A. M. CASE.

RUG STORING AND DISPLAY RACK.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 2, 1920.

1,394,469. Patented Oct. 18, 1921.

Fig. 1.

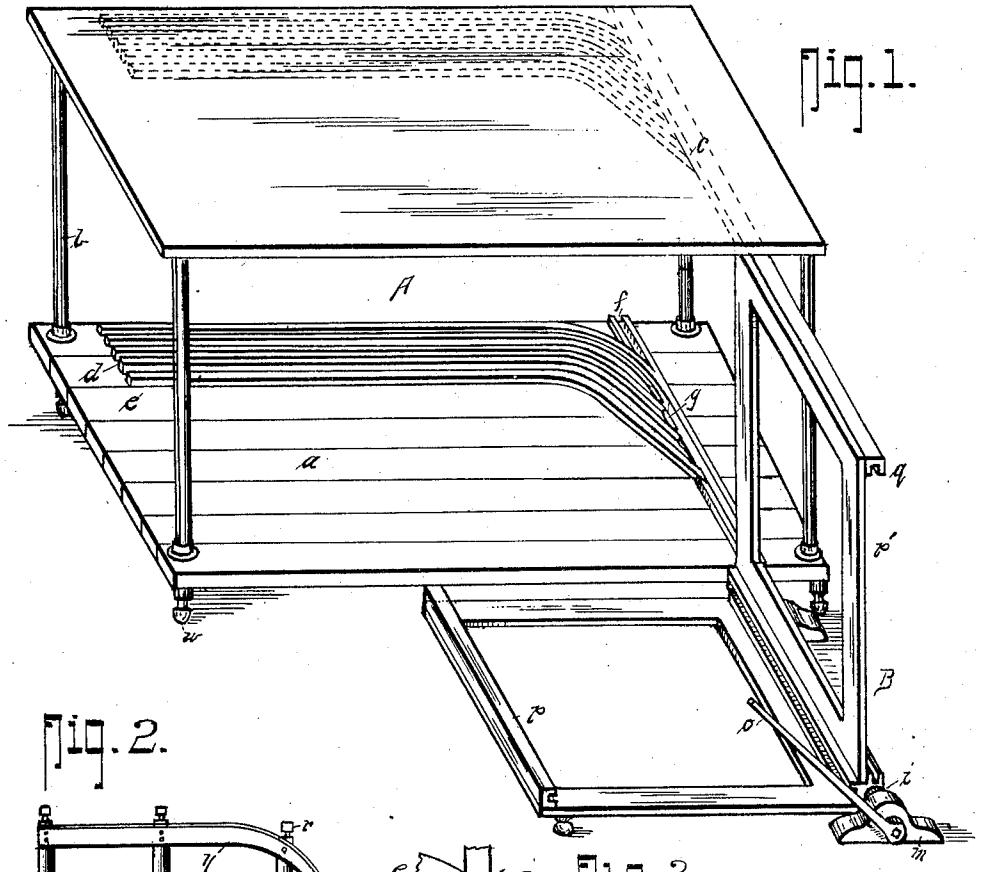


Fig. 2.

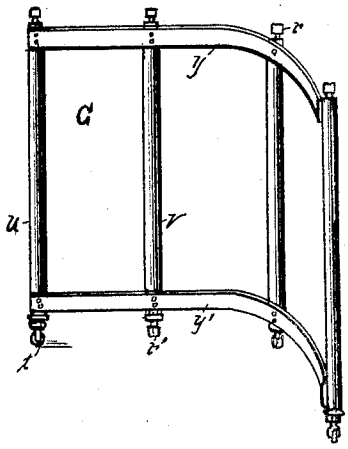


Fig. 3.

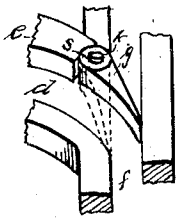
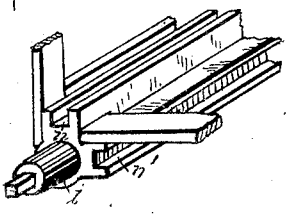


Fig. 4.



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RUG STORING AND DISPLAY RACK.

1,394,469. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 18, 1921.

Application filed September 2, 1920. Serial No. 407,677.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AROLD M. CASE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeton, in the county of Parke and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in a Rug Storing and Display Rack, of which the following is a full specification.

