May 20, 1952 J. R. EBERHARDT 2,597,460

SERVING AND UTILITY TRAY

Filed Dec. 1, 1947 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

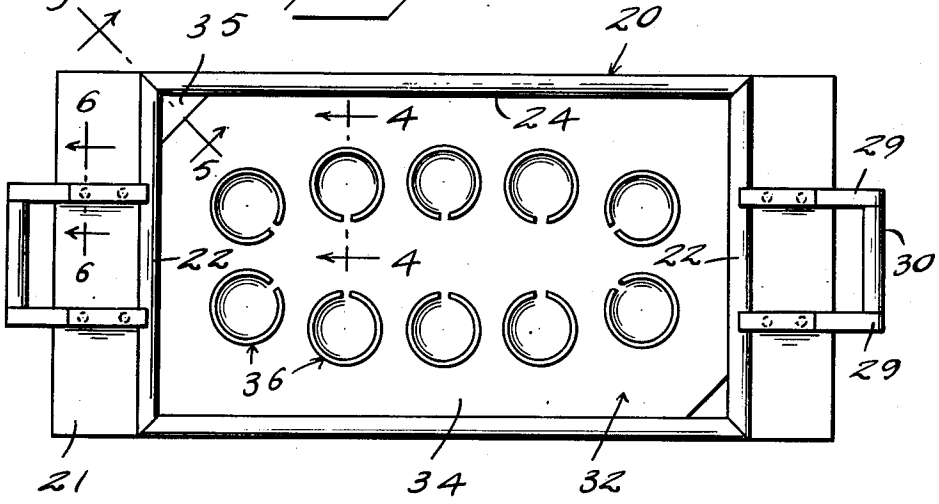


Fig. 3.

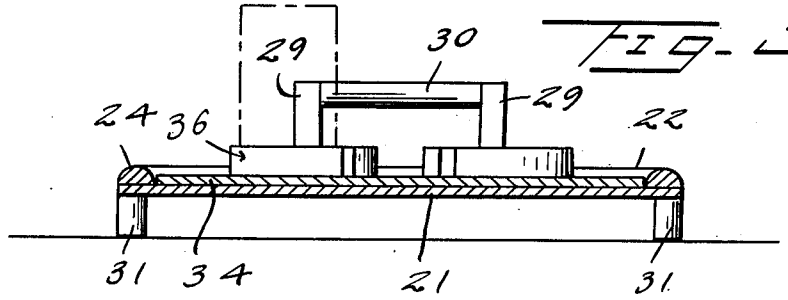


Fig. 4.

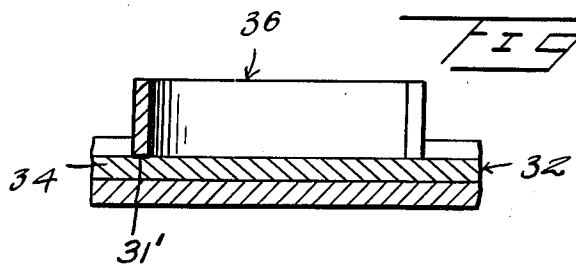
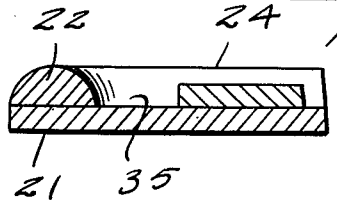


Fig. 5.



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SERVING AND UTILITY TRAY

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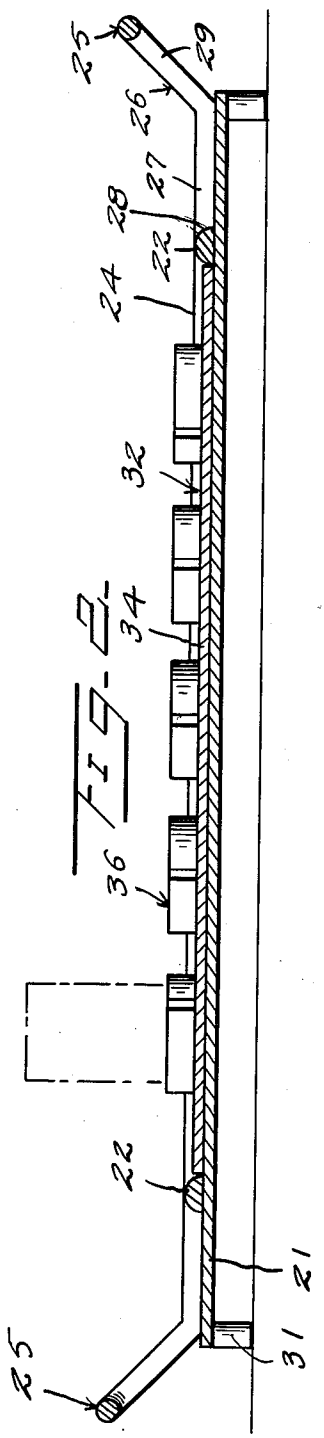


FIG. 2.

