Nov. 8, 1955 H. F. TEMPLE 2,723,036

ARTICLE DISPENSING RACK

Filed Oct. 7, 1952

FIG. 2.

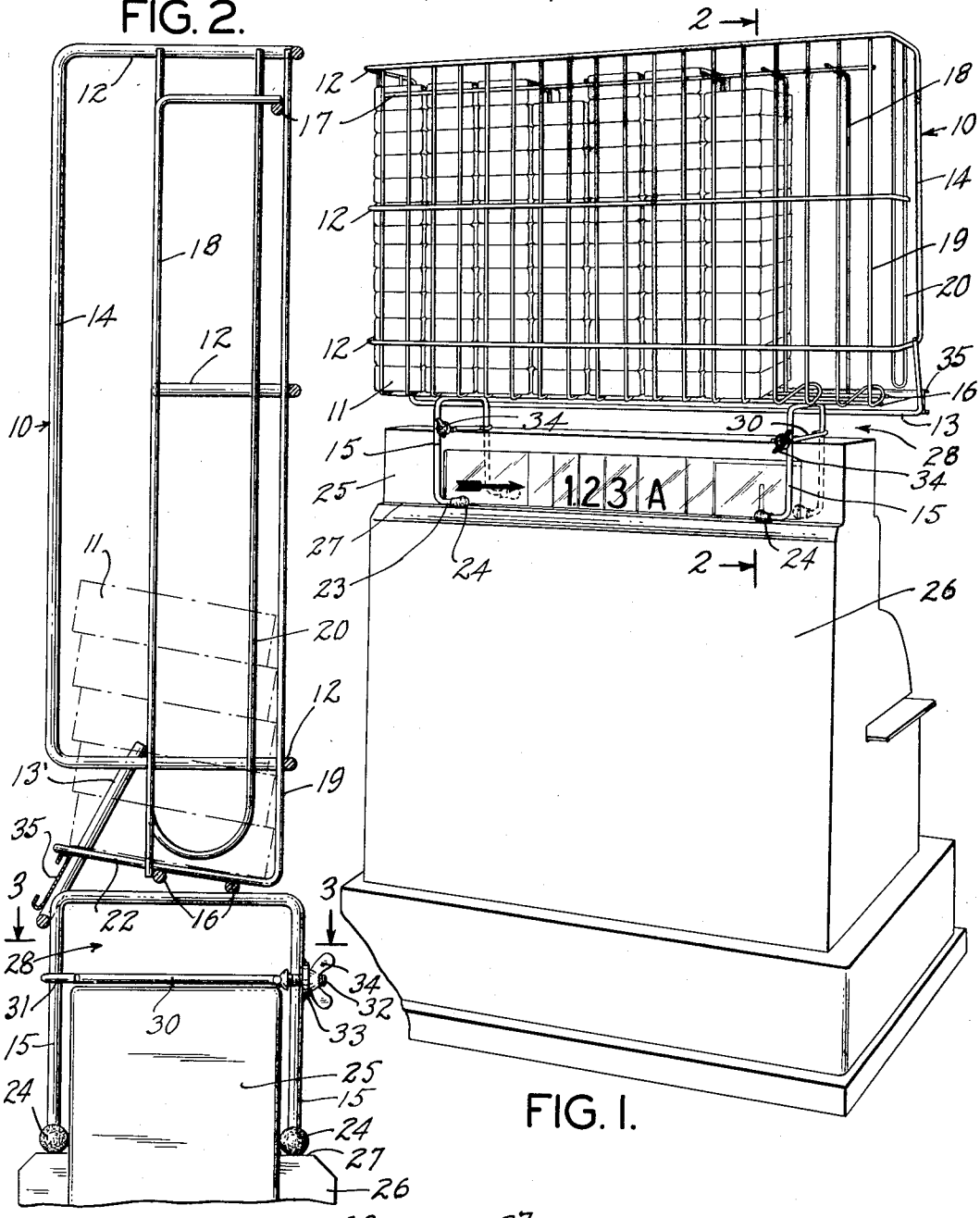


FIG. 1.

