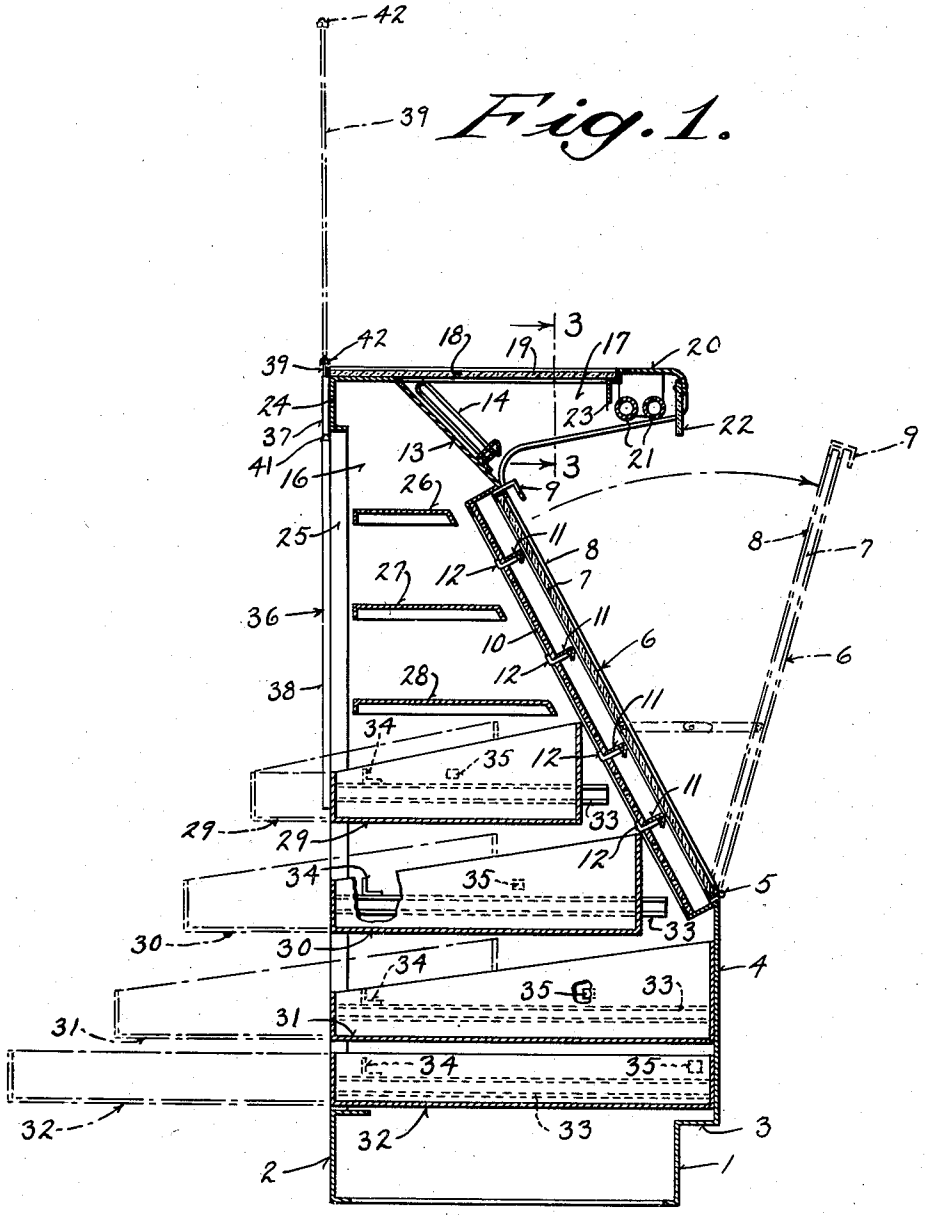
Aug. 5, 1958 H. J. FITZGERALD 2,846,284

DISPLAY CABINET FOR CONFECTIONS

Filed April 19, 1956 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



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Fig. 2.

