Feb. 28, 1967 W. S. HOEBEL 3,306,281

COLLAPSIBLE AND PORTABLE BARBECUE OR COOKING DEVICE

Filed Oct. 14, 1964

Fig. 1

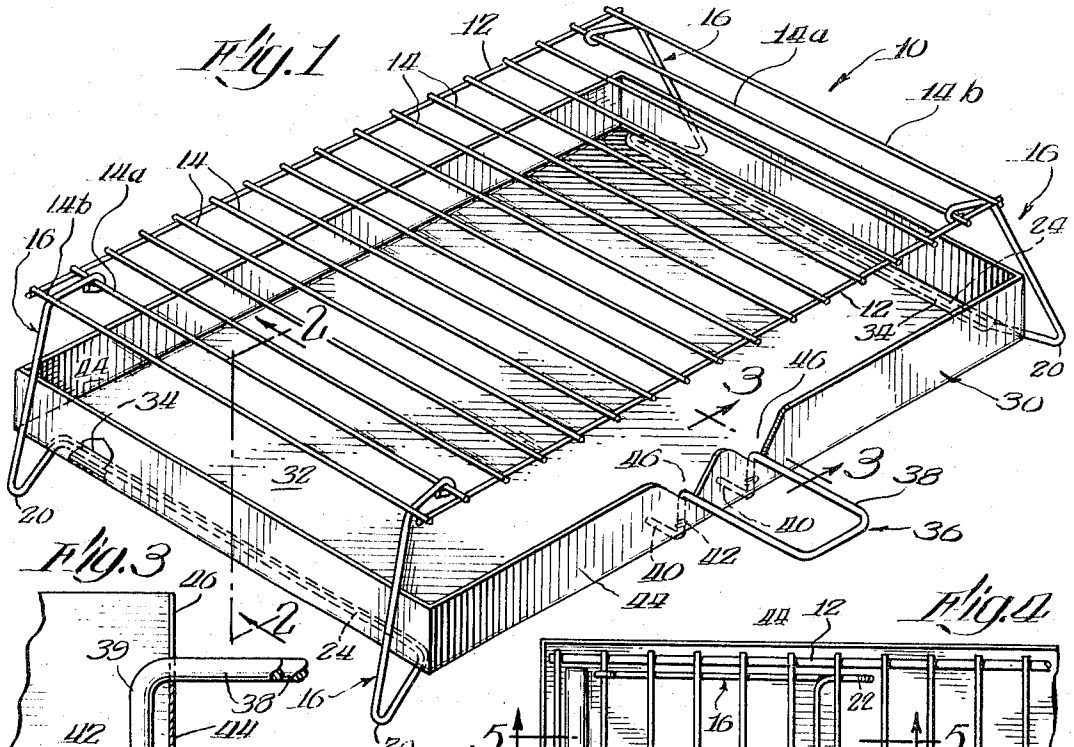


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

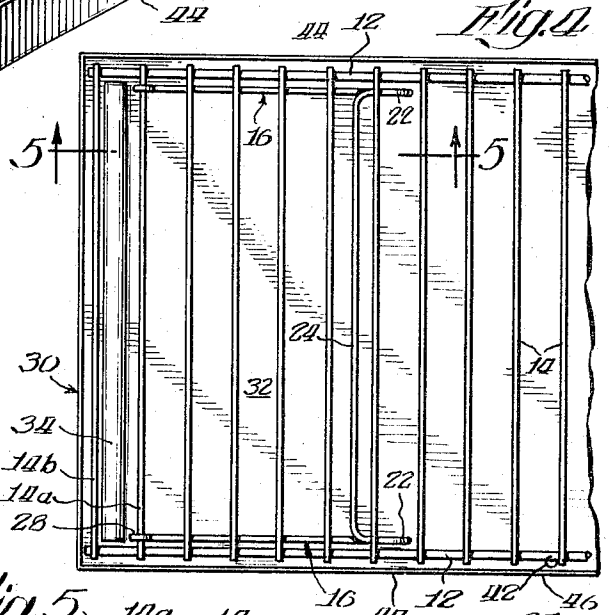


Fig. 2

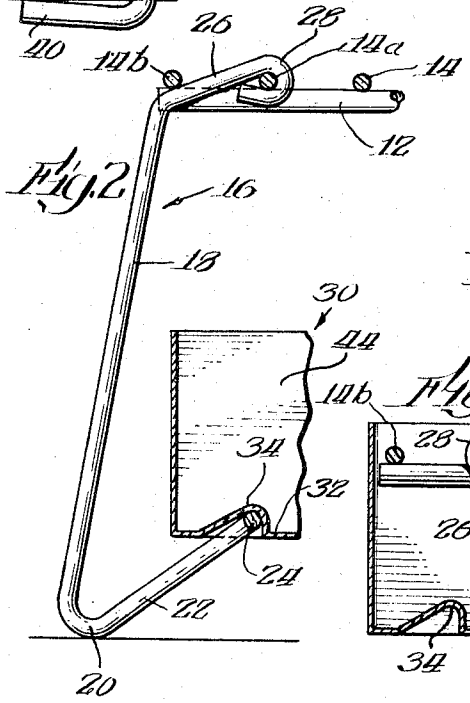
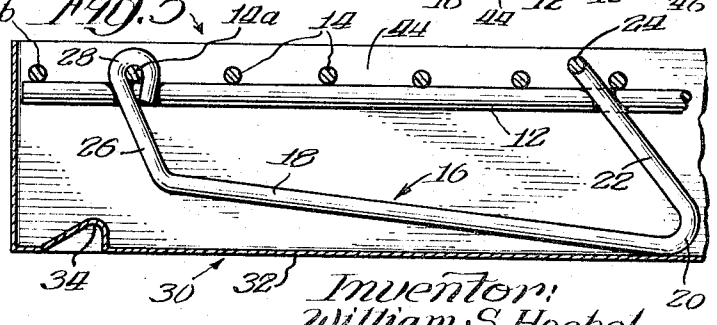


Fig. 5



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COLLAPSIBLE AND PORTABLE BARBECUE OR COOKING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 126—25)

This invention relates to improvements in a collapsible and portable barbecue or cooking device.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a barbecuing or cooking device which is collapsible to occupy a minimum of space, which is light in weight and of a compact size as to be readily carried or transported by a person, which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and which is highly efficient in operation.

Another object of this invention is to provide a barbecue or cooking device comprising a gridiron or grating with pivotally mounted legs at the opposite ends of said gridiron, which legs may be readily positioned in extended position to support the gridiron for barbecuing or may be readily collapsed adjacent the gridiron to occupy a minimum of space, and in which the fuel pan is supported by the legs in their extended position.

Another object of this invention is to provide a structure of the foregoing character in which, when the supporting legs are in a collapsed position, the gridiron and legs may be positioned within the fuel pan so that the overall dimensions of the device when packaged and/or stored is within the dimensions and confines of the fuel pan.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device aforedescribed which has a handle readily attachable to the fuel pan.

Other objects will become apparent as this description progresses.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the device of this invention set up in position for barbecuing or cooking.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged view taken on lines 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view taken on lines 3—3 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary plan view showing the legs supporting the gridiron in collapsed position, with the gridiron positioned within the fuel pan, and

