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F. C. WOOD

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COMBINED RAIL AND GUARD FOR STORE COUNTERS

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Fig. 1

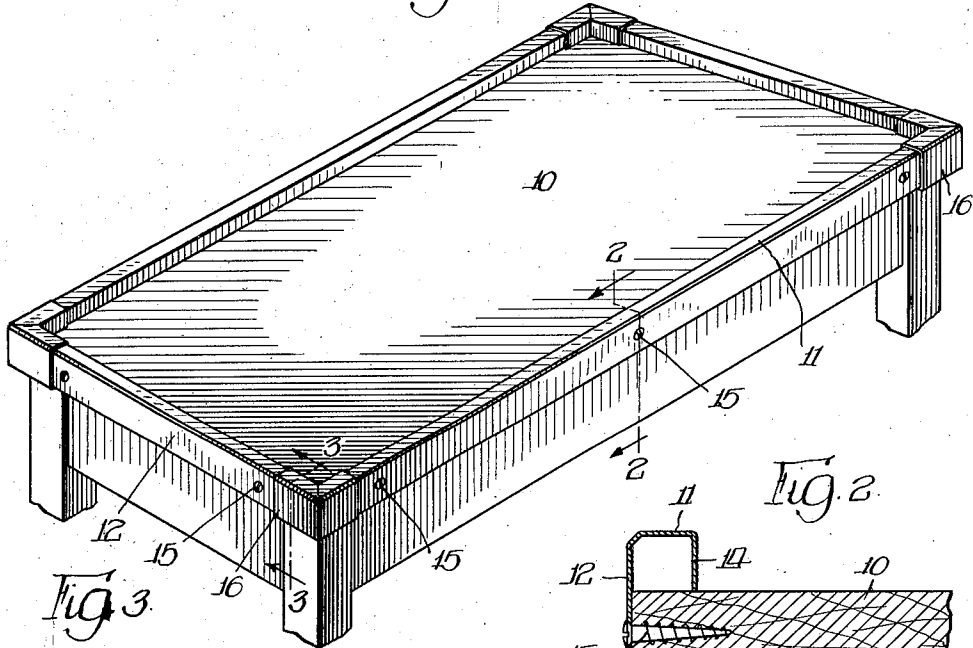


Fig. 2

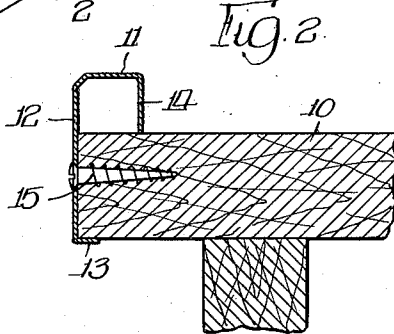


Fig. 3

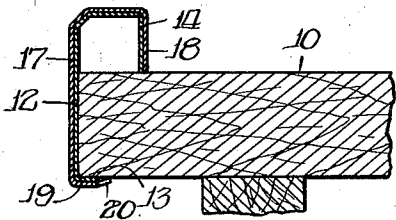


Fig. 4

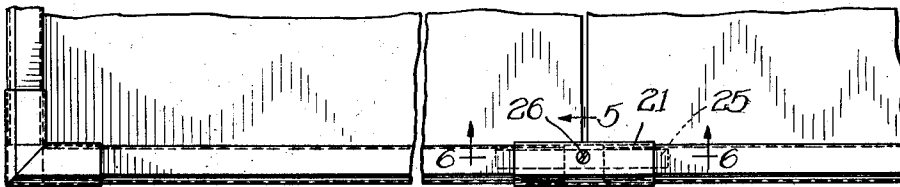


Fig. 5

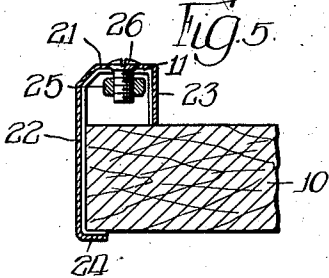
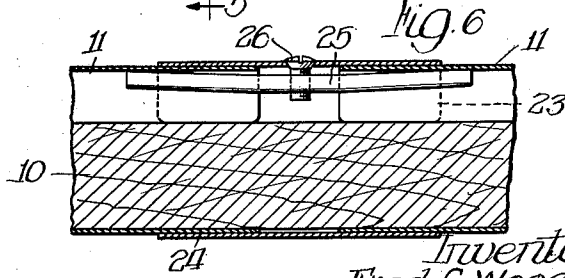


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINED RAIL AND GUARD FOR STORE COUNTERS

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16 Claims. (Cl. 312—137)