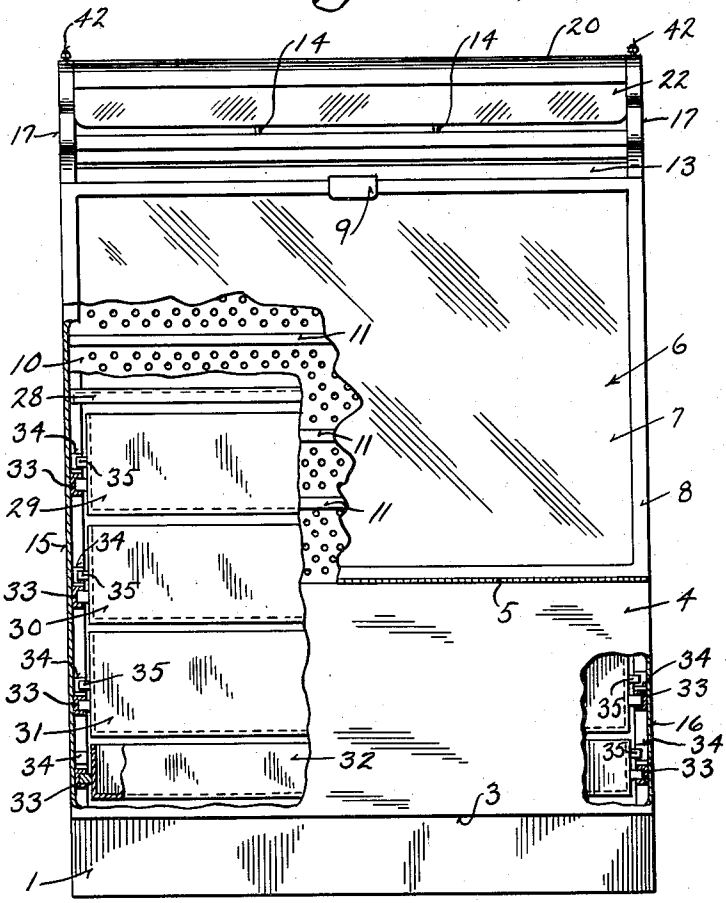


Fig. 4.

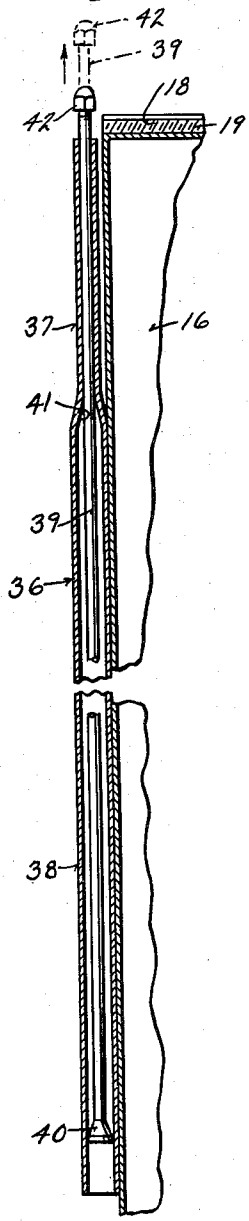
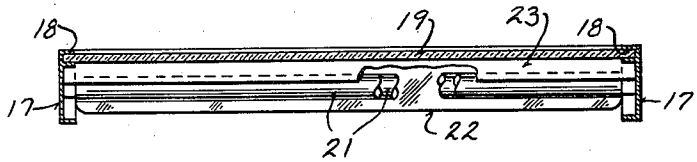


Fig. 3.



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DISPLAY CABINET FOR CONFECTIONS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—119)

This invention relates to display cabinets particularly adapted for the sale of confections and the like, wherein the commodity sold comprises a diverse range of selection of small packaged items, and it more specifically includes an upwardly and rearwardly inclined display area that is a minor portion of the cabinet to provide storage of the goods to the rear of the display area, and in which there may be provided, at the top of the display area, a service counter overhanging the display area to support illuminating means for advantageous display of the wares shown.

With the advent of increasing display and sales of confections in theatre lobbies, and like areas, it is desirable to have display cabinets that effectively present maximum variations of goods in a mass array to prospective purchasers, and also provide ample storage in a limited space to supply a substantial sales volume. For the display of the goods in an area that becomes crowded with patrons in certain intervals, such as intermissions, and periods immediately before and after entertainment programs, it is further desirable that the goods be readily observed by a customer to the immediate front of the cabinet, as well as to a party standing at a more remote distance in periods of less crowding. In the present invention a cabinet is provided that has a display area at the front comprising tiered shelves each disposed above and to the rear of the immediate lower shelf. The shelves are of shallow depth and confections may be displayed in mass number, to provide a ready selection from an ample variety, in a manner for ease of observance from a position close by, or at a distance. To enhance the display, illumination is disposed at the front and at a level no greater than the top of the cabinet which is of a height to permit service over the top thereof.

