

Aug. 19, 1952

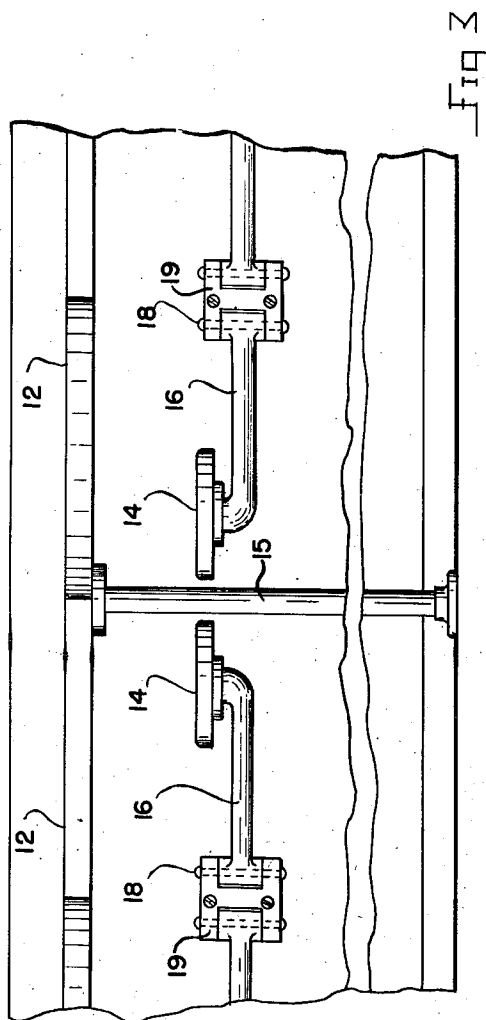
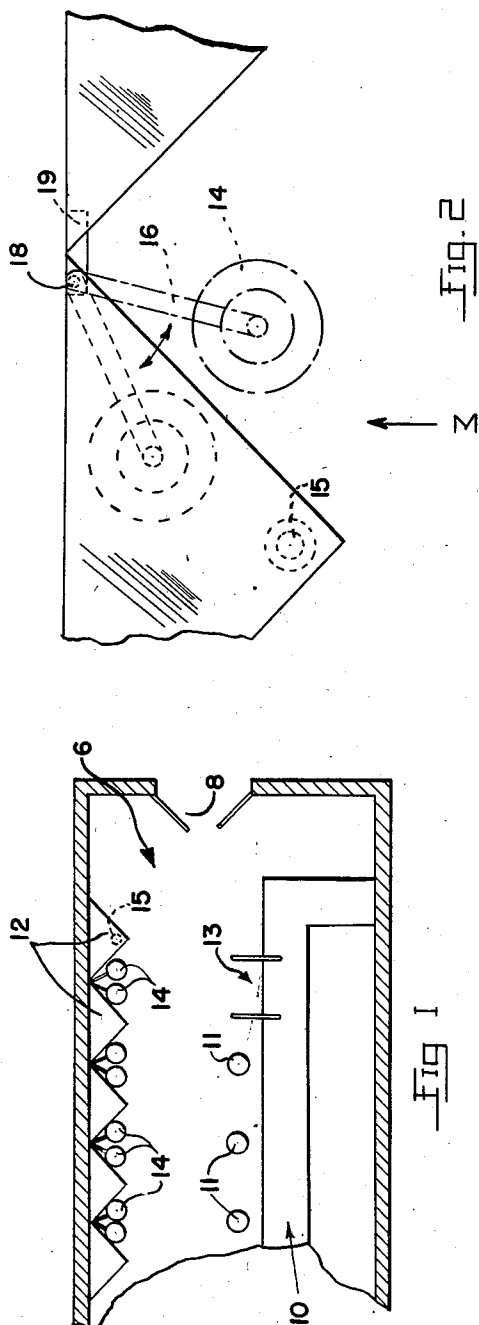
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2,607,085