It is now current practice in the display of small articles in chain stores to place the articles on open counters or tables distributed over the floor space of the store. On each table or counter a space is allotted for the various classes of the articles, and these spaces are divided to provide small bins or receptacles in which the articles of the various classifications are located. Ordinarily, a wood flange rail is screwed to the edges of the counter or table top so as to confine the articles on the table top, and prevent the same passing from the bins and dropping onto the floor. Invariably, however, with these wooden flange rails, a false bottom is also placed on the table top, so as to fill up the space and elevate the various articles to a point nearer the top edge of the flange rail. Ordinarily, no provision is made for adjustability of the size of the spaces or bins, and these spaces always have remained in fixed dimensions. No provision is made for enlarging or diminishing the size of the bins or receptacles, or to enable adjacent counters or tables to be moved together, and thereby provide for a greatly enlarged area of surface for receiving the articles to be displayed.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a combined rail and guard for store counters or tables which will avoid the objections noted, and which may be readily applied to the table or counter tops in order to afford the required space for the display of the articles, and still prevent the latter passing from the tops and dropping to the floor.

The invention also aims to provide a combined rail and guard of the character referred to the construction of which is such that it may be expeditiously placed in position at the edges of the table or counter tops without special fitting, and which, when so applied, will present a neat and ornamental effect without sharp corners or projections that may result in injury to customers in examining the contents displayed by the table or counter.

The invention also has in contemplation a combined rail and guard such as referred to which will readily adapt itself to different sizes of tables or counters and permit adjustment to the latter regardless of the size of the space on which the articles to be displayed are placed.

Furthermore, the present invention affords a combined rail and guard through the medium of which a plurality of tables or counters may be brought together, should occasion require the enlargement of the display space to such proportions, the construction of the rail and guard be-

ing such that the edges of the tables so related may be provided with the rail and guard, or the space afforded by the combination of the counters or tables subdivided into smaller display spaces and these spaces bounded by the rail or guard to confine therein various articles of differing classifications.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the nature of the improvements is better understood, the invention consisting substantially in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and finally pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a display table or counter equipped with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view thereof, as on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the corner splicer, as on the line 3—3, Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the combined rail and guard adapted to a further application of the same;

Fig. 5 is also a transverse sectional view, as on the line 5—5, Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view of the construction illustrated in Fig. 4, as on the line 6—6 in that figure.

Referring now in detail to the accompanying drawing, the table top 10 has a metallic rail 11 arranged at its edges so as to form a guard which extends continuously around the entire top. This guard is formed of metal and is rolled to shape. It includes a hollow member generally of inverted U-shape, being open at its bottom and adapted to overhang the surface of the top 10. The rail 11 is provided with a vertically-disposed outer flange 12 which seats at one of its sides against the edge of the table or counter top, and this flange 12 terminates in an inwardly extending toe flange 13 which is bent at right angles to the flange 12 and fits beneath and engages the under side of the top of the table or counter. The rail 11 also has a vertically-disposed inner flange 14. This is of less length than the outer flange 12, the two flanges being parallel and spaced apart, and the lower or free edge of said inner flange 14 seats on the surface of the top of the table or counter. The flanges 12 and 14 are disposed in upstanding relation to the top 10 and project above the surface of the top when the rail 11 is applied to the latter. When applied in the manner indicated, the rail 11 is detach-

ably held on the edges of the table or counter top by a plurality of screws 15, but obviously displaceable from the table or counter top by the removal of these screws. Because the outer flange 12 is of greater length than the inner flange, the former is provided with a depending portion which seats against the edge of the table or counter top and receives the screws 15 to support the rail 11 thereon. The rail 11 is of such height with respect to the table or counter top as to provide the required depth for accommodation of the articles to be displayed, and at the same time to prevent the articles being displaced from the top and dropping on the floor. The inner flange 14 cooperates with the upper surface of the table or counter top 10 for determining the height of the rail 11 above the top to serve as a guard. Thus, the necessity for false bottoms commonly employed with the wooden guard rail ordinarily used is avoided, and the articles to be displayed may be placed directly upon the table or counter top and arranged in the required manner for their presentation to the view of the customers.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, the rail 11 may be cut to predetermined measurements with respect to its length so as to fit the side and the end edges of a table or counter top. At the corners, and in order to cover the adjacent ends of the side and end rails, angular splicer members 16 are employed. The cross sectional contour of these splicer members is the same as the cross sectional contour of the rail 11 so as to conform to the shape of the rail. Each splicer includes two arms which extend at right angles to each other, and as applied to the adjacent ends of the side and end rails 11, the splicers fit over the spaces between these ends, and thus effectually close those spaces. In order to conform to the shape of the rail 11 each splicer 16 has an outer flange 17 and an inner flange 18 which is relatively shorter than the outer flange 17. The latter is provided also with an inwardly extending toe flange 19 the inner edge of which terminates in a resilient gripping tongue 20.

