Feb. 9, 1926. 1,572,429

V. J. GRITHER, JR

DISPLAY CASE

Filed April 1, 1924

Fig. 1.

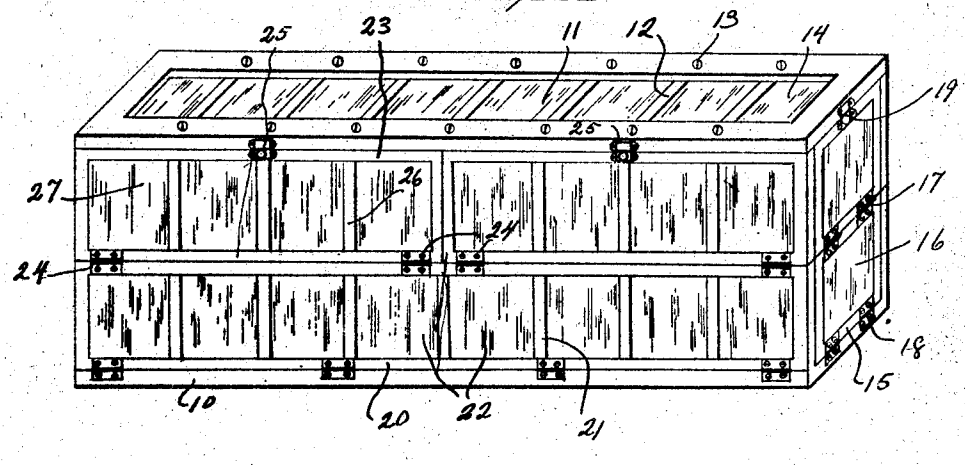


Fig. 2.

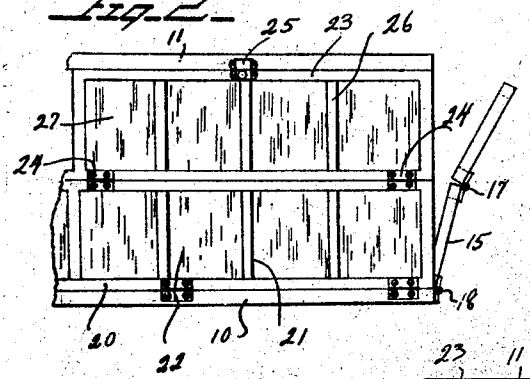


Fig. 3.

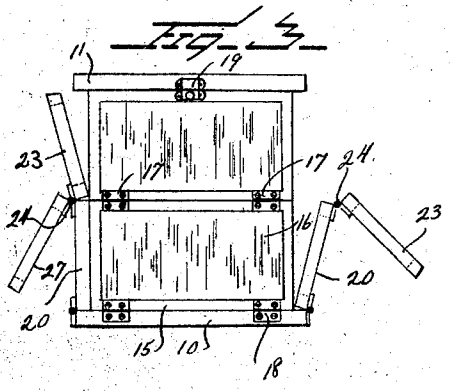
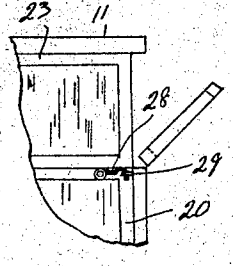


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

VALENTINE J. GRITHER, JR., OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

DISPLAY CASE.

Application filed April 1, 1924. Serial No. 703,496.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VALENTINE J. GRITHER, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display Cases, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to merchandise display cases, and the general object of the invention is to provide a case which can be compactly packed for shipment and which, when it reaches its destination, can be used for display purposes.

A further object is to provide a structure of this character which can be cleaned thoroughly without removing the entire contents of the case.

A still further object is to provide a construction of this character which has a plurality of glass doors so constructed that the doors may be opened right down to the bottom of the case or that only the upper half of each door may be opened so as to permit a salesman to remove the contents of the case.

Another object is to provide a case of this character which is simple and strong, may be cheaply made, and which will so display the goods contained within the case that the services of a salesman, except to remove the goods, may be to some extent dispensed with.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a case constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary side elevation showing one of the end doors open;

Figure 3 is an end elevation showing the side doors partially open;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary side elevation of the end of the case showing the manner in which the lower sections of the doors are engaged with each other so that they will not open when the upper sections of the doors are opened;

Referring to these drawings, it will be seen that the case is rectangular in form and is formed with a bottom 10, a top 11 and end walls and side walls. The top 11 is in the form of a rectangular frame and the interior of the case is preferably divided by partitions 12 between which the panes of glass 14 are disposed held in place by screws 13 which pass downward into the partitions between the supporting panes of glass 14.