COUNTER ARRANGEMENT AND SEAT THEREFOR

Filed March 17, 1951

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

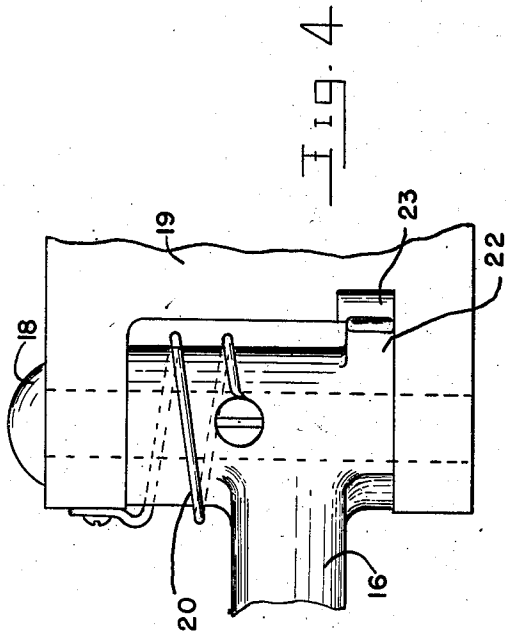


Fig. 4

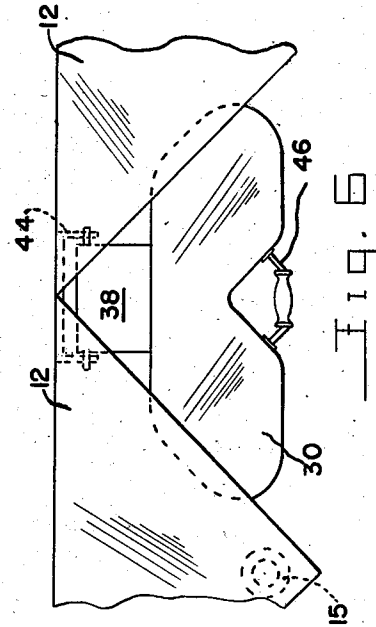


Fig. 5

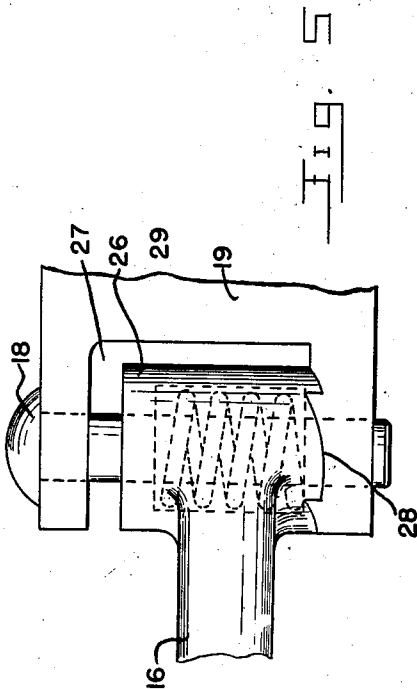


Fig. 6

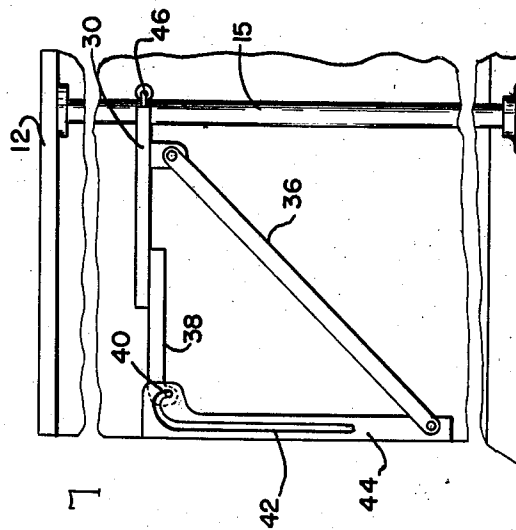


Fig. 7

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COUNTER ARRANGEMENT AND SEAT THEREFOR

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9 Claims. (Cl. 20—1)

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This invention relates to a counter arrangement and collapsible seats therefor, and particularly to such an arrangement for use in connection with lunch counters in restaurants, drug stores and the like.

In many locations where drug stores and restaurants are located space is at a premium and it necessarily develops that the stores are relatively narrow. It often occurs that there will be a space or areaway between two buildings that can be converted into use for an establishment of the type referred to but which, because of the fact that it is exceedingly narrow, does not become as profitable a venture as it otherwise would.

Having the foregoing in mind what is proposed by this invention is an arrangement for making highly efficient use of the space in stores of the type referred to which therefore makes it possible to handle a greater volume of trade and to realize more profit on the investment represented by the store.

This objective is attained in part by a novel counter arrangement including the use of triangular counter spaces projecting from one wall of the store and in part by collapsible seats associated with the counter space so the seats can be selectively positioned beneath the tables when not in use or be moved out from beneath the tables for use.

The several advantages and objectives of this invention will become apparent upon reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a typical store arrangement adapted for utilizing this invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary plan view taken over the triangular counters and collapsible seats, according to this invention and is drawn at a somewhat larger scale than Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view looking in from the front of Figure 2 as indicated by the arrow 3;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view showing a modified arrangement for supporting the collapsible seat;

Figure 5 is a view like Figure 4, but showing still another modified arrangement for supporting the collapsible seat;

Figure 6 is a plan view similar to Figure 2 but showing a dual seat arrangement adapted for collapsing substantially flat against the wall of the store when not in use; and,

Figure 7 is a view looking in from the left side of Figure 6.

