June 12, 1928. 1,673,105

G. H. DAUGHERTY

SHOW CASE

Filed March 16, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

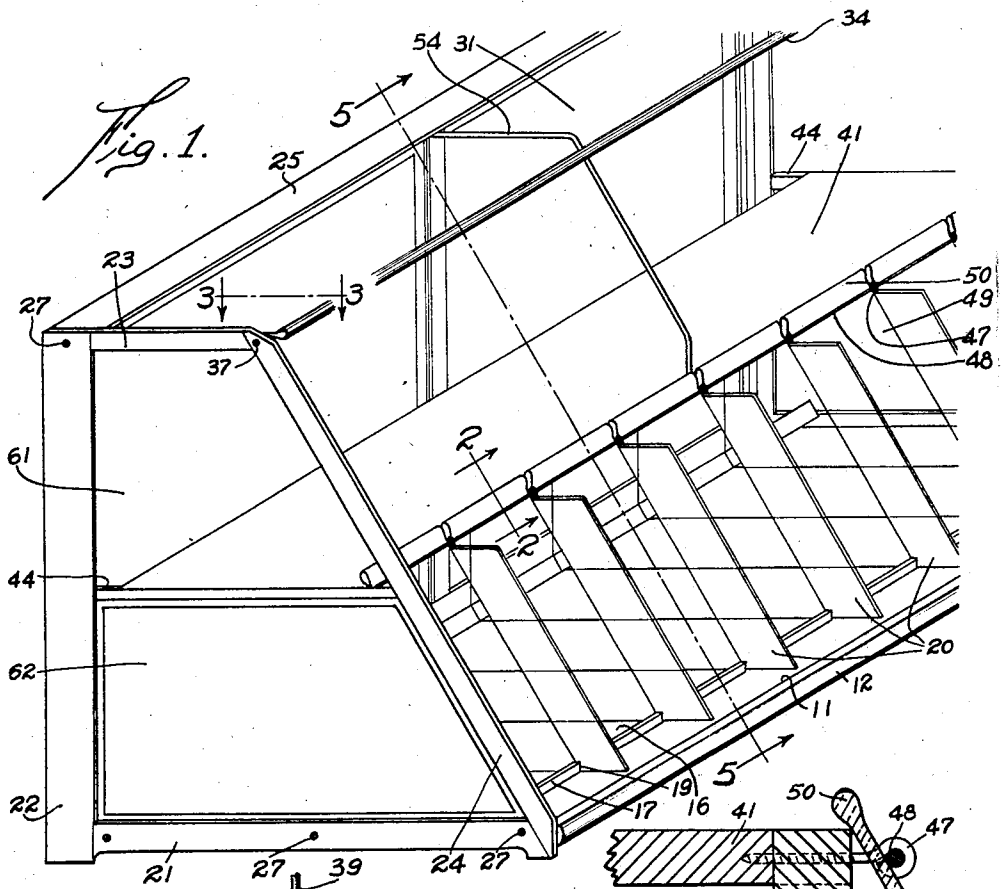


Fig. 1.

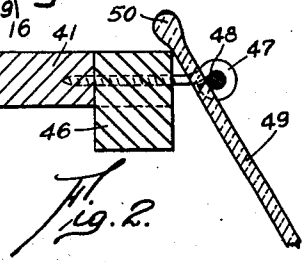


Fig. 2.

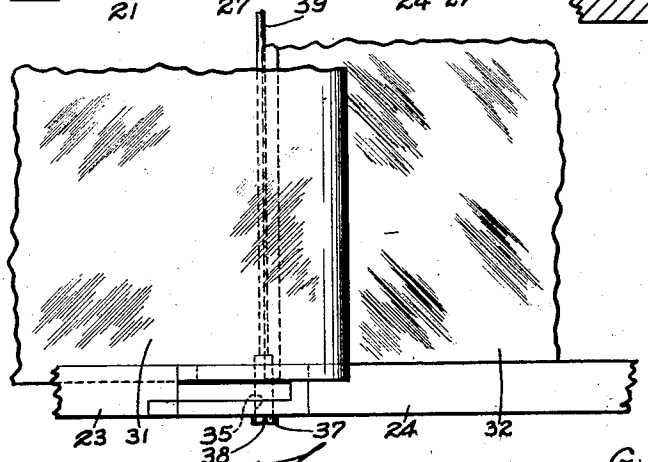


Fig. 3.

