April 5, 1960 C. LANG 2,931,873

WALL PANEL COOKING UNIT

Filed Sept. 19, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig.1

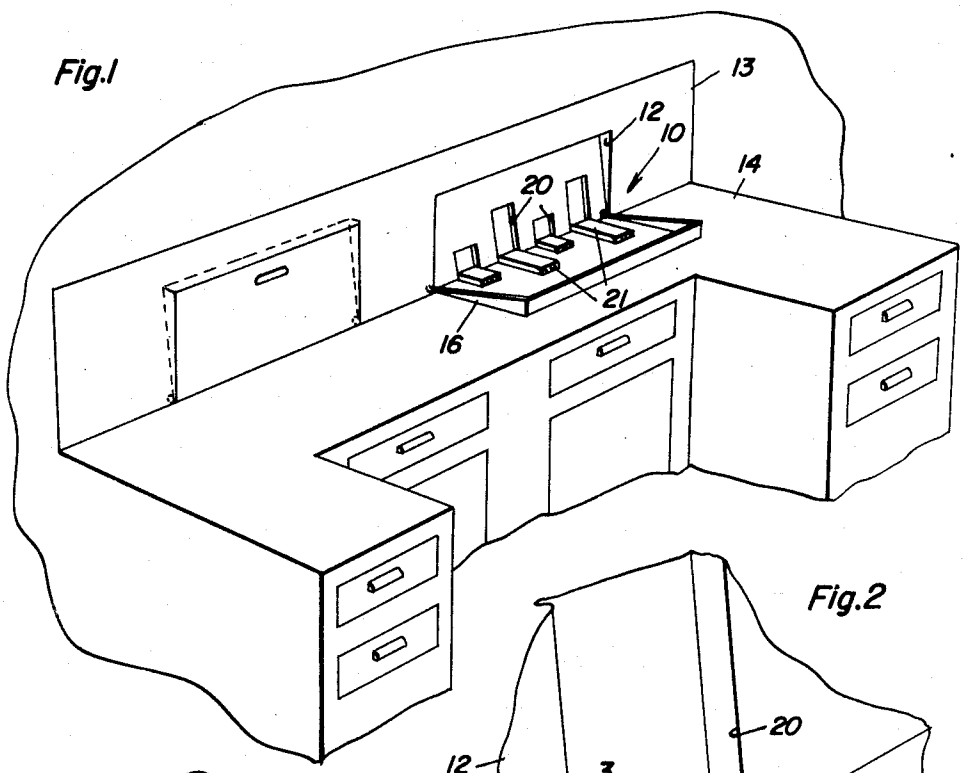
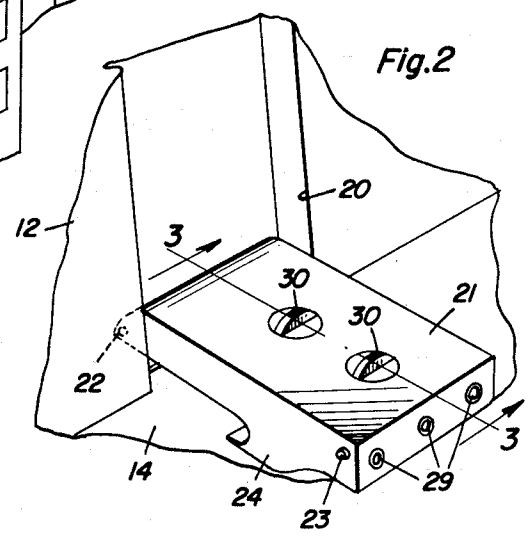


Fig.2



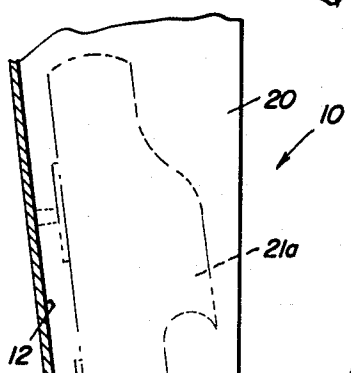
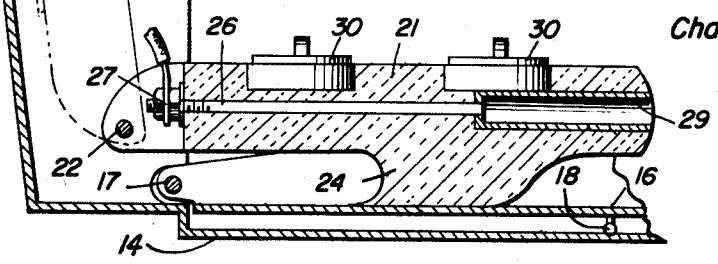


Fig.3



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April 5, 1960 C. LANG 2,931,873

