Jury 19, 1932. A. J. HECHT 1,868,101

DRAWER CONSTRUCTION FOR SHOW AND STOCK CASES

Filed Dec. 11, 1929

Fig. 1

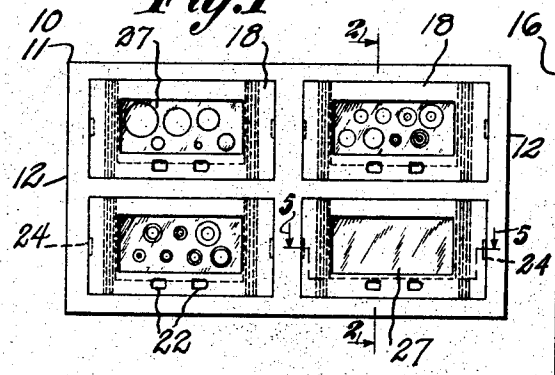


Fig. 2

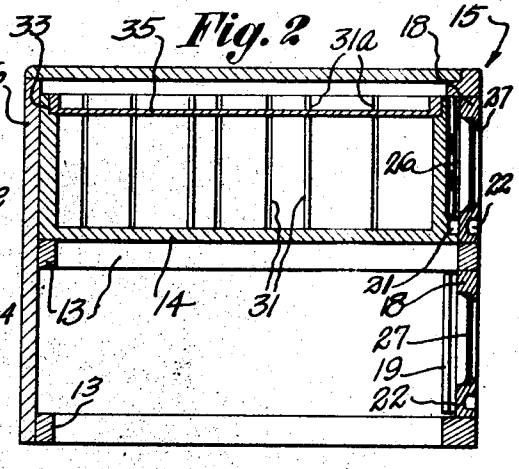


Fig. 3

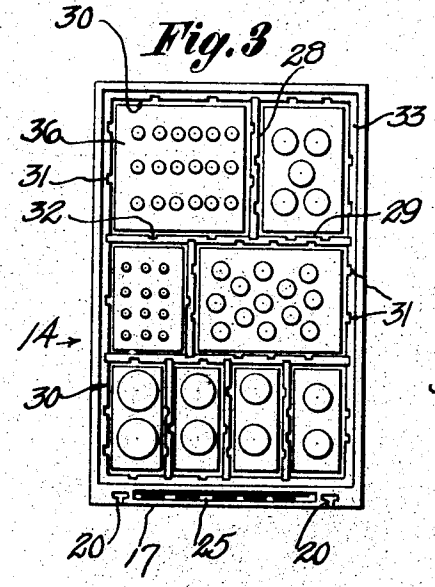


Fig. 4

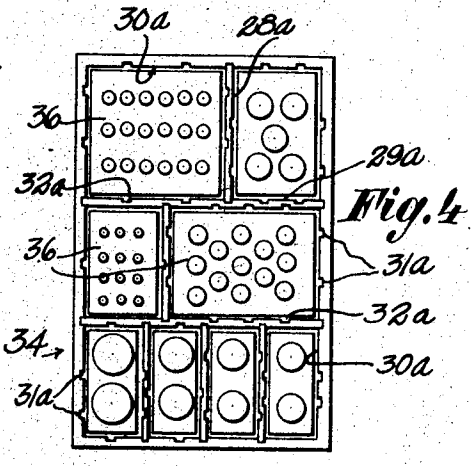
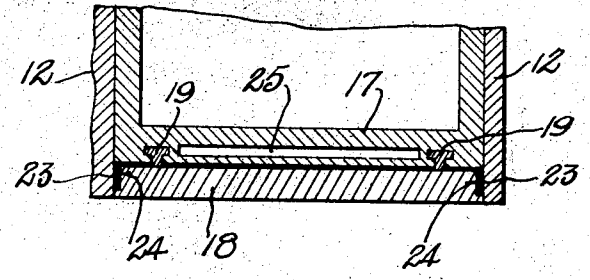


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DRAWER CONSTRUCTION FOR SHOW AND STOCK CASES

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This invention relates to drawer constructions for show and stock cases.