My invention relates to improvements in a rack used for storing, protecting and displaying large rugs, tapestries and other similar objects; and the objects of the invention are: first, to provide a rack which will store a large number of rugs or other like objects and retain the same in a compact and space-saving manner; second, to provide such a device which will protect the rugs from dust and other injurious matter while so stored; third, to provide such a device whereby the various rugs or other objects stored therein can be easily and quickly displayed without removal from the rack, without loss of time and without any heavy lifting and whereby the rugs may be as easily and quickly stored away; fourth, to provide such a device whereby several rugs or other similar objects may be displayed at the same time and without their coming into contact with dust or other injurious matter upon the floor; and fifth, to provide such a device which will be easily and conveniently operated, of maximum durability and of inexpensive structure. These objects I attain by means of the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the rack. Fig. 2, is a detail of the flexible frame. Fig. 3, is a detail of the switch. Fig. 4, is a detail of the shaft and the tracks and frames mounted thereon.

Similar letters of reference refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The letter A indicates a substantial framework, which consists of a lower platform, or floor, *a*, a plurality of supporting posts *b*, and an upper platform, or cover, *c*.

A plurality of track-ways *d*, are provided at the rear side of said lower and upper platforms *a* and *c*, which are formed by parallel strips *e*, attached to the upper surface of the lower platform and to the under surface of the upper platform, respectively; and properly positioned thereon to place each track-way of the cover immediately over a corresponding track-way upon the floor of the rack.

The track-ways *d* extend as shown, from one end of the rack to a point near the other end thereof, where each track-way is curved toward the front edge of the platforms until it intersects a transverse track-way *f*, which extends across that end of the platforms *a* and *c*, respectively.

At the intersection of the track-way *f* with each of the curved ends of the track-ways *d*, there is a movable switch *g*, which is pivotally mounted upon said platforms at such points of intersection, and which will open the track-ways *d* into the track-ways *f* when open and close the same when closed.

The switches *g* are wedge-shaped and the outer edge of each is straight and adapted to form an integral part of the wall of the track-way *f* when closed, and the inner side of said switches is curved to conform with the curvature of the tracks *d* when opened, and to provide a continuous track-way from the track-ways *d* into the track-way *f*, as shown in detail of Fig. 3.

The switches *g* are mounted upon pivots *s*, attached to the respective platforms *a* and *c*, and said pivots are provided with heads *k*, which are adapted to retain said switches in proper position relative to the platforms to which they are attached.

The letter B indicates a display-rack, which consists of a shaft *i*, mounted upon and revolving in a pair of bearing-blocks *m*, at either end, a track-way *n* constructed upon said shaft *i* and extending throughout the length thereof, a track-way *n'* which is constructed upon said shaft *i* and so spaced thereon, that lines bisecting said track-ways *n* and *n'* and the axis of the shaft *i* will be at right angles to each other, in order that when one of said track-ways is standing perpendicular the other will recline horizontally, for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

The shaft 2 projects through the bearing-block stationed upon the outside and bears a lever-like handle *o*, whereby the shaft may be revolved.

A rectangular frame *p* is attached to the forward side of the track-way *n* and projects upwardly therefrom when said track-way stands upright, and a similar frame *p'* is attached to the track-way *n'* in similar manner. A track-way *q* is attached to the side of the upper bar of said rectangular frames *p* and *p'*, respectively, in proper position to coöperate with the corresponding track-ways *n* and *n'*, respectively.

The display rack B is positioned upon the floor, at right angles to the platform *a* and with the track-ways *n* and *n'*, when upright, in registering alinement with the corresponding track-ways *f* of the platforms *a* and *c*.

The bolsters *w* upon which the platform *a* rests and the bearing blocks *m* of the shaft *i*, are relatively proportioned, to properly register the various track-ways and thereby provide a continuous track-way from the platforms to the display rack.

A flexible framework C, consists of two end-posts *u*, two or more intermediate posts *v* and a pliable band of flexible material *y*, extending from and attached to each of said posts *u* and *v* and a similar flexible band *y'*, said flexible bands being attached to said posts near the top and bottom thereof, respectively.

A cylindrical roller *r* is mounted upon the upper end of each intermediate post and is properly proportioned to fit within the upper track-ways, and similar rollers *r'* are mounted upon the lower ends of said intermediate posts *v*, adapted to roll in the lower track-ways, and a caster *t* is mounted, pivotally, upon the lower end of each end post *u* and adapted to roll in and follow the various track-ways, when the flexible frame is moved backward or forward. As many flexible frames C are provided as there are track-ways *d* upon the platform *a* and each is adapted to receive and support one or more rugs, or other similar objects, in a spread and hanging manner. The rugs may be attached to said flexible frames by means of any suitable clamp or other fastening, of sufficient strength to support the rugs without sagging, and such fastenings do not constitute a material part of my invention and are therefore not specified.

