Sept. 19, 1933. E. F. THOMAS 1,927,353

HAT DISPLAY CASE

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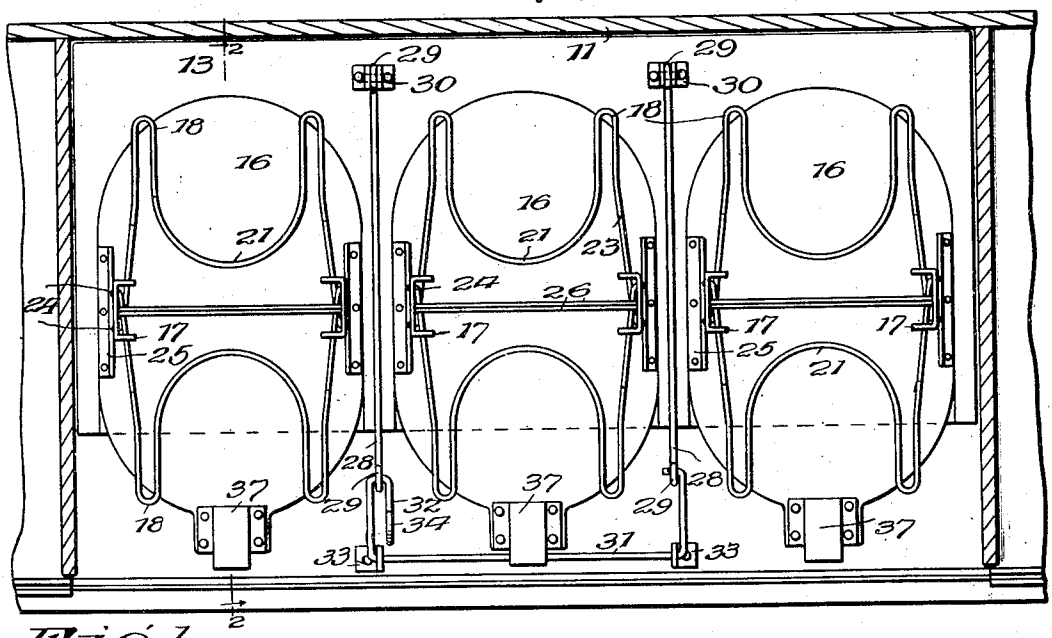


FIG. 1

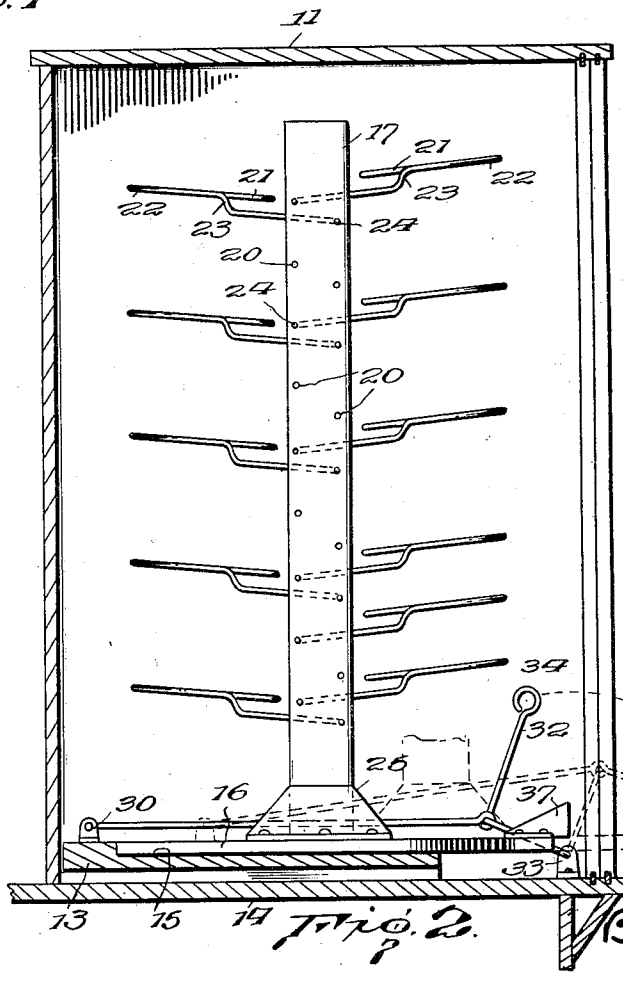


FIG. 2.

