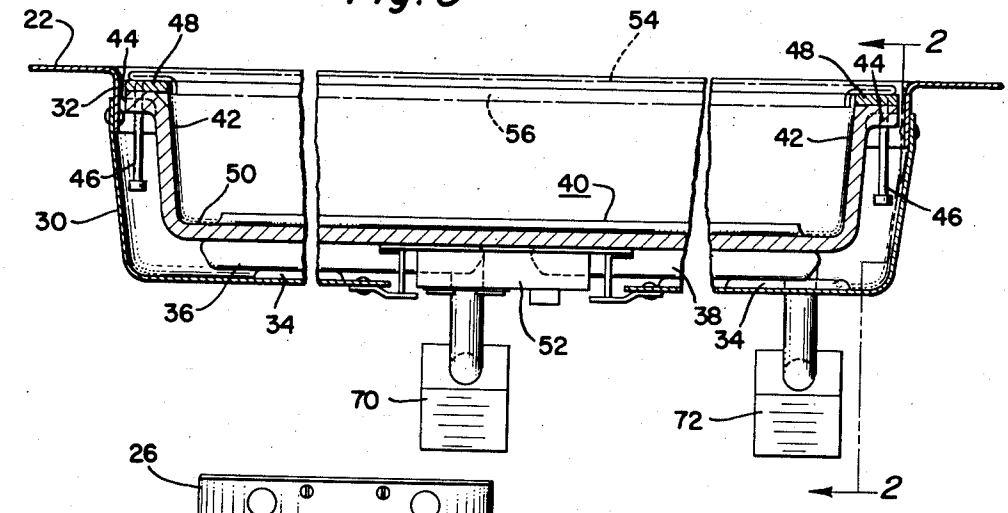


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



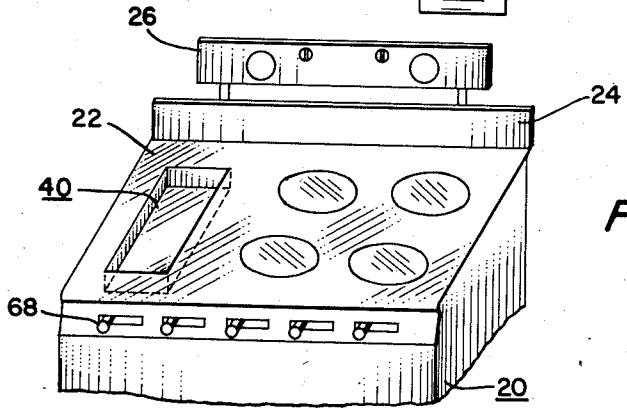


Fig. 1

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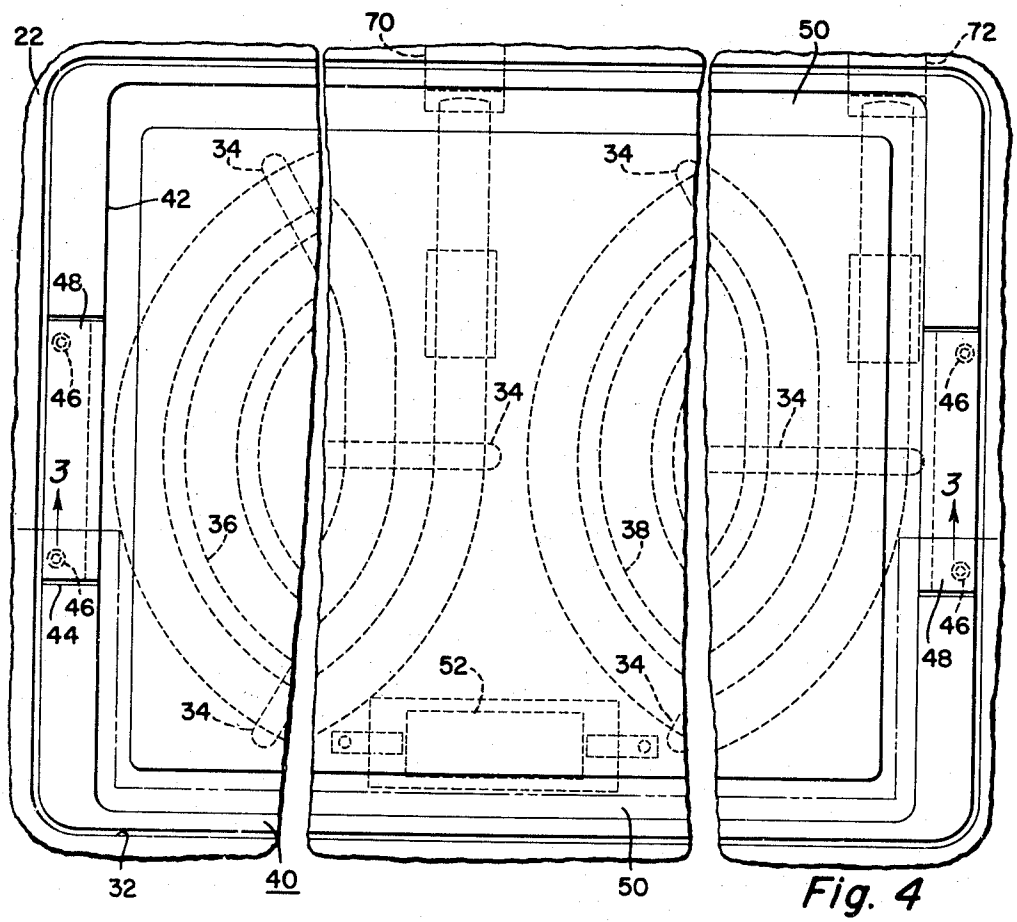


Fig. 4

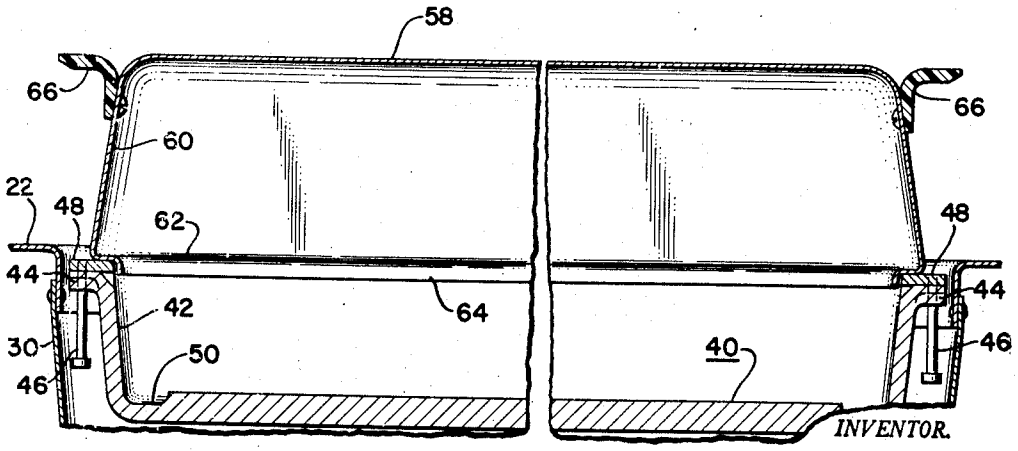


Fig. 5

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United States Patent Office 2,831,956
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2,831,956

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE

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Application January 19, 1954, Serial No. 404,917

1 Claim. (Cl. 219—43)

This invention relates to a domestic appliance and more particularly to a range provided with a combined sunken griddle and Dutch oven.

When a griddle is used which is substantially flush with the top surface of the range, its use for such things as frying hamburger allows the grease to splatter over the top surface of the stove.

It is an object of my invention to provide a griddle arrangement in which the grease is confined.

