Oct. 31, 1950 C. RICHARDS 2,528,388

DISPLAY STAND

Filed April 9, 1949

Fig. 1

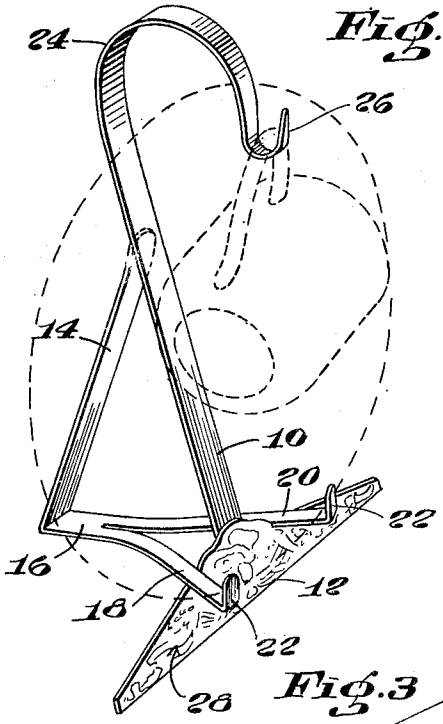


Fig. 2

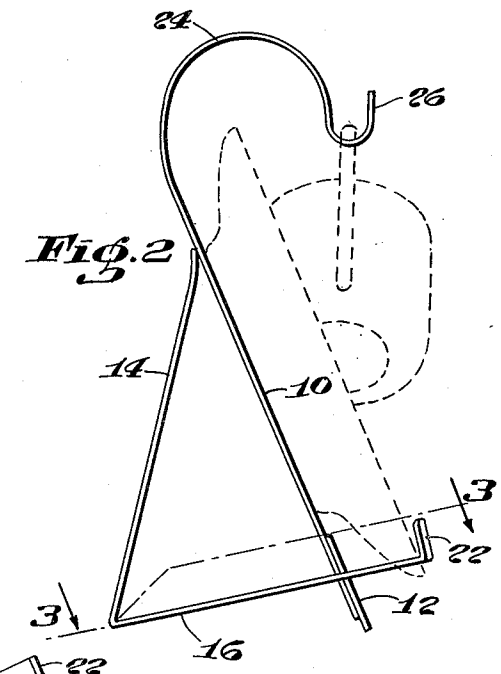


Fig. 3

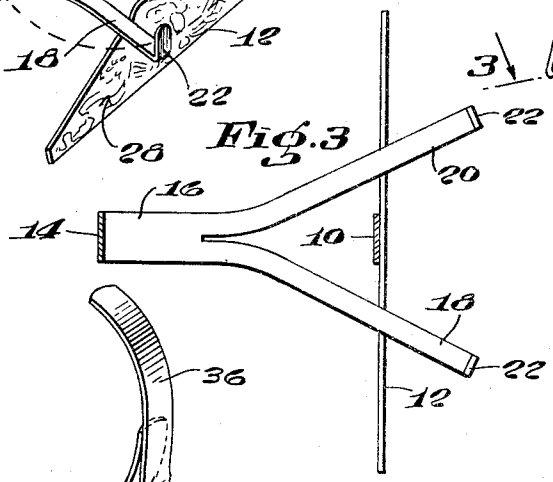


Fig. 4

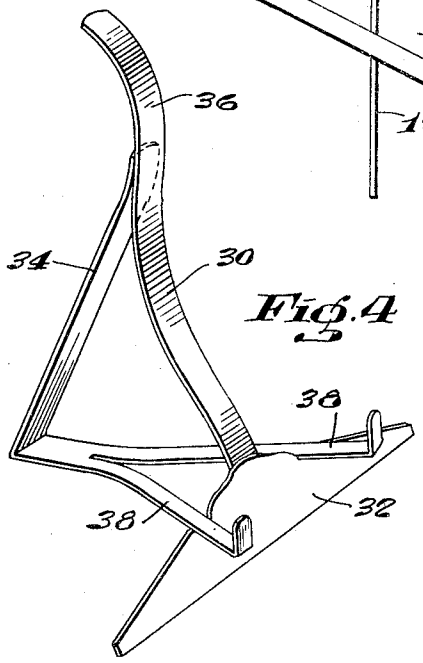
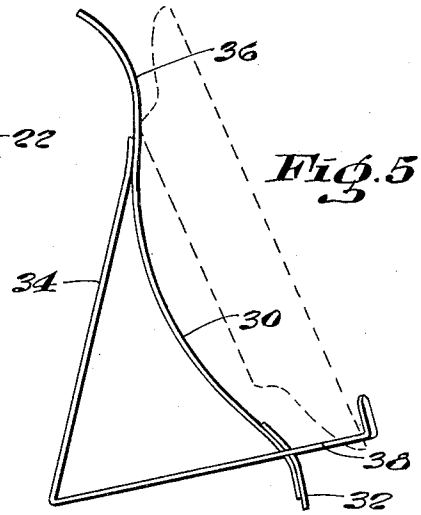


Fig. 5



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DISPLAY STAND

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6 Claims. (Cl. 248—196)

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This invention relates to a display stand for displaying dishes such as a cup and saucer or the like.

