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GONDOLA SHELF AND BRACKET

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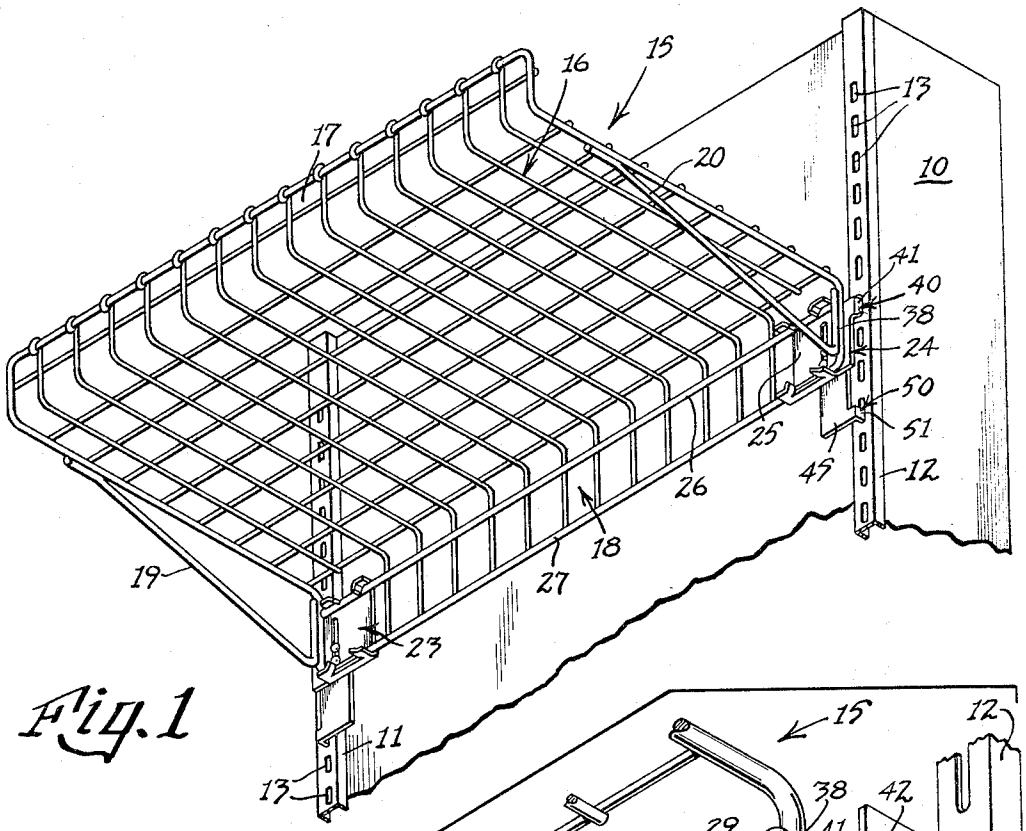


Fig. 1

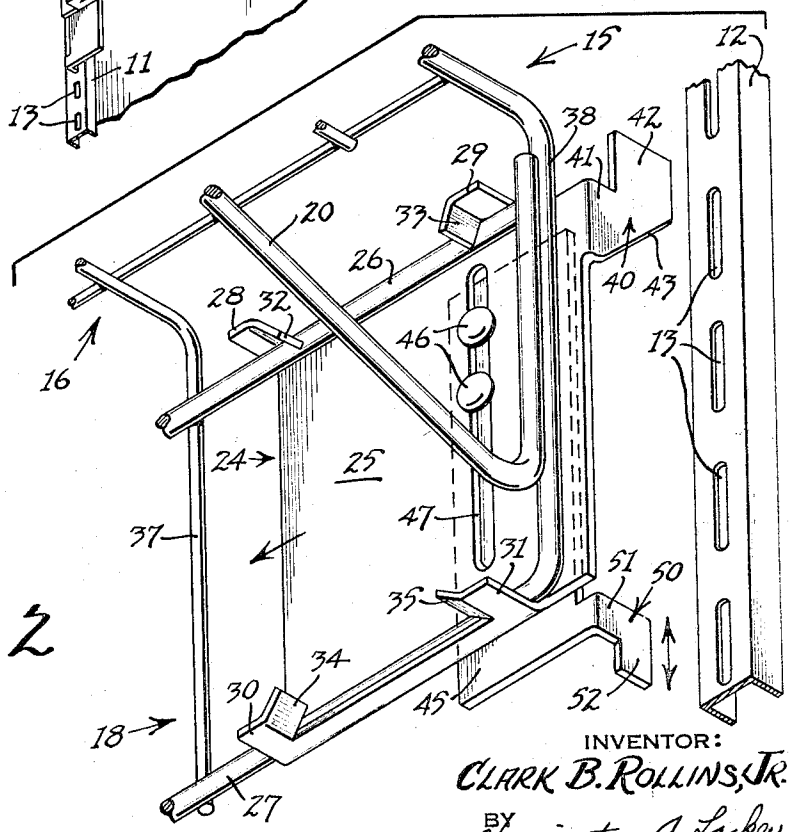


Fig. 2

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GONDOLA SHELF AND BRACKET

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This invention relates to a gondola shelf, and more particularly to an adjustable bracket for mounting a shelf on a gondola or other type of shelf support.

