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W. J. SLAGLE

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DISPLAY DEVICE

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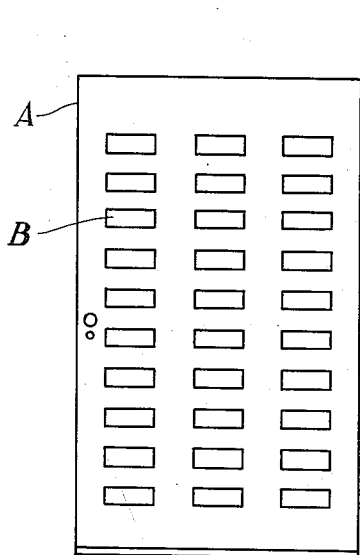


Fig. 1

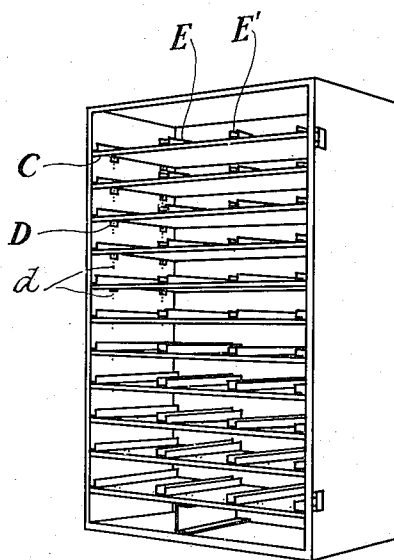


Fig. 2

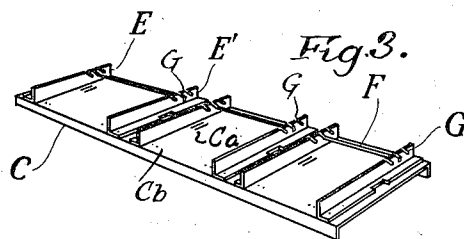


Fig. 3.

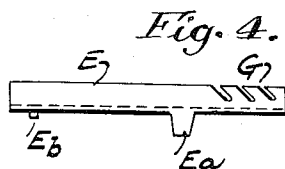


Fig. 4.

Inventor:
WILLARD J. SLAGLE
per Wm. B. Wescott.
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPLAY DEVICE

Willard J. Slagle, Cambridge, Mass., assignor to
Dewey and Almy Chemical Company, Cam-
bridge, Mass., a corporation of Massachusetts

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4 Claims. (Cl. 312—156)

This invention relates to improvements in mer-
chandise display cabinets and it comprises a cab-
inet with a doorlike closure provided with a lock
and a plurality of apertures preferably but not
necessarily in both vertical and horizontal sym-
metrical arrangement, which are smaller than the
smallest face of the merchandise to be displayed
therebehind, and it also comprises a plurality of
vertically adjustable shelves each provided with
a plurality of pairs of horizontally adjustable
guides whereby packaged merchandise of non-
uniform dimensions carrying identifying legends
or labels of uniform size may be so positioned
on said shelves by said guides as to bring said legends
into register with the corresponding apertures in
said closure when the latter is in closed position.

The merchandise display devices heretofore
available for the storage and display of pack-
aged merchandise in such public places as gar-
ages and automobile repair shops have all left
something to be desired in that they were not
adequate to prevent pilfering when unattended
or, if proof against theft, they were not adapted
to effectively display the merchandise, particu-
larly with respect to such systematic arrange-
ment of a sequence of sizes as to permit ready
visual location of the label descriptive of the con-
tents and designating the desired size.

It is an object of this invention to provide an
improved display device and specifically a cabi-
net for the storage and display of packaged brake
linings in which the shortcomings of prior dis-
play devices are overcome; to provide a display
cabinet for rectangular packages of varying size
in which said variation in size does not militate
against expeditious and easy location of the de-
sired article; to provide a cabinet with a sub-
stantially theft-proof closure comprising aper-
tures through which the desired article may be
visually located but not extracted; to provide a
cabinet comprising both vertically and horizon-
tally adjustable means whereby restricted stor-
age areas in symmetrical arrangement with re-
spective viewing apertures are obtained and
whereby rectangular packages may be so posi-
tioned with respect to the viewing apertures in
the cabinet closure that the identifying legends
on said packages register with said apertures.
Other objects and advantages will become appar-
ent as the description of the invention proceeds.

I have discovered that the above stated objects
may be attained by providing a display cabinet
comprising a closure, adapted to be locked in
closed position and provided with a plurality of
preferably uniformly spaced and sized apertures

and adjustable means within said cabinet for sup-
porting and positioning, with respect to the aper-
tures, the packaged merchandise to be exhibited.
By proper choice of aperture size and spacing it
is possible to limit the display of the packages
to a chosen field of view usually and preferably
that of a uniformly sized designating legend or
label on the package and always a field of view
less than the smallest face of the package.

In its preferred, simplest, and most generally
useful form my new device is best, though not
necessarily, embodied in a sheet metal cabinet
with a sheet metal doorlike closure hinged thereto.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a showing in ele-
vation of the outward aspect of the cabinet clo-
sure; Figure 2 is an isometric view of the interior
of the cabinet; Figure 3 is an isometric view of
one of the shelves; and Figure 4 is a side eleva-
tional view of one of the transverse guides.

