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RACK FOR DRINKING GLASSES

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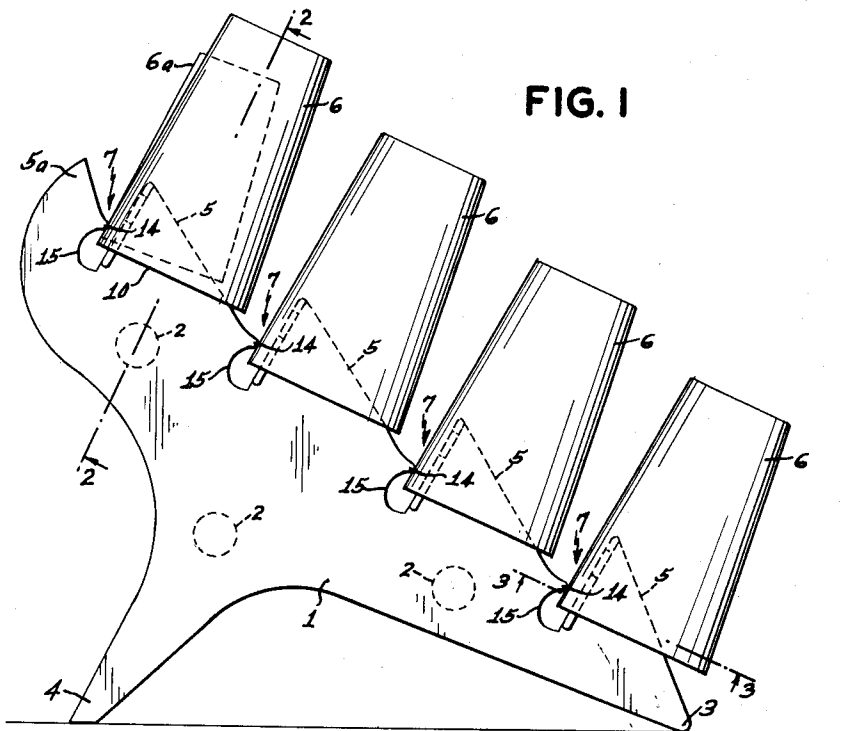


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

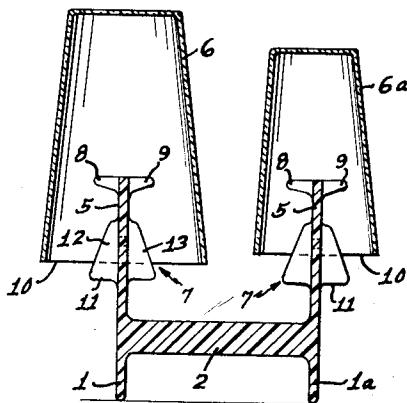
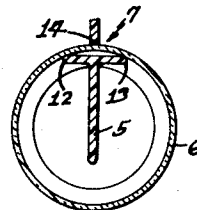


FIG. 3



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RACK FOR DRINKING GLASSES

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3 Claims. (Cl. 211-74)

1

This invention relates to improvements in racks for supporting drinking glasses, and the like, in draining position, and particularly, to portable racks for household use, although, if desired, the improved rack can be advantageously used in restaurants, lunch counters, etc., and in automatic dishwashing machines. The rack can be used as a carrier for the drinking glasses as well as a stationary holder or support.

In the household, as well as in restaurants and other eating places, when drinking glasses are not in use, it is desirable for sanitary reasons to support them in inverted, or in substantially inverted position and with their rims out of contact with storage shelves on which they are placed. However, the racks for this purpose as heretofore constructed have been unsatisfactory for one reason or another. One of the common forms of such racks consists of a frame supporting a series of upstanding pins or pegs. Such a rack is objectionable because the glasses are not firmly held in position, and because the glasses supported on these pegs may assume a great number of different positions so that they do not present a neat appearance.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a rack which is so constructed as to support the desired number of drinking glasses, or the like, securely and firmly in inverted, or draining, position, so that, if desired, the entire group of glasses may be easily moved from one place to another without danger of breakage. For example, in the household, the glasses may be placed on the rack directly from the washing or cleansing operation and allowed to dry. Thereafter the entire rack containing a half dozen, a dozen or more glasses, may be placed in storage cupboards without again touching or handling the individual glasses.

Another object of the invention is to provide a rack which will support the glasses with their axes approximately parallel so that the entire group presents a neat appearance.

Another object of the invention is to provide a drinking glass rack which will accommodate glasses, goblets, etc. which vary in size over a considerable range.

The invention will be understood by considering the accompanying drawings together with the following description thereof.

In these drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side view of a rack which is intended to hold eight (8) drinking glasses in two (2) rows of four (4) each;

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

2

Fig. 3 is a detailed section taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Referring now to these drawings, the rack of the present invention comprises substantially vertical, flat frame members 1 and 1a arranged in parallel, spaced relation and joined together by cross members 2. These frame members are preferably made of a suitable molded plastic material, although they also may be made of wood, metal or any other convenient and suitable material. Although Fig. 2 shows the frame members 1 and 1a and cross members 2 as being made integral, it will be understood that they may be made separate, and cross members 2 may be made in any convenient form to produce a composite structure. Frame members 1 and 1a are shown as having front and rear leg portions 3 and 4 but, again, the supporting legs may be made in any convenient form and attached to the frames in any convenient way.