FIG. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken on lines 5—5 of FIG. 4.

The gridiron or grating is generally designated by the numeral **10** and is formed of a pair of spaced longitudinally extending wire or rod members **12** and a plurality of spaced transversely extending wire members **14** which have been welded or otherwise secured thereto. Pivotally secured to the opposite ends of the gridiron are leg or supporting members, generally designated by the numeral **16**.

Each leg member **16** is formed of a single strip of wire bent to the configuration shown. As viewed from its supporting position shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, each leg member has a substantially straight intermediate side portion **18**, a rounded bend portion **20** which continues inwardly and angularly upward to form a lower side portion **22** and is then bent inwardly to form a transverse portion **24** connecting the two spaced sides. Extending upwardly and angularly inward from the intermediate side portion **18** is the upper side portion **26** which is curved or looped to form a hook portion **28**. The hook portions **28** are pivotally secured to the transverse wire members **14***a* which are adjacent the outermost wire members **14***b*. This connecting arrangement permits the leg members to be pivoted inwardly in a collapsed position, as shown in

FIGS. 4 and 5, whereby the transverse connecting portion **24** of the leg is adjacent the gridiron. In this position the legs occupy a minimum amount of space for the purpose to be hereinafter described. It also permits the legs to be readily pivoted to extended or upright or leg supporting position, such as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, to support the gridiron or grating **10** in position for barbecuing. In the extended position the upper side portion **26** of the leg will rest and engage the end transverse wire **14***b* to limit the outward pivoting movement of said legs so that said legs cannot collapse outwardly when they are in leg supporting position.

