United States Patent

Colter

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[54] COMPARTMENTED NAUTICAL STORAGE RACK

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **211/88**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47f 5/08**

[58] **Field of Search** 211/88, 86, 13, 71, 126, 128, 211/60

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A compartmented nautical storage rack including a first compartment adapted to receive nautical charts and having drainage holes at the bottom thereof, a second compartment adapted to receive binoculars secured to a front wall of the first compartment and having drainage holes in the bottom thereof, the second compartment being centrally disposed on the front wall of the first compartment and having a base aligned with a base of the first compartment to permit the rack to stand by itself, a small compartment formed within the first compartment and adapted to receive dividers and pencils, a small compartment formed adjacent a side wall of the second compartment and adapted to receive a fog whistle and spring clips secured to the front wall of the first compartment adjacent a side wall of the second compartment and adapted to hold a flashlight.

9 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

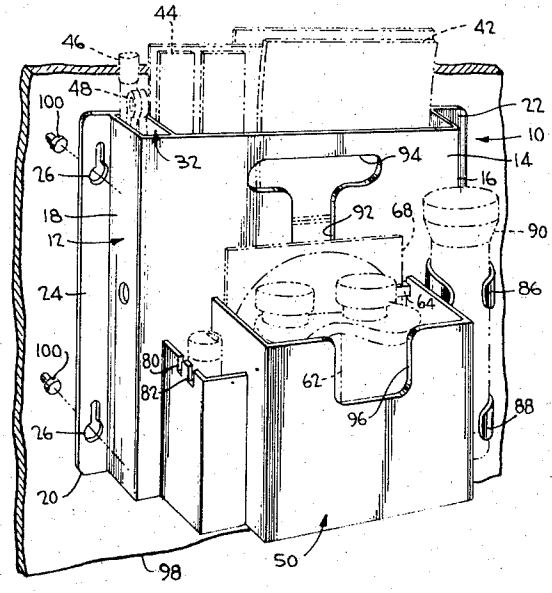


FIG. 1

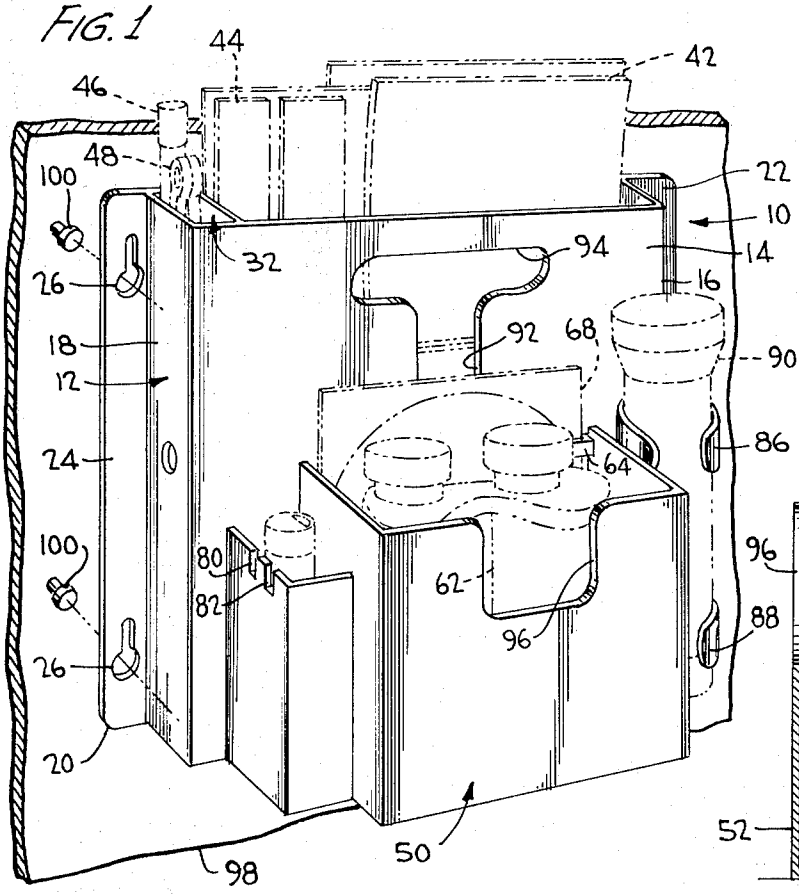


FIG. 3

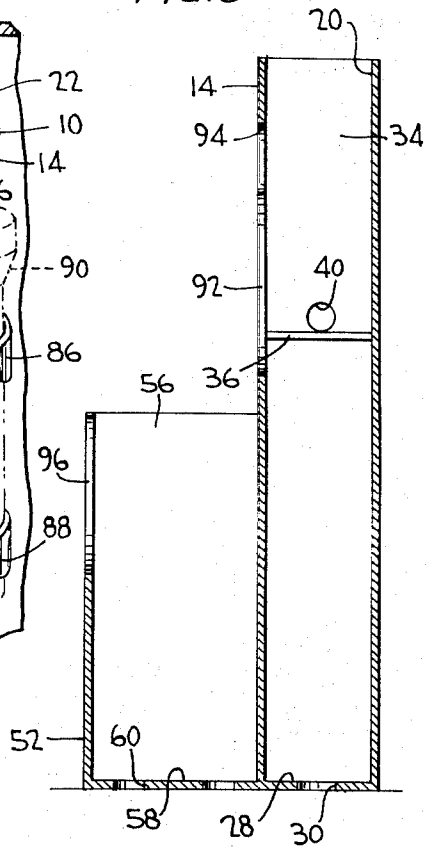
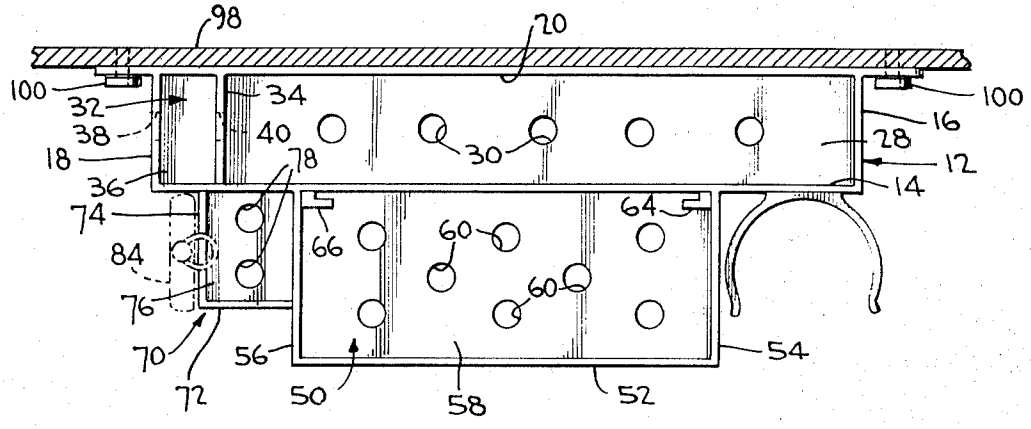
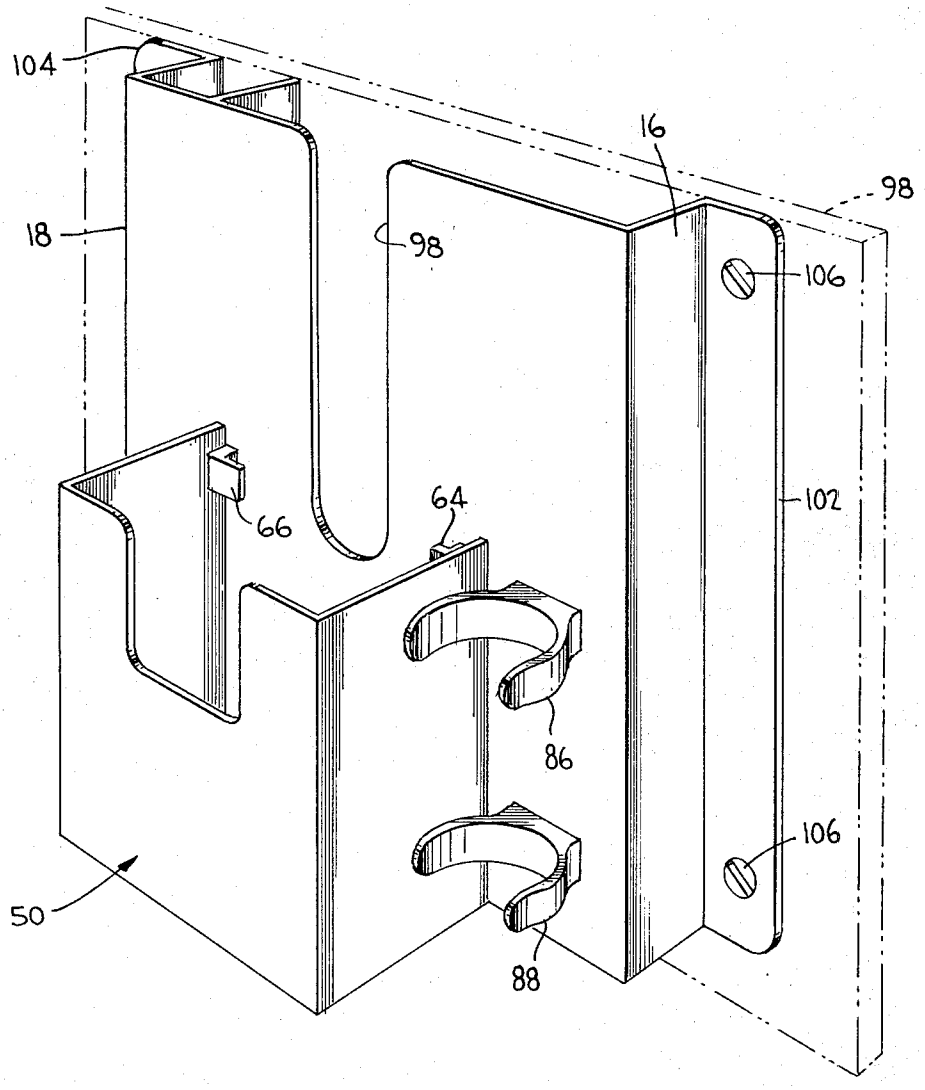