WALL PANEL COOKING UNIT

Filed Sept. 19, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

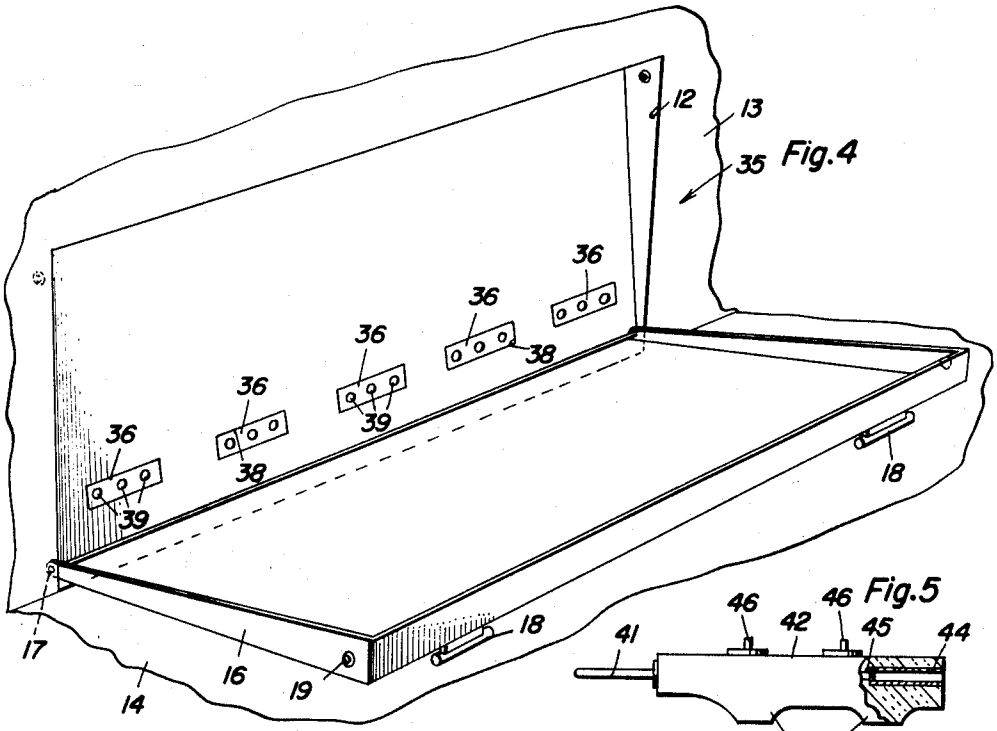


Fig.4

Fig.5

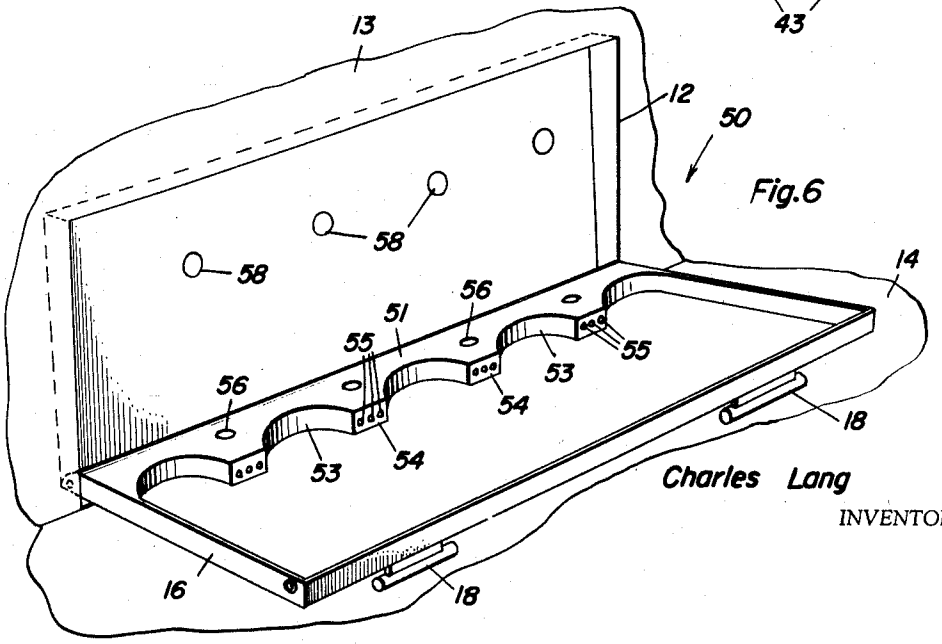


Fig.6

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2,931,873

WALL PANEL COOKING UNIT

Charles Lang, Ship Bottom, N.J.

