April 18, 1950 E. S. JONES 2,504,132

LUNCH BOX

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Fig. 1.

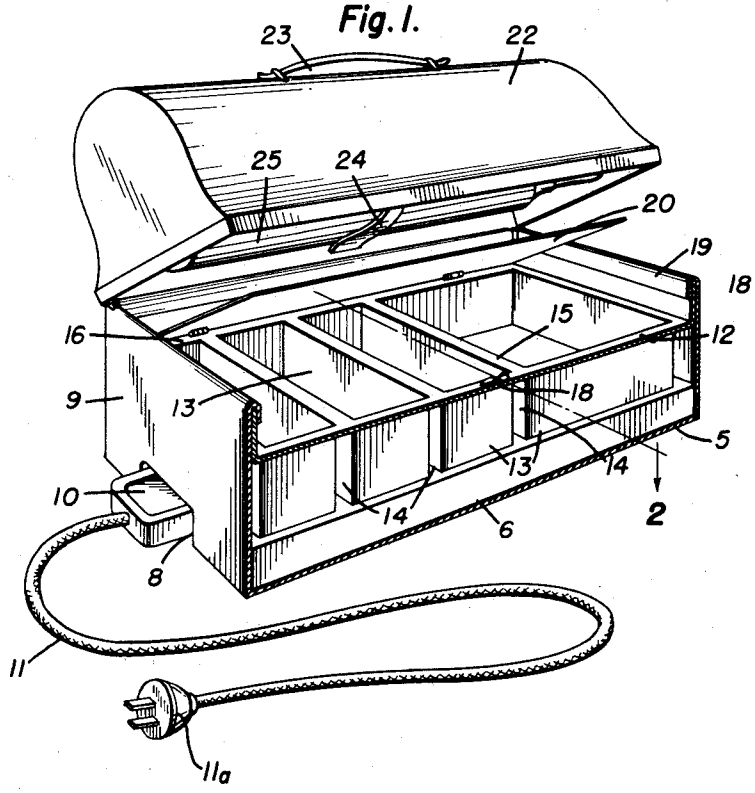
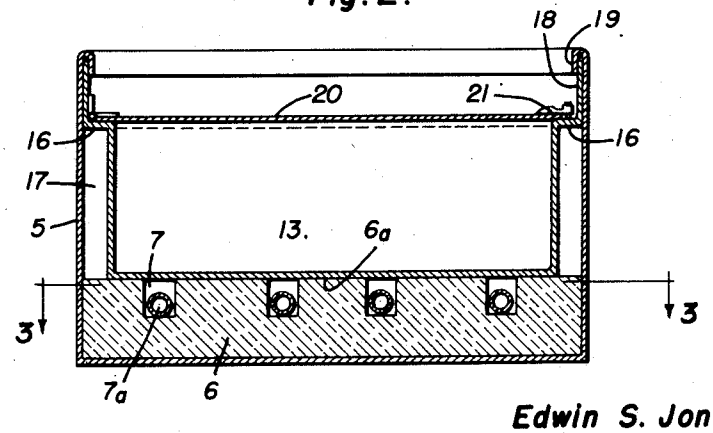


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 4.

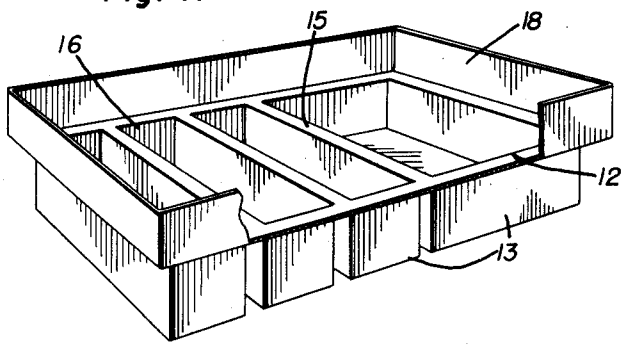
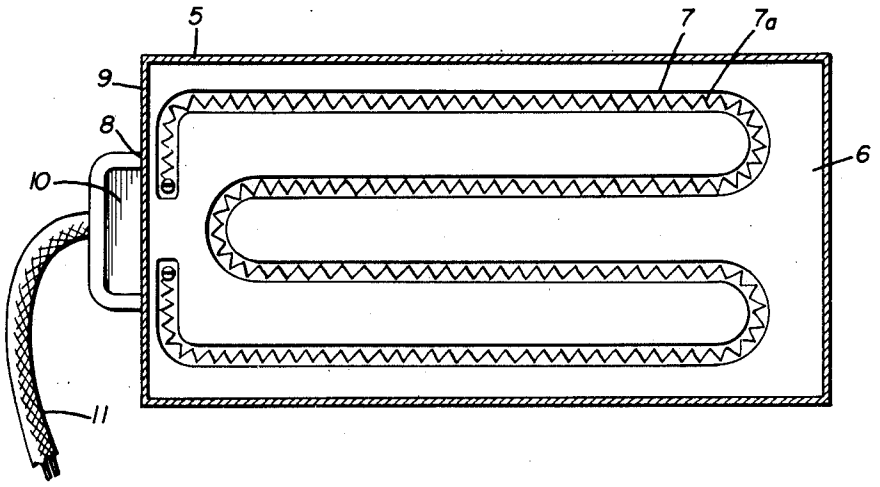