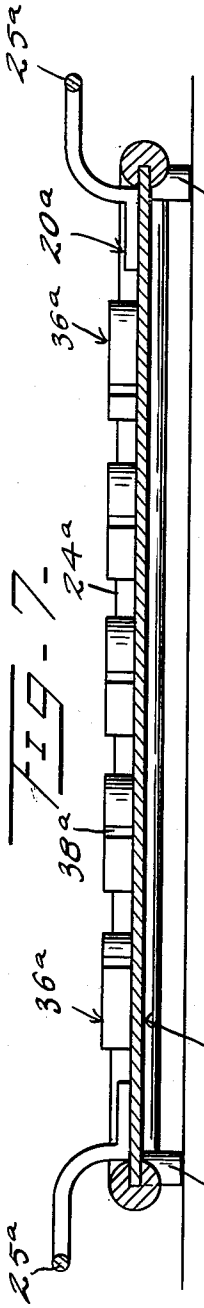


FIG. 7.

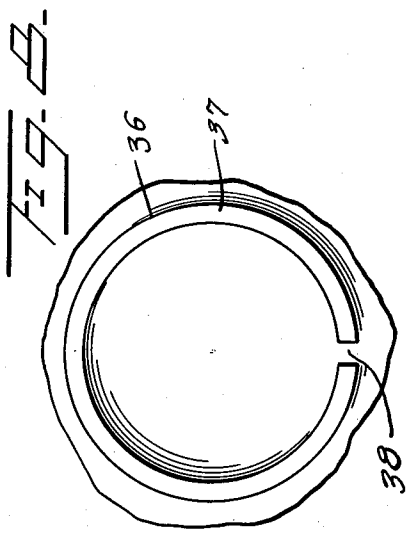


FIG. 8.

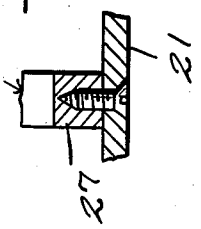


FIG. 5.

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2,597,460

SERVING AND UTILITY TRAY

Joseph R. Eberhardt, St. Louis, Mo.

Application December 1, 1947, Serial No. 789,003

2 Claims. (Cl. 65—53)

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This invention relates to an improved serving tray and more particularly to an improvement over my Patent 1,962,556, issued June 12, 1934.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved serving and utility tray of the kind to be more particularly described hereinafter having a plurality of resilient rings within which glasses or the like may be engaged to be supported on the tray in such a manner that the glasses will be held secure against sliding on the tray while being readily removed from or inserted into the rings as desired.

A further object of this invention is to provide a serving tray of this kind having an insert tray or flat tray removably engaged in a base tray, the insert tray having supporting rings mounted thereon, so the assembly of the base and insert trays may be used for serving glasses and the insert tray may be removed for use of the base tray alone in use as a tray for larger articles as sandwiches and the like.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a serving tray of this kind which is at the same time useful in function and attractive in appearance especially when made of glass or plastic. The decorative effect may be enhanced by using decalcomanias, photographs, etching, stencilling, etc. on the under surface of the base tray.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a tray of this kind the construction of which is readily adaptable for various types of materials and may be readily manufactured and assembled.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a tray of this kind so constructed and arranged that it may be utilized for a large number of various purposes with small or slight changes in the basic structure thereof.

To the foregoing objects, and others which may hereinafter more fully appear, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, as will be more specifically referred to and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, but it is to be understood that changes, variations, and modifications may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a serving tray constructed according to an embodiment of this invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section;

Figure 3 is a transverse section;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detailed section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

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Figure 5 is a fragmentary detailed section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a longitudinal section of a modified form of serving tray;

Figure 8 is a top plan view of a split ring used on these trays.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally an improved serving or utility tray having means for securing glasses or the like thereon against sliding movement. The utility tray 20 shown in Figure 1 of the drawings is formed of an enlarged flat base 21 having a substantially peripheral rounded bead or molding 22 fixed to or formed thereon. The bead 22 extends transversely across the base of 21 spaced inwardly from the ends thereof. The side members 24 which form the bead along the long edges of the base 21 are disposed immediately adjacent the long edges of the base 21 between the end beads 22. The base 21 may be formed of plastic, glass, metal, wood or other suitable material and the beads 22 and 24 may be formed of the same material either fixed to the base 21 or formed integrally therewith.