Referring to the drawings somewhat more in detail, the store arrangement shown in Figure 1 may comprise a relatively narrow elongated

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store room space 6 having an entrance at 8 and including the usual service counter 10. Stools 11 may be associated with counter 10 in the usual manner and there may be a serving space as at 13 where orders can be picked up from counter 10 by customers for whom there is no space provided by the stools 11.

According to usual practices there may be provided along one or more walls of the room a fairly narrow counter which may or may not be provided with stools and which may be utilized when the counter 10 is filled.

According to my invention one or more walls of the room is provided with a series of substantially triangular counters as at 12 that project outwardly from the wall and which may include a supporting column as at 15 to give the said counters sufficient rigidity. These counters are right isosceles triangles with the hypotenuse of each against the wall.

The advantage of the triangular counter arrangement is that more persons can stand along any given wall than would be possible with a straight counter. This, of course, means more efficient use of the space and a greater return on whatever investment the space and furnishings represent.

There may be advantageously provided in connection with the triangular counters according to this invention collapsible seat arrangements which may be swung out of the way under the counter spaces when not in use or moved outwardly from beneath the counters when it is desired to use the seats. These seats are indicated at 14 and it will be seen in Figures 1 and 3 that there are two seats provided for each counter so that two persons may be seated in the triangular space beneath each pair of triangular counters and positioned almost wholly within a line joining the projecting corners of the counters.

It will be evident that this arrangement positions the customers completely out of the aisle space between counters 12 and counter 10 thereby permitting free movement of customers in the said aisle and without in any way interfering with the customers seated at counters 12.

In Figures 2 and 3 it will be seen that seats 14 are mounted on arms 16 that may be pivoted as by the pivot pins 18 to the brackets 19 mounted on the wall from which the counters 12 project. This relatively simple arrangement is inexpensive to construct and provides a ready means whereby the seats may be moved between their working and idle positions.

In Figure 4 is illustrated a somewhat modified

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arrangement wherein there is a torsion spring 20 arranged between arms 16 and bracket 19 which serves continually to urge arm 16 toward its idle position underneath the counter. By this arrangement the seat may be swung out for use and when released as, for example, by the customer leaving, the torsion spring will swing it back to its idle position automatically.

A stop lug 22 may be provided on the hub at the end of arm 16 for cooperating with a flat 23 on bracket 19 for positively stopping the seat in its working position.

In Figure 5 is illustrated a still further modified arrangement wherein the hub part 26 of arm 16 is reduced in length so as to leave a space as at 27 between its upper end and the upper arm of bracket 19 which supports the associated pivot pin 18. The lower surface of hub 26 and the adjacent upper surface of the lower arm of bracket 19 are formed with cooperating cam surfaces 28 in the form of a ratchet which will prevent swinging movement of arm 16 toward its idle position, but which will freely permit movement of the arm 16 toward its working position.

By the arrangement shown in Figure 5 the seat can be swung out for use and will immediately lock in position due to the inter-engaging portions at the ends of the cam faces 28. To return the seat to its idle position the arm 16 and the seat are elevated slightly to release the aforementioned inter-engaging portions, whereupon a slight movement of the arm 16 toward its idle position, followed by the releasing of the arm, will cause the cam surfaces 28 to cooperate with the weight of the seat and arm and to swing the said seat and arm to their idle position.

Optionally, in Figure 5 hub 26 may be counter-bored from the bottom and a spring 29 provided of sufficient strength to lift the seat and arm. Under these conditions the seat will lock in place when it assumes the weight of an individual but will spring to its released position when without weight. In its released position the arm can, of course, be readily swung to its idle position beneath the counter.

In Figures 6 and 7 is illustrated a still further modified arrangement where there is provided a dual seat arrangement 30 having connected therewith a bracket 38 extending toward the wall from which the counters 12 project and including pin means 40 receivable in slots 42 of a supporting channel member 44 mounted flat against the said wall. A diagonally extending brace 36 is pivoted at one end to the bottom of channel 44 and at its other end to the underneath side of seat 30. The arrangement is such that lifting of the rear edge of seat 30 will carry pin means 40 upwardly around the curved upper end in slots 42 so that thereafter releasing of the rear edge of the seat will permit it to move downwardly along the wall whereby the seat collapses substantially flat against the wall. When it is desired to move the seat outwardly for use, handle 46 may be availed of for pulling forwardly on the outer edge of the seat, i. e., the upper edge when the seat is collapsed, which causes the pin means 40 to ride upwardly in slots 42 and over the upper rounded portion so as to fall into the uppermost end of slot 42 whereupon the seat is firmly supported in its working position.