The invention has for an object to provide a novel and attractive display stand for supporting a dish such as a saucer alone or for supporting a cup and saucer as a unit in a manner such that the ornamental or decorative portions of the cup and saucer may be most effectively displayed and which is simple in structure and may be economically manufactured.

With this general object in view and such others as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the display stand hereinafter described and particularly defined in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawings illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a display stand for a cup and saucer embodying the present invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the display stand shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a plan view in cross section, taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of display stand embodying the present invention designed for displaying a saucer alone, and Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the display stand shown in Fig. 4.

In general, the present invention contemplates a novel and improved display stand or holder adapted to rest on a flat surface such as a table or shelf, having provision for supporting a circular dish or plate such as a saucer on edge in a slightly tilted position for display purposes in a safe and evenly balanced manner. Provision is also made for supporting or suspending a cup in a position relative to the saucer so that the ornamentation of the cup and saucer may be most effectively displayed for sales and ornamental purposes.

To this end, the present display stand comprises a sheet metal frame or easel structure having a central longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member provided at its lower end with a transversely extended base forming the forward support for the structure, and a rear brace or strut forming the rear support having forwardly extended diverging arms connected to and extending beyond the upper edge of the base, between which the lower rim portion of a plate or saucer is supported on edge at a slight angle from the vertical, the whole being proportioned so as to provide a safely balanced structure designed to prevent inadvertent tipping of the unit or displacement of the plate from its support. In order to display the cup in

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conjunction with the saucer, the central back rest member may be provided with a forwardly extended looped structure having a hook from which the cup may be suspended by its handle in a position in front of and substantially centrally of the face of the saucer so that the ornamentation along the marginal portions of the saucer and on the side of the cup may be most effectively displayed.

In a modified form of the invention the central back rest member is shaped to accommodate dishes or plates of varying depths, or may be used for supporting a plate of larger diameter in an inclined position for display purposes, the back rest in the modified form engaging the back of the plate at a single point.

Referring now to the drawings, the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Fig. 1 comprises a display stand or holder for supporting a cup and saucer and includes a central longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member or upright 10 having a transversely extended base member 12 at its lower end forming the forward support for the unit, and an angle strut or brace having a leg 14 connected at its upper end to the back of the upright portion 10 and forming the rear supporting leg for the unit. The second leg 16 of the angle brace is bent and extended forwardly from the lower end of the leg 14 and at an upwardly inclined angle, the forward portion of the leg 16 being slit longitudinally and spread apart in a V-shape to form two arms 18, 20 arranged to straddle the central back rest member 10 and to be connected at spaced points to the upper edge of the transversely extended base member 12. The V-shaped arms 18, 20 extend diagonally beyond the edge of the base member 12 and form supporting arms for the rim of the plate or saucer at spaced points, the outer end of each arm being bent upwardly substantially at right angles to the arms to form retaining ledges 22 for the rim of the saucer. The upper end of the central upright member 10 is provided with a forwardly and downwardly extended loop portion 24 having an upwardly bent hook portion 26 at its free end from which a cup may be suspended by its handle in a manner such as to dispose the cup in a position substantially centrally of the saucer, as illustrated in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2.

In practice, the present display stand may be economically manufactured from relatively thin sheet metal strips such as sheet brass, the centrally disposed back rest portion 10 and the integral angle brace portions 14, 16 comprising

relatively narrow strips of sheet metal which may have its surface embossed with a suitable decorative design, and the transversely extended base or forward support member 12 may comprise a sheet metal plate, generally triangular in shape, which may be died out or embossed on its face to provide a decorative or ornamental effect, as indicated at 28 in Fig. 1. The triangular base plate 12 is extended equidistantly on either side of the centrally disposed upright member 10 which is connected to the base at a point adjacent the apex of the triangle. In assembling the display stand, the upright back rest member 10 may be soldered or otherwise secured at its lower end to the back of the flat sheet metal base plate 12, and the upper end of the leg 14 of the angle brace may be likewise soldered to the back of the upright member 10 at a point adjacent the upper end thereof. The forwardly and angularly extended arms 18, 20 may rest on horizontal cut out edge portions of the downwardly inclined sides of the base member 12 and may also be soldered thereto to form an integral triangular shaped supporting structure defined by the sides 10, 14 and 16 having a transversely extended forward support 12.

