Nov. 18, 1941. P. H. JAMES 2,262,941

DISPLAY CASE UNIT

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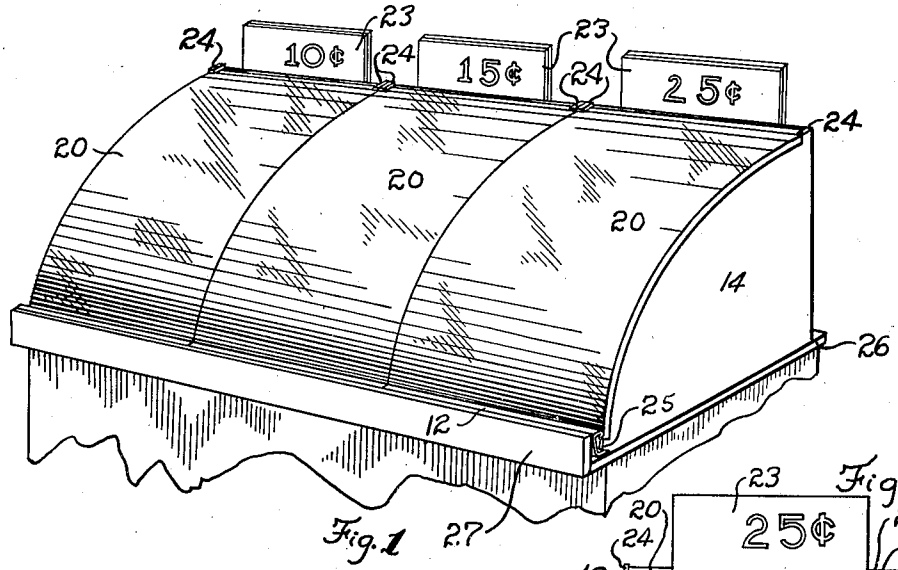


Fig. 1

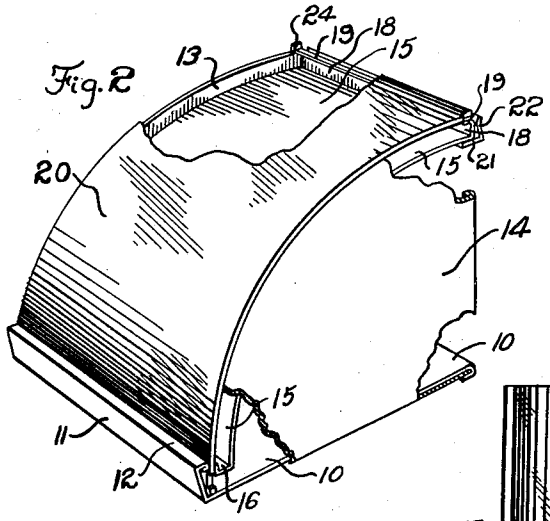


Fig. 2

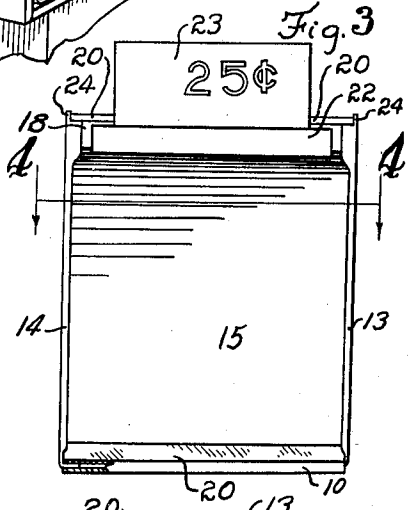


Fig. 3

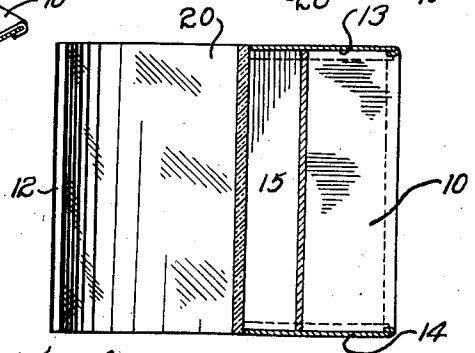


Fig. 4

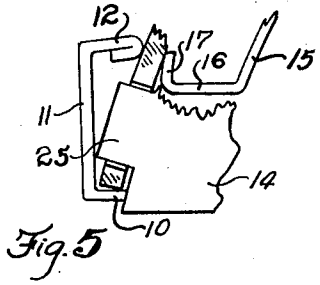


Fig. 5

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DISPLAY CASE UNIT

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7 Claims. (Cl. 312—118)