The fuel pan for supporting the charcoal, fuel, or the like, is of rectangular shape and is designated generally by the numeral **30**. The bottom **32** of the pan is provided with a pair of spaced transversely extending recesses or indentations, designated by the numeral **34**, adjacent the opposite ends of the pan. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the fuel pan **30** is adapted to rest on the transverse portions **24** of the legs, with the transverse portions nested within the transverse identations **34** of the pan to position the pan and to maintain it in a secure position and keep it from being accidentally dislodged. The pan, however, may be readily removed from the supporting legs by lifting same so that the legs may be collapsed.

For the purpose of readily engaging the pan there is provided a removable handle, designated by the numeral **36**, which is formed of a wire or the like, having a substantially U-shaped portion **38** which terminates in offset L-shaped ends having vertical portions **39** and forwardly extending horizontal portions **40**. The bottom wall **32** of the pan **30** is provided with a pair of spaced openings **42** and the side wall **44** of the pan adjacent said openings is provided with V-shaped recesses or cutouts **46**. The handle **36** is secured to said pan by inserting the L-shaped ends through the openings **42** and then positioning the handle as shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, in which the horizontal portions **40** of the handle are positioned horizontally underneath the bottom **32** of the pan, with the vertically extending portions **39** adjacent the inside of the side wall **44** and the U-shaped portion **38** extending outwardly of the pan to be manually engaged. In this manner the pan may be moved and handled by the person, yet, the handle may be readily removed from the pan by manipulating the handle so that the ends **40** of the handle are withdrawn through the openings **42**.

A feature of this invention is the construction of the device in such a manner that it can be collapsed to occupy a minimum of space and be contained within the confines of the fuel pan. This is best shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 in which the legs **16** are positioned in a collapsed position and the gridiron and legs are positioned to be confined and contained within the pan **30**, as shown in said figures. For example, one commercial embodiment of this invention is a construction in which the fuel pan **30** is approximately 16 inches by 11 inches, with the height of the side walls of the pan approximately 1½ inches. Within these dimensions the gridiron which has an overall length and width dimension slightly less than that of the pan may be positioned so that it is wholly confined and contained within the pan, as shown.

It will be understood that the invention is not restricted to the aforementioned dimensions but the foregoing is mentioned as a representative embodiment of the concept. In such collapsed condition the handle **36** is likewise positioned within the pan wholly within the confines of the sides and top.

It will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made from the foregoing without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible barbecuing device comprising a gridi-

ron formed of a plurality of spaced longitudinally and transversely extending wire members, a leg member pivotally secured to said gridiron adjacent each of the opposite ends of said gridiron, each said leg member formed of a single strip of wire bent and shaped to form a pair of spaced side members and a transverse member connecting said side members, each said side member having an upper, an intermediate, and a lower portion, with the upper portion having a looped terminal engaging a transversely extending wire member inwardly of the end thereof pivotally connecting said leg to the gridiron, said intermediate portion forming an obtuse angle with said upper portion, said lower portion extending inwardly and angularly upward of the intermediate portion and with the transverse member extending above the bottom of the intermediate portion, a fuel pan supported between said legs and on said transverse member of said legs, said pan being removably positioned on said legs to permit collapsing of said legs with respect to said gridiron.

2. A structure defined in claim **1** in which the pan is

provided with a transverse groove adjacent each of the opposite ends thereof to engage the transverse member of each of said leg members.

3. A structure defined in claim **1** in which the side members of the leg are inwardly of the longitudinally extending wire members which form the border of the gridiron and when the leg members are in collapsed position the transverse connecting members of the leg are positioned between certain of the transversely extending wire members of the gridiron to permit the gridiron to be confined and contained within the pan.

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