June 12, 1951 H. HUDSON 2,556,922

PORTABLE SHELF

Filed Dec. 30, 1947

Fig. 1.

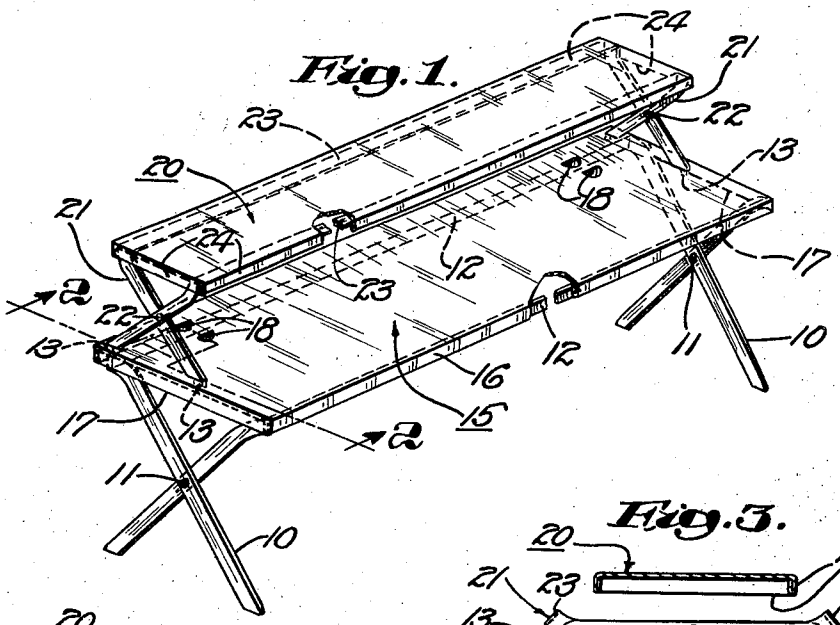
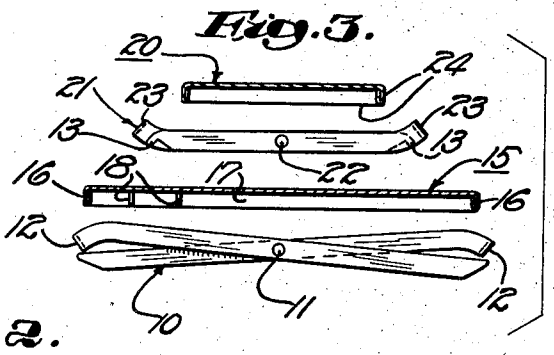


Fig. 3.



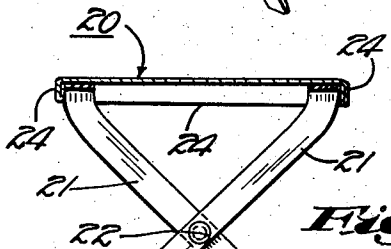
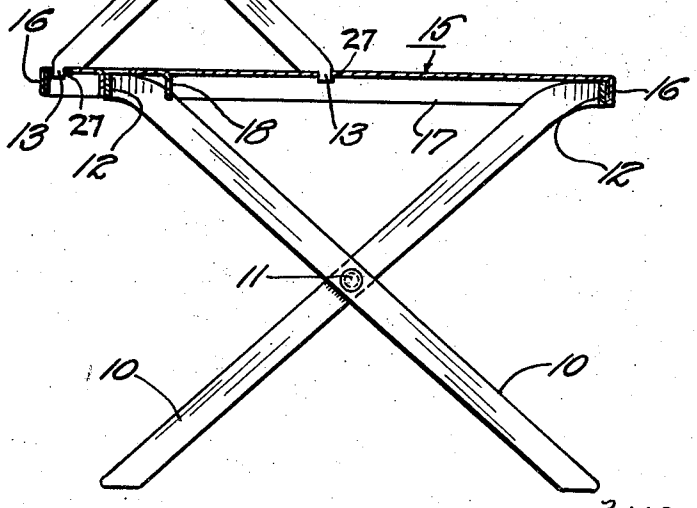


Fig. 2.



Inventor:
HENRY HUDSON
by Dike, Calver & Foster
Attorneys

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PORTABLE SHELF

Henry Hudson, Cambridge, Mass.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 211—149)

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This invention relates to a portable shelf, particularly for use in the household pantry and kitchen, to hold dishes, small boxes and cans of various products, and the like, to increase the cabinet and shelf space usually available therein.

In the usual small home and apartment, cabinet and shelf space in the pantry and kitchen is usually scarce and overcrowded, and yet with much of the available space wasted or not utilized to its fullest extent. Only the floor of a shelf is normally used, with much waste space above it, and if cups are suspended from hooks from the bottom of a shelf above, the handles are in danger of being broken off.

I have accordingly devised a portable shelf, to be placed on the usual permanent shelf, which will provide two further shelf floors of narrower width, to utilize space now ordinarily wasted, and which will be adjustable in height, and which can be readily taken down and removed to another place. My shelf further collapses or folds into a small flat package, for storage or transportation, and thus saves shipping and storage space, freight, and packaging material.

