Oct. 29, 1929. T. TOBITA 1,733,565

WATCH CRYSTAL TRAY

Filed Nov. 19, 1928

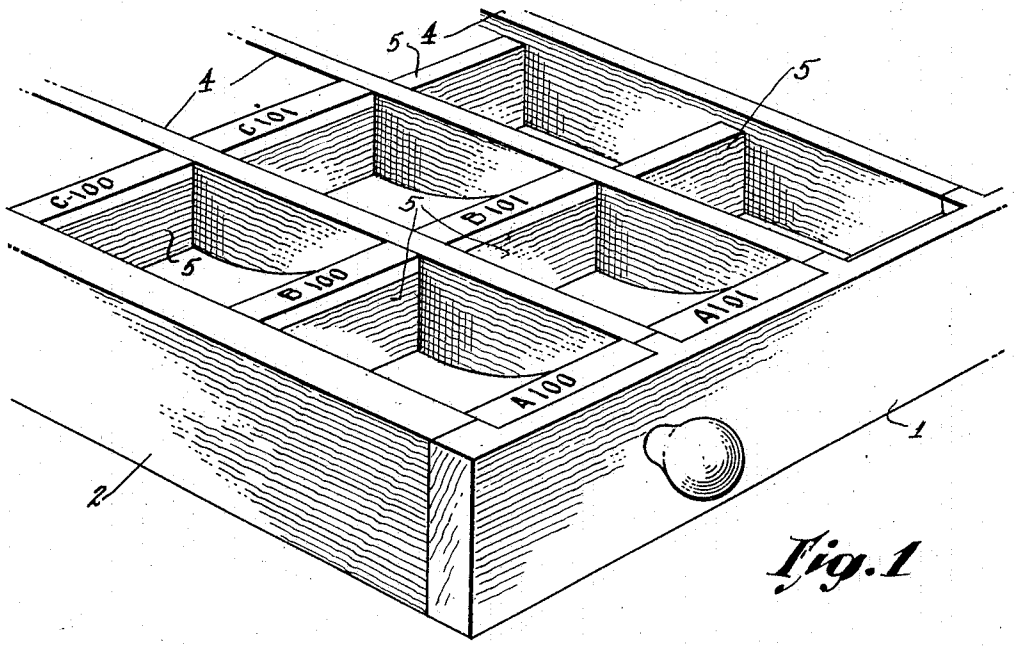


Fig. 1

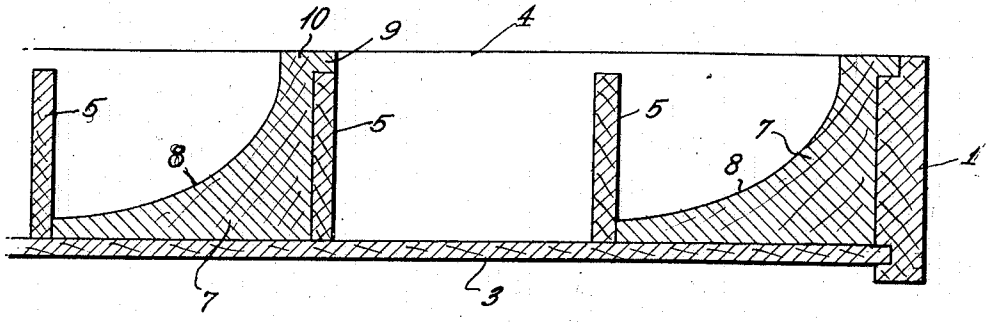


Fig. 2

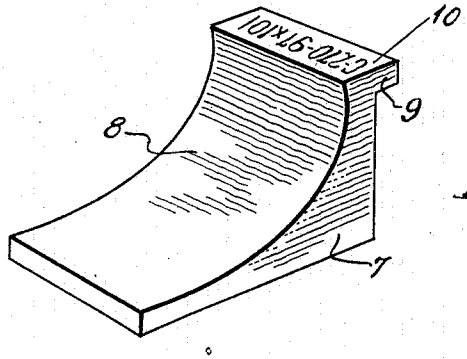


Fig. 3

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Patented Oct. 29, 1929

1,733,565

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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WATCH-CRYSTAL TRAY

Application filed November 19, 1928. Serial No. 320,277.

This invention is a tray adapted to be used by jewelers, watchmakers, and so forth, for holding watch crystals or glasses in a convenient and accessible manner so that they may be maintained in classified order thereby enabling them to be selectively withdrawn and fitted to particular watch bezels. Trays of the character under consideration are generally fitted in a suitable cabinet so that the trays can be individually withdrawn and the watch crystals selected as stated. Each tray is divided into compartments and the crystals of various sizes and shapes are classified in the respective compartments.

The present invention is an improvement upon the watch crystal tray described in my Patent No. 1,625,754, issued on April 19, 1927. The tray disclosed therein is divided into compartments by means of front to rear and transversely extending partitions and in each of these compartments is positioned a filler piece. The partitions extend for the full depth of the tray and the upper edges of the several partitions are flush with the plane of the top of the tray. The filler piece is constructed of wood and is provided with a sloping upper surface and these filler pieces are fitted snugly into the respective compartments and are permanently glued into position. Their purpose is to facilitate the removal of crystals from the compartments.