It is another object of my invention to provide an improved simple arrangement in which a griddle may also be used as a Dutch oven upon the top of a range.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein a preferred form of the invention is clearly shown.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a range top embodying one form of my invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 in Figure 3 of the griddle embodying my invention;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Figure 4;

Figure 4 is a top view of my griddle; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view similar to Figure 3 showing the Dutch oven conversion.

Referring now to Fig. 1 there is shown an electric range **20** provided with a range top **22** and integral back plasher **24** and a control panel **26**. On the left side of the range top **22** there is provided a sunken griddle **28** embodying my invention.

Referring now more particularly to the remaining figures, the range top **22** is provided with a sunken rectangular well **30** in the form of a pan-shaped member having its upper edges fastened by rivets or screws to the downturned flange **32** of the rectangular opening in the range top. The bottom of the well **30** is provided with upwardly projecting transverse embossed ribs **34**. Resting upon these embossed ribs **34** are two sheathed tubular type heating elements **36** and **38** which may be like the heating units shown in Patent No. 2,508,554, issued May 2, 1950.

The griddle **40** rests directly upon the heating elements **36** and **38** and is in the form of a shallow rectangular pan of cast aluminum having almost vertical side walls **42** and projections **44** at each end. These projections **44** hold the pins **46** which extend downwardly from the disappearing handles **48** through apertures in the projections **44**. The handles **48** preferably sink into recesses in the projections **44** of the griddle **40**, as in Fig. 2, so that the upper flange is in the same plane all around. The upper position of the handles **48** is shown in dot and dash lines in Fig. 2. At the base of the wall **42** there is provided a grease collecting groove **50** extending all around the griddle at the base of the wall **42** so that any excess grease

on the central plateau surface within the pan may flow outwardly into the recess **50**. Fastened to the bottom of the griddle **40** is a thermostat **52** which is connected in series with the heating elements **36** and **38** to limit the temperature of the griddle **40** to prevent burning or scorching.

When not in use, the griddle **40** may be covered by a substantially flat cover **54** of stainless steel or aluminum having folded edge portions provided with an inwardly extending flange **56** fitting inside the walls **42** of the griddle **40**. When it is desired to use the griddle **40** as a Dutch oven, the cover **54** is removed and replaced by the inverted pan-shaped cover **58** shown in Fig. 5. This cover **58** is rectangular and has downwardly extending walls **60** provided with inwardly extending flanges **62** adapted to rest upon the rim or flange of the griddle **40**. In addition, the flanges **62** have downwardly turned edges **64** which fit within the walls **42** of the griddle **40**. This cover **58** converts the griddle **40** into a Dutch oven upon the range top **22**. The cover **58** is provided with suitablbe handles **66** of ceramic material or some suitable plastic such as phenolformaldehyde resin. The griddle and oven may be controlled by a sliding type control **68** upon the front of the range top which may operate and adjust suitable infinite heat switches which electrically connect to the terminals **70** and **72** of the heaters **36** and **38** and to the thermostat **52** in series circuit with the heaters. Such infinite heat switches may be of the type shown in the Wilhjelm Patent 1,767,636, issued June 24, 1930.

While the embodiment of the present invention as herein disclosed constitutes a preferred form, it is to be understood that other forms might be adopted.

What is claimed is as follows:

A domestic cooking range including a range top provided with a shallow well containing heating means, a pan within said well removably supported upon said heating means, said pan having side walls terminating below the range top and spaced from the side walls of said well so as to provide an air gap between said pan and the vertical walls of said well, said pan having handles normally recessed in the upper surface of the side walls of the pan and provided with a slidable lost motion connection with the side walls of the pan permitting the lifting of the handles above the range top, said handles having portions extending downwardly into said air gap when when not in use and a removable cover in the form of an inverted pan of substantially the same size and shape as said pan having its side walls sloping outwardly from top to bottom adjacent said handles and resting upon the side walls of said pan inside said handles to form a Dutch oven.

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