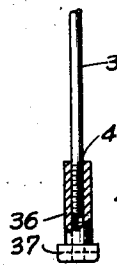


Fig. 4.

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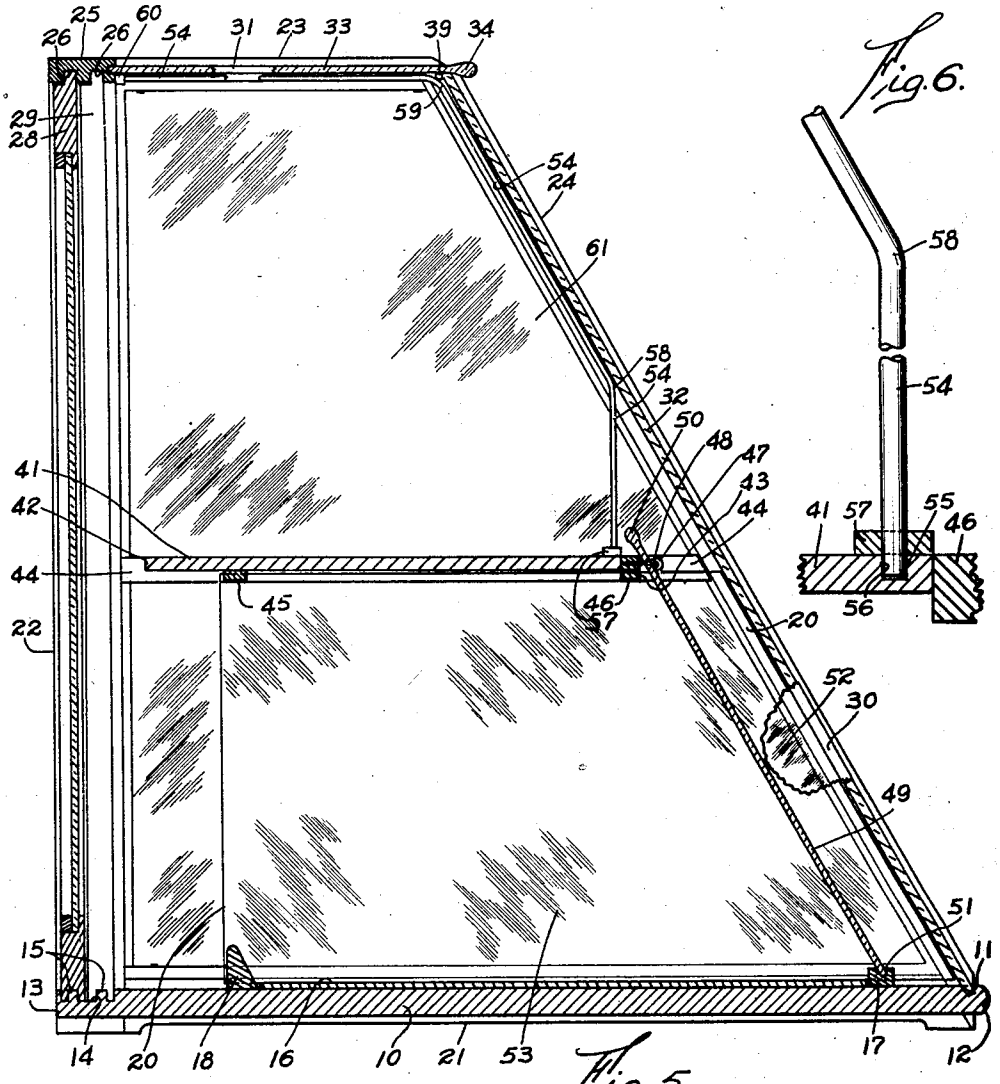


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHOW CASE.