Briefly my invention comprises a supporting frame having crossing legs pivoted at their points of intersection, a flat plate supported on said frame and having side flanges locking the legs and frame, and lugs or slots on the plate for adjusting the height of the legs. A second narrower shelf may be provided to be mounted on the first, and having heels on the legs engaging in slots provided in the flat plate of the first shelf for fixedly supporting the second shelf.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my device, with portions broken away;

Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a view showing the parts in folded or collapsed form.

In the drawings 10 represents the supporting frame having two spaced pairs of vertically extending crossing legs 10 pivoted at their point of intersection 11 intermediate their ends. In horizontal extension of the vertical legs 10 and connecting the two pairs of said legs are parallel side members 12. Mounted on said side members 12 is a flat rectangular plate 15 conforming in outline to the shape of the supporting frame on which it is to be mounted and having side flanges 16 which extend downwardly over the side members 12 of the supporting frame, thereby holding said frame against collapse. To adjust the height of the first shelf two pairs of tabs 18 are preferably punched out of plate 15, to extend downwardly, parallel to the side flanges 16 of the plate 15, in effect providing additional supporting side flanges. Additional downwardly extending end flanges 17 are also preferably provided on plate 15 to provide additional strength and support against buckling of the plate 15, under the weight of any dishes or articles which may be carried on said plate 15, particularly if lighter metals are used.

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A second narrower shelf 20 as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, may also be provided, to be mounted on the first shelf, substantially similar to the first shelf. The crossing legs 21 of the second shelf are pivoted at their points of intersection 22 and are provided with heels 13 which engage in complementary slots 27 provided in the lower plate 15, at the ends thereof, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Parallel side members 23 connect both pairs of legs 21. Downwardly extending side and end flanges 24 are also provided on the shelf 20.

In Fig. 3 I have shown my portable shelf in collapsed and shipping condition and in the form in which it is packaged. It will be noted that the legs of both shelves fold up substantially flatwise and the shelves are placed on top of the legs in the order in which they are to be assembled. To assemble the shelves, of course, the legs 10 are spread to provide the proper height for the shelf and the plate 15 is placed on the supporting frame with the side flanges 16 extending over the side members 12 of the frame, thereby locking the supporting frame in position against collapse. The second narrower shelf 20 is similarly assembled and mounted on the first shelf by inserting the heels 13 in the corresponding slots 27 provided at the ends in plate 15. It will thus be seen that I have provided simple and inexpensive auxiliary shelf equipment which is readily portable, and which provides additional and desirable shelf space out of space now ordinarily not used in the usual pantry or kitchen. In

addition my device readily folds into a small package for transportation or storage.

I claim:

1. A portable shelf, including in combination a longitudinally extending supporting frame having a pair of folding legs at the ends thereof pivoted at their points of intersection, a separate flat plate mounted on said frame and having downwardly extending flanged sides for engaging said frame and locking the legs in position.

2. A portable shelf, including in combination a longitudinally extending supporting frame having a pair of folding legs at the ends thereof pivoted at their points of intersection, a separate flat plate mounted on said frame and having downwardly extending flanged sides for engaging said frame and locking the legs in position, a second frame having a pair of folding legs at the ends thereof and pivoted at their points of intersection, a flat plate mounted on said second frame and having flanged sides extending over said second frame, the legs of said second frame having heels for engaging in complementary slots provided on said first plate for fixedly supporting said second frame on the plate of the first frame.

3. A portable shelf including in combination a flat plate having downwardly extending flanges at its sides and ends, a separate support for said plate comprising two pairs of crossing and folding legs, pivoted at their points of intersection and with the tops of legs of one pair connected to the corresponding tops of the legs of another pair by side members, said side members being engaged by the side flanges on said plate and locked in position thereby.

4. A portable shelf including in combination a flat plate having downwardly extending flanges at its sides, a separate support for said plate comprising two pairs of crossing and folding legs pivoted at their points of intersection and with the tops of the legs of one pair connected to the corresponding tops of the legs of the second pair by side members, said support being engaged by the flanges on said plate and locked in position thereby, a second flat plate having downwardly extending flanges at its sides and a second separate support for said second plate having two pairs of crossing and folding legs pivoted at their points of intersection and with the tops of the legs of one pair connected to the corresponding tops of the legs of the second pair by side members, the legs of said second support having heels for engaging in complementary slots provided on said first plate for fixedly supporting said second support on the first plate.

5. A portable shelf including in combination a flat plate having downwardly extending flanges at its sides and ends, a separate support for said plate comprising two pairs of crossing and folding legs, pivoted at their points of intersection and with the tops of the legs of one pair connected to the corresponding tops of the legs of the second pair by side members, said side members being engaged by the side flanges on said plate and locked in position thereby, a second flat plate having downwardly extending flanges at its sides and a second separate support for said second plate having two pairs of crossing and folding legs pivoted at their points of intersection and with the tops of the legs of one pair connected to the corresponding tops of the legs of the second pair by side members, the legs of said second support having heels for engaging in complementary slots provided on said first plate for fixedly supporting said second support on the first plate.

HENRY HUDSON.

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