Dec. 13, 1932. L. J. MURPHY ET AL 1,890,743

FOLDABLE EXTENSION COUNTER SHELF

Filed Nov. 2, 1931

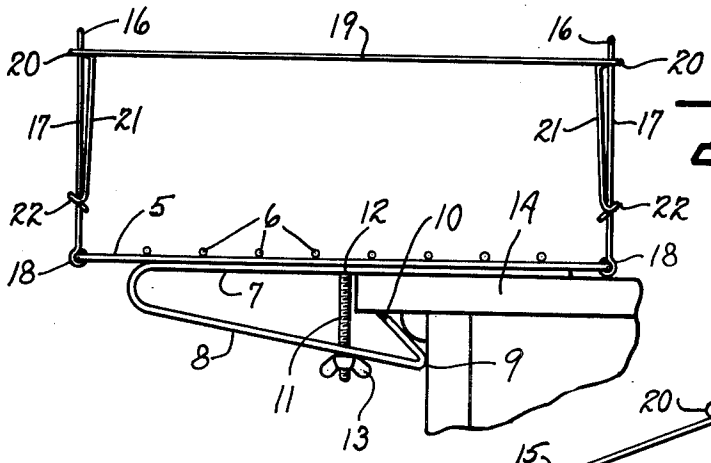


Fig. 1

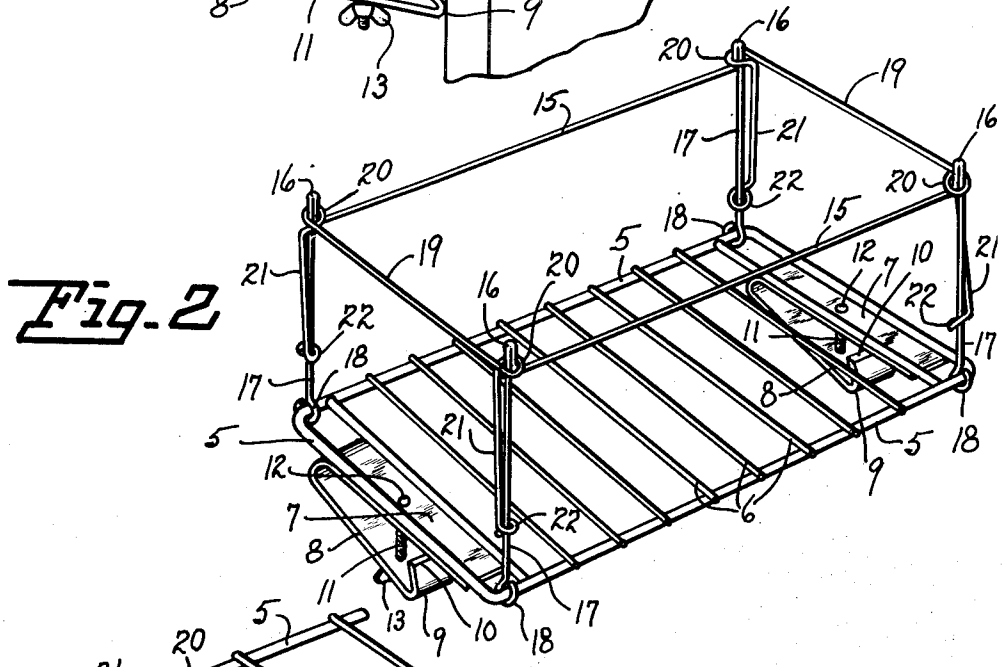


Fig. 2

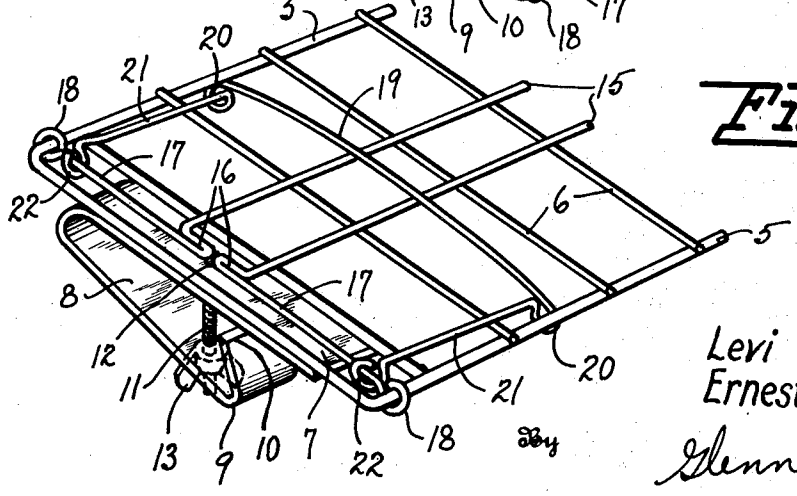


Fig. 3

Inventors
Levi J. Murphy
Ernest L. Stauffer
By Glenn L. Fish
Attorney

Patented Dec. 13, 1932

1,890,743

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LEVI J. MURPHY AND ERNEST L. STAUFFER, OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

FOLDABLE EXTENSION COUNTER SHELF

Application filed November 2, 1931. Serial No. 572,474.