Frame members 1 and 1a are each provided with a series of supports about to be described and preferably arranged at progressively higher levels so as to support the glasses one slightly above the other, as shown in Fig. 1. The supports are also arranged to hold the glasses in draining position but this may vary from a position where the axes of the glasses are substantially vertical to an even less tilted angle than shown.

Each of the frames 1 and 1a is provided with a series of upwardly directed projections 5, and each of these projections carries a support for one of the individual drinking glasses 6. These supports are indicated generally by reference numeral 7, and each support comprises a pair of fingers 8 and 9 which are mounted in horizontal position and spaced apart on opposite sides of the axis of the glass to be supported and on opposite sides of the supporting projection 5 of the frame. These fingers are positioned above the rim 10 of the glass, and preferably a substantial distance above this rim. With tall, slender glasses, this position may be somewhat less than midway of the height of the glass, and with shorter glasses, it may be somewhat above the midway position.

Below and substantially in a plane passing through the fingers 8 and 9 there is arranged a plate-like member 11 having downwardly diverging edges 12 and 13 symmetrically positioned with respect to a plane passing through the axis of the glass at right angles to the plane through the fingers 8 and 9. In other words, fingers 8 and 9 are positioned in a horizontal line extending at right angles to the plane of frames 1 or 1a, and

3

plate-like member 11 is also disposed at right angles to this plane.

Because of the arrangement described, the two fingers 8 and 9 will contact the interior surface of a glass placed over the support, and the rim of the glass will engage the diverging edges 12 and 13 of plate-like member 11 at points on these edges, the location of which depends upon the diameter of the rim 10 of the glass. Engaging the exterior surface of the glass and forming part of the support 7 there is a third finger 14 which may be formed on the lower end of the projection 5 for the adjacent glass above. It will be understood, however, that at the uppermost support 7 a special projection 5a is provided on the frame upon the lower edge of which projection the third finger 14 for this support is carried.

The third finger 14 is positioned vertically intermediate the pair of fingers 8 and 9 and the two points where the rim 10 engages the tapering edges 12 and 13 of plate-like member 11, and is also horizontally midway between the fingers 8 and 9 and the edges 12 and 13. In other words, the point where the third finger 14 engages the exterior surface of the glass is above the rim 10.

By means of this construction of support, the glass is engaged at four points on its interior surface and the inner edge of its rim, and at one point on its outside surface, thus providing a five point wedging contact or engagement of the glass which securely and firmly holds the individual glass.

This five point support 7 for each of the individual glasses supports them in such a way that no part of the glass touches the frame except at the five points of support. To this end, the projections 5 and 5a are cut away, as shown at 15, and the upper edges of projections 5 are sloped at such an angle as to clear the rims of the glasses. The upper edges of these projections 5 and also of projections 5a are sloped or curved so as to provide guiding surfaces for directing the glasses into position when they are placed upon their respective supports.

By means of this invention there has been provided a simple and effective support for one or any desired number of glasses whereby the glasses can be securely and firmly engaged and held so that the rack can be moved about as desired without danger of glasses dropping therefrom, and without any sense of such danger on the part of the person handling the rack.

It will be understood that changes may be made in the details of construction and arrangement of the rack, the scope of the invention being set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A drinking glass rack having a frame, a support thereon for holding an individual drinking

4

glass in inverted position, said support comprising a pair of horizontally spaced fingers disposed to engage the interior surface of the inverted glass above the rim thereof, a plate-like member having downwardly diverging edges disposed below said fingers and arranged to engage the rim of the glass at two spaced points whose positions depend upon the diameter of the glass, and a third finger disposed vertically intermediate said spaced fingers and the rim engaging portions of said plate-like member and horizontally midway between said pair of fingers and arranged to engage the exterior surface of the glass.

2. A portable drinking glass rack for a group of glasses having a frame, a plurality of supports thereon each holding an individual drinking glass in inverted position and comprising a pair of horizontally spaced fingers disposed to engage the interior surface of the inverted glass above the rim thereof, a plate-like member having downwardly diverging edges disposed below and in the plane of said fingers and arranged to engage the rim of the glass at two spaced points substantially in said plane and the positions of which depend upon the diameter of the glass, and a third finger disposed vertically intermediate said spaced fingers and the rim engaging portions of said plate-like member and horizontally midway between said pair of fingers and arranged to engage the exterior surface of the glass.

3. A drinking glass rack for a group of glasses having a frame, a plurality of projections on the upper edge of said frame disposed at progressively higher elevations, each of said projections having fixed thereto a pair of horizontally spaced fingers disposed to engage the interior surface of an inverted glass above the rim thereof, and a plate-like member having downwardly diverging edges disposed below said fingers and arranged to engage the rim of the glass at two spaced points whose positions depend upon the diameter of the glass, and a third finger fixed to the lower end of the projection next above and disposed vertically intermediate said spaced fingers and the rim engaging portions of said plate-like member and arranged to engage the exterior surface of the glass.

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