From the foregoing it will be seen that what I have invented is a novel and highly compact counter and seat arrangement especially adapted for use in restaurants and lunch counters where

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space is at a premium, but equally well adapted for use in more spacious establishments where it is desired to observe economy and which is relatively inexpensive to manufacture and simple to install and manufacture.

It will be understood that I desire to comprehend within my invention such modifications as may come within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a lunch counter arrangement for a store having a wall comprising; a series of individual counters projecting from the said wall and in abutting relation, each counter being in the form of a right isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, a bracket on the wall between each pair of counters, and a pair of seats pivotally mounted on each bracket so that each seat can be swung beneath one of the counters to an idle position and swung outwardly to project from beneath the said counter so as to be in working position.

2. In a lunch counter arrangement for a store having a wall comprising; a series of individual counters projecting from the said wall and in abutting relation, each counter being in the form of a right isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, a bracket on the wall between each pair of counters, a pair of seats pivotally mounted on each bracket so that each seat can be swung beneath one of the counters to an idle position and swung outwardly to project from beneath the said counter so as to be in working position, and spring means for each seat urging it toward its idle position.

3. In a lunch counter arrangement for a store having a wall comprising; a series of individual counters projecting from the said wall and in abutting relation, each counter being in the form of a right isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, a bracket on the wall between each pair of counters, a pair of seats pivotally mounted on each bracket so that each seat can be swung beneath one of the counters to an idle position and swung outwardly to project from beneath the said counter so as to be in working position, spring means for each seat urging it toward its idle position, and stop means for stopping movement of the seat in a predetermined position when moved outwardly for use.

4. In a counter arrangement for a lunch room and the like having a wall comprising; a series of individual counters secured to the said wall and projecting outwardly therefrom, each counter being in the form of an isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, bracket means mounted on the wall between each pair of counters, a pair of arms pivotally mounted on vertical pivot means on each bracket, and a seat on the outer end of each arm.

5. In a counter arrangement for a lunch room and the like having a wall comprising; a series of individual counters secured to the said wall and projecting outwardly therefrom, each counter being in the form of an isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, bracket means mounted on the wall between each pair of counters, a pair of arms pivotally mounted on vertical pivot means on each bracket, and a seat on the outer end of each arm, there being ratchet means between each arm and its associated bracket means for locking the said arm to the bracket means when the seat is in working position.

6. In a counter arrangement for a lunch room and the like having a wall comprising; a series

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of individual counters secured to the said wall and projecting outwardly therefrom, each counter being in the form of an isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall, bracket means mounted on the wall between each pair of counters, a pair of arms pivotally mounted on vertical pivot means on each bracket, a seat on the outer end of each arm, there being ratchet means between each arm and its associated bracket means for locking the said arm to the bracket means when the seat is in working position, and a spring for each arm urging it in a direction to disengage said ratchet means, said ratchet means being engageable by the weight of a user sitting on the seat.

7. In a counter arrangement for a lunch room or the like; a series of individual counters projecting outwardly from one wall of the room, said counters being in the form of isosceles triangles with each having its hypotenuse against the wall and substantially in abutting relation, and seat means that are positioned in the triangular space between each adjacent pair of the said counters and collapsible against the wall on which the counters are mounted when not in use, said seat means comprising a dual seat having accommodation for two persons.

8. In a counter arrangement for a lunch room or the like; a series of individual counters projecting outwardly from one wall of the room, said counters being in the form of isosceles triangles with each having its hypotenuse against the wall and substantially in abutting relation, and seat means that are positioned in the triangular space between each adjacent pair of the said counters and collapsible against the wall on which the counters are mounted when not in use, said seat means comprising a dual seat having accommodation for two persons, there being a vertical slide

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mounted on the wall to which the rear edge of the seat is slidably secured, and brace means pivotally connecting the front edge of the seat with a point on the wall substantially lower than the said seat.

9. In a counter and seat arrangement for a lunch room and the like; a series of individual counters arranged in a row along one wall of the room, each counter being in the form of an isosceles triangle with its hypotenuse against the wall and in substantially abutting relation with the counters on either side thereof, a dual seat arranged in the triangular space between each said pair of counters, a vertical channel mounted on the wall directly behind each seat and comprising slot means, an arm secured to each seat and projecting rearwardly and including pin means in said slot means, and a rigid brace member pivoted at its upper end to the forward portion of said seat and at its lower end to the lower end of said channel, said slot means extending substantially vertically upwardly and then curving forwardly and downwardly whereby the seat is positively retained in its working position but may be collapsed flat against the wall when not in use.

HARRY A. TOULMIN, Jr.

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