FIG. 2



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FIG. 4



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COMPARTMENTED NAUTICAL STORAGE RACK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention pertains to compartmented storage racks and, more particularly, to such storage racks for storing nautical instruments commonly utilized for navigation of a vessel.

2. Discussion of the Prior Art

During the navigation of a vessel, there are specific instruments which are frequently utilized and must be readily accessible to the pilot. Such instruments include, among others, dividers, pencils, parallel rules, navigation charts, nautical slide rules or computers, binoculars, and flashlights; and, as will be appreciated, there is a need for a storage device for these instruments to permit the pilot to have ready access thereto.

When approaching an anchorage, even when the vessel is equipped with a depth finder, it is necessary to repeatedly refer to a harbor chart with the utilization of suitable instruments. Such charts cannot be easily stored in an accessible manner in that wind tends to blow the charts away and pitching and rolling of the vessel tends to make the charts slide off the bridge. Similarly, other navigational instruments cannot be readily stored in accessible position to the pilot due to wind, rain and movement of the vessel.

The use of the above mentioned nautical instruments is normally related; and, accordingly, it is desirable to store such instruments in close proximity to one another. Furthermore, the nautical instruments are frequently removed from the vessel either for replacement or for safety purposes; and, thus, it can be seen that it would be desirable to provide means for transporting the nautical instruments as well as storing them.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a compartmented nautical storage rack for storing navigational instruments in a well defined and readily accessible area.

The present invention is generally characterized in a compartmented nautical storage rack including a first compartment having a front wall, side walls, and a base having drainage means therein, and a second compartment having a front wall, side walls attached to the front wall of the first compartment and a base having drainage means therein, the second compartment being smaller in height and width than the first compartment.

Another object of the present invention is to construct a compartmented nautical storage rack that is portable in order to permit stationary storage of nautical instruments aboard a vessel and transporting of the storage rack and nautical instruments from the vessel.