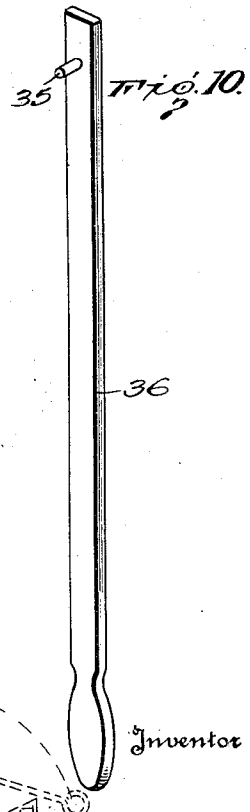


FIG. 10.

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HAT DISPLAY CASE

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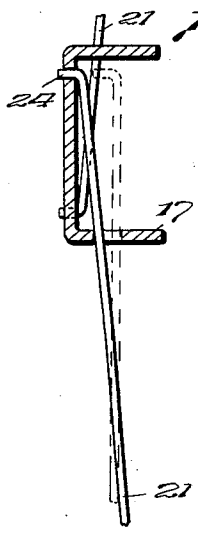


Fig. 3.

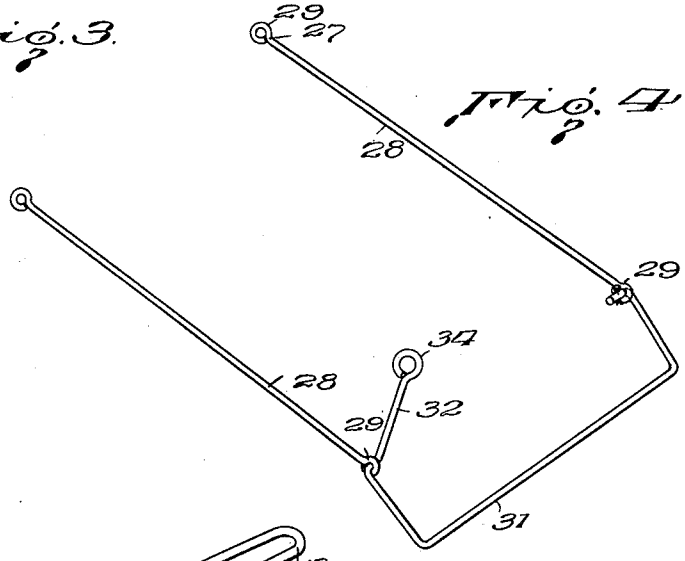


Fig. 4.