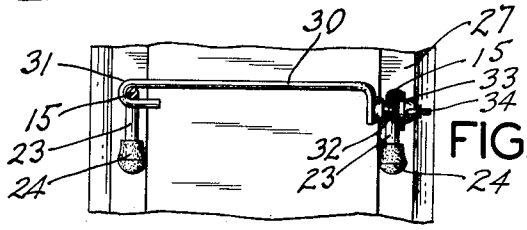


FIG. 3.

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ARTICLE DISPENSING RACK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211—49)

This invention relates to article dispensing racks, and has particular reference to a rack for holding cigarette packs for purposes of dispensing the same in a store or other merchandising establishment, although the invention is not limited to that use.

It is common practice to store stacks of individual packs of cigarettes of various brands in a rack or frame readily accessible to the purchaser or the dispensing clerk in such a way that the selected pack may be removed without disturbing the remaining packs in the rack. One example of a rack of this general nature is disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 259,920, filed December 5, 1951 which became U. S. Patent 2,680,522 on June 8, 1954, on which the present invention is an improvement in so far as concerns the facility with which cigarette packs may be dispensed in accordance with the selection of the purchaser.

In accordance with the invention, a wire frame or rack of appropriate dimensions is arranged for mounting on a cash register in such a way that the vision of the clerk, checker or other operator of the cash register is not obstructed by the rack, and yet the rack is accessible to him for dispensing cigarettes, this rack being so constructed as to be automatically positioned in the proper location on the cash register, and also to be adapted to several sizes and makes of cash registers without change.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a wire rack is arranged with vertical partitions in which stacks of cigarette packs may be arranged for access from one side of the rack either by the operator of the cash register or by the purchaser as he approaches the cash register. Spaced supporting legs extend downwardly from the lower surface of the rack and are so proportioned as to rest on a ledge of the cash register below the visual sale indicator window thereof, and thus space the rack above the top of the cash register so that the operator may have unobstructed view of the approaching customer and the store.

The supporting legs of the rack are made flexible so as to be deflected by clamping means extending between them to cause them to grip and lock the rack securely on the cash register. Such clamping means also serve as limit stops to hold the rack spaced above the cash register where the latter is not provided with a ledge on which the lower ends of the legs may rest, whereby the observation space is nevertheless provided between the top of the cash register and the bottom of the rack.

It will be seen that the dispensing rack of this invention is useful for various purposes, and is adapted for quantity production for use in numerous stores or the like, where cigarettes and other package goods are dispensed for purchase or selected by the customer.

For a more complete understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective elevation of the package dispensing rack of this invention shown mounted on the cash register in the usual way;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged side elevation thereof; and

Fig. 3 illustrates in detail the means for securing the supporting legs of the rack on the cash register, as seen along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, numeral **10** generally designates the wire frame constituting the rack for holding numerous vertical stacks of packages **11**, such as cigarette packs, for example.

The frame **10** preferably is formed of wire, of which the three U-shaped horizontal members **12**, the U-shaped diagonal bracing member **13** having side limbs **13'** joined by a horizontal cross piece, the vertical end members **14**, the legs **15** and cross bars **16** and **17** are of relatively heavy gauge wire and constitute the principal load bearing elements of the frame **10**. The vertical partitions or dividers **18**, the elongated U-shaped front wall-forming members **19** and the U-shaped end wall-forming members **20** are of lighter gauge wire.

The wire members **12**, **13**, **14**, **16**, **17**, **18**, **19** and **20** are welded together at their several points of intersection to constitute the frame **10**. The four legs **15** are formed by two inverted U-shaped members welded at their contacting points with frame members **13** and **16**. The legs **15** support the frame **10** in the vertical position shown in Figs. 1 and 2, so that the frame **10** may serve as a rack for holding separate vertical stacks of packages **11** between partitions **18** and the front wall-forming members **19**, two of which lie between adjacent partitions **18**, with the end wall-forming members **20** cooperating with the adjacent partitions **18** to hold the end stacks of packages.

The stacks of packages **11** rest on the lower inturned ends **22** of the front wall-forming members or limbs **19**, and these inturned ends or looped portions **22** are inclined so that the packages **11** resting thereon slant downwardly toward the front wall **19**, as shown in Fig. 2. Hence, the stack of packages **11** is stable and not likely to fall when jarred or the top package withdrawn.