Application filed March 16, 1927. Serial No. 175,766.

This invention relates to show case structures and particularly to that type of case wherein goods such as bulk candies and the like are to be retained in separate compartments and the several kinds of goods attractively displayed.

Another object of this invention is to provide a show case of the class referred to wherein compartments of uniform or unequal size may be had, said compartments being so arranged as to facilitate cleaning.

Another object is to provide such a case wherein means are provided forwardly of each compartment for separately retaining a quantity of the goods with which the compartment is to be filled and which means presents at all times the appearance of a completely filled compartment.

Another object is to provide a semi-frameless case structure which is adaptable to being taken apart and packed and stored in a minimum of space.

Another object is to provide a show case, with inclined glass front panel and a top panel which are supported intermediate their ends by a simple and scarcely noticeable bent rod structure.

Another object is to provide a show case with a shelf beneath which a plurality of adjustable partitions may be mounted, said shelf being provided with means for positioning and supporting a false front for each compartment beneath the shelf.

These and other objects are attained by the means described herein and disclosed in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmental perspective view of a show case of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental plan view looking in the direction of the arrows 3—3 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of a detail shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmental view of a part shown in Fig. 5.

The case comprises a base 10 provided on its upper face with a groove 11 extending in spaced parallelism with the front edge 12 of the base.

Adjacent the rear edge 13 of the base is a longitudinal groove 14 having a pair of spaced up-standing guide members 15 therein. Extending substantially throughout the length of the base 10 is a plate of metal 16, which may be zinc or any other material which is subject to hard usage and which is easily kept clean. The plate is positioned along its opposed longitudinal edges by strips 17 and 18. The strips 17 and 18 are spaced at a distance from the forward and rear edges 12 and 13 of the base 10 and are provided with aligned transverse slots 19 for seating and positioning glass partition walls 20. The glass partitions 20 terminate adjacent the slotted strip 18 but project forwardly of the slotted strip 17 to the rear edge of groove 11. These partitions 20 are removable as has been mentioned, and serve to co-operate with other parts of the structure in a manner which will be later explained.

A pair of end members each comprises a bottom strip 21, suitably grooved along one face to receive an end of base 10, a perpendicular rear upright 22 at right angles to the bottom strip 21, a top strip 23, shorter than and parallel to the bottom strip 21 and an inclined front strip 24 connecting the forward ends of bottom and top strips 21 and 23. The rear vertical strips 22 of the end frames are adapted to receive between them a longitudinal top bar 25 having ways 26 therein spaced above the ways 14 and guides 15 at the rear of base 10. From the foregoing it will be noted that the end frame may have the opposite ends of base 10 received therein at the bottom and the longitudinal top bar received between the top ends of uprights 22. These parts are retained in position by means of screws 27, a pair of slidable doors 28 and 29 being first positioned in the ways 14 and 26.

The inclined front members 24 have opposed ways 30 therein while the top members 23 have opposed ways 31 therein. These ways serve to receive an inclined front glass 32 and a top glass 33 the lower face of which abuts the top edge of glass 32. In order to provide a neat and well-finished appearance to the case the top glass 33 has its forward longitudinal edge rounded or bulbed as at

34 where it projects beyond the inclined front glass 32. As shown in Fig. 3 there is provided a transverse bore 35 through the joined ends of the top and front strips 23 and 24 of the end frames. In the bore 35 is inserted a tubular member 36 internally threaded and having a headed projection 37 conveniently provided with a screw slot 38 to permit turning by means of an ordinary screw-driver. A thin rod 39 has its opposite ends screw threaded as at 40 for entry in the threaded perforation in the tubular members 36. This structure constitutes a simply operable and practically invisible means for drawing together the top forward corners of the end frames so as to bind the front and top glasses 32 and 33 in position.

