April 17, 1928. 1,666,063

A. W. AUBREY

TOWEL RACK

Filed Aug. 12, 1926

Fig. 1

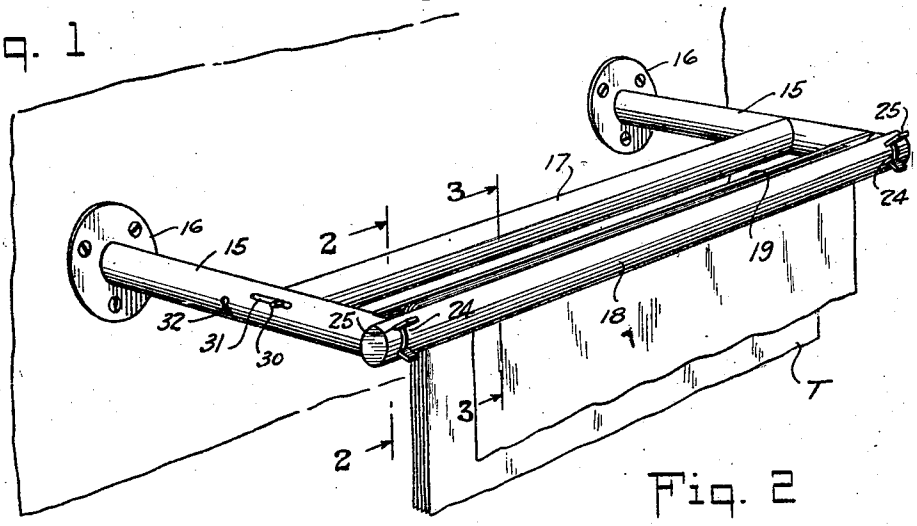


Fig. 2

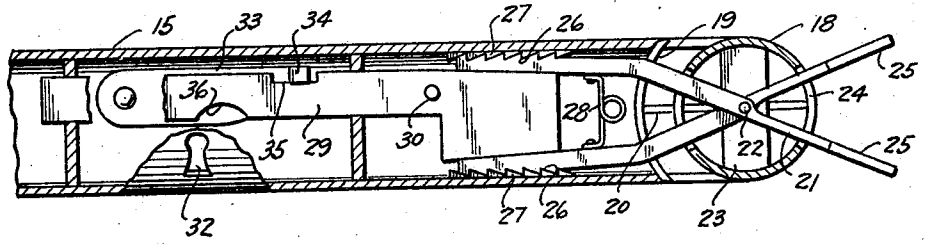


Fig. 3

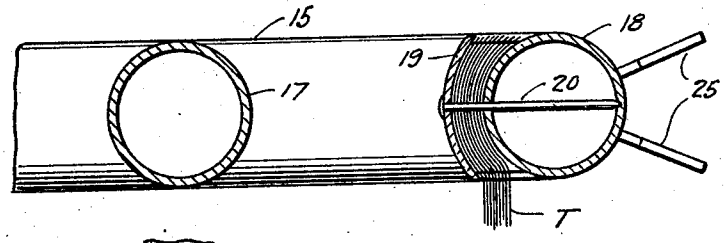


Fig. 4

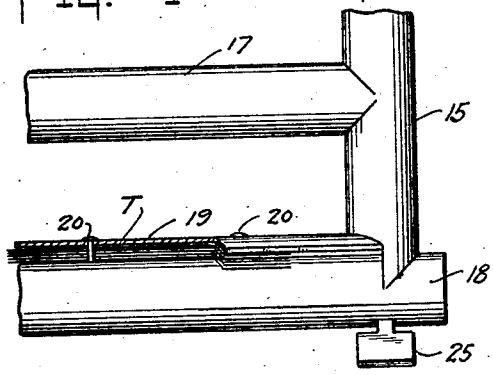
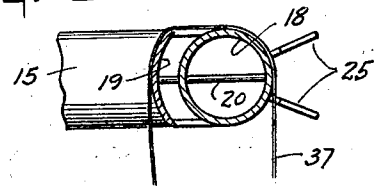


Fig. 5



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Patented Apr. 17, 1928. 1,666,063

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOWEL RACK.

