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REFRIGERATOR TRAY

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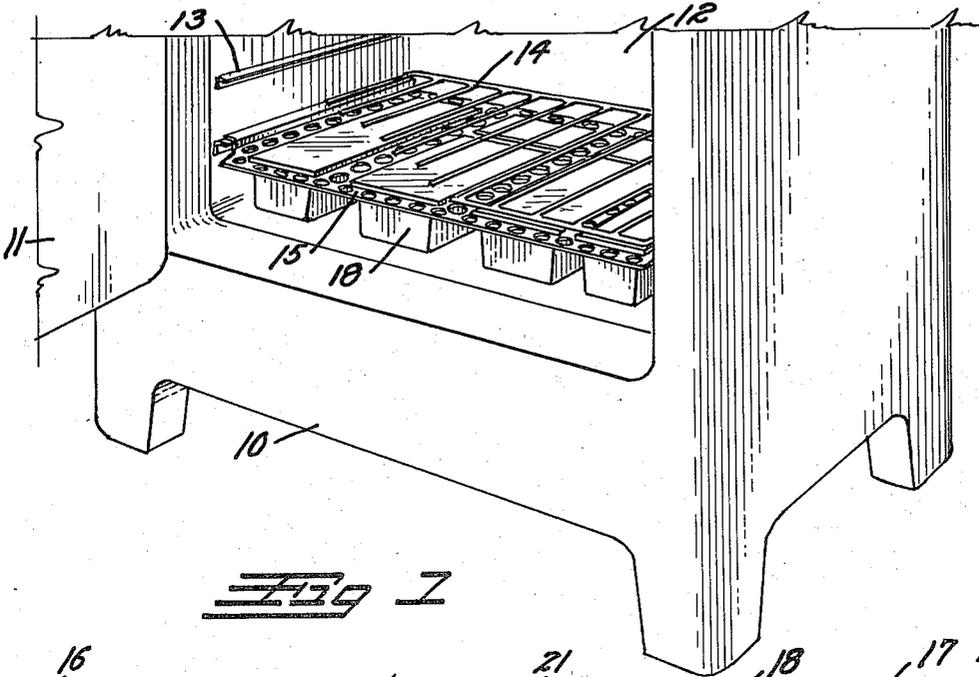


Fig 1

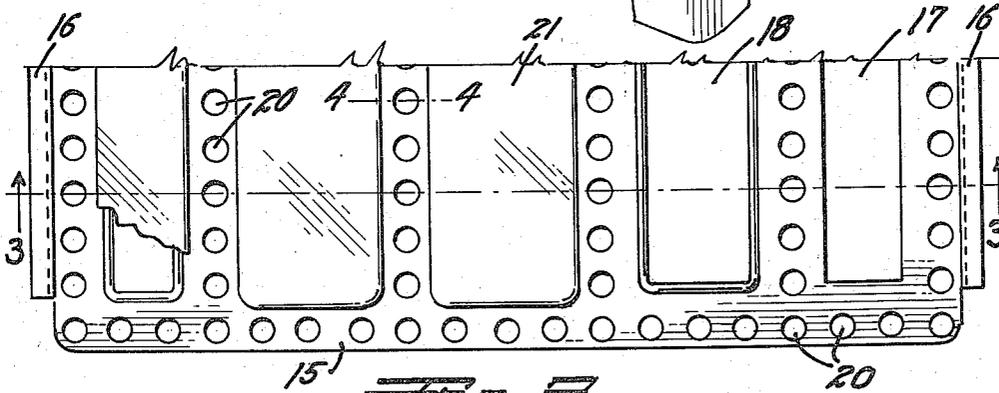


Fig 2

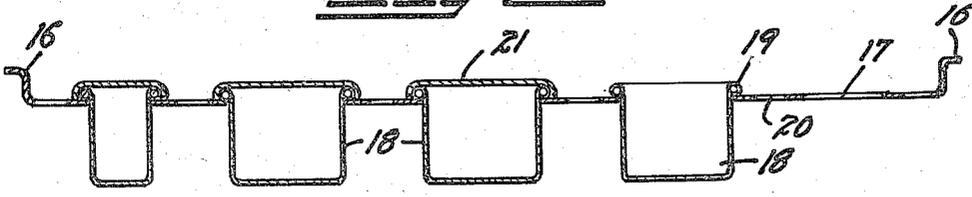


Fig 3

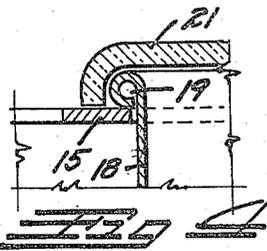


Fig 4

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REFRIGERATOR TRAY

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Application September 3, 1934, Serial No. 743,190