This invention relates to a combined show and dispensing case wherein a sham is employed to hold a quantity of merchandise in permanent display and wherein merchandise may be taken from the case from the rear side and from under the sham without disturbing that display.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a unit structure which may be employed in multiples to be positioned side by side on a counter and in which structure the forward and top side of the unit will consist entirely of a curved sheet of glass without any binding or molding being visible or employed.

A still further primary object of the invention is to provide an exceedingly simple structure wherein the case unit may be dressed by placing the merchandise in order over the sham; and then a front curved cover glass be positioned thereover to have its lower end yieldingly engaged and held in a definite fixed position in relation to the sham; and the top rear edge of the cover glass left free of any hold down or binding means. Further in this unit case, in reference to the front cover glass, there is employed in conjunction therewith that feature which permits the use of a display board or ticket which may carry the name of the goods, some advertising matter, or simply the unit price of the goods in the case, this display board serving as a means for preventing accidental lifting of the cover glass from its rear end.

These and many other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent to those versed in the art in the following description of one particular form of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a view in front perspective of a number of cases embodying the invention and mounted for use on a counter;

Fig. 2, view in similar perspective of an individual case unit with fragments thereof removed;

Fig. 3, a view in rear elevation of a single unit;

Fig. 4, a transverse section on the line 4—4 in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5, a detail in side elevation on an enlarged scale of the construction of the lower front corner of the case.

Like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views in the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, a floor 10 is formed to be rectilinear in shape and to have turned upwardly from its forward edge a relatively short flange 11. From the top edge of this flange 11 extends rearwardly a tongue 12, the rear edge of the tongue being rounded by folding a marginal portion thereof around under and up against the tongue as best shown in Fig. 5. Side walls 13 and 14 extend upwardly from the floor 10, from the lateral edges thereof. These side walls 13 and 14, when made of metal, may be integral with the floor 10 or may be separate members as herein shown to be attached thereby by wall flanges extending under the floor 10 to be soldered or welded to the floor. The upper edge of each wall 13 and 14 is curved around from the forward lower corner of the wall member to the upper rear corner thereof.

Tying these two side walls 13 and 14 together is a sham 15 which has an arcuate floor member spaced inwardly from the curved edges of the walls 13 and 14 as best indicated in Fig. 2. In the present form, this sham 15 is positioned between the side walls 13 and 14 to have its lateral edges in abutment with the inner faces of those walls and is secured thereto by any suitable method, such as by soldering or welding. In any event this sham 15 is concentric with the curved edges of the walls 13 and 14.

From the front lower edge of the sham 15 is turned forwardly a floor section 16, Fig. 2, from the front edge of which is turned upwardly a flange 17. This floor 16 is spaced above the floor 10 a distance which will bring the flange 17 substantially at the same elevation as that of the tongue 12. From the upper rear end of the sham 15 is upturned a wall section 18, and in turn from the top edge of that section 18 is turned forwardly a flange 19 which is at the same elevation as the top edges of the walls 13 and 14 against which that flange abuts.

A cover glass 20 is formed to have its under face curved to permit the glass to have its lower edge inserted between the tongue 12 and the flange 17 to rest on the floor 10, and then have the glass in close contact over the edges of the walls 13 and 14, and the rear top edge of the glass resting on the flange 19. The front flange 11 is originally turned from the floor 10 to have the tongue 12 yieldingly carried toward the flange 17, the metal of which the floor 10 and flange 11 is made having sufficient resilience to resist yieldingly bending of the flange 11 forwardly. In other words there is sufficient resilience in the floor and front flange members to have the lower portion of the glass 20 yieldingly retained against the flange 17 by pressure of the tongue 12 thereagainst.

