June 6, 1961 D. E. BURGE 2,987,194

TOOTHBRUSH RACK

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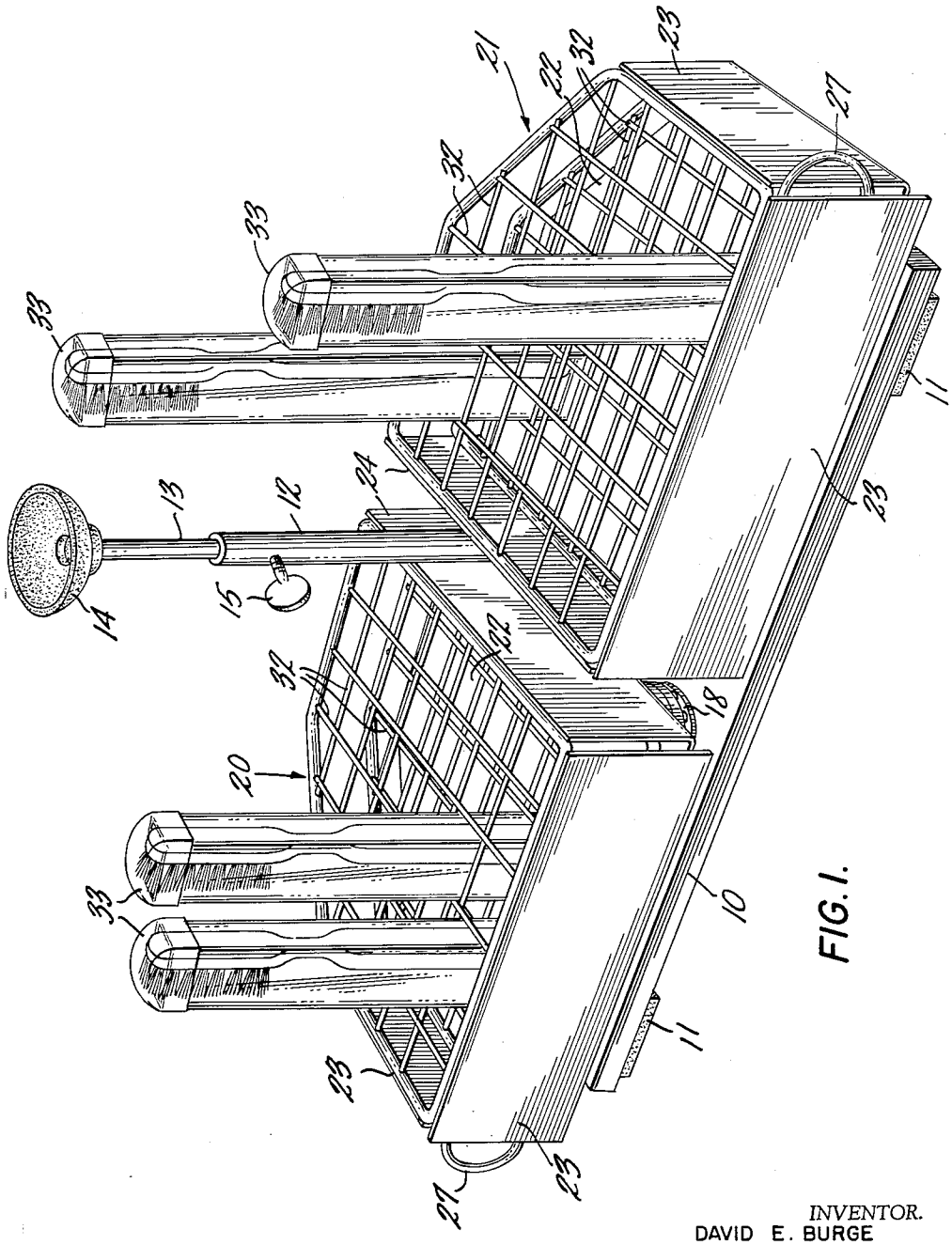


FIG. 1.