A further object of the present invention is to construct a compartmented nautical storage rack adapted to store use-related nautical instruments in close proximity to one another.

Some of the advantages of the present invention over the prior art are that all nautical instruments required during normal navigation of a vessel are readily accessible to the pilot of a vessel, the compartmented nautical storage rack is economically manufactured, and the compartmented nautical storage rack is portable and can stand stably on its base.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a compartmented nautical storage rack in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the storage rack of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a side elevation in section of the storage rack of FIG. 1, resting on a support surface.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a modification of the storage rack of FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A compartmented nautical storage rack **10**, constructed in accordance with the present invention, is illustrated in FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3**. The storage rack **10** includes a compartment **12** having a rectangular front wall **14** and a pair of rectangular side walls **16** and **18** extending transversely from the side edges of front wall **14** and disposed in parallel relation. The opposite side edges of side walls **16** and **18** are attached to a mounting plate **20** which forms a back wall for the compartment **12** and extends beyond side walls **16** and **18** to define mounting flanges **22** and **24**, each of which has a plurality of vertically spaced keyhole slots **26** therein. A base **28** of compartment **12** is attached to front wall **14**, side walls **16** and **18**, and mounting plate **20** and has a plurality of drainage holes **30** therein.

A small compartment or pocket **32** is formed in the upper left hand corner of compartment **12** and includes a side wall **34** having its side edges attached to front wall **14** and mounting plate **20** and a bottom **36** attached to the bottom edge of side wall **34** and front wall **14**, side wall **18**, and mounting plate **20**. A pair of drainage holes **38** and **40** are disposed in side walls **18** and **34** respectively, adjacent bottom **36** of pocket **32**.

As is illustrated in dashed lines in FIG. **1**, compartment **12** is provided with suitable height and width to accommodate such navigational instruments as navigational or maritime charts, tide tables, radio-weather directories, or the like **42** and long parallel rules **44**. Pocket **32** is adapted to receive such instruments as pencils **46** and dividers **48**, and, accordingly, is provided with sufficient depth such that a predominant portion of the instruments are retained within the pocket and a small portion of the instruments extends from the pocket for ready access. Accordingly, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, bottom wall **36** is supported within compartment **12** such that pocket **32** has a height approximately one-third of the height of compartment **12**.

A compartment **50** is centrally disposed on front wall **14** of compartment **12** and includes a rectangular front wall **52** and parallel rectangular side walls **54** and **56** extending from front wall **52** and having side edges attached to front wall **52** and front wall **14** of compartment **12**. A base **58** is attached to front walls **14** and **52** and side walls **54** and **56** and is disposed in the same plane as base **28** of compartment **12** such that, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, the bases **28** and **58** form a support for the storage rack **10**. A plurality of drainage holes **60** are formed in base **58**.

Compartment **50** has sufficient height, depth and width to store a pair of binoculars **62**, indicated in dashed lines in FIG. **1**, or a pressurized air horn and a pair of L-shaped cleats or protrusions **64** and **66** project from front wall **14** of compartment **12**, which forms the back wall of compartment **50**, into compartment **50**. Cleats **64** and **66** are spaced to receive an object such as the nautical slide rule **68** indicated in dashed lines in FIG. **1**. It will be appreciated that the nautical slide rule **68** may be removed from compartment **50** only by moving the slide vertically past cleats **64** and **66**; and, accordingly, the slide rule is stably retained so as not to interfere with storage and removal of binoculars **62**. It will be appreciated that the accessibility and dimensions of compartment **50** render it particularly adaptable for use with small craft, such as outboards, to hold such nautical instruments as "speed wands", tools, flares, keys, fish knives, compasses and the like.