Handles as 25 are secured on the ends of the tray 20 and are formed of a substantially angular shaped arm 26 having a lower horizontal arm 27 which is adapted to overlie the base 21 at the ends thereof outwardly of the beads 22. The arms 27 are formed with a suitable contour at their inner ends as indicated by the number 28 to flushly engage about the outer edge of the beads 22. When the handle is made of a substance other than wood, such as plastic, it may be made in one piece by heating the material and twisting the same into the desired form and contour. The arm 27 extends outwardly from the beads 22 to the edge of the base tray 21 where the handle 25 is bent upwardly by the upwardly inclined arm 29.

Transverse handle member 30 is fixed to or secured between the extreme upper ends of the arms 29 to form a grip for supporting the tray 20. In order to support the tray 20 above a flat surface as a table top or the like, suitable supporting legs 31 are fixed to or formed on the corners of the base 21 and depend therefrom. The base tray 21 as described so far may be used for a large number of serving purposes and when it is desired to use the tray 20 for transporting glasses or other objects which are relatively free to slide on the surface of the tray, I have provided an insert tray 32 for disposition within the beads 22 and 24.

The insert tray **32** is formed of a flat body portion **34** having a peripheral edging for abuttingly engaging the inner edge of the beads **22** and **24** carried by the base **21**. The thickness of the tray **34** is substantially less than the height of the beads **22** and **24** whereby the insert tray **32** may be securely held on the base **21** against sliding movement. The corners of the insert tray **34** may be cut away on diametrically opposite ends to provide triangular openings as **35**, to provide an edge whereby the insert tray **32** may be removed from the base tray **21**. For securing glasses and the like on the insert tray **32**, I have provided a plurality of expansible annular split rings **36** which are secured to the insert tray **32**. The glass or object securing rings **36** are substantially cylindrical or tubular in shape having an annular body **37** of a suitable height to extend above the insert tray **32** for suitably securing the bottom of a glass or the like against undesired movement.

The split ring **36** is formed of plastic, metal or other suitable resilient material having an axial split as **38** on one edge thereof. The split **38** permits the sides of the body **37** to be resiliently separated for engaging about the bottom of a glass or the like. The ring **36** may be fixed to the tray **32** as at **31'** by cement (see Fig. 4) or other suitable fastening means, at a point spaced from the split **38**.

In Figure 7 there is shown a modified form of this invention in which the base tray generally indicated at **20***a*, includes a flat surface **21***a* directly provided with the split rings **36***a* and the insert tray is therefore unnecessary. The split rings **36***a* are secured on the base tray **20***a* in the same manner as described above for the attachment of the split rings to the insert tray.

The bead or molding **22***a* and **24***a* in this modified form is a grooved piece of plastic or other material. By heating the molding it may be shaped around the edge of the base tray **21***a* by inserting the edge of the tray into the groove, and the mitered ends of the bead are joined together or cemented. The molding will then enclose the tray as a frame in this form for further economy.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An improved serving tray comprising a flat base, a raised continuous bead having an arcuate outer surface extending around said base on the outer edge thereof and extending above and below said flat base, tray supporting handles secured to the upper side of said flat base inwardly of said bead and extending upwardly above and outwardly beyond said bead, and a plurality of split sleeve article-clasping members having the free edges thereof urged toward each other and each having a portion thereof spaced from the split secured to the upper side of said flat base.

2. An improved serving tray comprising a flat base, a raised continuous bead having an arcuate outer surface extending around said base on the outer edge thereof and extending above and below said flat base, tray supporting handles secured to the upper side of said flat base inwardly of said bead and extending upwardly above and outwardly beyond said bead, and a plurality of split sleeve article-clasping members having the free edges thereof urged toward each other and each having a portion thereof spaced from the split secured to the upper side of said flat base, said article-clasping members being positioned in opposed spaced arcuate rows and each having its split portion facing inwardly of the tray.

JOSEPH R. EBERHARDT.

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