Normally a closed off compartment is defined between the glass 20 and the sham 15 and the

side walls 13 and 14. Access to this compartment is had by lifting the glass 20 and disengaging its lower portion from the tongue 12 and flange 17. Merchandise may then be arranged over the sham 15, following which the glass 20 may be replaced, as above indicated, to retain that merchandise in position and keep it securely covered. Merchandise of a similar nature to be dispensed is placed within the case to rest on the floor 10 and under the sham 15. Access to this merchandise is had through the rear side of the case, herein shown as being left entirely open. In order to prevent accidental lifting of the glass 20 at its rear end, and also to provide selective display in relation to the merchandise carried by the case unit, a member 21 has a forwardly extending foot positioned under the rear portion of the sham 15 and fixed thereto to position an upturned spring-like member 22 normally along the rear side of the wall section 18, the member 22 being preferably slightly rearwardly turned along its upper marginal portion.

This member 21 thus forms a means to receive and frictionally retain a display card 23 by having the lower portion of that card inserted between the wall section 18 and the member 22, thereby positioning the card along the rear edge of the glass 20 to extend upwardly therefrom but in close proximity to that glass edge since the glass edge is in substantially the same plane as that of the rear face of the wall section 18. Were it not for the card 23, the sales clerk might accidentally reach upwardly and over the case to strike the glass 20 and lift it.

To prevent lateral displacement of the glass 20 in relation to the walls 13 and 14, each wall is provided with a rear upper corner lug 24 and a lower front corner lug 25, the glass 20 preferably being notched slightly to receive these lugs across the glass notches so that the lateral edges of the glass 20 may be flush with the outer faces of the respective walls 13 and 14. Then when a number of the cases are placed side by side, as indicated in Fig. 1, the cases may have their adjacent walls in contact so as to leave no spacing between the edges of the cover glasses on the adjacent cases. As indicated in Fig. 1, a plurality of cases made as above described may be placed side by side on the counter 26 which is preferably provided with an upturned ledge 27 against which the respective flanges 11 of the individual units are positioned to align the case units. Furthermore the tongues 12 then extending from the ledge 27 back into intimate contact with the respective glasses 20 serve as filler pieces to prevent foreign matter from dropping down between the lower marginal portions of the glasses and the ledge 27.

While I have herein shown and described my invention in the one particular form, it is obvious that structural changes may be employed without departing from the spirit of the invention and I therefore do not desire to be limited to that precise form beyond the limitations as may be imposed by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom.

2. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue.

3. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue, said tongue consisting of a member upturned from the case floor and then inturned above and over the floor and being spring-like in nature.

4. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue, a wall extending upwardly from the rear upper end of said sham terminating to be in substantial abutment with said glass cover.

5. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue, and means carried by said walls for locating said glass cover laterally thereof.

6. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue, a wall extending upwardly from the rear upper end of said sham terminating to be in substantial abutment with said glass cover, an upturned clip member along the rear side of said sham rear wall, and a glass cover protecting member frictionally retained between that clip member and said sham wall and extending above the rear edge of said glass cover.

7. A case comprising in combination a floor, side walls carried by the floor and curving from their front lower corners around upwardly and rearwardly to their tip rear corners, a sham mounted between said walls near their curved edges and spaced inwardly therefrom, a glass cover formed to the contour of said wall curved edges, a tongue carried by said floor and yieldingly directed toward said sham at its lower portion, the lower end portion of said glass cover being releasably inserted back of said tongue to be urged toward said sham thereby, and said glass cover extending upwardly and rearwardly freely over said sham in spaced relation therefrom, said sham being permanently fixed between said walls, a floor extending from the lower end of said sham forwardly to terminate substantially in line with the wall edges, the sham floor being spaced above the case floor and serving as an abutment for said glass cover against which the glass cover is pressed by said tongue, said tongue consisting of a member upturned from the case floor and then inturned above and over the floor and being spring-like in nature, the forward edge of said sham floor being spaced above the case floor and the curvature of said glass cover being such that the lower edge of said cover is in substantial abutment with the said upturned member part of said tongue along its juncture with the case wall.

PARKER H. JAMES.