A side compartment **70** is formed adjacent side wall **56** of compartment **50** and includes a front wall **72** having a side edge attached to side wall **56** of compartment **50** and a side wall **74** having side edges attached to front wall **14** of compartment **12** and front wall **72**. A base **76** is attached to front wall **14**, side wall **50**, front wall **72**, and side wall **74** and is disposed in the same plane as bases **28** and **58** of compartments **12** and **50**. A plurality of drainage holes **78** are disposed in base **76**, and a pair of slots **80** and **82** are disposed in the upper edge of side wall **74** to receive the ring of a stop watch **84**, as indicated in dashed lines in FIG. **2**. As illustrated in dashed lines in FIG. **1**, compartment **70** is adapted to store a fog whistle **85** as well as provide support for stop watch **84**.

A pair of spring clips **86** and **88** are secured in vertically spaced relation to front wall **14** of compartment **12** adjacent side wall **54** of compartment **50**. Spring clips **86** and **88** are adapted to firmly hold a tubular object such as the flashlight **90** indicated in dashed lines in FIG. **1**.

It will be appreciated that each of the compartments in the storage rack **10** is provided with drainage means to drain fluids therefrom. Compartments **12**, **50** and **70** each have drainage holes in the bases thereof, and pocket **32** has drainage holes **38** and **40** adjacent the bottom thereof such that any fluid accumulated therein will be disposed of either through drainage hole **38** or through drainage hole **40** and drainage holes **30** in the base of compartment **12**. Accordingly, any fluid such as water collected during a driving rain storm or merely from windswept spray will not remain in the storage rack to cause damage to the instrument stored therein, but rather will be speedily disposed of.

In order to facilitate the removal of short objects such as charts from compartment **12**, a centrally disposed elongated vertical slot **92** is formed therein extending into compartment **50**, and a transversely extending elongated slot **94** communicates with slot **92** to provide a handle grip for transporting the storage rack **10**. In a similar fashion, the front wall **52** of compartment **50** is provided with a recess **96** to facilitate grasping of binoculars **62**.

Due to the symmetry of construction of the storage rack **10**, it may be stably rested upon a support surface, as indicated in FIG. **2**, without fear of tipping. Accordingly, the storage rack may be easily transported to and from a vessel, and such transporting is facilitated by the use of slot **94** as a handle since the weight of the storage rack is evenly distributed thereabout. As illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the storage rack **10** may be detachably mounted on a bulkhead or wall **98** of a vessel by means of headed screws or pins **100** which extend therefrom and are adapted to be received through the heads of keyhole slots **26** to securely hold the storage rack in position aboard the vessel.

A modification of the compartmented nautical storage rack of FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3** is illustrated in FIG. **4** and identical parts are given identical reference numbers and are not described again.

The primary difference between the storage rack of FIG. **4** and the storage rack of FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3** is that the storage rack of FIG. **4** is adapted for permanent attachment to a bulkhead or wall of a vessel. Accordingly, mounting flanges **102** and **104** extend from the side edges of side walls **16** and **18** in order to receive vertically spaced screws **106** or other fastening devices for permanently mounting the storage rack to the wall or bulkhead **98**. Since the storage rack is permanently attached, there is no requirement for the handle grip provided by slot **94** and, accordingly, vertical slot **92** extends to the upper edge of front wall **14**. Furthermore, mounting plate **22** is not required since the wall **98** of the vessel may form the back wall of compartment **12**.

It will be appreciated from the above description of the present invention that the compartmented nautical storage rack provides effective and readily accessible storage for nautical instruments normally utilized in the navigation of a vessel. The instruments may be easily removed from the rack and replaced therein, and such instruments are stably stored to prevent accidental removal therefrom and, further to provide protection from the elements such as wind and to some extent, from rain or spray.

From the above, it can be seen that the compartmented nautical storage rack of the present invention provides a compartment **12** that may be either open-backed or closed dependent upon its nature of installation. That is, there is no need to provide a back for compartment **12** if the storage rack is to be permanently mounted on a bulkhead or wall of a vessel. However, if the storage rack is desired to be portable, a back for compartment **12** is required. The dimensions of compartment **12** are such as to accommodate nautical charts, parallel rules and various published aids to navigation, and pocket **32** formed within compartment **12** has dimensions to accommodate dividers and pencils. Compartment **50**, which is centrally disposed between the side walls of compartment **12**, is dimensioned to hold binoculars, an air horn or other nautical instruments, and may be constructed by itself with a back wall and thereafter secured to the front wall of compartment **12**. Compartment **70** has dimensions to accommodate a fog whistle and is slotted to hold the ring of a stop watch, and compartment **70** may also be constructed separately and thereafter mounted on the front wall of compartment **12** and a side wall of compartment **50**. It will thus be appreciated that the storage rack of the present invention may contain various combinations of the above described compartments, pockets and mounting means; however, it is preferable and highly advantageous to combine compartment **50**

with compartment **12** to provide a stable support for the storage rack as illustrated in FIG. **3**.

