Aug. 9, 1966 D. E. WOOLEVER 3,265,456

SHELF BRACKET

Filed March 1, 1965

Fig. 1.

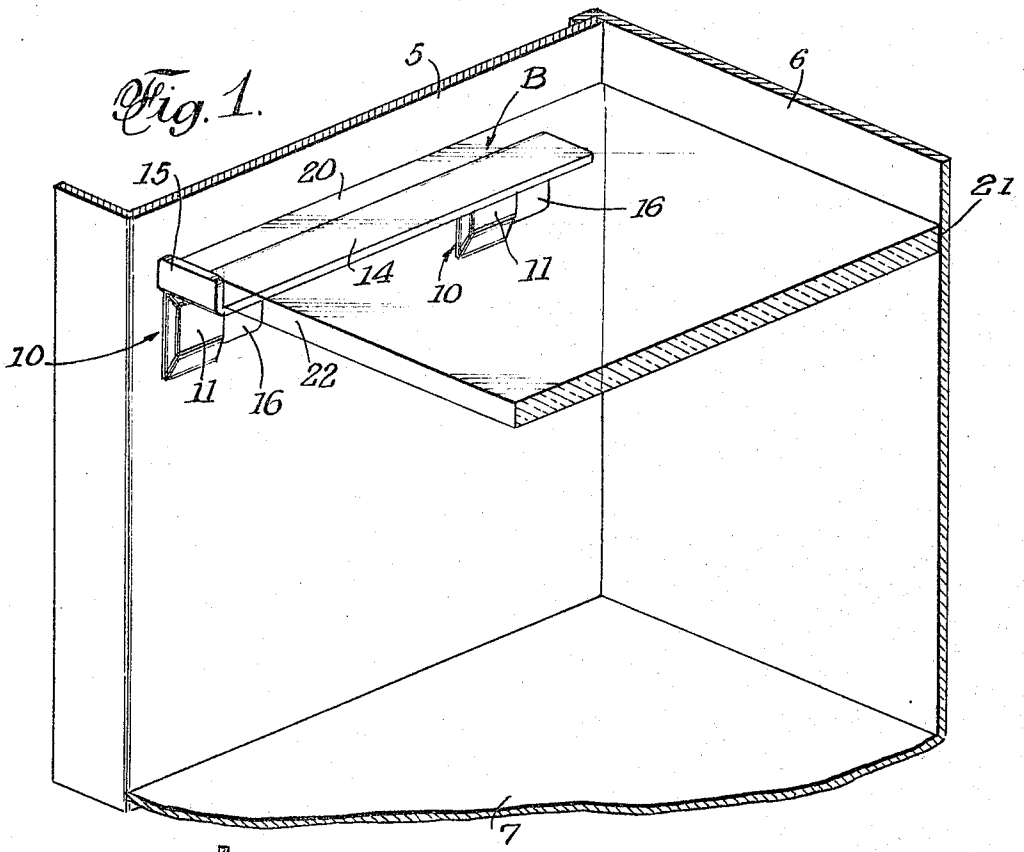


Fig. 2.

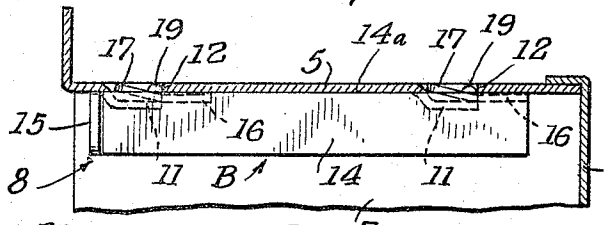


Fig. 3.

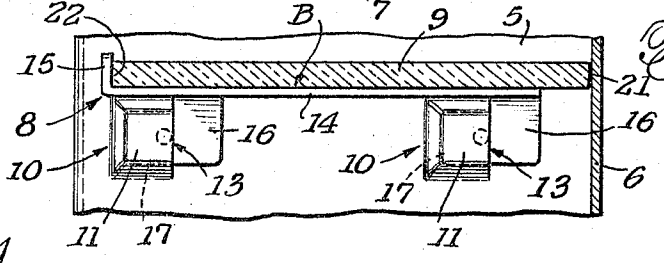
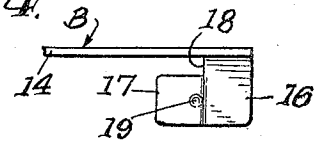


Fig. 4.



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SHELF BRACKET

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This invention relates to a bracket structure for shelves, more particularly the shelves of a medicine cabinet.

An object of the present invention is to provide a shelf bracket structure that provides a non-displaceable interlock between the shelf and the support brackets for the end thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structure, as above characterized, in which the shelf, while otherwise loose, forms a means that holds the brackets in operative position on the opposite walls of a cabinet.

This invention also has for its objects to provide such means that are positive in operation, convenient in use, easily installed in a working position and easily disconnected therefrom, economical of manufacture, relatively simple, and of general superiority and serviceability.

