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G. E. WHITNEY

1,709,927

SERVICE TRAY

Original Filed Aug. 3, 1926

FIG. 1.

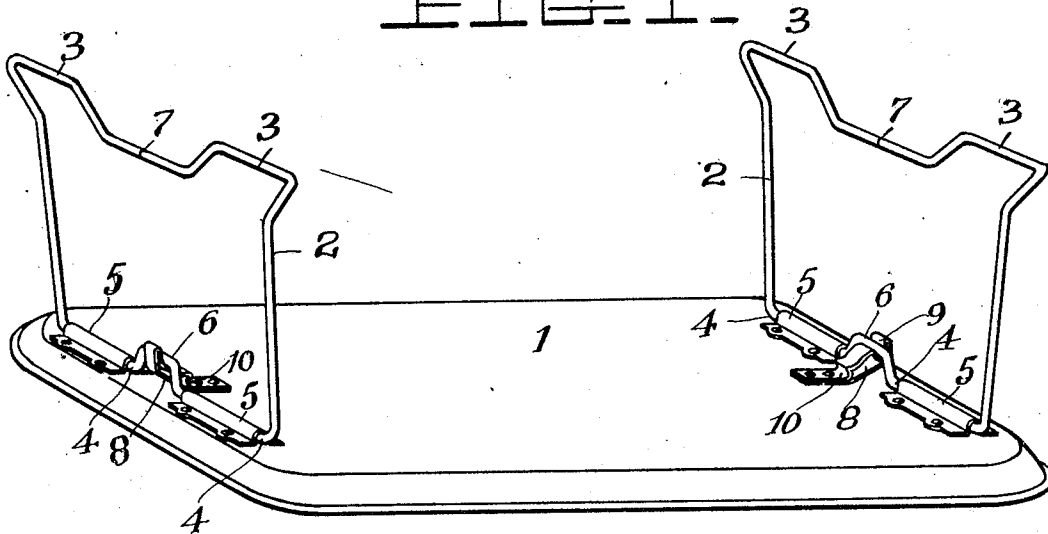


FIG. 2.

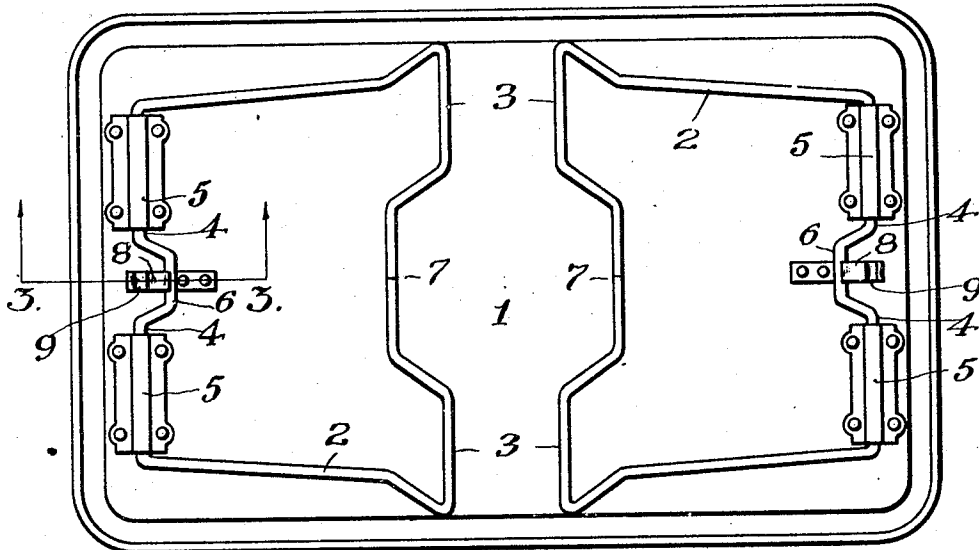
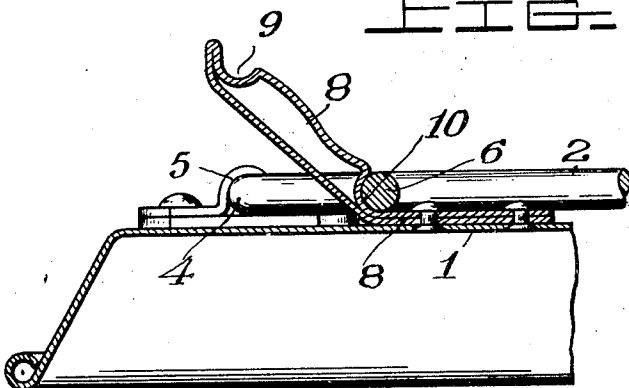


FIG. 3.