One object of this invention is to provide a gondola shelf especially constructed with open ends so that several like shelves may be mounted end-to-end adjacent each other without any intervening obstructions.

Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable bracket for a shelf to permit mounting of said shelf on non-uniformly spaced standards.

A further object of this invention is to provide adjustable brackets for mounting a shelf on vertically slotted upright standards having varying spacings between the standards as well as varying spacing between the slots.

Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable bracket for a shelf adapted to be supported upon an upright standard by projections on the bracket engaging corresponding slots in the standard, in which the bracket is provided with means for varying the spacing of the projections and for varying the horizontal position of the projections relative to the shelf.

A further object of this invention is to provide an adjustable bracket for a shelf, the bracket having projections for engaging vertically spaced slots on an upright standard, the bracket comprising a pair of plate members, each plate member having a projection, one plate member being horizontally movable relative to the shelf, and both plate members being vertically movable relative to each other.

Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable bracket for a shelf to support uniformly constructed shelves on non-uniformly spaced supporting standards.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a shelf made in accordance with this invention, having a pair of adjustable brackets supporting the shelf at opposite ends on a pair of spaced upright standards on a gondola, shown fragmentarily; and

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary exploded perspective view showing the right bracket of FIG. 1 dis-assembled from the upright standard.

Referring now to the drawings in more detail, FIG. 1 discloses a conventional gondola **10** having upright standards **11** and **12** including vertically spaced slots **13** for receiving projections from brackets upon which the gondola shelves are mounted. Such gondolas are employed in grocery stores and super-markets for supporting and displaying grocery products. However, unless the projections on the brackets have the correct vertical spacing to match the spacing of the slots in the upright standards, then the shelf upon which such a bracket is mounted cannot be supported by those particular standards. Moreover, if the projections at both ends of the shelf do not have spacing equal to the spacing between the slots in opposite standards, then the shelf cannot be supported by those standards. Because different manufacturers of shelves, uprights and gondolas do not observe a uniform gauge for either the standards or the slots, then the difficulty of matching brackets and shelves with standards and gondolas can prove quite troublesome.

The shelf **15** disclosed in the drawings, has an open-wire construction, the major portion of which comprises a platform section **16** having an upturned forward wall or portion **17** to help support articles upon the shelf **15**. The rear portion **18** of the shelf depends from the rear edge of the platform section **16** in close proximity to the gondola **10**. Elongated struts **19** and **20** are fixed to the bottom portions of the rear section **18** and extend a substantial distance forward and upwardly where they are secured to the forward bottom portion of the platform section **15**, by means such as welding. In conventional types of gondola shelves, the rear portions of the shelves extend upwardly instead of downwardly, and the reinforcing trusses or struts connecting the rear portion to the platform section extend across the ends of the shelves above the platform sections and thereby close or obstruct the ends of the shelves. Consequently if like shelves are arranged end-to-end, then the reinforcing struts prevent the support of any article which might overlap the adjacent ends of a pair of shelves.

On the other hand, it can be seen in FIG. 1 that the ends of the platform section **15** are open because the struts **19** and **20** are below the platform sections. Consequently a plurality of shelves **15** may be supported end-to-end without any intervening obstruction at all to provide a continuous supporting platform surface.

In order to support the shelf **15** upon the uprights **11** and **12**, a pair of brackets **23** and **24** are mounted at opposite ends upon the depending rear section **18** for adjustable engagement with the vertically spaced slots **13** in the standards **11** and **12**. Since the construction of the two brackets **23** and **24** are the mirror-image of each other, only the construction of bracket **24**, as best disclosed in FIG. 2, will now be described.

The bracket **24** includes a first plate member **25** having a height sufficiently great to span the vertical distance between the horizontal wire rods **26** and **27** forming a part of the depending rear section **18**. The upper and lower edges of the plate member **25** are turned forwardly and are provided with forwardly projecting corner lugs **28**, **29**, **30** and **31**. The upper lugs **28** and **29** have downwardly bent portions **32** and **33** extending in front of the rod **26**, and lugs **30** and **31** are provided with upwardly bent portions **34** and **35** to engage in front of the lower rod **27**. This lug construction permits the plate member **25** to slidably move longitudinally of the shelf **15**, or horizontally or transversely of the standard **12**. The reciprocable limits of the plate member **25** are governed by the spacing of the upright wire rods **37** and **38** against which the respective lugs **28**, **29**, **30** and **31** abut.