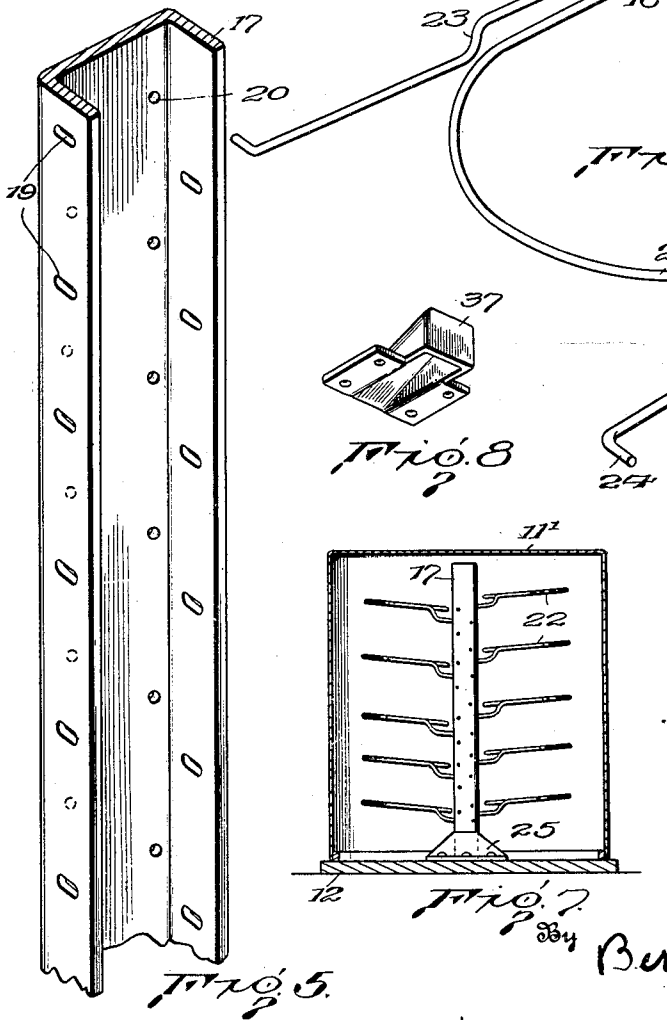


Fig. 6.

Fig. 8.

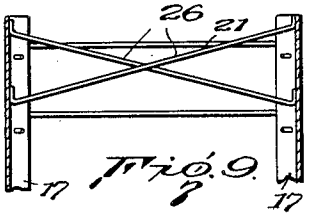


Fig. 9.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 5.

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1,927,353

HAT DISPLAY CASE

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Application May 1, 1931. Serial No. 534,350

2 Claims. (Cl. 211—33)

In the present invention I provide an improvement over my co-pending application Serial Number 464,620, filed June 28th, 1930, which has matured into Patent No. 1,872,847, August 23, 1932, for improvements in hat display cases, and it is an object of the present invention to make the hat-holding frames of the display case manually movable, without the use of tools, to permit relative adjustment of the frames, quickly and without difficulty to accommodate hats of different styles.

Another object of the invention is to provide hat supporting frames which are inherently yieldable to automatically flex into locking engagement with a rigid part of the display case and to permit manual contraction thereof when the frames are to be disengaged.

The hat display case of the present invention is designed for use on top of suit display cases, or the like, and is especially adapted for use in the smaller stores, where space economy is an essential factor. It is however, desirable to retain the display case in the range of vision of customers, in order that the contents of the case may be seen, even though not accessible to a person standing on the floor. In view of the inaccessibility of the contents of the case, the present invention contemplates means for simultaneously urging all of the hat supporting elements outwardly from the case in order that any one of said elements may be removed to permit examination of the hats contained thereon.

Other objects of the invention will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains upon consideration of the specification and the drawings forming a part of this application, in which

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a display case constructed in accordance with the present invention, portions of the case being broken away;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof, a part of the supporting structure being shown fragmentarily;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of one of the hat frame supporting uprights, portions of hat frames being shown fragmentarily;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the operating mechanism for the hat supporting trays;

Fig. 5 is a detail, fragmentary, perspective view of one of the hat frame supporting uprights;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the hat frames per se;

Fig. 7 is an entire elevational view of a hat display case constructed in accordance with the present invention, showing a modified form of the case;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of one of the handle receiving sockets of the hat tray;

Fig. 9 is a detail fragmentary, elevational view of the hat frame supporting uprights, showing the manner of bracing the same; and

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the hat tray actuating handle.

In Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings I have illustrated a conventional form of hat case, generally designated 11, equipped with a sliding door, in a manner well known in the art. In Fig. 7 I have shown a modified form of the case, as indicated at 11', which consists of a transparent cover mounted on a base 12. The hat supporting means hereinafter described is the same, immaterial of the type of case employed.

The hat supporting structure consists of a base 13, which is adapted to be superimposed on top of a supporting structure 14, such as a suit display case or the like. The base 13 is movable forwardly on the supporting structure 14 and is provided with one or more recesses 15, each of which is adapted to receive a complemental tray 16.

