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R. S. AHRENS ET AL

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REFRIGERATOR SHELF

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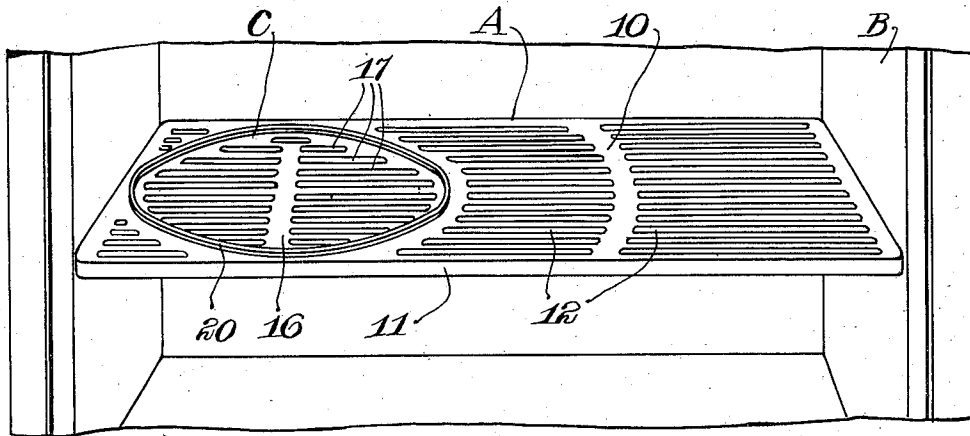


Fig. 1

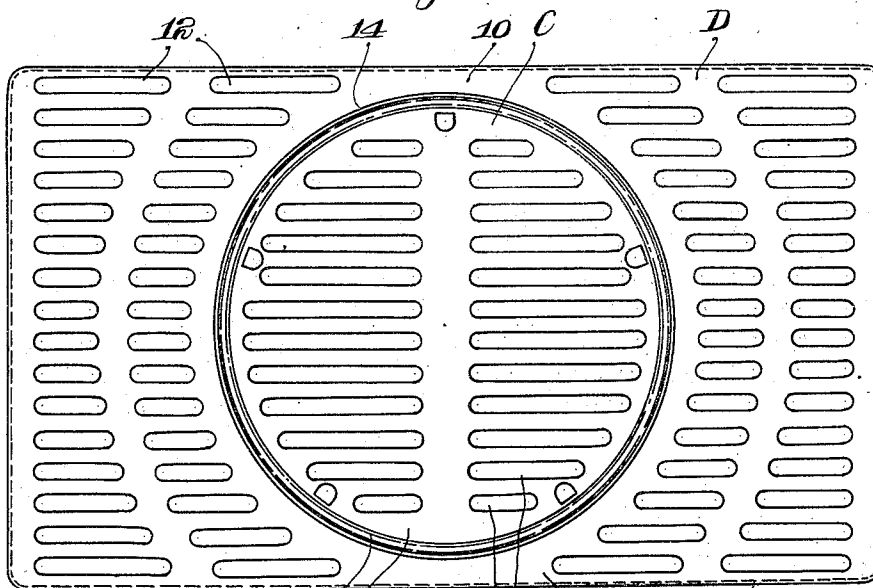


Fig. 2

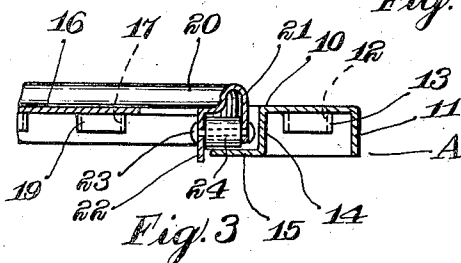


Fig. 3

Inventor

Robert S. Ahrens
Walter A. Ellsworth

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Robert M. Dunning
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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REFRIGERATOR SHELF

Robert S. Ahrens and Walter A. Ellsworth,
St. Paul, Minn., assignors to Seeger Refrigerator Company, St. Paul, Minn., a corporation of Minnesota

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211—135)

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Our invention relates to an improvement in refrigerator shelf wherein it is desired to provide in a refrigerator a shelf embodying a rotatable portion.

Various attempts have been made to make the contents of a refrigerator more readily accessible. In order to obtain the maximum use of the storage space within a refrigerator, the shelves of the same are ordinarily placed relatively close together. As a result, while objects near the front of the shelves are readily accessible, it is difficult to remove other objects located at the back of the shelves. To obviate this inconvenience, shelves have been slidably mounted so as to make all of the articles placed thereon easily accessible. Certain structural difficulties are involved in such a construction and the cost of the mounting of the shelves is increased. Furthermore, the movement of the shelves in a reciprocatory manner has a tendency to upset any upright articles resting thereupon.

A feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a refrigerator shelf having formed as a part thereof a rotatable portion upon which articles may be supported. By merely rotating this rotatable shelf portion all of the objects resting thereupon will be successively moved past the front of the shelf. Thus any of the products placed upon the shelf may be conveniently removed therefrom when it is so desired.

