July 4, 1933. R. E. DOWDELL 1,916,755

STACKING FIXTURE

Filed Sept. 2, 1931

Fig. 1.

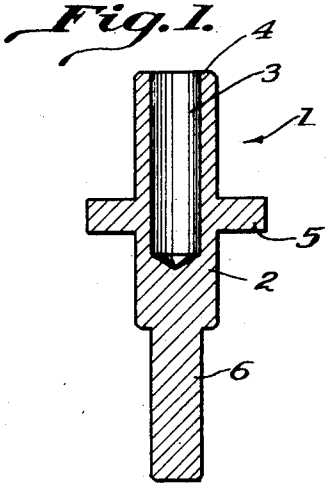


Fig. 2.

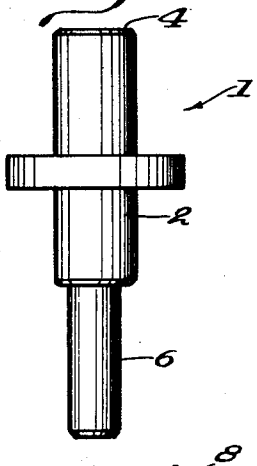
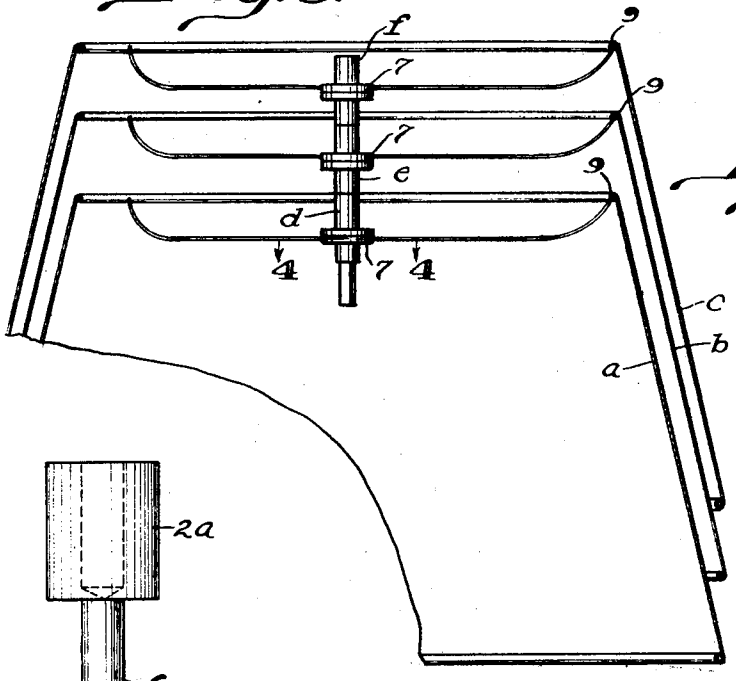


Fig. 3.



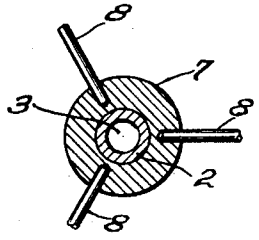


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Inventor
R. E. Dowdell

By W. S. McDowell

Attorney

Patented July 4, 1933 1,916,755

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

RUTH E. DOWDELL, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO

STACKING FIXTURE

Application filed September 2, 1931. Serial No. 560,682.

This invention relates to improvements in stacking fixtures and has for its primary object the provision of simple yet efficient means for effecting the stacking or nesting of lamp shades whereby said shades may be compactly assembled for transportation, storage or display purposes in such a manner as to occupy but a minimum of space and be spaced relatively in order to minimize the possibility of damage thereto.

It is the common practice in the merchandising of lamp shades used in connection with floor and other types of lamps to place such shades, when the same are of approximately the same dimensions, in a grouped or nested relationship, in order that a large number of the shades may be retained in but a minimum of storage space. Such nesting of the shades frequently results in scratching, creasing or otherwise marring or injuring the same with consequent economic loss to the merchant handling the same and, therefore, in accordance with the present invention, I provide a stacking or spacing fixture by which said lamp shades may be assembled one on the other and yet maintained in such spaced relationship as to prevent injury or damage to the shades so assembled.

It is another object of the invention to provide a fixture of the character specified which is of such form as to permit of the convenient removal of any one shade from a group of nested shades in a convenient and expeditious manner and without disturbing materially the nested relationship of the group.