Each of the hat supporting trays has a pair of vertical uprights 17 mounted thereon, which latter are arranged in parallel relation and are adapted for the reception of hat frames 18 in a manner hereinafter set forth. Each of the uprights 17 consists of a channel iron having horizontally arranged slots 19 formed at intervals in the sides thereof, the slots of one side being staggered with respect to the slots in the opposite side. The uprights are further provided with openings 20, formed in the body thereof, said openings being likewise arranged in staggered relation to complement the slots 19. Preferably the frames 18 are each made of resilient wire, each of which has an intermediate portion thereof bent to define a semi-ovoidal section 21, which issues into side bars 22, the latter being offset as indicated at 23 and terminating in fingers 24. The fingers 24 are formed by turning the free terminals of the side bars outwardly at right angles, as shown to advantage in Fig. 6.

The lower terminal of each of the uprights 17 is secured to one of the trays 16 by means of a bracket 25, which is detachably engaged with the tray. Each pair of uprights is braced at the top by means of stay-wires 26, as shown to advantage in Fig. 9. In this manner the uprights 17 are maintained from displacement on

the trays 16 in a predetermined position. Each pair of uprights mounted on one of the trays is adapted to receive a plurality of hat frames 18. The frames are engaged with the uprights by flexing the free ends of the side bars of each frame to permit the fingered terminals thereof to be inserted through the slots 19, following which the fingers are adapted to expand or flex into the openings 20. It is of course, understood that the slots of the parallelly arranged uprights are complementally formed in order that the free terminals of each hat frame will be in the same horizontal plane. The openings 20 in each of the uprights are not only arranged in staggered relation, as already described herein and as shown to advantage in Fig. 2, but are likewise offset from the slots 19 in order that engagement of the frames through the slots 19 and with the openings 20, in accordance with the teaching of the present invention, will dispose each frame at an inclination, as shown in Figs. 2 and 7. This permits the hats to be canted toward the vertical uprights, thereby positively preventing displacement of the hats, especially when the trays are being urged from the case in a manner hereinafter set out.

In order to move the hats forwardly through the front of the case to permit removal of the same from the latter, I provide suitable operating mechanism which includes an operating frame generally designated 27. This frame is of rectangular construction and embodies a pair of rods 28, the opposite end of each of which has eyes 29 formed therein. The eyes at one end of the rods are adapted for movable engagement with pins carried by ears 30, the latter being superimposed on the base 13. The eyes at the opposing ends of the rods 28 are engaged by a bar 31, one terminal of the latter being extended to provide an operating lever 32. The intermediate portion of the bar 31 is trained through ears 33, which are mounted upon the supporting structure 14. It is consequently manifest that pressure outwardly on the lever 32 will urge the base 13 in a corresponding direction.

Preferably the free end of the lever 32 is provided with an eye 34, which may be engaged by a stud 35 formed adjacent one end of a handle 36. The handle may be conveniently manipulated by a person standing on the floor so as to urge the base 13 outwardly, after which any one of the hat trays 16 may be removed from the base. To facilitate removal of the trays from the base, I provide each tray with a socket member 37 secured to the top of the tray. One end of the handle 36, beyond the stud 35 is adapted for insertion in the socket. Obviously pressure outwardly on the handle will remove the tray from the base.

While the device of the present invention is especially adapted for use in displaying means for hats, it is nevertheless to be understood that it is susceptible to a variety of uses. Furthermore, although preferred forms of the invention have been herein illustrated, it is also to be understood that various changes may be made therein, within the scope of the claims hereto appended.

What is claimed is:

1. In a hat display case parallel channel shaped uprights having elongated slots in the flanges of the uprights and corresponding openings in the web portion of the uprights, and hat supporting frames engaged through the slots and in the openings, said slots and openings being arranged in different planes to dispose the frames at an inclination.

2. In combination with parallelly arranged uprights, each side of each of which has slots formed therein, the slots of one side being arranged in staggered relation to the slots of the other side, hat frames, each of which has the terminals thereof bent at right angles to provide fingers of a length to be accommodated through said slots and engaged in openings formed in the body of each upright.

ELBERT F. THOMAS.