The upper right corner portion of the plate member **25** is provided with a laterally extending projection **40**. Although the projection **40** is also extending rearwardly to pass through and engage a slot **13**, it will be understood that the projection **40** could extend laterally in the same plane as the plate member **25**, if the slot **13** and the standard **12** were correspondingly arranged and rotated through 90° from their disclosed position. The projection **40** includes a neck portion **41**, an enlarged upwardly directed tang **42** and an upwardly diverging bottom edge **43**. Thus, if the total height of the projection **40** is greater than the height of the slot **13**, as disclosed in the drawings, then the front portion of the shelf **15** will have to be tilted upwardly so that the tang **42** can pass through the slot **13**, with the bottom edge **43** approximately horizontal. Then, when the tang **42** has passed behind the slot **13**, the shelf **15** can be counter-rotated to its horizontal load-supporting position. The neck portion **41** will then rest in the slot **13** and the tang **42** will extend upwardly above the top of the slot **13**

and behind the standard **12** in order to lock projection **40** in position.

The bracket **24** also includes a second plate member **45** abutting flush against the rear face of the first plate member **25** as best disclosed in FIG. 2. Fixed in the front face of the second plate member **45** are a pair of headed pins **46** which extend through a vertical elongated slot **47** in the first plate member **25**. The enlarged head portions of the pins **46** hold the second plate member **45** in vertical slidable engagement with the first plate member **25**. Extending from the right rear corner of the second plate member **45** is a lower projection **50** also having a neck portion **51** and an enlarged depending tang **52**. As disclosed in the drawings, the total height of the projection **50** is less than the height of each slot **13**. After the upper projection **40** is locked in its corresponding slot **13**, the lower projection **50** is vertically slidably adjusted to register with a corresponding slot **13**, through which the projection **50** is inserted. Then the neck portion **51** will be permitted to drop by gravity to the bottom of the slot **13** so that the tang **52** will extend below the bottom of the slot **13** to engage the rear side of the standard **12**. In this manner, the shelf **15** will be securely locked in position.

It will therefore be apparent from the above construction that even though the spacing between the upright standards **11** and **12** might vary from one gondola to another, the bracket **24** may be adjusted accordingly by sliding the first plate member **25** along the rods **26** and **27** until the projections **40** and **50** are in vertical alignment with the slots **13** of the standard **12**. Then, if the spacing of the slots **13** varies from one gondola to another, the lower projection **50** may be vertically adjusted with respect to the upper projection **40** because of the vertical slidable adjustment between the plates **25** and **45**.

The bracket **23** is constructed in a similar manner to afford a double lateral adjustment for both ends of the shelf **15**, and to permit uniform vertical adjustment for the slots **13** in both standards **11** and **12**.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, and therefore the invention is not limited by that which is shown in the drawings and described in the specification, but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bracket for supporting a shelf on and transversely of a standard having vertically spaced slots, comprising:

(a) a first movable member having a first projection adapted to be received in one of said slots,

(b) means mounting said first member for transverse reciprocable movement on a shelf for reception of said first projection in said one slot,

(c) a second movable member having a second projection adapted to be received in another of said slots spaced from said one slot, and

(d) means mounting said second member for vertical reciprocable movement on said first member for adjustment of said second projection to be received in said other slot.

2. The invention according to claim **1** in which said first projection is above said second projection.

3. The invention according to claim **1** in which each projection has a neck portion adapted to be received in said slot and a vertically directed tang adapted to engage the opposite side of said standard from said members.

4. The invention according to claim **3** in which the tang on said first projection extends upwardly and the tang on said second projection extends downwardly.

5. The invention according to claim **2** in which said first projection has a neck portion and an upwardly directed tang, the total height of said projection being greater than the height of said one slot, and the bottom portion of said projection diverging upwardly from said first member to permit said projection to extend through said one slot when tilted.

6. The invention according to claim **1** in which said first member comprises a plate having an elongated vertical slot therethrough, said second member comprises a plate, and said means mounting said second member on said first member comprising pins projecting from said second member through said vertical slot, to permit relative vertical movement between said second member and said first member.

7. The invention according to claim **1** in which said first member comprises a plate, and said means mounting said first member comprises flange portions on said plate for slidably engaging a shelf.

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