For a further understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view in vertical section of a shade stacking fixture formed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken through several nested lamp shades and disclosing the operating positions of the fixtures in the assembly;

Fig. 4 is a detail horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a slightly modified form of fixture.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates my improved shade stacking fixture in its entirety. Preferably, this fixture comprises a substantially cylindrical body 2 formed from any desired material such as metal, wood, or molded composition. The body 2 has provided therein a longitudinally extending socket 3 which opens to the upper end 4 of said body. Intermediately of its length, the body has integrally formed therewith an annular laterally projecting flange 5, while the lower end of the body terminates in an extension 6 of lesser diameter than the diameter of the body 2 in order that the extension may be received within the socket of a lower complemental fixture.

In the use of the invention, as shown in Fig. 3, the lamp shades *a*, *b* and *c* are assembled in nested relationship with the spacing fixtures arranged between them to prevent contact between adjoining portions or surfaces of the grouped shades. Each shade comprises the usual standard receiving ring 7 located in the upper axial portion of each shade, and connected with the ring are radially extending supporting wires 8, which have their outer ends connected with circular wires 9 to which the upper edge portions of the shade coverings are connected. A fixture 1 is positioned in the ring 7 of the lowermost shade *a*, so that the bottom portion of its flange 5 rests upon the upper surface of the ring 7. The bottom fixture of the assembly is indicated by the letter *d*. The next fixture, indicated at *e*, is then positioned with its extension 6 received in the socket 3 of the fixture. The shade *b* is then positioned over the shade *a* until the lowermost surface of the ring 7 of the shade *b* contacts with the upper surfaces of the flange 5 of the fixture *e*, the body 2 of the fixture serving to prevent any lateral shifting of the shade on the fixture assembly. A third fixture *f* is then positioned in the fixture *e* and the shade *c* is positioned thereon as described in relation to the positioning of the shade *b* on the fixture *e*. In this manner, one shade may be placed on the other in any de-

sired number and yet each shade will be effectively spaced from adjoining shades to avoid marring, scratching or in any way injuring the decorative surfaces of the shades by reason of handling when in such grouped order. The group of nested shades may be separated where desired to permit of the selected withdrawal of any one shade. For example, if the shade *b* were to be removed from a dozen or more nested shades, it will be observed that by elevating the group of shades from *c* and above, the shade *b* could readily be removed from its connection with the fixture *e* without disturbing the grouped order of the removed shades.

The present invention is especially advantageous in establishments where large quantities of lamp shades are being displayed for sales and other purposes. It is well known that lamp shades, although they vary widely in price, are of fragile construction and in many instances are quite costly. Great care has usually been exercised in the past by sales clerks or others having them in charge, to prevent injury to individual shades in order to avoid loss in their predetermined sales value. However, in spite of such precautions, many of such fragile shades have been ruined or injured especially by handling when in nested relationship or by the mere weight of the shades pressing on one another. I have found that by using the fixture comprising the present invention, these losses have been greatly reduced, shade injuries minimized and in addition considerable convenience is afforded in the facility with which the nested or grouped shades may be handled.

In Fig. 5, a form of the fixture has been illustrated wherein the flange 5 has been omitted and the body 2*a* is of uniform diameter throughout its length. In this form of the invention, the shade ring 7 rests upon the upper surface of the body 2*a*, and the extension 6*a* is used as a centering means for the shade. It is also obvious that the fixture is subject to further modification and therefore I do not desire to be limited to the specific disclosures above set forth and illustrated but reserve the right to employ such variations of my invention that may be said to fall fairly within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a lamp shade spacing fixture comprising a cylindrical body having a longitudinally extending axially disposed socket formed therein opening to one end of said body, a positioning flange extending peripherally and laterally from said body at a point intermediate of its ends, and an extension of reduced diameter formed at one end with said body and receivable within the socket of an adjoining fixture.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a lamp shade spacing fixture comprising a body having a longitudinally extending axially disposed socket formed therein opening to one end of said body, a positioning flange extending peripherally and laterally from said body at a point intermediate of its ends, and an extension of reduced diameter formed at one end with said body and receivable within the socket of an adjoining similar fixture, said flange serving as a seat for the center ring of a lamp shade frame.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

RUTH E. DOWDELL.