The compartmented nautical storage rack may be constructed of conventional materials in any suitable manner. That is, the storage rack could be constructed of wood with actual attachment of the various walls and bases, or the storage rack could be integrally formed of a plastic material. To this end, it will be appreciated that the above description of the structure of the storage rack is intended to include walls and bases which are not separate but actually are smoothly connected at their side and bottom edges. Similarly, the storage rack could be constructed of metal with a reduced number of elements in that the side and front walls and the bases of the compartments could be integrally formed by bending a single sheet of metal.

Inasmuch as the present invention is subject to many variations, modifications, and changes in detail, it is intended that all matter above described or shown in the accompanying drawings be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A compartmented nautical storage rack for storing nautical instruments in accessible positions comprising a first compartment including a first front wall, first and second side walls extending transversely from said first front wall at the side edges thereof, and a first base connected with said first front wall and said first and second side walls and having drainage means therein to drain fluids from said first compartment, said first compartment having a first height and a first width and adapted to permit storage of nautical charts therein; and a second compartment including a second front wall, third and fourth side walls extending transversely from said second front wall at the side edges thereof and connected with said first front wall of said first compartment, and a second base connected with said second front wall and said third and fourth side walls and having drainage means therein to drain fluids from said second compartment, said first and second bases being aligned in the same plane, said second compartment having a height less than the height of said first compartment and a width less than the width of said first compartment and adapted to permit storage of binoculars therein; said first front wall having a first elongated slot disposed in an upper portion thereof in communication with and transverse to said first elongated slot whereby said first elongated slot facilitates removal of nautical charts stored in said first compartment and said second elongated slot forms a carrying handle for said storage rack.

2. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **1** wherein said first compartment includes a back wall disposed parallel to said front wall and connected with said first and second side walls and said first base whereby said storage rack may be detachably mounted on a vessel.

3. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **2** wherein a pocket is formed in said first compartment and includes said first side wall of said first compartment, a fifth side wall disposed parallel to said first side wall and connected with said first front wall, and a bottom connected with said first side wall, said fifth side wall and said first front wall, said pocket having a height less than the height of said first compartment and a width less than the width of said first compartment, and drainage means disposed adjacent said bottom of said pocket to drain fluids therefrom.

4. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **3** wherein a third compartment is formed adjacent said first and second compartments and includes a sixth side wall connected with said first front wall and disposed parallel to said third side wall, a third front wall connected with said sixth side wall and said third side wall, a fourth base connected with said first and third front walls and said third and sixth side walls and having drainage means to drain fluids from said third compartment.

5. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **4** wherein protrusion means extend from said first front wall into said second compartment to define abutments adapted to receive a nautical slide rule.

6. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **5** wherein spring clip means are secured to said first front wall adjacent said fourth side wall of said second compartment and adapted to securely mount a flashlight.

7. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **2** wherein said first elongated slot extends into said second compartment.

8. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **2** wherein said second compartment is centrally disposed between said first and second side walls of said first compartment.

9. The compartmented nautical storage rack as recited in claim **8** wherein said back wall extends past said first and second side walls to define first and second mounting flanges for detachably mounting said storage rack.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,684,102 Dated August 15, 1972

Inventor(s) Rudyard M. Colter

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 1, column 5, line 46, after "thereof" insert --and a second elongated slot--

Signed and sealed this 26th day of December 1972.

(SEAL)
Attest:

EDWARD M.FLETCHER,JR.
Attesting Officer

ROBERT GOTTSCHALK
Commissioner of Patents

FORM PO-1050 (10-69)

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