One object of this invention is to provide a device of the character described, having improved closure means movable with the drawers when the same are withdrawn from the shelves, and with the drawers serving to close the spaces left vacant on the shelves.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device of the nature set forth in which a closure means for the spaces in the shelves formed on removal of the drawers coacts with the latter to afford an improved display of articles in the drawers; in which device the said closure means may, if desired, co-operate to indicate the existence of a vacant space in the shelves where a drawer has been removed; in which device the said closure means may be interchangeably used or associated with any of the drawers; and in which a closure means may be moved as a unit with a drawer.

Another object of this invention is to furnish a device of the type mentioned having drawers with compartments or the like for holding different types of articles and improved indicating means associated therewith to show what articles are present in the drawers and in which compartments the same are located, whereby considerable time is saved that would otherwise be consumed in searching among the articles in the compartments.

A further object of the invention is to furnish a drawer construction for show and stock cases which shall be neat at all times, rapid, reliable, and convenient in operation, adapted for efficient use under a great variety of circumstances and conditions, simple and rugged in construction, and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claim, and illustrated on the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of a device embodying the invention, with one of the drawers removed.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged view in vertical section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of a drawer with article indicating tray removed.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the tray removed from the drawer.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view taken along the irregular line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

In practice, particularly in large stores, all the drawers are removed from the shelves and placed on a table in close side by side relation, so that the trays may be readily discernible by the customers as they pass along the aisles. Thus the entire shelving is vacant, and the utility of placing the dummies or closures for closing the said spaces is clearly apparent. The neat appearance of the shelving is accordingly maintained and unsightly open spaces therein avoided.

Generally described, the invention provides a drawer construction for show and stock cases in which the drawers are removable from the shelves, to be placed upon a table for withdrawal of any article therefrom. When this is done, according to the usual practice in many stores, vacant spaces are left where the drawers have been removed. To preserve neatness in appearance, closure means are by this invention provided for the said spaces at the points of removal of the drawers. These closure means may be con-

sidered as dummies, and can be mounted in various ways for movements of different kinds, whether upon the said construction directly, or upon the drawers themselves. If the former arrangement, the said dummies may be permanently connected in place, hingedly or otherwise; if the latter, the dummies are removably connected to the drawers by any suitable releasable fastening means. Accordingly, upon removal of a drawer, its dummy is detached and positioned to close the corresponding vacant space. Now to indicate the contents of the drawer as the same is positioned on its shelf, a suitable display arrangement is provided in co-operation with the said dummy. This display may be fixedly associated with the drawer, and visible through the dummy, for which purpose the latter may have a window. The window also serves to indicate a vacant space on the shelf. Each drawer may include a plurality of compartments for holding different articles. Seating in the top of the drawer is a tray or similar display support having articles positioned to coincide with articles of the same kind in the said compartments. It may therefore be noted at a glance in which of the compartments a desired article is located, saving time in searching for the same. On removing the tray, the said compartments are accessible.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes a device embodying the invention. The same includes a drawer construction for show and stock cases, but one form of which is illustrated herein. This comprises any suitable supporting means 11 having vertical and horizontal elements 12 and 13, the latter acting in the nature of shelves, whereby spaces are provided for the reception of cases or drawers 14. A suitable front 15 is provided at which the drawers are accessible for removal or inspection. The rear 16 may be closed, if desired, but this, as well as the specific shelf construction can be modified to suit various conditions or specifications.

Each drawer 14 may be of box-like form, and arranged to hold articles of different kinds. At the front wall 17 of the drawer is a dummy 18 which coacts to close the vacant space provided on removal of the drawer. The said dummy may be positioned at the front 15 of the construction 10, as, for example, by being set into the space for the drawer frictionally or otherwise. The dummy can be removably attached to the drawer by any fastening means, for instance, the sliding connections consisting of vertical dovetails 19 setting into corresponding grooves 20 in the front wall of the drawer. The slots 20 may be closed at the bottom to afford support for the dummy when connected to the drawer. When set into place on a shelf, the front face of the dummy may substantially coincide with front face of the device 10.