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,504,132

LUNCH BOX

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Application May 8, 1947, Serial No. 746,656

2 Claims. (Cl. 219—19)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in lunch boxes and more particularly to a lunch box having a heating unit therein adapted to warm food or the like placed in said box.

The primary feature of this invention is to provide a device of this character adapted for use by workmen that will provide a convenient means for keeping foods placed therein fresh for long periods of time.

Another feature of this invention is to provide a device of the character referred to, having a tightly fitted tray that can be washed without permitting water to enter the heating unit.

A further important feature is to provide a device of this character that is neat and attractive in appearance, efficient and reliable in operation, relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention showing the tray lid and box cover in a slightly raised position, and with parts shown in section.

Figure 2 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the food tray with the lid removed therefrom and with parts broken away and shown in section.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, I have disclosed a preferred embodiment of the invention, the numeral 5 represents a box opened at its top, said box being preferably rectangular in construction.

A conventional hot plate 6 having recesses 7 in its upper face adapted for receiving an electric heating coil 7a is lowered in box 5 and rests on the lower surface of said box. A conventional socket having therein a male plug (not shown) connecting coil 7a is provided in the lower portion of said hot plate, and a rectangular opening 8 in the lower portion of side wall 9 of the box exposes said plug, said opening affording means for attaching the female socket end 10 of an electrical cord 11 having a plug 11a.

A tray 12 that is preferably constructed of stainless steel or any metallic material that is

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rust-proof and acid resisting, is supported on hot plate 6.

The tray is composed of a plurality of shallow containers 13 having their sides spaced from each other to provide an air space 14 therebetween, and the upper edges of the containers are united by bridge members 15 to close the top of the air spaces 14 and the outer edges of the containers are formed with horizontal flanges 16 spacing the containers from the walls of the box 5 to provide air space 17 therebetween. The edges of the flanges 16 extend upwardly to form vertical flanges 18 engaged under downturned channels 19 at the upper edges of the box.

The containers 13 are closed by a single lid 20 hinged to the rear horizontal flange 16, the lid being secured in closed position by a swinging button 21 secured to the front horizontal flange.

The inverted channels 19 seal the upper edges of the tray to prevent water reaching the coils when washing the tray.

The lower rear edge of a conventional hollow cover 22 is hingedly connected to the rear edge of the box, the lower edges of the cover telescoping over the upper edges of the box.

A handle 23 is suitably secured to the upper surface of cover 22, and a spring clamp 24 having one end secured to the inner surface of the cover is adapted to hold a Thermos bottle or the like 25 in the inner hollow portion of said cover.

Plug 10 being engaged in the socket in the lower portion of the hot plate, it is merely necessary to insert plug 11a in a conventional socket for energizing coil 7 and causing the lower portion of tray 12 to become heated.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In combination with a lunch box, a tray having downwardly pressed, spaced food containers, the outer periphery of said tray bent vertically upward to form flanges, means securing the flanges to the inner walls of said box, to provide a water tight connection between said tray

and said box, a lid covering said tray, said lid being hingedly secured to the rear portion of the tray, a latch carried by the forward portion of said tray and adapted to lock said lid in a closed position, a hot plate having a coil carried by the lower portion of said box, the lower portion of said food containers resting on said hot plate, and a socket provided in the hot plate and adapted to receive the free end of an electrical cord for energizing the coil carried by the hot plate and thereby heating foods placed in said containers.

2. In combination with a lunch box, a tray having downwardly pressed, spaced food containers, the outer periphery of said tray bent vertically upward to form flanges, inverted channels at the upper edges of said box overlying the flanges to tightly hold the tray within the box and to form a substantially water-tight connection between the tray and the box so that said tray can be washed without permitting water to enter the lower portion of the box, a lid hingedly connected to the rear portion of said tray, for closing said containers, a latch carried by the forward portion of said tray and adapted to lock said lid in a closed position, a hot plate having a coil carried by the lower portion of said box and positioned under the containers, and a socket provided in the hot plate and connected to the coil, said socket adapted to receive the free end of an electrical cord for energizing the coil and thereby heating food placed in said containers.

EDWIN S. JONES.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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