Application September 19, 1958, Serial No. 762,138

1 Claim. (Cl. 200—136.5)

This invention relates to cooking equipment and, more particularly, to an electrical wall panel cooking unit.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a neat and compact wall cooking unit that is normally maintained in a completely closed position when not in use, so as to provide for a most attractive appearance and most efficient use of kitchen counter surfaces.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a wall panel cooking unit that is completely devoid of top stove burners, completely concealed when not in use, and which is particularly useful in congested areas.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a wall panel cooking unit of the above type that can be readily recessed in existing walls or built into new wall construction units, includes a minimum number of parts, and has individual controls for each of the cooking utensils associated therewith.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a wall panel cooking unit bearing the above objects in mind which is of simple construction, has a minimum number of parts, is inexpensive to manufacture and efficient in operation.

For other objects and for a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a food preparation area embodying a wall panel cooking unit made in accordance with one form of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of certain parts of the apparatus shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse cross sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of construction;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view, with parts broken away, of a removable electrical connector forming a part of the present invention; and

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 4, showing a still further modified form of construction.

Referring now more in detail to the drawing, a wall panel cooking unit made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a wall member **13** having portions defining a recess **12** adjacent to the counter top **14**. A closure panel **16** is hingedly connected adjacent to its lower end, by means of hinge pins **17**, to the lowermost extremity of the recess defining portions of the wall **13**. The cover panel **16** is also provided with handles **18** adjacent to the opposite extremity, which handles are spaced outwardly from the plane of the lower panel a distance substantially equal to the distance between the hinge **17** and the upper surface of the counter top **14**, whereby the cover panel **16** will be substantially parallel to the counter top when in an open position. Spring ball type detents **19** associated with the recessed defining portions of the wall **13** and the cover panel **16** releasably secure the cover panel in a normally closed position when the stove unit is not in use.

Referring now more specifically to Figures 1 to 3 of the drawing, a wall panel cooking unit made in accordance with one form of the present invention is shown to include a plurality of individual electrical conductor plugs **21**, each being hingedly mounted within a separate counter recess by means of a pivot pin **22**. Ball detents **23** acting between the counter recess defining portions of the wall structure and the individual connectors **21** selectively secure them in a closed inoperative position. Combined handles and feet elements **24** integral with the outer side of each such connector **21** enables the units to be pulled outwardly and downwardly for use, and the engagement of these feet elements **24** with the inside surface of the cover panel **16** maintain them in a substantially horizontal position. As is more clearly shown in Figure 3 of the drawing, each such connector **21** includes a plurality of bus bars **26** that are connected at one end to the electrical supply line **27** and at the opposite end are provided with individual sockets **29** which slidably ceive the male plugs of various cooking utensils, such as frying pans, percolators, and the like. In addition, each such connector **21** is provided with temperature control knobs **30** which vary the amount of current supplied to the cooking utensil, to thus control the amount of heat produced thereby.

In Figure 4 of the drawing, a modified form of construction **35** is shown wherein a plurality of individual receptacles **36** are mounted within recesses **38** within the main recess **12** of the wall **13**. Each such receptacle **36** has a plurality of female sockets **39** that slidably receive the male prongs **41** of associated connectors **42** that have depending feet **43** for supporting them upon the inside surface of the cover panel **16** in a substantially horizontal position. Individual control knobs **46** associated with these connectors **42** control the amount of electrical energy supplied to the cooking utensil having its male prongs connected to the female socket members **44** thereof.

In Figure 6 of the drawing, still another arrangement **50** is shown wherein the cover panel **16** is provided with an integral bay **51** of reentrant portions **53** and alternately spaced apart receptacles **54**. Each such receptacle is provided with female sockets **55** for slidably receiving the male prongs of a connector, such as that illustrated in Figure 5, to which the cooking utensil is ultimately connected for energization. Each of these receptacles **54** is provided with an individual control knob **56** for limiting the electrical energy delivered to the utensil, and further includes pilot lamps **58** to indicate which of the receptacles is in use.

In each of the aforementioned embodiments of the present invention, it will be evident that a minimum amount of space is required for mounting the unit in existing wall units or in new construction, such as in homes, cottages, and trailers. When not in use, all of the operating parts are completely concealed and hidden from view, so that all of the usable counter space is available for other purposes. In addition, the unit is particularly easy to clean, requires little maintenance, and is attractive in appearance.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claim.

What I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States is:

A cooking unit comprising a wall having portions adjacent to a counter top defining an enlarged recess, a closure panel hingedly supported at its lower edge upon said wall portions for pivotal movement between a normally closed position and a lowered open position substantially parallel to the counter top, handle means on

the closure panel engageable with said counter top to support the closure panel therefrom and parallel thereto and at substantially the same height as the distance of its hinged connection with the recess above the counter top, said recess having a plurality of relatively smaller counter recesses, electrical energy supply units pivotally mounted in said recesses at their lower edges and similarly provided with handles engageable with said closure panel when in its lowered open position to support the supply units upon the closure panel and parallel thereto, each of said electrical energy supply units having individual sockets adapted to slidably receive male plugs of various

cooking utensils and temperature control elements accessible from the top of the units.

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