From the description above of the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, it will be observed that the saucer is supported in the stand between the arms 18, 20 which engage the saucer at spaced points along its periphery, and the back of the saucer rests substantially flat in a rearwardly inclined position against the central back rest member 10 thus providing a three point bearing or support for the plate. In practice, the weight of the saucer in its tilted position is arranged to urge the lower edge of the rim forwardly on its upwardly inclined supporting arms 18, 20 and into engagement with the retaining ledges 22. The angle at which the plate is supported is made sufficient so that when the stand is placed on a table the display is disposed substantially at right angles to the line of vision of the observer, and in the illustrated embodiment of the invention is shown as inclined approximately twenty-five degrees from a line perpendicular to the table. It will also be observed that the hook portion 26 for the cup is disposed within a space defined by a vertical line drawn from the forward lower edge of the base plate 12 when viewed in side elevation, see Fig. 2, and is disposed relative to the back rest 10 so that the side of the cup may rest against the face of the saucer and substantially centrally thereof so as to enable the observer to view the decorations on the cup and saucer together. The length of the transverse base plate 12 and the perpendicular distance from the forward edge of the base to the lower end of the rear supporting leg 14 is sufficiently great to provide a balanced structure and the inclined supporting member 10 and hook 26 are proportioned relative to the base and rear support so that the weight of the cup and saucer will be distributed to maintain a state of equilibrium. It will also be observed that the outer ends of the forward support plate 12 and the lower end of the rear support leg 14 form a three point bearing support for the unit thus eliminating rocking or uneven balance of the stand.

In the embodiment of the display stand illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, which is designed to support a plate or saucer alone, the structure shown is substantially similar to the structure above described except that the back rest portion is formed in a modified S-shape having a concave portion 30 between the triangular base member 32 and the upper end of the rear supporting leg 34, and a convex portion 36 extending beyond the upper end of the leg 34. This construction is designed to accommodate a relatively deep dish or saucer, the concave portion providing clearance for the back of the dish or the modified design may accommodate a plate or saucer of larger diameter, and in either event, the rear face of the dish or plate is arranged to be engaged only at a point along the convex portion 36 of the back rest, the lower edge of the rim being supported between the spaced arms 38 to provide a three point bearing support for the dish. It will be apparent that the structure shown in Figs. 4 and 5 may be modified to also support a cup by extending the S-shaped back rest and bending the same to form a hook similar to that shown in Fig. 2.

From the above description it will be observed that the present display stand is simple in construction and lends itself to manufacture at minimum expense. It will also be observed that the design and proportions of the display stand are such as to ensure stability of the unit and such as to enable display of a cup and saucer so that the ornamentation and design of the cup and saucer may be conveniently viewed together as a unit in a safe and evenly balanced manner.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A display stand of the character described, comprising a single longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member having a transversely extended base member at its lower end, a single rear supporting strut secured to said back rest, and a pair of forwardly extended and upwardly inclined rim engaging and retaining arms extended from the lower end of said rear strut to and beyond the upper edge of said base member.

2. A display stand of the character described, comprising a single longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member having a transversely extended base portion at its lower end, a single rear supporting strut for said back rest member, and a pair of spaced rim engaging arms extended forwardly and upwardly from the lower end of said rear strut to and beyond the upper edge of said base portion, and means formed integrally with said back rest member for suspending a cup in front of and substantially centrally of a saucer supported by said arms and said back rest member.

3. A display stand of the character described, comprising a longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member having a transversely extended base member at its lower end, a rear supporting strut secured to said back rest, and a pair of forwardly extended and upwardly inclined rim engaging and retaining arms extended from the lower end of said rear strut to and beyond the upper edge of said base member, said back rest member comprising a relatively

narrow metal strip against which the back of a saucer may rest when supported between said arms.

4. A display stand of the character described, comprising a longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest member having a transversely extended base member at its lower end, a rear supporting strut secured to said back rest, and a pair of forwardly extended and upwardly inclined rim engaging and retaining arms extended from the lower end of said rear strut to and beyond the upper edge of said base member, said back rest member comprising a relatively narrow and reversely curved strip having a convex portion at its upper end against which the back of a saucer may rest when supported between said arms.

5. A display stand of the character described, comprising a relatively narrow sheet metal strip frame structure including a central longitudinally extended and rearwardly inclined back rest strip having a transversely extended sheet metal base member resting on edge secured to the lower end of said back rest and extended equidistant on each side thereof, an angle brace member having a rear supporting leg secured to the back rest, the lower end of said rear leg being bent forwardly and upwardly and longitudinally slit for a portion of its length, the slit portions being spread apart to form two diagonally extended and spaced rim engaging and retaining arms secured to and extended beyond the upper edge of said base member.

6. A display stand of the character described, comprising a relatively narrow sheet metal strip frame structure including a central longitudinally

extended and rearwardly inclined back rest strip having a transversely extended sheet metal base member resting on edge secured to the lower end of said back rest and extended equidistant on each side thereof, an angle brace member having a rear supporting leg secured to the back rest, the lower end of said rear leg being bent forwardly and upwardly and longitudinally slit for a portion of its length, the slit portions being spread apart to form two diagonally extended and spaced rim engaging and retaining arms secured to and extended beyond the upper edge of said base member, the upper end of said back rest member being forwardly looped and provided with a hook at its free end disposed to suspend a cup by its handle in front of and substantially centrally of a saucer supported by said arms and said back rest member.

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