A feature of the present invention lies in the provision of a rotatable shelf portion which may be suitable for supporting various materials which may be used in sandwiches or in light lunches. Accordingly if it is desired to obtain a between meals lunch, many of the ingredients therefor may be obtained by merely rotating the rotatable shelf portion and removing the desired products.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the fact that the rotatable shelf portion may be removed in its entirety. As a result the shelf portion may be used as a tray for carrying a group of materials from the refrigerator when it is desired to do so. For example, a plurality of salads, desserts, or the like could be removed simultaneously with the rotatable shelf portion and this circular portion would serve as a tray for the products removed.

These and other objects and novel features of our invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawing forming a part of our specification:

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Figure 1 is a perspective view of a refrigerator shelf in position within a refrigerator.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of a shelf embodying our invention.

Figure 3 is a sectional view showing the connection between the shelf and its rotatable portion.

Figure 1 of the drawing illustrates a shelf A mounted within a refrigerator B and having embodied therein a rotatable shelf portion C. The shelf A may be of any desired shape to fit within the refrigerator body B, and the body B may be of any suitable type.

In Figure 2 of the drawing we disclose a shelf D which is similar to the shelf A, with the exception of the position of the rotatable shelf portion C, and the resulting re-arrangement of the shelf perforations. While the shelf C is possessed of certain advantages in that the rotatable shelf occupies but one end of the supporting shelf and therefore permits more material to be grouped upon the supporting shelf. The shelf D illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawing also has certain advantages. As an example, the removable tray C of the shelf D is usually more easily removable than the rotatable tray of shelf portion C of the shelf A. However, as the shelves A and D are structurally similar, the same identifying numerals have been given to both of these structures.

The shelves A and D are provided with a substantially flat upper surface 10 having a downwardly turned flange 11 extending thereabout. A series of perforations 12 are provided in the shelf surface 10 to provide for a free circulation of air through the shelf. These apertures are preferably encircled by a down-turned flange 13, as best illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawing, so as to provide a neater appearance, a smoother upper exposed surface, and further to strengthen the shelf.

Each shelf is provided with a downwardly extending circular flange 14 illustrated in Figure 3, which terminates in an inwardly extending ring-shaped flange 15. This flange 15 forms a support for the rotatable shelf portion C.

The shelf portion C is preferably provided with a substantially flat upper surface 16 having a series of perforations 17 therein. The perforations 17 are likewise preferably provided with an encircling flange 19 which reinforces the shelf portion C, provides a smoother upper surface on the shelf portion, and improves the appearance of this element. An upwardly extending bead 20 preferably encircles the shelf portion at the mar-

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ginal edge thereof so as to hold articles placed on this shelf portion in proper place. A circular flange 21 extends downwardly from the outer edge of the bead 20.

Ears 22 may be cut from the body of the shelf portion C and bent downwardly along a line parallel to the adjacent portion of the flange 21. A pivot 23 extends through each ear 22 and the flange 21 or through an ear integral with the flange 21 if the flange should terminate above the level of the pivot. A roller 24 is rotatably supported upon the pivot 23 and extends below the level of the flange 21 and from any ear which may project downwardly therefrom to support the pivot 23. The ears 22 preferably extend below the lower surface of the rollers 24 so as to form a leg for the shelf portion C when this portion is removed from the refrigerator. The ears 22 may also assist in locating the tray with respect to its supporting shelf.

From an examination of Figure 2 of the drawing it will be noted that the removable shelf portion C is provided with a series of angularly spaced ears 22, each of which supports a roller 24. As a result the entire removable shelf portion is mounted on rollers and this shelf portion may readily rotate in its supporting shelf. As a result this tray portion may be rotated so as to position any object thereupon near the forward edge of the supporting shelf.

The shelves illustrated are shown as stamped of flat sheet metal or the like. The same construction, however, may be incorporated in wire shelves. The same, or a similar construction, would apply in each instance. Such wires may be assembled in any convenient manner to accomplish the desired result.

From the foregoing description the operation of our shelf should be obvious. The shelf supports

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its rotatable portion freely and permits this rotatable portion to revolve about a vertical axis. Thus while the main body of the shelf remains stationary, a portion thereof may be rotated so that access of small articles located near the rear of the shelf may be obtained.

In accordance with the patent statutes, we have described the principles of construction and operation of our refrigerator shelf, and while we have endeavored to set forth the best embodiments thereof, we desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of our invention.

We claim:

1. A refrigerator shelf comprising a shelf body, a circular aperture therein, a flange on said shelf body projecting into said aperture, a round rotatable shelf portion, a downwardly extending flange means on said rotatable shelf portion at the periphery thereof, downwardly projecting ears on said shelf portion adjacent the flange means, and roller means rotatably supported between said ears and said flange means, said roller means resting upon said inwardly extending flange.

2. A refrigerator shelf comprising a shelf body, a circular aperture therein, a flange on said shelf body projecting into said aperture, a round rotatable shelf portion, downwardly extending means on the edge of said rotatable shelf portion adjacent the periphery thereof, downwardly projecting ears on said shelf portion adjacent said edge means, and roller means rotatably supported between said ears and said edge means, said roller means resting upon said inwardly extending flange.

ROBERT S. AHRENS.
WALTER A. ELLSWORTH.