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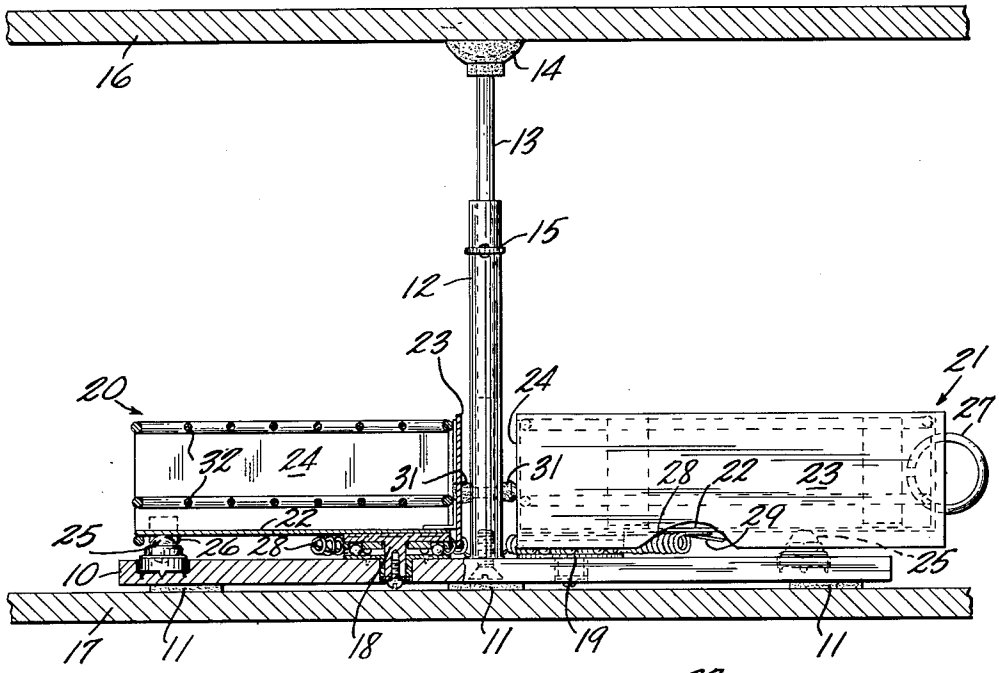
BY
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his ATTORNEYS.

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FIG. 2.



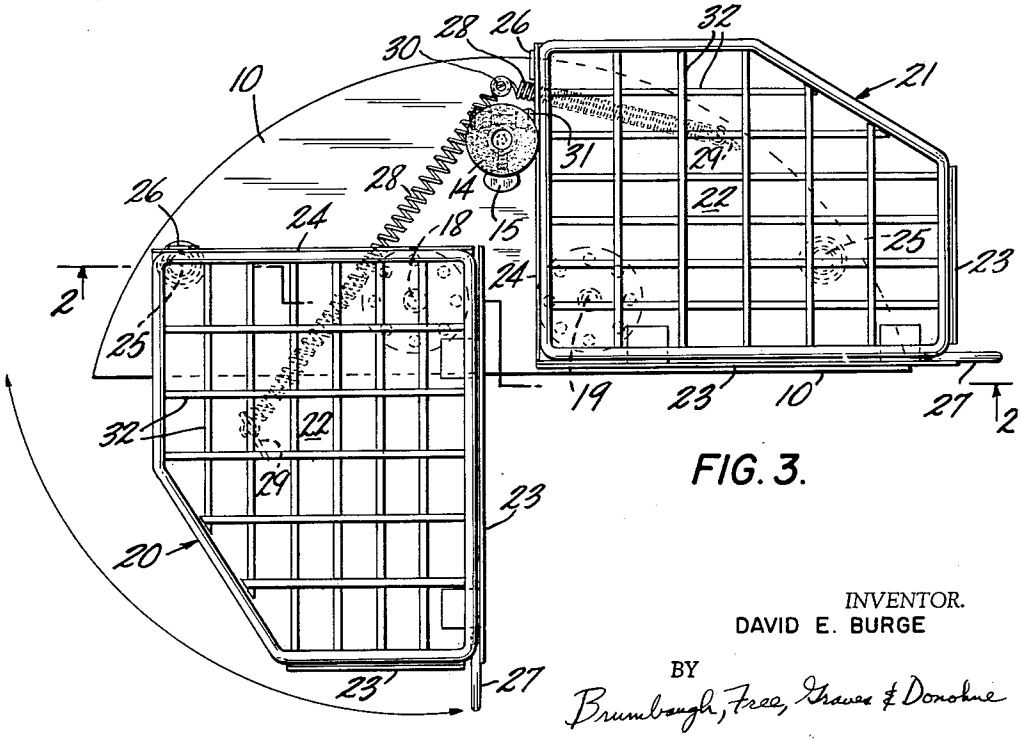


FIG. 3.