Our invention relates to foldable extension counter shelves that are adapted to be fastened to a store counter for the convenient purpose of retaining groceries such as bread, cakes and the like. Certain objects of the invention are to provide a shelf comprising novel means for securely clamping the device to a store counter; novel means for retaining the side and end frames of the device locked in the upright position; novel means whereby the device is folded in compact form; and novel means for securing the device in the folded position.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of the novel construction, adaptation, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed. These objects are accomplished by devices illustrated in the accompanying drawing; wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in end elevation showing the device attached to a counter;

Fig. 2 is a general view in perspective of the device; and

Figure 3 is a view in perspective showing one end portion of the device in the folded position.

Referring to the drawing throughout which like reference numerals designate like parts, the bottom of the shelf comprises a rectangular wire frame 5 having a plurality of transverse bars 6 secured thereto in spaced apart relation. Spring bracket clamps have their upper portions 7 welded or otherwise secured to the underside of the bottom at each end thereof. Said clamps are bent upon themselves to form lower portions 8 whose outer ends are bent inwardly to form heel portions 9 and toe portions 10. A bolt 11 passes loosely through the lower portion of each clamp and is secured to the upper portions thereof at 12 in any suitable and desirable manner.

A butterfly or other form of thumb nut 13 is installed on the bolts 11 of the clamps. To install the device, as shown in Fig. 1, the inner half portion of its bottom is placed on the top 14 of a counter with the toes 10 of the clamps engaging the underside of the overhanging portion of the counter, and the heel portions 9 of said clamps bearing against the forward upright face of said counter. The nuts 13 are then screwed up thus drawing the lower portions 8 of the clamps toward their upper portions 7 and causing their heel and toe portions to securely engage the counter. This clamping arrangement provides means whereby the device may be firmly secured to a counter and with sufficient rigidity to support the load thereon even though most of the load be placed on the outer or forward overhanging portion thereof.

The two side frames of the device each comprise a longitudinal bar 15 whose end portions are bent upwardly and downwardly upon themselves to provide upstanding knobs 16 and depending legs 17. The ends of said legs are pivotally secured to the bottom frame 5 by means of loops 18. The two ends frames comprise transverse bars 19 whose outer end portions are bent upon themselves to provide loops 20 and thence downwardly to provide depending legs 21 that are shorter than the legs of the side frames. The ends of said legs are bent around the legs of the side frames in the form of loops 22 that are adapted to slide up and down thereon. In the upstanding position the end frames are raised and their loops are dropped down over the upstanding knobs 16 of the side frames thus retaining both the side frames and the end frames respectively in parallel relation and retaining the frames as a whole locked in an upstanding rectangular position as most clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

To fold the device as shown in Fig. 3, the end frames are first raised and their loops 20 are freed from the knobs 16. Said end frames are then slidably lowered until their loops 22 impinge the loops 18 of the side legs 17. The side frames are then pivotally folded inward until their bars 15 rest on the transverse bottom bars 6. The end frames are then folded inward until their bars 19 rest on the side bars 15. By means of slight force the loops 20 of the end frames are sprung or snapped under the sides of

the bottom frame 5 thus securing all of the side and end frames in the folded position whereby the device as a whole is disposed in a very compact form.

Having thus described our invention, it being understood that minor changes in its construction and arrangement may be resorted to without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention, what we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. The combination of a foldable shelf of the character described with the forward portion of a store counter, of clamps secured to the bottom end portions of the shelf, said clamps bent to form lower spring portions, said lower portions bent inwardly to form heel and toe portions, a bolt passing loosely through the lower spring portions and having a nut arranged to compress said lower spring portions, and the rear bottom portion of the shelf resting on the top of the counter with the toe and heel portions of the clamps respectively engaging under the overhanging top portion and against the front face of the counter.

2. A foldable extension counter shelf having in combination a rectangular bottom frame with transverse bars secured thereto, side bars having upstanding knobs and depending legs, said legs having loop ends pivotally connected to the bottom frame, end bars having loops adapted to fit over the upstanding knobs whereby the side bars are retained in parallel spaced apart relation, depending legs for the end bars having loop ends slidably disposed on the legs of the side bars, and clamping means whereby the shelf may be secured to a store counter.

3. A foldable extension counter shelf having in combination a rectangular frame with transverse bars, side frames comprising a longitudinal bar, upstanding knobs and depending legs, said legs having loop ends pivotally connected to the bottom frame, end frames comprising transverse bars with loops spaced apart to fit over the upstanding knobs when the frames are in the upright position, said end frames having depending legs with loop ends slidably mounted on the legs of the side frames, clamps secured to the bottom end portions of the shelf, said clamps bent to form lower spring portions and heel and toe portions, and a bolt passing loosely through the lower spring portions and having a nut adapted to compress said lower spring portions.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

LEVI J. MURPHY.
ERNEST L. STAUFFER.