The lower ends of legs **15** are preferably bent horizontally to form feet **23** which may be fitted with rubber friction cups or buttons **24**, as shown. The spacing between the legs **15** is predetermined according to the thickness of the top **25** of a conventional cash register **26** so that the legs **15** span and fit thereover, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

Also, the length of the legs **15** is greater than the height of the cash register top **25** above the ledge **27** thereof, so that the bottom of the frame **10** is held spaced above the upper surface of the register top **25** by the slot **28**. Thus the vision of the clerk or checker behind the register **26** is not obscured by the filled rack, notwithstanding that it projects above the register. The clerk or checker may observe the approaching purchaser as well as the shop or store through the observation slot **28**.

Extending between the legs **15** at each side of the rack is a clamping mechanism, whereby the corresponding legs **15** may be drawn together to grip the register top **25** with their rubber foot buttons **24** and thereby secure the rack on the register **26**. This clamping mechanism preferably comprises a link **30** having a hook **31** loosely passed around one leg **15** and having a threaded stud **32** at its other end passing through an eye **33** secured to the other leg **15** and carrying a wing nut **34** by which the effective length of the link **30** may be increased or decreased at will. The wire of which legs **15** is made is resilient and as nut **34** is tightened, the shortening of link **30** operates to draw the corresponding legs together to thereby clamp the register top **25** securely between rubber tipped feet **23**. Conversely, as nut **34** is loosened, legs **15** spring apart to release their grip on the register top **25** so that the rack may be dismounted therefrom.

As is shown especially in Fig. 2, the links **30** are posi-

tioned a substantial distance below the bottom of the frame **10**, not only to gain leverage for facilitating the bending of the legs **15** toward each other as described, but also to serve as spacers to prevent the frame **10** from dropping so far that the observation slot **28** is closed or materially reduced in width in cases where the cash register **26** is not provided with the ledge **27** or equivalent stop to hold the frame **10** in the desired raised position.

Installation of the article dispensing rack of this invention on a cash register or other checking machine and its use will be readily understood from the foregoing description. As shown in the drawings, the rack is positioned so that the merchandise thereon is readily accessible only to the checker or cash register operator. However, it will be understood that the rack may be simply reversed on the register, so that its contents are accessible only to the purchaser, as may be required. Advertising or identifying or price cards or strips may be conveniently inserted in the channel **35** provided at the front or rear of the rack, as the case may be.

Although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described herein, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereby, but is susceptible of changes in form and detail within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an article dispensing rack adapted to be mounted on a support including top and side walls, an upper article-supporting portion including bottom, front and side walls defined by a plurality of wire limbs including a series of U-shaped members having vertical limbs disposed in the plane of the front and a lower looped portion bent rearwardly and upwardly to form an inclined article-supporting bottom, a heavy wire frame portion comprising a closed, substantially rectangular loop of wire disposed in a vertical plane across the front of the rack and bent rearwardly at its ends to define the side walls, means joining said wire frame to the vertical limbs of the U-shaped members, transverse wires at the bottom of the rack traversing the looped portions and joined

thereto, a pair of U-shaped wire members disposed, respectively, in the side walls of the rack and joined to the rearwardly bent ends of said heavy wire frame, column dividers in the rear face of the rack extending vertically upwardly from the bottom between said rearwardly bent looped portions and extending forwardly adjacent the top of the rack to join the front of the rack, a base portion for the rack comprising at least two inverted U-shaped members underlying the upper article-supporting portion and adapted to span said support, feet on the depending ends of the limbs of the inverted U-shaped members, links adjustably vertically movable on the limbs, and means to secure the links in a given vertical position, whereby a viewing opening can be provided between the top of the support and the bottom of the upper rack portion, means to join at least one of said transverse bottom wires in the bottom of the upper portion of the rack to the top of the inverted U-shaped members of the base portion, and a relatively wide U-shaped bracing member having diagonal rearwardly downwardly inclined side limbs joined adjacent their upper ends to the heavy wire frame portion and having an elongated cross piece joined to the top, rear of the inverted U-shaped members of the base portion, the space between the arms of the U-shaped bracing member being unobstructed for removal of the articles from the rack.

2. An article dispensing rack as set forth in claim 1 including an indicia supporting panel strip carried by the bracing member to identify the articles in the several columns of the upper frame portion.

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