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TOOTHBRUSH RACK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211—126)

This invention relates to display racks and, more particularly, to a display rack adapted to be positioned between two shelves.

In displaying merchandise such as toothbrushes, for example, for retail sale, it is important to place the articles of merchandise in a location where they will be readily accessible for inspection. In cases where counter space is limited or unavailable, however, it is often desirable to utilize shelf space for display, but heretofore it has been impractical to display toothbrushes and similar articles on a shelf because of their size and shape.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a new and improved display rack which may be placed on a shelf having trays for toothbrushes and the like adapted to be pulled out for inspection.

Another object of the invention is to provide a display rack of the above character wherein elongated articles such as toothbrushes may be retained in a vertical position.

A further object of the invention is to provide a rack of the above character wherein the trays are automatically returned after being pulled out for inspection.

These and other objects of the invention are accomplished by pivotally mounting tray members near one corner upon a base which is frictionally retained on a shelf by a downwardly directed force. This retaining force is provided by a telescoping shaft vertically mounted on the base and arranged to be pressed against the bottom of the shelf above. With the rack thus retained in position, spring bias means may be provided between each tray and the base to urge the tray back to a storage position after it has been pulled out for inspection.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a reading of the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective showing a typical display rack arranged according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevation view of the rack partly in section, taken along the lines 2—2 of FIG. 3 with one of the trays pulled out; and

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the rack illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2.

The toothbrush rack comprises a base member **10** supported on pads or feet **11**, composed of rubber or other nonskid material, and having a vertical post **12** mounted thereon wherein a shaft **13** carrying a suction cup **14** or other gripping member is adjustably retained by a screw clamp **15**. As best seen in FIG. 2, the rack is adapted to be supported securely between two horizontal shelves **16** and **17** by raising the shaft **13** until the suction cup **14** is pressed against the bottom of the upper shelf **16**, thus increasing the frictional engagement of the feet **11** with the lower shelf **17**, and tightening the clamp **15**.

Pivotally mounted on the base member **10** in bearings **18** and **19** near their front inner corners are two trays **20** and **21** each having a horizontal bottom panel **22** and vertical side panels **23** and **24**. The outer end of each tray is slidably supported on a ball bearing **25** mounted near the front of the base **10** and the inner side panel **24** of each tray carries a stop **26** adapted to engage the

ball bearing **25** after a 90° rotation as shown by the tray **20** in FIGS. 2 and 3. In order to facilitate rotation of the trays **20** and **21** in this manner, a handle **27** is mounted at the front outer corner of each tray.

Automatic return of each of the trays to its storage position after it has been pulled out is accomplished by two springs **28**, secured to each of the bottom panels **22** at a point **29** and to a common post **30** mounted at the rear of the base member. Cushion members such as rubber bumpers **31** are mounted near the base of the post **12** to engage the inner side panels **24** and stop the trays at the desired position when they are returned, thus absorbing any momentum resulting from the spring action.

Supported by the side members **23** and **24** of each tray and spaced from the bottom member **22** are a pair of wire grids **32** wherein toothbrush cases **33** may be vertically positioned as shown in FIG. 1, thus providing an easily accessible display when the tray has been pulled out and space-saving storage when the tray is returned to its normal position.

Although the invention has been described with reference to a specific embodiment, many variations and modifications thereof will occur to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the invention is not intended to be restricted in scope except as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A display rack comprising a base member having feet of a nonskid material adapted to engage frictionally a supporting surface, a telescoping shaft vertically mounted on the base member having a suction cup mounted at its upper end to press against an upper surface to increase the frictional engagement of the feet, a clamp to lock the telescoping shaft in position, a pair of trays pivotally mounted on the base member movable between a storage position and a display position, a ball bearing supporting each of the trays at a position spaced from the pivoted mounting, a stop member mounted on each tray to engage the ball bearing when the tray is moved to the display position, and a spring positioned between the base member and each tray tending to retain the tray in the storage position.

2. A display rack comprising a base member adapted to engage frictionally a supporting surface, vertical shaft means of continuously adjustable length mounted on the base member adapted to press against an upper surface to increase the frictional engagement of the base member, means for holding the upper end of the vertical shaft means against the upper surface, tray means supported on the base member at a pivot point spaced from the vertical shaft means and movable between a storage position and a display position, ball bearing means mounted on the base member at a point spaced from the pivot point to provide rolling support for the tray means, stop means on the tray means positioned to engage the ball bearing means when the tray means is moved to the display position, and bias means normally urging the tray means toward the storage position.

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