The shelf which will now be described is adapted for mounting within the case during the assembly of the case structure. The shelf 41 extends throughout the length of the interior of the case and is disposed at a predetermined distance intermediate the base and top. The rear edge 42 of shelf 41 is spaced inwardly at a distance from the rear of the case while the forward edge 43 is spaced from the front glass 32. A cross strip 44 extends transversely across each end of shelf 41 and seats between the rear upright 22 and the inclined forward strip 24 of the end frames. The lower face of shelf 41 carries a longitudinal strip 45 adjacent its rear end and a second strip 46 is secured to the shelf along its forward longitudinal edge. These strips 45 and 46 are transversely slotted similarly to the strips 17 and 18 on the base so that the top edge of the glass partitions 20 may enter the transverse slots in the strips to support the shelf. Along the forward edge of the strip 46 there is provided a screw-eye 47 immediately above each of the transverse slots and through these screw-eyes extends a thin metallic rod 48. Plates 49 of glass or other material having bulbed or rounded top edges 50 may be passed downwardly between adjacent screw-eyes 47 and between the edge of the strip 46 and rod 48 and are thus retained against movement in any direction while the bottom edges 51 of the plates 49 are seated in a longitudinal groove in the top of strip 17 on the base. In this way there is provided a separate display compartment forwardly of each bin or storage compartment between adjacent partitions 20. These display compartments utilize the front inclined glass 32 for a forward wall, the forwardly projecting ends of the partitions 20 as side walls and the removable plates 49 as rear walls. It will be readily appreciated that the compartment 52 may be completely filled with a commodity such as candy in order to attractively display it while the bin or storage compartment 53 immediately behind it may be only partially filled or perhaps entirely empty without apprising the customer of that fact. The practical advantage of this structure lies in the fact that a dealer may frequently replenish a supply of goods in an ordinary case without completely emptying it, so that the goods in the forward part of the compartment are often old and stale, while with the present device where the display compartment has a readily removable rear wall, a clerk may dispense the entire content of a given bin without detracting from the appearance of the display compartment, and then may immediately empty the contents of the display compartment into the bin 53 by raising the plate 49. Where a normal turn-over of stock is had the contents of the display bin may ordinarily be emptied into the dispensing bin from time to time and thereby eliminate the loss due to stale display goods in the display compartment. In order to permit of the use of thin glass for the front panel 32 and especially in instances where a long display case is desired there is provided a rigid metal bracket, preferably formed of round rod stock 54 which seats at its one end 55 in a bore 56 in the top of shelf 41. A suitable washer 57 secured to the top face of shelf 41 about the perforation 56 serves to reinforce perforation 56 and to provide a firm mounting for the end 55 of rod 54. This rod extends perpendicularly for a distance and is then turned as at 58 to permit the front glass 32 to rest against it. The rod 54 is again turned at 59 and extends parallel to the top end members 23 and serves as a support for the top glass 31. The opposite end of rod 54 is lodged in a perforate boss 60 which is secured to the top rear bar 25.

From the foregoing it will be noted that the entire top of shelf 41 is available for displaying other goods or trays of goods while the shelf itself provides a concealing cover for the top of the bins or dispensing compartments 53. The top bulbed edges 50 of the plates 49 provide a forward ledge for the shelf (see Fig. 2). It will also be noted that larger dispensing bins 53 and display compartments 52 may be had by omitting some of the glass partitions 20. It will be understood that the end frames may be entirely glazed with panes such as 61 and that it is desirable to provide a suitable opaque sheet or sign such as 62 in position to obscure vision through the lower portion of said panes so that the contents of the endmost dispensing bins 53 are concealed.

The entire structure, being mostly of glass is easily kept clean, the removability of the partitions 20 and plates 49 rendering this operation easy. The metal plate 16 on the base is also easy to keep clean and polished.

It should be noted that this show case affords a maximum visibility of goods which are to be displayed, and at the same time

affords an easily cleaned structure for the concealed bins in which the bulk stock is kept.

What is claimed is—

1. In a show case structure the combination of a base, end frames secured to the base, spaced partitions removably seated on the base, a shelf member supported by the partitions and extending between the end frames, a front glass mounted between the end frames and abutting the forward ends of the partitions and removable plates supported by the base and shelf and disposed between adjacent partitions for providing display compartments at the forward part of the show case.