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SERVICE TRAY.

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This invention relates to service trays but more particularly has reference to devices of this description that are equipped with folding legs, the principal object of the invention being to automatically hold the legs in their opened or folded positions without the employment of any cooperating securing means fastened to the central portion of the tray.

In Letters Patent No. 1,593,611, issued to me July 27, 1926, I have shown and described a tray similar to the one which forms the subject of the present application, but which employs an elongated resilient bar secured to the central portion of the bottom of the tray, and having its ends equipped for engaging the stirrups. This bar necessarily caused the central portion of the upper surface of the tray to be marred owing to the fact that rivets pass through the bar and tray for securing said bar.

In the present invention I have eliminated the bar altogether, and have provided at each end of the tray a spring clip secured to the tray by rivets and having its main body, or effective, portion normally extending at an angle from the tray, and at the inner and outer ends of these extending portions are formed recesses within which the stirrups are housed when the legs are in closed or extended positions, the surfaces of these extended portions intermediate these recesses being engaged by the stirrups, when the legs are swung in either direction, so as to force these clips toward the tray, whereby the resilient recovery of said clips when said stirrups have been positioned opposite said recesses will cause the stirrups to be housed within the latter.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, similar numerals of reference denote like parts in the several figures—

Figure 1 being a bottom perspective view of a service tray equipped with my improvement with the legs opened.

Figure 2 being a bottom of the tray with the legs closed, and

Figure 3 being a broken section at the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

1 is the tray proper, and 2 generally denotes the leg elements.

Each of these leg portions is formed of a continuous piece of wire which is fashioned at the bottom into suitable feet 3 and at the

inner end into a cross bar 4 which is journaled in brackets 5 secured to the bottom of the tray at each end.

The central portion of each of these bars 4 is formed into a stirrup 6, while intermediate the feet 3 the free ends of the wire are preferably welded at the point 7.

8 is a spring clip formed of sheet metal whose extremities are riveted to the bottom of the tray and whose main body portion extends at an angle from the tray, the metal strips from this body portion being spaced apart to give better resiliency.

As above stated there are two of these clips one at each end of the tray and at the outer end of each clip is a recess 9 while at the inner end is a recess 10, the recess 9 having a straight outer wall to prevent overthrow of the legs.

Presupposing the legs to be closed and lying against the bottom of the tray as is shown at Figures 2 and 3, the outward swinging of these legs will cause the stirrups 6 to leave the recesses 10 and engage the surfaces of the clips intermediate the recesses, thus forcing these clips inwardly toward the tray, and when these stirrups are swung opposite the recesses 9, the clips will spring outwardly and thus cause the stirrups to be housed within these recesses, as is shown at Figure 1.

In closing the legs the stirrups will be forced out of the recesses 9 against the surfaces of the clips so as to crowd the latter toward the tray, and when these stirrups have come opposite the recesses 10 the clips will spring outwardly and thus cause the stirrups to be housed within these recesses.

The construction of these clips enables them to offer such a resistance to the movements of the legs that the latter will be securely held both when extended and closed.

What is claimed is:—

1. A service tray comprising a tray proper, legs pivotally swung at the bottom of the tray at each end thereof, the inner portions of said legs consisting of cross bars whose centers are formed into stirrups, and resilient clips secured at each end of the tray bottom and normally extended at an angle thereto so as to be engaged by said stirrups, the inner and outer ends of said clips having recesses within which said stirrups are housed when the legs are folded and opened.

2. A tray as in claim 1, in which the legs

are formed of a continuous wire or strip of metal whose free ends are welded the inner ends being cross-bars that are pivotally swung from the bottom of the tray, the central part of each bar between the pivotal points being formed into a stirrup, while the resilient clips are formed of sheet metal strips whose free ends are riveted to the tray and whose angularly extending portions are formed by spacing apart the metal of the strip.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature hereto.

GEORGE E. WHITNEY.