In Figure 1A is a doorlike closure provided with
the apertures B which serve to reveal or display
the selected portion of the articles on the shelves
in the cabinet; and Figure 2 shows the interior
arrangement of the cabinet which is provided
with cleats D cooperating by means of conven-
tional pins not shown with the holes *d* for ad-
justing the height of the shelves C or thereby
more specifically the articles on the shelves, with
respect to the apertures B in the closure A, Fig-
ure 1. The shelves are provided with pairs of
adjustable guides E and E' for horizontally posi-
tioning and retaining the packages in the desired
alignment with the apertures B. Figure 3 shows
isometrically and in somewhat greater detail the
arrangement of the cooperating guides E on the
shelf C than is illustrated in Figure 2; and it also
shows stop bars F which engage the slots G in
the guides E and E'. The function of the bars F
is that of back stop, for packages on the shelves
and between the guides, whereby the forward face
of the package may, by appropriate adjustment
of the stop bar, be maintained in close proximity
to the apertures B in the door A, when the latter
is in the closed position. The guides E are ad-
justably supported upon the shelf C by means of
depending lug Ea engaging with one of a series
of slots Ca in shelf C and a pin Eb near the front
of the guide engaging with one of a series of
holes Cb formed near the front of the shelf.

It will be noted that in the embodiment of the
invention illustrated in the drawing the area of
any aperture B is substantially less than the
smallest vertical area of the restricted storage
space whose width is the distance between the
guides E and E' and whose height is the distance

between any two adjacent shelves. It is one of the essential features of my invention that the apertures in the closure shall be smaller than the smallest face of the packaged article to be displayed therebehind whereby extraction of the article, without destruction of its package, through the closure is rendered impossible.

Where articles, as brake linings for instance, are stocked in packages of non-uniform dimensions and preferably in a sequence of varying sizes I have found it highly desirable to so affix size-designating and descriptive legends to the varying sized packages as to bring these legends, when the packages are on a shelf, into horizontal alignment and also to space the legends at uniform distances. I have discovered that the location of the desired article may be even more readily accomplished when the packages, or more particularly their identifying legends, are arranged in a systematic and regularly spaced sequence, and all but the legends shielded from view by means of a screen provided with appropriately sized and shaped apertures. In the closure, which not only serves as a door but as an opaque screen to hide from view all but the designating legend, I therefore preferably, though not necessarily, uniformly space the apertures both horizontally and vertically, as these are illustrated in the drawing. If, however, the variation in package size is so great as to make such a uniform arrangement wasteful of storage space, I may arrange the apertures in gradually though preferably regularly increasing distances apart although, as stated, I prefer a uniform spacing. The vertical spacing of rows of apertures is also preferably but not necessarily uniform. I have found it desirable to provide a space of one inch or more between the inside surface of the closure and the outside edge of the horizontal shelves C. By so choosing the length of the guides E and E' or the position of the stops F, Figure 3, relative to the length of the packages, the latter may be made to extend over the edge of the shelf and thus be more easily withdrawn.

From the foregoing description of one embodiment of this invention it will be apparent that different arrangements of closure, as for instance two doors or a sliding panel closure, may be substituted for the single door illustrated in the drawing without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the claims. While rectangular apertures are illustrated in the drawing, apertures of widely variant shapes may be substituted therefor provided only that the apertures are smaller than the smallest side of the package to be displayed therebehind and so render it impossible to remove such packaged articles without destruction of the packages. The apertures may or may not be provided with a covering of transparent material such as glass as desired. In place of the adjustable retaining shelves illustrated in the drawing there may be substituted other types of shelves or other adjustable means defining and registering the storage space and for maintaining and positioning there-

in the articles to be displayed with respect to the display openings or apertures in the closure.

It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only, and that this invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A merchandise display device comprising a cabinet, an opaque closure for said cabinet, provided with a plurality of rows of horizontally aligned apertures, a plurality of shelves within said cabinet, each shelf being associated with an individual row of apertures, and a plurality of pairs of guides on each shelf, each pair of guides being associated with an individual aperture, both the component members of said pairs of guides and said shelves being adjustable with respect to said apertures and the area of said apertures being substantially less than the vertical area defined by and between adjacent shelves and laterally by and between the component members of said pairs of guides.

2. In combination, a cabinet, a plurality of shelves arranged within said cabinet, an opaque closure for said cabinet provided with a plurality of horizontally aligned apertures associated with each shelf, means for supporting said shelves in vertically adjustable relation to said apertures, a plurality of pairs of transverse guides arranged on each shelf, each pair of guides being associated with an individual aperture, a stop bar for each pair of guides, and means for supporting each stop bar across its respective pair of guides at adjustable positions from the front of said shelf.

3. In combination, a cabinet, a plurality of shelves arranged within said cabinet, an opaque closure for said cabinet provided with a plurality of horizontally aligned apertures associated with each shelf, means for supporting said shelves in vertically adjustable relation to said apertures, a plurality of pairs of transverse guides arranged on each shelf, each pair of guides being associated with an individual aperture, means for supporting each pair of guides on said shelves in laterally adjustable relation to its respective aperture, a stop bar for each pair of guides, and means for supporting each stop bar across its respective pair of guides at adjustable positions from the front of said shelf.

4. In combination, a cabinet, a plurality of shelves arranged within said cabinet, an opaque closure for said cabinet provided with a plurality of horizontally aligned apertures associated with each shelf, means for supporting said shelves in vertically adjustable relation to said apertures, a plurality of pairs of transverse guides arranged on each shelf, each pair of guides being associated with an individual aperture, means for supporting each pair of guides on said shelves in laterally adjustable relation to its respective aperture, each transverse guide being provided with a plurality of notches near the rear end thereof, and a stop bar for each pair of guides supported in said notches.

WILLARD J. SLAGLE.