The term "dummy" may therefore be defined as an additional wall or the equivalent, of substantially the same length and height as the front wall of the drawer and having the appearance of the front wall of a drawer.

Both the drawer 14 and the dummy 18 may have finger piece portions 21 formed therein by which they may be taken hold of. Preferably the said finger pieces are set into the drawer and dummy.

To afford maximum capacity for the drawer, the dummy is made quite thin as shown. In order that it be properly retained on a shelf after removal of the drawer therefrom, a suitable engagement means such as springs 23 or any other means is provided at the side edges of the dummy to frictionally engage the shelf construction. These springs may be set into recesses 24.

All of the dummies may be uniformly constructed for interengagement with any of the drawers, and to preserve a neat appearance in the device 10. A display arrangement coacts with each dummy to indicate the contents of the drawer. While the display may be made in the dummy itself, it is preferably provided at the front wall 17 of the drawer, and may take the form of a recess or compartment 25 in the said wall. This compartment has any suitable opening or window 26 covered with a transparent non-breakable material, such as isinglass. Into the compartment 25 are set articles of the type contained in the drawer. The dummy 18 also has an opening or window 27 which may be covered with glass, isinglass, or the like. Thus the display in the drawer may be viewed through the window in the dummy. When the drawer is removed from the shelf, the vacant space can be noted through the window in the dummy.

The drawer 14 has a plurality of adjustable lengthwise and transverse partitions 28, 29, whereby the compartments 30 are provided. For adjustingly setting the partitions, the wall of the drawer has vertical notches or recesses 31 to receive the partitions, and the latter may also be similarly recessed at 32 for a like purpose. The partitions 28, 29 terminate in a plane in spaced relation to the top of the drawer, at which plane a rabbet 33 is formed for the reception of the indicator tray 34.

The tray 34 may be variously constructed and consists essentially of a piece of flat material 35 on which are located specimens of the articles in the drawer. The said tray is adapted to seat in the rabbet 33, so that the upper surface thereof comes substantially flush with the top of the drawer as shown in Fig. 2. One form of the tray may consist in the construction thereof as a flat box having adjustable partitions 28*a*, 29*a*, with recesses 31*a*, 32*a* in the wall and in the said partitions, constituting compartments 30*a* which coincide with the compartments 30 of the

drawer. Articles 36, such as cards containing buttons thereon, are placed in the drawer compartments, and specimens thereof in the tray compartments. It will be understood that each drawer compartment will contain articles of but one kind, shape, or color.

The operation of the device will now be clearly apparent. The operator observes the display at the windows 27 of the dummies and engages the finger pieces 22 and withdraws the proper dummy and drawer as a unit, placing the same on a table. Then the dummy is detached from the drawer and replaced in the space on the shelf left vacant on removal of the drawer. It may now be seen through the window of the dummy that said space is vacant and may receive a drawer. The operator next observes the display on the tray 34 and notes at a glance the compartment in which the desired article is located in the drawer. The tray is then removed and the article obtained. The operator will understand that all the articles in one compartment are alike, as shown on the tray, and will avoid loss of time in searching for an article in a compartment that is not present therein. The tray is then replaced in the drawer, the dummy attached thereto, and the drawer and dummy unit reinserted on the shelf.

It will be understood that this invention can be used to display and contain many different kinds of articles, and in various types of stores or establishments. Changes in construction may be made within the scope of the invention without departing from the principle thereof.

I claim:

A device including a drawer, a casing, said casing having an opening and associated guide means for removably receiving the drawer, a dummy consisting of an additional wall of substantially the same height and length as the front wall of the drawer and having the appearance of a front wall of a drawer, means for removably securing the dummy to the front of the drawer, and means for removably securing the dummy in said casing opening upon removal of the drawer.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ARTHUR J. HECHT.