2. In a show case the combination of a shelf, partitions providing dispensing bins beneath said shelf, a front glass disposed at a distance from the forward edge of the shelf, a rod disposed in spaced parallel relation to the front edge of the shelf, and a plate insertable between the rod and shelf and providing a wall defining the front of a dispensing bin and the rear wall of a display compartment at the front of the case.

3. In a show case structure the combination of a base, end frames, a bar extending between the end frames, a front glass disposed between the end frames and supported by the base, a top glass supported by the end frames and bar and resting on the front glass, a shelf in said case abutting the end frames at its opposite ends and a bent rod seated at its opposite ends in the shelf and bar and supporting the top and front glasses intermediate the end frames.

4. In a show case structure the combination of a base, end members, a front glass supported by the base and end members, a pair of strips on said base having aligned transverse slots therein, partitions seated in said slots and abutting the front glass, a shelf extending between the end members and supported upon the partitions, and a plate extending between adjacent partitions and removably supported upon the base and forward edge of the shelf and separating the space between adjacent partitions into a bin and a display compartment.

5. In a show case structure the combination with a base and end wall members, of a pair of spaced longitudinal strips on said base each provided with transverse aligned slots, partitions seated in said slots and a shelf in the case having its opposite ends abutting the end wall members and having aligned slots therein for receiving the top edges of the partitions whereby the shelf is supported by said partitions and the partitions are retained against lateral displacement.

6. In a semi-frameless show case, the combination with a base, end frames comprising grooved strips, a top bar securing the end members together at the top, slidable doors mounted between the bar and base between said end members, a front glass seated at its opposite ends in the grooves in the end members, partitions removably seated on the base and abutting the front glass, a shelf supported upon the partitions and having its forward edge spaced at a distance from the front glass, removable plates adapted to be inserted between adjacent partitions and resting edgewise upon the base, and means carried by the forward edge of the shelf for retaining the opposite ends of said plates against displacement, the plates, forward ends of the partitions and the front glass forming between them display compartments, the shelf, and partitions serving to define top and side walls for concealed dispensing bins disposed behind the display compartments and accessible through the slidable doors at the rear of the case.

7. In a show case structure the combination with a pair of end members, a top bar connecting the end members at the rear top corners thereof, spaced partitions intermediate the end members, a shelf provided on its lower face with slots for seating the partitions whereby to support the shelf, and a bent rod supported in the top bar and shelf, a front glass retained between the end members and supported intermediate its ends upon one portion of the bent rod and a top glass supported at its side and rear ends by the end members and the bar and resting upon the front glass adjacent its forward edge, said top glass being further supported intermediate its ends by the bent rod.

8. The combination with end wall members and a base having a transverse slot, of a partition seated in said slot and a shelf in the case having its opposite ends abutting the end wall members and being provided with a slot for receiving the top edge of the partition whereby the shelf is supported by the partition and the partition is retained against lateral displacement.

9. In a show case the combination of a shelf, a partition supporting the shelf and providing dispensing bins beneath the shelf, a plate disposed in substantially upright position in the case and abutting the partition and the shelf and means for retaining the plate against displacement.

10. In a show case the combination of a base, end walls secured to the base, a partition extending upwardly of the base, a shelf in the case supported by the partition and a plate resting endwise on the base and supported against the shelf whereby to provide a display compartment forwardly of the plate and a closed dispensing bin rearwardly of the plate and beneath the shelf.

11. In a device of the class described the combination with an outer casing having end walls and top and front walls, a shelf

extending between the end walls and having its forward edge spaced at a distance from the front wall, spaced partitions extending beneath the shelf and abutting the front wall whereby to provide compartments, and removable plates accessible from the interior of the casing extending downwardly from the front edge of the shelf whereby to divide each of the compartments into a dispensing compartment and a display compartment accessible from above the shelf.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 11th day of March, 1927.

GILBERT H. DAUGHERTY.