Dec. 26, 1922. 1,440,070

J. H. FRY.
PLATE FOR DINING TABLES.
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FIG. I.

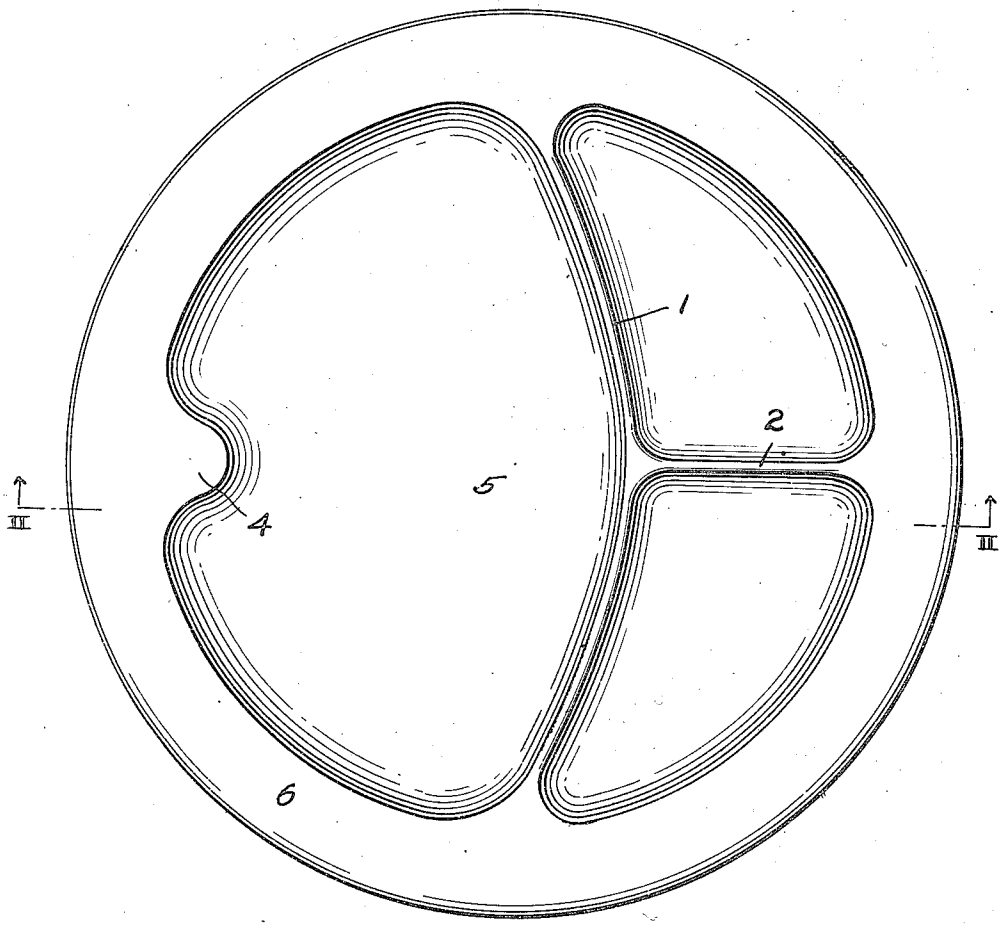
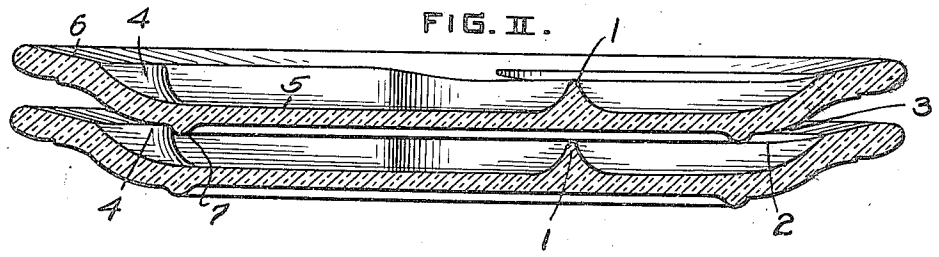


FIG. II.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE HOWARD FRY, OF ROCHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA.

PLATE FOR DINING TABLES.

Application filed February 21, 1922. Serial No. 538,187.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE HOWARD FRY, residing at Rochester, in the county of Beaver and State of Pennsylvania, a citizen of the United States, have invented or discovered certain new and useful Improvements in Plates for Dining Tables, of which improvements the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in plates for the dining table, and consists in an improved configuration, which makes for ease in handling and reduction of breakage. It concerns particularly plates which have considerable vogue in restaurants and which are provided with partitions, dividing the hollow or field of the plate into compartments, for containing portions of the several components of a meal.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Fig. I is a plan view from above of a plate embodying my invention; Fig. II is a view in vertical section of two plates stacked one upon another, the plane of section being indicated by the line II—II, Fig. I.

The drawings show plates consisting of field 5, rim or margin 6, and, underneath, circumferential supporting flange 7, the diameter of this circumferential flange being less than the inner diameter of the margin of the plate above; such is the usual conformation of a dinner plate. These lunch plates or platters as they are sometimes called, for holding a "platter lunch" are in their field portions divided by partitions 1, 2 into compartments. Of these the largest occupies ordinarily more than half the entire space, while the remaining space is divided into two compartments or more.

When these lunch plates are stacked or nested one upon another, the supporting beads 3 of the superior plate engage the partitions of the inferior, and, since the partitions are ordinarily all on one side of a diameter, the superior plate is imperfectly supported. It will tip or wobble and, when several plates are so stacked together, plates at the top of the stack may easily slide from place, with danger of breakage. A pile of such plates is not easily moved, to be carried safely to and from a closet shelf.

I correct this difficulty and overcome the danger of breakage by forming on the field of the plate and on the unpartitioned side at convenient point or points one or more integral blocks or bosses 4 extending preferably out from the margin of the plate toward the center. The boss (or bosses) extends a sufficient distance, so that when two plates are superposed the superior plate which on one side rests by engagement of its supporting flange 7 upon partitions 1, 2 of the inferior plate will on the other side rest by engagement upon boss 4. But the outward extent of the boss into the field of the plate is not so great as seriously to interfere with the intended use of the plate. The lines may be curved in pleasing manner, as the drawings show. Thus the upper plate rests firmly against wobbling or tipping, and when a larger number of plates is so stacked, the plates are secure against accidental dislodgment and breakage. It will be observed on considering Figure II that the boss of the lower plate affords abutment both vertically and laterally for the flange 7 of the upper plate, and that therefore the upper plate rests securely upon the lower.

Of recent years glass whose coefficient of thermal expansion is very low has been used for baking dishes. I conveniently make plates embodying my invention of such material, and it will be understood that, as distinguished from pottery, a glass plate such as this is formed by molding. Additionally, the glass which I preferably employ is not perfectly transparent but somewhat translucent. The effect of translucence increases with thickness, and, consequently, in a glass plate of my preferred construction, the partitions 1 and 2 as well as the abutment or boss (or bosses) 4 are emphasized or exaggerated in appearance, beyond what a plate of pottery shows, and in a way that is attractive, and in a way such as to call attention to the presence of my invention.

I claim as my invention:

A plate for the dining table formed above

with a circular field and a rim and below with a sustaining circumferential flange of less diameter than the inner diameter of the rim above, a compartment-forming partition traversing the field to one side of a diameter, and a boss interrupting the circular continuity of the field on the side opposite such partition and affording vertical and lateral abutment for the flange of a superposed plate.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JESSE HOWARD FRY.

Witness:
FRANCIS J. TOMASSON.