Application filed August 12, 1926. Serial No. 128,858.

My invention relates to and has for its purpose the provision of a rack which is capable of holding a multiplicity of ordinary towels in such manner that the individual and successive use thereof is permitted, while all of the towels are securely locked against theft.

It is also a purpose of my invention to provide a towel rack of the above described character which is capable of holding a roll towel to permit its use in the usual manner and to securely lock the towel against theft.

I will describe only one form of towel rack embodying my invention and will then point out the novel features thereof in claims.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a view showing in perspective one form of towel rack embodying my invention in applied position to a wall;

Figures 2 and 3 are enlarged fragmentary sectional views taken on the lines 2—2 and 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary plan view of the rack shown in Figure 1 with a portion of the towel supporting plate broken away;

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 3 showing my inventon as a roll towel supporting rack.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts in each of the several views.

Referring specifically to the drawings, my invention, in its present embodiment, comprises a frame having a stationary part and another part removable from the stationary part and adapted to carry a multiplicity of towels with means for locking the movable part of the stationary part to prevent theft of the towels. The stationary part of the frame comprises spaced parallel arms 15 formed at one of their ends with disks 16 through which screws or other suitable fastening members are adapted to extend for securing the frame as a unit in horizontal position upon a wall, as illustrated in Figure 1. These arms 15 are rigidly connected by a brace rod 17, the arms and rod being preferably of tubular form so as to render them light and to allow the arms to accommodate latching and locking means, as will be described more fully hereinafter.

The outer ends of the arms 15 are constructed to accommodate the end portions of the removable part of the frame, and such part includes a connecting rod 18 and a plate 19 arranged at the inner side of the rod 18, as shown in Figure 2, so as to be interposed between the rod and the ends of the arms. This plate 19 is curved transversely to conform to the curvature of the rod 18, and it is provided at regular intervals along its length with forwardly extended pins 20 which extend through suitable openings formed in the rod 18, as clearly illustrated in Figure 3. Between the plate and the rod a multiplicity of towels designated at T are adapted to be received with the pins 20 extending through the open edges of the several towels so that the latter are suspended from the rack as clearly illustrated in Figure 1. With the plate and rod in applied position, as illustrated, the pins serve to secure the towels against removal from the rack, and the towels are preferably arranged in overlapped relation on the rack, as shown in Figure 1, so that they may be separately and successively used, and after the use of each towel it is thrown upwardly and rearwardly so as to drop over the rod 17.

To assemble the rod and plate with respect to the arms, I provide a latching means which, in the present instance, comprises two pairs of arms 21 with each pair crossed and pivoted at the point indicated at 22 on a plate 23 secured within the adjacent end of the rod 18. The arms of each pair extend through slots 24 in the rod 18, the outer ends of the arms being formed with handles 25 which are adapted to be gripped in manipulating the arms, while the inner ends of the arms are formed with sets of teeth 26 normally urged into engagement with sets of teeth 27 formed on the inner wall of the corresponding arm 15, a spring 28 being interposed between the arms for urging the teeth to the position described. The teeth 26 and 27 are reversely disposed and when in engagement with each other serve to latch the arms against withdrawal from the arm 15 so that the rod and plate are secured in proper position upon the arm.