1 Claim. (Cl. 62—169.1)

This invention relates to a container supporting shelf for refrigerators. It is more particularly designed for refrigerators of the mechanical type, that is, refrigerators that do not employ ice as the refrigerant. Refrigerators of this type collect moisture from the enclosed air which forms as frost on the cooling element. This tendency to collect moisture results in a drying out of the food products in the refrigerating chamber. To prevent this drying effect closed pans or containers, known to the trade as hydrators, are used for containing the foods and preventing escape of the moisture. These hydrators are inconvenient to use owing to the fact that it is difficult to reach those in the rear of a shelf without removing the entire shelf contents at the front. Other articles will also be placed on top of the hydrators which must be removed before the contents are accessible.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a support for such hydrators which will allow any desired hydrator to be instantly reached without disturbing any of the remaining refrigerator contents and which will allow the entire area over the hydrators to be used as shelf storage space.

Another object of the invention is to so construct the invention that it will be applicable to any refrigerator and so that it will not interfere with the normal circulation of air through the refrigerating compartment.

Other objects and advantages reside in the detail construction of the invention, which is designed for simplicity, economy, and efficiency. These will become more apparent from the following description.

In the following detailed description of the invention reference is had to the accompanying drawing which forms a part hereof. Like numerals refer to like parts in all views of the drawing and throughout the description.

In the drawing:—

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a form of the invention in place in a refrigerator.

Fig. 2 is a partial plan view of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section therethrough, taken on the line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail section taken on the line 4—4, Fig. 2.

A typical refrigerator is indicated at 10 with its door at 11, refrigerating compartment at 12, shelf supporting means at 13, and one of the usual open grid shelves at 14.

The preferred form of the invention comprises

a shelf plate 15 of sheet metal, preferably of a non-corrosive metal or plated or covered with a protective enamel or other coating. The extremities of shelf plate 15 are formed with upturned flanges 16 for engagement with the usual shelf supporting member 13 or with one of the usual open grid shelves 14, with which refrigerators are usually provided.

The shelf plate 15 is formed with a series of cut out portions 17 of suitable size and shape for receiving a number of hydrator pans 18. The hydrator pans 18 are formed with a peripheral flange or bead 19 about their open tops which prevents them from passing entirely through the cut outs 17. When in place in the cut outs, the bead 19 rests upon the top of the shelf plate 15 as shown in Fig. 2.

The shelf plate 15 is perforated by a series of ventilating holes 20 throughout its entire area so as to allow the circulating air of the refrigerating compartment to pass freely upward and downward therethrough.

Each of the hydrators 18 is covered by a relatively flat lid 21, preferably moulded from transparent glass. The edges of the lids 21 turn downwardly to engage and surround the beads 19 of the hydrators.

In use the shelf plate 15 is slid into place immediately below the shelf grid 14 of the refrigerator and does not interfere in any way with the full use of the shelf 14. Should the user desire access to any of the hydrators he simply draws the shelf plate 15 outwardly to expose the lid of the desired hydrator. The entire hydrator can then be lifted from the shelf plate and removed, or its cover may be removed to give access to the contained food articles.

The transparent glass covers allow the user to view all of the hydrator contents so that no time is lost in locating the desired articles. It is desired to call attention to the fact that the lids 21 pass snugly beneath the grid shelf 14 so that there is no wastage of valuable compartment space.

If additional hydrator space is required, a second shelf plate, with its contained hydrators can be slid into place over the first without interfering with the full, convenient use of the latter.

While a specific form of the improvement has been described and illustrated herein, it is desired to be understood that the same may be varied, within the scope of the appended claim, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is

claimed and desired secured by Letters Patent to fit said cut outs and extend above said plate;
is:— and lids covering said hydrators and positioned

A container shelf for refrigerators comprising: between said plate and said refrigerator shelf,
a metallic plate; upwardly extending members there being ventilating perforations formed in
5 at the extremities of said plate for suspending said plate.
and spacing said plate from a shelf in a refrig-
erator; cut outs in said plate; hydrators shaped

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