The prior construction to which I have referred has met with marked approval commercially but it has one pronounced disadvantage. That is to say, crystals are generally classified in accordance with shape and size, and, in accordance with our practice, these shapes and sizes are identified by code letters, numbers and names, and it is the practice to mark the several compartments of the tray in accordance with these designations so that these designations on the tray will expedite the selection of the appropriate crystal. Styles in watch crystals are, however, constantly subject to change and it is necessary to frequently add different sizes and and shapes and to substitute such shapes for those previously in vogue. With the present form of tray, the substitution or change is bothersome as it involves considerable work in rearrangement of the crystals in the various compartment if the code letters and numbers are to be arranged in alphabetical or arithmetical sequence. In other words, if the new shape and size is to be introduced into the sequence, it is necessary to individually shift all the crystals in the tray, and the same is true if a size or shape is to be dispensed with. The purpose of the present invention is to overcome this difficulty by the provision of a simple and efficient construction wherein the handling of all the watch crystals individually in the changing or readjustment of the sequence of numbering or lettering is obviated.

I am able to obtain this result by a novel tray construction hereinafter more fully described. However, generally stated, the invention consists in making transverse partitions of the tray somewhat lower than the front to rear partitions and also so constructing filler pieces that they are detachably positioned within the respective compartments and are formed to overlie the upper edge of the transverse partition constituting the forward wall of each compartment. This arrangement permits filler pieces to be individually removed together with all the crystals supported thereon so that the entire contents of each compartment can be moved with the corresponding filler piece and readily shifted to some other compartment. At the same time the construction of the filler pieces, as stated, provides a relatively extensive flat surface on which identifying indicia, preferably printed upon a gummed sticker, can be secured, so that when the filler piece is removed from one compartment to another, the identifying characters accompany such filler piece together with corresponding crystals.

The arrangement is simple, economical to manufacture and highly efficient in the fulfillment of practical requirements, and to the casual observer, the tray retains its conventional appearance.

Features of the invention other than those specified will be apparent from the following detailed description, from the accompanying drawings and the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown one practical form of the invention, but the showing therein made is to be understood as illustrative only and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 is a fragmental perspective showing one corner of a tray embodying the present invention, the fillers being shown as omitted from three of the compartments to more clearly show the invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical front to rear section of the tray with the filler removed from the center compartment;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the fillers.

The tray of the present invention is preferably made in the form of a relatively extensive shallow drawer adapted to be associated with a suitable cabinet adapted to hold a number of such drawers. In the drawing, 1 designates the front wall of the tray, 2 one of the side walls, and 3 the bottom of the tray. The tray is divided transversely by front to rear extending partitions 4 and from front to rear by transversely extending partitions 5. Partitions 4 and 5 collectively serve to divide the confines of the tray into relatively small compartments adapted to serve as depositories for watch crystals of assorted shapes and sizes, properly classified. It will be noted from Figure 2 in particular that the partions 4 extend upwardly from the bottom 3 to the plane of the top of tray whereas the partitions 5 are made somewhat lower in that they terminate in spaced relation to the upper edge of the partitions 4.

In each compartment is positioned a filler 7 of the character illustrated in Figure 3. This filler is in the form of a wood block the base of which is substantially the same in size and shape as the floor of each compartment, and the depth of each filler is equal to the interior depth of the tray so that when the filler is positioned within the compartment it will overlie the entire bottom of the compartment and will extend upwardly to the plane of the top of the tray. The upper portion of the block from which each filler is formed is cut away as shown at 8 so as to provide an inclined concave surface although such surface may be in the form of a straight inclined plane if desired. The purpose of the sloping surface is to cause watch crystals deposited in the compartments and resting upon the surfaces of the respective fillers to cant and partake of stepped relation in order to assure their convenient removal. Wooden fillers are employed in practice for the reason that wood has no tendency to scratch watch crystals. As stated the filler is made as deep as the interior depth of the tray, and each filler is formed at its top with a forwardly extending flange 9 adapted when the filler is in place in the compartment to overlie the upper edge of the contiguous transverse partion 5 as clearly shown in Figure 2. This flange facilitates the removal of the filler from the compartment for it will be apparent from Figure 2 that by extending the flange as shown the upper portion of the filler can be readily grasped when it is desired to lift the filler out of the compartment and move it to another compartment.

Furthermore, the provision of the flange results in the formation of a relatively extensive plane surface 10 at the upper forward edge of each filler and on this surface I preferably paste a gummed label bearing code numbers, letters or names appropriate to watch crystals adapted to be received in the corresponding compartment. When in the course of business, it becomes desirable to shift about the contents of the tray this can be readily accomplished by simply shifting the fillers from one compartment to another and in so doing the contents of the respective compartments will be correspondingly shifted and the identifying designations on the gummed labels will accompany the crystals as they are shifted. There is therefore no possibility of confusion or improper classification such as invariably occurs when crystals are shifted individually with consequent necessity of re-marking compartments through the application of new or substituted stickers. Furthermore, with the arrangement described, the individual crystals require a minimum of handling and thus tendency to scratch the crystals is minimized.

The foregoing detailed description sets forth the invention in its preferred practical form but the invention is to be understood as fully commensurate with the appended claim.

I claim—

A watch crystal holder embodying a tray divided by a plurality of intersecting longitudinal and transverse partitions into a plurality of rectangular compartments, said longitudinal partitions extending for the full depth of the tray with their upper edges flush with the plane of the top of the tray and the transverse partitions being of lesser height than the longitudinal partitions and with the upper edges of the transverse partitions spaced from the plane of the top of the tray, a filler block removably seated in each compartment and the base of each filler block being co-extensive with and adapted to rest upon the bottom of the compartment, the forward portion of each block extending upwardly to substantially the plane of the

top of the tray and there provided with a flat surface, a flange extending forwardly beneath a portion of said surface and overlying the top edge of the adjacent transverse partition and the upper surface of the block rearwardly of said flat surface being sloped in a downward and rearward direction to the rear edge of the block.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specification.

TOSHIO TOBITA.