To prevent unauthorized removal of the plate and rod from the arms through manipulation of the arms 21 to cause their teeth to disengage the teeth of the arms 15, I provide two locking means, one for each pair of arms 21. As clearly illustrated in Figure 2, each locking means comprises a sliding bolt 29 mounted in the arm 15 to occupy an advanced position as shown, in which it is interposed between the inner ends of the arms 21 so as to maintain the teeth 26 in engagement with the teeth 27. It is to be particularly noted that the head of the bolt 29 is of wedge form, so that it may readily enter between the arms 21 and effectively secure the teeth 26 in engagement with the teeth 27. This bolt 29 is adapted to be manually moved to the advanced or locking position by sliding of a pin 30 in a slot 31 of the arm 15. The movement of the bolt to retracted position is effected through the medium of a key (not shown) insertible into a key-hole 32 to engage a latch 33 so that the lug 34 thereof is moved out of the recess 35 of the bolt 29, continuing the movement of the key engaging within the recess 36 of the bolt, and thus sliding the latter to retracted position. With the bolt in retracted position, the arms 21 can now be gripped at the handles 25 and compressed, thereby moving the teeth 26 out of engagement with the teeth 27 and against the tension of the spring 28, whereby the arms can be removed from the arms 15. In this manner, the rod 18 and the plate 19 can be removed from the arms 15 to allow application or removal of towels to or from the rack. It is to be noted that the lug 34 serves to lock the bolt 29 in the advanced position so that the latter cannot be moved to retracted position by the pin 30.

Although I have described the rack as adapted for the supporting of a multiplicity of towels of the ordinary construction, my invention is also adaptable to the supporting of a roll towel, and as illustrated in Figure 5 a roll towel 37 can be extended around plate 19 and the rod 18 so that with the towel locked in position upon the frame the latter can be rolled to present any portion of its length for convenient use.

Although I have herein shown and described only one form of towel rack embodying my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A towel rack comprising a frame having a stationary part and a removable part, the latter including companion towel clamping members one of which is secured between the other member and the stationary part, co-acting latching means on the stationary part and the said other member for securing the removable part to the stationary part to prevent removal of the towels, and means for locking the latching means against release.

2. A towel rack comprising a frame, including a pair of arms, a towel supporting rod connecting the arms, means for latching the rod to the arms comprising arms arranged in pairs in the ends of the rod and pivoted and crossed on the rod, the crossed arms extending into the frame arms, co-acting teeth on the frame arms and crossed arms, yieldable means for urging the crossed arms so that their teeth will engage the teeth of the frame arms to secure the crossed arms against removal from the frame, and handles on the crossed arms projecting from the rod by which the arms can be operated to cause the teeth thereof to disengage the teeth of the frame arms, and means for locking the latching means to prevent removal of the rod and the towels carried thereby.

3. A towel rack comprising a frame, including a pair of arms, a towel supporting rod connecting the arms, means for latching the rod to the arms comprising arms arranged in pairs in the ends of the rod and pivoted and crossed on the rod, the crossed arms extending into the frame arms, co-acting teeth on the frame arms and crossed arms, yieldable means for urging the crossed arms so that their teeth will engage the teeth of the frame arms to secure the crossed arms against removal from the frame, and handles on the crossed arms projecting from the rod by which the arms can be operated to cause the teeth thereof to disengage the teeth of the frame arms, and means for locking the latching means to prevent removal of the rod and the towels carried thereby comprising locking bolts movable in the frame arms to be extended between the arms of each pair of crossed arms to maintain the teeth thereof in engagement with the teeth of the frame arms.

4. A towel rack comprising a frame including a pair of arms having teeth therein, a towel supporting rod connecting the arms, means for latching the rod to the arms comprising toothed arms arranged in pairs and pivoted in the rod, and means for locking the latching means to prevent removal of the rod and the towels carried thereby comprising locking bolts movable in the frame arms to be extended between the arms of each pair of crossed arms to maintain the teeth thereof in engagement with the teeth of the frame arms.

5. A towel rack comprising a frame including a pair of arms having teeth therein, a towel supporting rod connecting the arms, means for latching the rod to the arms com-

prising toothed arms arranged in pairs and pivoted in the rod, and means for locking the latching means to prevent removal of the rod and the towels carried thereby comprising bolts manually movable in the frame arms to a locking position in which it is disposed between the arms of each pair of crossed arms to maintain the teeth thereof in engagement with the teeth of the frame arms, means for securing the bolts in locking position, and key-operated means for retracting the bolts from between the crossed arms.

ANDREW W. AUBREY.