A transparent panel, forming a top of the cabinet, extends rearwardly of the illumination source to provide a service counter which does not impair the view of displayed merchandise. Such transparent counter top protects a sloping transparent covering for the display area from dirt and debris that might otherwise fall thereon as transactions are carried out over the counter top. Since the horizontal top may be transparent, an attendant at the rear will have a clear unimpaired view of the merchandise to observe selections of those standing close to the front of the cabinet.

It is an object of this invention to provide a display cabinet for advantageously displaying merchandise in tiered array.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet in which a large supply of merchandise may be stored directly behind a display area to have a sufficient amount to satisfy sales requirements.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet in which goods displayed are directly behind a transparent front to provide the illusion that the goods are accessible to the touch.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet having a counter of service height across

which service may be made while not impairing the view of the merchandise displayed.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet with a service top that may be readily replaced upon showing signs of wear from transacting purchases over the top of the cabinet.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet in which an attendant to the rear of the cabinet may readily observe selections of merchandise made by customers at the front of the cabinet.

It is another object of this invention to provide a display cabinet to be serviced by an attendant at the rear having storage compartments that make most effective use of available storage space and which, when fully opened, provide ready access thereto.

These and other objects and advantages of this invention will appear from the description to follow. In the description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which there is shown by way of illustration and not of limitation, a specific form in which the invention may be embodied.

Referring now to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side view in elevation and in section of a display cabinet embodying the invention,

Fig. 2 is a front view in elevation of the cabinet with parts broken away and in section,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view in section taken on the plane 3—3 shown in Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary side view in elevation and in section of a portion of the cabinet shown in an enlarged scale.

Referring now to the drawings, a front baseboard 1 and a rear baseboard 2 are shown which form a foundation for the cabinet. The front baseboard 1 turns forwardly to present a horizontal ledge 3 from which rises a front wall 4. A piano hinge 5 that mounts a service door 6 is secured to the top edge of the wall 4. The door 6 swings forwardly, as shown in Fig. 1, to provide access to the front of the cabinet for permitting arrangement of wares to be displayed. The door 6 comprises a transparent glass 7 mounted in a frame 8 extending across the full front of the cabinet. A handle 9 is provided for operation of the door 6.

Directly behind the door 6 is an upwardly and rearwardly inclined perforate partition 10 from which extends a plurality of shelves 11 of shallow depth. The shelves 11 are mounted by means of pins 12 inserted through the perforations of the partition 10, and may readily be rearranged into positions most suitable for the wares to be displayed.

Forming an upward continuation of the door 6, when closed, is an inclined panel 13 that extends to the top of the cabinet. Appropriate brackets 14 are secured to the panel 13 to afford means of retaining additional wares on display. A pair of side walls, one of which is designated by the numeral 15 in Fig. 2 and the other by the numeral 16 in Fig. 1, extend rearwardly from the side edges of the baseboard 1, wall 4, door 6 and panel 13, and have front edges matching the respective inclines of these elements forming the front of the cabinet. The after edge of each side wall 15, 16 is a vertical continuation of the rear baseboard 2.

The upper portions of each wall 15, 16 include a forwardly extending arm 17 overhanging the inclined front edge that juts outwardly to a point approximately above the front wall 4. The top of each arm 17 is horizontal and is formed with an inwardly facing channel 18, as shown in Fig. 3.

Mounted in and extending between the channels 18 is a transparent sheet 19 that forms a counter top for the cabinet. The forward edge of the top 19 is slightly

to the rear of the forward end of the arms **17**, and to the front of the top **19** is an opaque plate **20** beneath which is housed illuminating means that are shown to be in the form of fluorescent fixtures **21**. Immediately to the front of the fixtures **21** is a translucent screen **22** that may carry advertising indicia, and which masks the fixtures **21** from parties standing to the front of the cabinet. The arms **17** mask the fixtures **21** from a view of either side of the cabinet, and the fixtures **21** are thus able to directly illuminate the wares on display to the greatest advantage without detracting from cabinet appearance. To complete the assembly at the forward ends of the arms **17** a screen **23** is placed to the rear of the fixtures **21** to shield an attendant at the rear of the cabinet from direct rays of the fixtures **21**.