To utilize my invention, a stock of rugs, tapestries or other similar objects, is stretched, one each, upon the flexible frames C which are housed when not in use, within the framework A, where they are stored compactly and out of the way, and the stock is protected from dust by the upper platform or cover *c*. When it is desired to display the stock of goods housed in my device, the flexible frame holding the rug desired is pulled forward in its track-way, passing the switch *g* into the track-way *f* from which it is drawn out upon the track-ways of one of the display-rack frames *p* or *p'*; then that frame may be lowered, thereby displaying the goods thereon in a lowered horizontal position, and incidentally bringing the other track-ways of the display-rack in alinement with the track-way *f*, when another flexible-frame may be drawn out upon the display-rack, in the same manner; when so disposed there are three rugs, or other objects, displayed at one time, two upon the display-rack and the forward one suspended within the framework A. It is apparent that by proper placing of the corresponding switches *g*, all of the flexible-frames may be alternately drawn out and returned to any vacant track-way within the framework A; thus any rug housed within the framework A, may be displayed, suspended and spread out flat; without the salesman lifting, folding or otherwise handling the same, and without the rugs ever coming into contact with the dust or other injurious material upon the floor of the show room.

The advantages claimed for my device over other similar devices used prior hereto, consist; first, in the means provided for storing a large number of rugs, or similar objects, within a small compact space; second, in the ease with which a stock of heavy goods may be displayed, without lifting, folding or soiling the goods; third in the means provided whereby such large and cumbersome goods as room sized rugs may be easily displayed in both upright and prostrate and fourth, in the protection of the stored goods while not upon display.

Having described my invention, its structure, use and advantages, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a rug storing and display rack, the combination of a framework, comprising an upper and lower platform, suitable supporting posts adapted to support the upper platform above the lower, a multiplicity of track-ways mounted upon the lower platform and extending along the rear part of said platform, a series of curved extensions of said tracks, a series of switches, mounted one each, at the end of said curved extensions of said track-ways, a transverse track-way extending from the rear to the front edge of said platform and adapted to register with the curved track-ways, when the corresponding-switches are properly placed, and a corresponding system of track-ways, and switches, suspended from the upper platform, immediately over and in proper alinement with corresponding track-ways upon the lower platform, with a display-rack comprising a revolving shaft movably mounted upon two end bearing-blocks and positioned at right-angles to said platforms, two track-ways extending throughout the length of said shaft, said track-ways being disposed upon the shaft at right-angles one to the other and at proper elevation to register with the outer end of the transverse track-way upon the platforms, two rectangular frames mounted upon the sides of said shaft track-ways, respectively, and each bearing an inverted track-way upon the upper bar adapted to register with the corresponding track-way upon the shaft, and a handle attached to the outer end of said shaft, a multiplicity of flexible frames com-

prising end and intermediate posts and flexible bands attached to and binding said posts together and suitable casters and rollers mounted upon said posts and adapted to guide said flexible frames along and within said track-ways.

2. In a rug storing and display rack, the combination of a framework comprising a lower platform, an upper platform, an upper and lower track-way system attached to the upper and lower platforms, respectively, and comprising a multiplicity of parallel track-ways positioned along the rear side of said platforms, curved extensions of said parallel trackways adapted to lead into transverse track-ways mounted across the end of said platforms and switches mounted at the various intersections of said parallel and transverse track-ways, said track-way systems being attached to the lower and upper platforms, respectively, with the upper track-ways positioned immediately above the corresponding lower track-ways, with a display-rack positioned at right-angles to said platforms and comprising a revolving shaft, one or more track-ways mounted longitudinally upon said shaft, one or more display-frames mounted upon and attached to said track-ways, track-ways attached to the upper bars of said display-frames and adapted to coöperate with the corresponding track-ways to which said display-frames are attached, respectively, means for revolving said shaft and the members mounted thereon, a multiplicity of flexible-frames adapted to move within and to and from the track-ways of said platforms and display-frames, respectively and suitable casters and rollers mounted upon the posts of said flexible-frames, adapted to guide and move said flexible-frames within said track-ways.

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Witnesses:
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