When the corner splicers 16 are applied to the adjacent ends of the side and end rails 11, it is but necessary to force the splicers into position over these contiguous ends of the side and end rails, thus positioning the outer flanges 17 over the outer flanges 12 of the guard rail, with the inner flanges 18 likewise in position over the inner flanges 14 of the guard rail. The toe flange 19 likewise seats upon the toe flange 13, but the gripping tongue 20 snaps over the free edge of the toe 13, thereby holding the two flanges 13 and 19 in engagement with each other. This avoids the necessity for employing other fastenings to maintain the corner splicers in position, the gripping tongues 20 being sufficient for this purpose.

At times it is desirable to combine two or more tables or counters in order to enlarge the display space for the articles on sale. When tables are thus combined the sides thereof present greater lengths than the length of the rail 11 as ordinarily cut, and this requires appropriate fastening means for adjacent ends of the rails when aligned along the edges of the tops of the counters or tables. As illustrated in Figs. 4, 5, and 6, a side splicer 21 is employed for this purpose. It includes an outer flange 22, similar to the flanges 17 of the corner splicers, and an inner shorter flange 23, similar to the inner flanges 18 of the corner splicers. The side splic-

ers also are provided with inwardly extending toe flanges 24, and these toe flanges fit over the toe flanges 13 of the side rails. The contiguous ends of the aligned side rails 11, therefore, are embraced by the side splicers 21, the latter covering the spaces between the adjacent ends and presenting a finished appearance at these points.

To hold the side splicers 21 in position each is provided with an elongated spanner bar 25 of somewhat greater length than the length of the splicer itself so that the ends of the bar extend beyond the ends of the splicer. The spanner bar 25 occupies a position within the side rails and the side splicer, as illustrated in Fig. 6, and is held upon the splicer 21 by a fastening screw 26. This screw is fitted in an opening at approximately the mid-portion of the splicer 21, the threaded shank of the screw engaging a threaded opening in the spanner bar. By tightening the screw 26 it will be apparent that the ends of the spanner bar 25 will be pressed into engagement with the inner faces of the aligned ends of the side rails, while the head of the screw 26 binds the splicer 21 into engagement with the outer faces of such aligned ends. A tight engagement, therefore, is effected between the side splicer and the adjacent aligned ends of the side rails.

It will be understood that in the use of the hereindescribed rail and guard the depth of space for receiving the articles to be displayed may be increased by using the commonly-employed glass panel rails generally associated with display tables and counters. By the employment of proper holding clips or brackets these panel rails may be mounted in proximity to the hereindescribed rail and guard, and thus increase the depth of space for display of the articles on sale. In the use of these glass panel rails the hereindescribed rail and guard effectually will hold the same on the table or counter top and prevent their displacement therefrom.

The present invention is capable of inexpensive production due to the fact that the rail may be rolled to the desired shape and cut in lengths that may be suitable for the ordinary sized tables or counter tops. It may be readily adjusted to varying sizes or areas of tops, and thereby adapt itself to the provision of bins or display spaces of varying sizes, and it readily lends itself also to the combining of a plurality of tables when display space of such an enlarged area is required.

I claim:

1. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow flanged member adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and including inner and outer flanges arranged to extend above the table or counter top, the outer flange being adapted to seat with its lower portion against the edge of the top, the inner flange being adapted to engage the surface of the top, and means for fastening the member to the top.

2. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow member adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and including inner and outer flanges arranged to extend above the table or counter top, the outer flange being relatively wide and adapted to seat with its lower portion against the edge of the top, the inner flange being relatively narrow and adapted to engage the surface of the top, and means for fastening the member to the top.

3. A combined rail and guard of the class de-

scribed, comprising a hollow member substantially U-shaped in cross section and adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top to extend above the top of the table or counter, one face of said member being constituted by a relatively wide flange adapted to seat with its lower portion against the edge of the top, the other face of said member being constituted by a relatively narrow flange adapted to engage the surface of the top, and means for fastening the member to the top.

4. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow flanged member adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and including inner and outer flanges arranged to extend upwardly from said top, the outer flange being adapted to seat against the edge of the top, the inner flange being adapted to engage the surface of the top, the free edge of the outer flange being provided with an inwardly extending toe flange adapted to extend beneath the under surface of the top, and means for fastening the member to the top.

5. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the side edges and ends of a table or counter top and including inner and outer upstanding flanges which project above the surface of said top when said members are applied to the latter, and a corner splicer member for the adjacent ends of the members arranged at the side edges and ends of the table or counter top, said corner splicer including inner and outer flanges adapted to embrace the inner and outer flanges of the side edge and end members to close the space therebetween.

6. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the side edges and ends of a table or counter top and including inner and outer upstanding flanges which project above the surface of said top when said members are applied to the latter, and a corner splicer member for the adjacent ends of the members arranged at the side edges and ends of the table or counter top, said corner splicer including angularly disposed arms each of which is provided with inner and outer flanges adapted to embrace the inner and outer flanges of the side edge and end members to close the space therebetween.

7. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the side edges and ends of a table or counter top and including inner and outer spaced upstanding flanges, and a corner splicer member for the adjacent ends of the members arranged at the side edges and ends of the table or counter top, said corner splicer including angularly disposed arms each of which is provided with inner and outer flanges adapted to embrace the inner and outer flanges of the side edge and end members to close the space therebetween, the outer flanges of the splicer having resilient gripping tongues designed to engage the outer flanges of said hollow flanged members and thereby lock the corner splicer in engagement with the hollow flanged members.

8. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the side edges and ends of a table or counter top and including inner and outer spaced upstanding flanges, the outer flange being relatively wide and adapted to seat against the edge of the top, the inner flange being relatively narrow and adapted to

engage the surface of the top, means for fastening the outer flanges to the top, and a corner splicer member for the adjacent ends of said hollow members arranged at the side edges and ends of the table or counter top, said corner splicer including angularly disposed arms each of which is provided with inner and outer flanges, the outer flange being relatively wide and adapted to embrace the outer flanges of said hollow members, the inner flange being relatively narrow and adapted to embrace the inner flange of the hollow members, said splicer serving to close the space between the adjacent ends of the side and end hollow members, and means for locking the corner splicer in engagement with said hollow flanged members.

9. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and arranged in aligned relation, said members having flange portions arranged to extend upward from said top, and a splicer member located at the contiguous ends of said aligned members and overlapping the same, and means for locking the splicer member into engagement with the contiguous ends of said aligned members.

10. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and arranged in aligned relation with their adjacent ends separated, said members having flange portions arranged to extend upward from said top, a splicer member formed of a hollow flanged member corresponding in cross sectional contour to said hollow flanged members located at the adjacent ends of said flanged members and overlapping the same, and means for locking the splicer member into engagement with the adjacent ends of the aligned flanged members.

11. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and arranged in aligned relation with their adjacent ends separated, a splicer member located at the adjacent ends of said aligned members and overlapping the same, a spanner bar associated with said splicer member and disposed within the hollow flanged members with its ends in contact with the inner faces of said flanged members, and means for creating a binding engagement of said spanner bar and the splicer member with the ends of the flanged members to lock the splicer member into engagement with the flanged members.

12. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising hollow flanged members adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and arranged in aligned relation with their adjacent ends separated, a splicer member located at the adjacent ends of said aligned members and overlapping the same, an elongated spanner bar associated with said splicer member and disposed within the hollow flanged members to adapt its ends to contact with the inner faces of said flanged members, and connecting means between the splicer member and said spanner bar serving to compress the splicer member and the spanner bar in relation to the ends of the aligned flanged members and thereby lock the parts together.

13. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow member adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter

top and including vertically-disposed spaced parallel inner and outer flanges, the inner flange cooperating with the upper surface of the table or counter top for determining the height of the rail above said top to serve as a guard, the outer flange being of greater length than the inner flange to provide a depending portion adapted to seat against the edge of the table or counter top to support the rail thereon, and means for fastening the depending portion of the outer flange to the table or counter top.

14. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow member open at its bottom and adapted to overhang the surface of a table or counter top at an edge thereof, said member including vertical inner and outer parallel flanges arranged in spaced relation, the inner flange cooperating with the upper surface of the table or counter top for determining the height of the rail above said top to serve as a guard, the outer flange depending below the lower edge of the inner flange and adapted to seat against the edge of the table or counter top to support the rail thereon, and means for fastening said depending portion of the outer flange to the table or counter top.

15. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a member of inverted U-shape adapted to overhang the surface of a table or counter top at an edge thereof, the side walls

of said member constituting spaced inner and outer parallel flanges, the inner flange cooperating with the upper surface of the table or counter top for determining the height of the rail above said top to serve as a guard, the outer flange extending below the lower edge of the inner flange and adapted to be seated at one of its sides against the edge of the table or counter top to support the rail thereon, and means for fastening said extended portion of the outer flange to the table or counter top.

16. A combined rail and guard of the class described, comprising a hollow member adapted for application to the edge of a table or counter top and including vertically-disposed spaced inner and outer parallel flanges, the inner flange cooperating with the upper surface of the table or counter top for determining the height of the rail above said top to serve as a guard, the outer flange being of greater width than the inner flange to provide a depending portion adapted to be seated at one of its sides against the edge of the table or counter top to support the rail thereon, the lower edge of the outer flange having an inwardly-extending toe flange adapted to project beneath the under surface of the table or counter top and engage the same, and means for fastening the member to the table or counter top.

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