A lintel **24**, at the back of the cabinet, extends between the upper limits of the side walls **15**, **16** to lend support to the transparent top **19**. The rear edges of the walls **15**, **16** are turned inwardly at **25** to lend rigidity, and with the lintel **24** and baseboard **2** define a service opening at the rear of the cabinet. Three shelves **26**, **27** and **28** are disposed directly behind the perforate partition **10** and are accessible from the open rear of the cabinet. The shelves increase in width as they descend, in a manner complementary to the incline of the partition **10**. Thus, maximum utilization is made of available storage space.

A set of four drawers **29**, **30**, **31** and **32** reside beneath the shelves **26–28**, and are adapted to be drawn rearwardly from the opening at the cabinet rear to gain access thereto. The uppermost drawer **29** is located behind the inclined partition **10** and is, consequently, not as wide as the others. The next lower drawer **30** is wider due to the forward incline of the partition **10**, and the lowermost drawers **31** and **32** are of greatest width since they are located behind the vertical front wall **4**. A pair of slides **33**, secured to the inside of the side walls **15**, **16**, are provided for each drawer **29–32** and drawer stops **34** are mounted on the slides **33**. Projections **35**, on the drawers **29–32**, engage the stops **34**, when a drawer is drawn rearwardly, to limit the extent of drawer travel. As seen in Fig. 1, the projections **35** are disposed in such fashion that upon drawing the drawers outward, to the rear, they will assume positions in which each drawer is less extended than the one immediately below. This construction insures that whenever an attendant draws out a drawer he is certain to have access thereto, and his ability to quickly serve customers is facilitated. The varying widths of the drawers **29–32** lend themselves to this form of construction.

As is most clearly shown in Fig. 4, a tube **36** is fastened to the rear edge of each side wall **15**, **16**, which has an upper neck portion **37** of smaller cross section than the lower part **38**. A vertically slidable rod **39** is inserted in each tube **36**, which may be moved upwardly to extend from the associated tube **36**, or retracted within the tube **36**, in telescope-like fashion. The rods **39** may be extended upwardly to a considerable height to carry promotional displays above the top **19** without interference of servicing of customers over the top **19**. To retain the rods **39** in elevated position a belled lower end **40** is provided that fits tightly with the taper **41** of the tube **36** formed at the junction of the neck portion **37** with the lower tube portion **38**.

A cap **42** is threaded on the upper end of each rod **39**, which is of a width greater than the opening of the tube **38**, to limit the downward travel of the associated rod **39**. The rods **39** and caps **42** normally prevent the counter top **19** from being moved rearwardly in the channels **18**. However, if it is desired to replace or remove the counter top **19** the caps **42** are turned off the rods **39**, and the rods **39** are then lowered to fully expose the rear edge of the counter top **19**. The counter top **19** may then be slid from out of the channels **18**.

Since the top **19** serves as a counter top, it is subject to wear and scratching. Over a period of time, its appearance may become undesirable, and this is particularly true since it receives a great deal more wear than any other portion of the cabinet subject to a customer's view. Consequently, provision is made for easy replacement and hence the life of the cabinet of this invention may be substantially increased, since cabinet life is largely a measure of pleasing appearance. Also, the top **19** may be removed in favor of an opaque panel or one of color to create desired effects for particular events.

I claim:

1. In a display cabinet the combination comprising a forwardly facing inclined display area at the front of the cabinet for retaining and displaying merchandise; a counter top overhanging said inclined display area which has a pair of rails at the opposite sides thereof, guide means on each rail presenting upwardly facing supporting surfaces, a cross member between said rails at the front thereof, and a transparent panel received by the supporting surfaces of said guide means which extends rearwardly behind said cross member and which may be removed from the counter top by sliding movement to the rear; illuminating means mounted at the front of the counter top beneath said cross member which includes a front opaque light shield blocking direct light transmission to observers at the front of the cabinet and a rear opaque light shield blocking light transmission through the transparent panel toward the rear; vertical tubes mounted at the rear of the cabinet with the upper ends thereof at a level below the transparent panel and in a position behind said transparent panel; and a rod telescoped within each tube movable vertically to the direct rear of the transparent panel, each rod having a removable head of larger diameter than the associated tube to preclude lowering of the rod to a level beneath the transparent panel thereby normally blocking removal of the panel, and each rod being movable to beneath the level of the transparent panel upon removal of the associated head to permit retraction of the panel.

2. A display cabinet in accordance with claim 1 wherein each vertical tube has a necked upper portion of reduced internal diameter and each rod has a belled lower end adapted to wedge within the necked portion of its associated tube upon being telescoped outwardly and upwardly from the tube to a raised position.

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