The above objects are realized in a structure that, for each shelf, provides a pair of horizontally aligned, inwardly formed embossments on each cabinet wall, said embossments having entry openings on the side toward the back wall of the cabinet. A bracket is engaged with the embossments on each side wall and is provided with a pair of downwardly bent tabs that have forwardly directed fingers which are bent out of the plane of said tabs at a slight angle so the same may be inserted into said embossment openings by applying said brackets with the tabs thereof against the respective side walls of the cabinet and rearward of the embossments, and then sliding the brackets forwardly so the tab fingers enter the embossment openings. The forward ends of the support parts of the brackets are each provided with an upbent wall. A shelf is placed with its opposite ends on the support parts of the brackets with its rear edge against or adjacent the rear wall of the cabinet and its front edge just rearward of the upbent walls of the brackets. The shelf now constitutes a means that prevents displacement or retraction of the brackets toward the rear cabinet wall and is safely and surely supported. Removal of the shelf so the brackets may be shifted to a higher or lower position is simply effected by lifting and removing the shelf, and sliding the brackets rearwardly to free the tab tongues from the embossments. If desired, each finger may be provided with a teat for snap-retention engagement with an edge in the side cabinet wall from which the embossment is sheared.

The invention also comprises novel details of construction and novel combinations and arrangements of parts, which will more fully appear in the course of the following description and which is based on the accompanying drawing. However, said drawing merely shows, and the following description merely describes, one embodiment of the present invention, which is given by way of illustration or example only.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a corner of a medicine cabinet showing the present shelf bracket.

FIG. 2 is a plan sectional view taken on the plane of top surface of said bracket.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view, as seen from the right, of the upper portion of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a broken side view of the bracket.

The medicine cabinet that is shown is exemplary of any front-open housing. The drawing shows but a lower corner of the cabinet with one of the side cabinet walls **5**, the rear wall **6** and the bottom **7**. It will be clear that the side walls **5** are each provided with a shelf assembly **8**, that such assemblies are arranged in horizontal alignment, one above the other, according to the number of shelves that are to be provided, and that a shelf **9**, preferably of a transparent material, is supported by said aligned assemblies.

Each assembly **8** comprises, generally, two horizontally aligned sockets **10**, and a bracket B connected to said sockets.

Each socket **9** is formed by a generally rectangular embossment **11** that, by a shear edge **12**, is separated from the wall **5** and displaced in an inward direction. The shear edges **12** are in the wall **5** and at the rear of the embossments, rearwardly directed openings **13** being formed due to the offset between said wall **5** and the embossments **11**. It will be clear that said openings **13** are not visible from the front. Therefore, embossments that are not being used to mount brackets are quite unobtrusive.

Each bracket B comprises a support plate **14** which, at its forward end is provided with an upbent wall **15**. At one edge **14***a* of plate **14** are provided two longitudinally spaced downbent tabs **16** that are spaced apart the same as are the embossments **11** and openings **13**. Each said tab is provided with a finger **17** that extends forwardly and is outbent at a slight angle, as in FIG. 2. The width of each tab, together with the finger thereof is at least equal and, preferably, slightly larger than the distance between cabinet wall **6** and the opening **13** of the adjacent embossment **11**. Also the rear edge of the rear tab **16** coincides with the rear edge of the support plate **14**.

The bracket B is readily applied placing both tabs **16** and their tongues **17** against the inner face of side wall **5** with the rear tab and finger in the space between the rear wall **6** and the rear opening **13**. Now, by sliding the bracket in a forward direction, the tongues **17** first enter said openings, then the spaces defined by the embossments. Due to the outbent angle of the fingers **17**, the same easily lead into the embossment spaces, wedging against the edges **13** and drawing the mentioned plate edge **14***a* tightly against the cabinet wall **5**. When the edges **18** abut the embossments **11**, the bracket is in place. If desired, each finger **17**, at the bend therein, is provided with a teat **19** that slides over and is caught in front of the shear edge **12**, providing snap-retention of the bracket.

The bracket is kept against accidental removal by the shelf **9** which has an end **20** thereof supported on the plate **14** with the rear edge **21** at the wall **6** and the front edge **22** behind the upbent wall **15**. Only by lifting said front edge above said wall can the shelf be removed. While in place, the bracket **11** retains its described support position.

It will be understood that the opposite end of the shelf is supported in the same manner by a bracket of the opposite hand.

While the foregoing has illustrated and described what is now contemplated to be the best mode of carrying out the invention, the construction is, of course, subject to modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Therefore, it is not desired to restrict the invention to the particular form of construction illustrated and described, but to cover all modifications that may fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A shelf assembly on the side wall of a cabinet having a back wall, and comprising:

(a) two horizontally aligned sockets formed by embossments in said side wall and each having an opening directed toward the rear wall,

(b) a bracket provided with a support plate with an upbent wall on the forward end of said plate,

(c) two downbent tabs on an edge of said bracket plate provided with forwardly directed fingers, said fingers extending through said openings behind the embossments, and

(d) a shelf having an end resting upon said support plate with one edge adjacent the rear wall of the cabinet and the other adjacent the upbent wall on the forward end of said support plate,

(e) said shelf keeping the bracket against rearward retraction.

2. A shelf assembly according to claim **1** in which the fingers are bent at an angle from the plane of the tabs to have wedging engagement with opening-defining edges of the embossments.

3. A shelf assembly according to claim **1** including detent means on each finger for snap-retention engagement with the side wall of the cabinet.

4. A shelf assembly according to claim **3** and further including detent means on each finger for snap-retention engagement with the side wall of the cabinet.

5. In a cabinet having a side wall and a normal back wall,

(a) two horizontally aligned sockets,

(b) a shelf bracket having a sliding connection with said sockets with portions extending forwardly into said sockets,

(c) a front upbent wall on said bracket, and

(d) a shelf with an end supported on the bracket and of a width to fit between the back cabinet wall and the upbent wall of the bracket.

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