Each end wall consists of a rectangular frame 15, which frame is divided into two sections, an upper and a lower section, each of these sections being provided with glass panes 16 and the upper section being hinged to the lower section by the hinges 17, the lower section in turn being hinged to the bottom 10 by means of hinges 18. The upper section of each end wall is held closed by means of a spring bolt or like latch 19. The side walls each consist of a lower rectangular frame 20 which extends the entire length of the display case and fits inside of the end walls, this rectangular frame 20 being divided by vertical stiles 21 and supporting the panes 22. This lower rectangular frame is hinged to the bottom 10 by means of hinges 24ª.

Hinged to the upper rail of each of the lower sections 20 are two or more upper sections, designated generally 23, which are hinged to the upper wall of the lower section by means of the hinges 24. Each of the sections 23 is held closed by means of a spring latch or bolt 25, and each upper section is divided by vertical bars or stiles 26 and supports the transparent panes 27. Both sides are alike and both ends are alike. It will be seen that the upper sections of both ends are capable of being swung downward independently of the lower sections or that both the upper and lower sections may be swung downward, and as regards the side sections it is obvious that both of the sections 23 may be swung downward independ-

ently of the section 20 or that the section 20 and the upper sections 23 may be swung downward together, as illustrated in Figure 3.

Preferably, and in order to prevent the lower sections of both the end and side walls from being accidentally swung outward when the upper sections are swung outward, I provide the frame 20 of each lower section and the frames of the lower end sections with coacting hooks and eyes, designated generally 28 and 29, as shown in Figure 4. Thus the lower sections at both the sides and ends will be ordinarily latched closed so that they will not open and only the upper sections may be opened to secure the goods from within the case. Preferably the interior of the case is divided by partitions.

It will be seen that a case of the character illustrated can be thoroughly cleaned without removing the entire contents of the case. Thus, for instance, one of the upper doors or sections may be opened either on one or both sides and the contents of the case between the partitions 12 may be cleaned out, the articles put back, and the remainder of the case cleaned without the necessity of taking all the articles out to clean the case. The glass panes in the top, sides and ends of the case enable customers to see the contents of the case and the prices of the various articles so that to an extent this case does away with the necessity of a salesman to show goods to customers. The doors open from both sides of the case and from the ends, thereby enabling the salesman to get the article sold from the case on either side.

I do not wish to be limited to the use of partitions 12, as the entire interior of the case might be substantially open, there only being a few framing members to hold the bottom and top of the case in place and in proper spaced relation. It will be obvious that a case of this kind can have partitions extending through it both transversely and longitudinally to any extent required and that the case may be in knocked down condition and readily set up for display purposes.

I claim:—

1. A merchandise display case of the character described having a bottom, top, sides and ends, vertical partition members connecting the top and bottom and engaged therewith to support the top and bottom in spaced relation to each other, each end being composed of a frame formed in two sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper section being hinged to the lower section for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper section and the top of the case having latching engagement with each other, the sides being composed each of a longitudinally extending lower section having a length equal to that of the case, and a plurality of upper sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case for downward and outward swinging movement, the upper sections being hinged to the lower section for downward and outward swinging movement, the upper sections and the top having latches whereby the upper sections may be held in closed position and there being means for latching the lower sections of the sides and ends in vertical position, the top, sides and ends all having transparent panes whereby the contents of the case may be observed.

2. A merchandise display case of the character described having a bottom, top, sides and ends, vertical partition members connecting the top and bottom and engaged therewith to support the top and bottom in spaced relation to each other, each end being composed of a frame formed in two sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper section being hinged to the lower section for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper section and the top of the case having latching engagement with each other, the sides being composed each of a longitudinally extending lower section having a length equal to that of the case, and a plurality of upper sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper sections being hinged to the lower section for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper sections and the top having latches whereby the upper sections may be held in closed position, the lower sections of the ends and sides having coacting hooks and eyes whereby all of the lower sections may be held in a vertical position, the sections of the ends and the sections of the sides and the top being provided with a plurality of glass panes whereby the contents of the case may be observed.

3. A merchandise display case of the character described having a bottom, top, sides and ends, vertical partition members connecting the top and bottom and engaged therewith to support the top and bottom in spaced relation to each other, each end being composed of a frame formed in two sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case for outward and downward swinging movement, the upper section being hinged to the lower section for outward and downward swinging movement, and the upper section and the top of the case having latched engagement with each other, the sides including each a longitudinally extending lower section and a plurality of

upper sections, the lower section being hinged to the bottom of the case, the upper sections being hinged to the lower section for downward and outward swinging movement, the upper section and the top having latches whereby the upper sections may be held in closed position and there being means for latching the lower sections of the sides and ends in vertical position, the top, sides and ends all having transparent panes whereby the contents of the case may be observed.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

VALENTINE J. GRITHER, JR.