F. J. SCHMITT.

BUTCHER'S BLOCK.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 10, 1919.

1,323,915.

Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

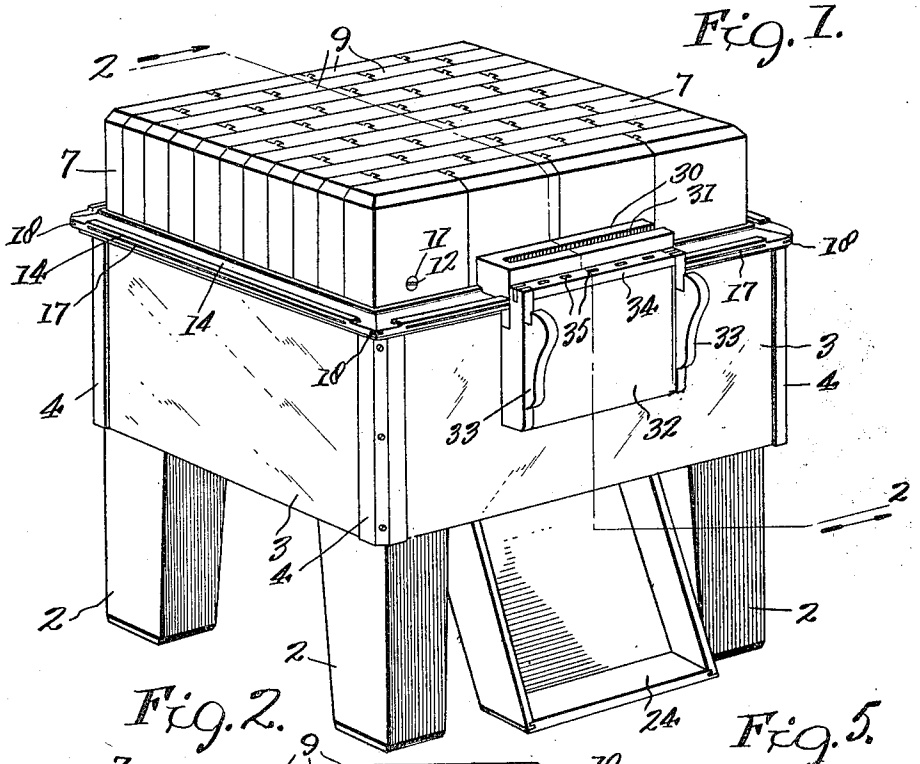


Fig. 2.

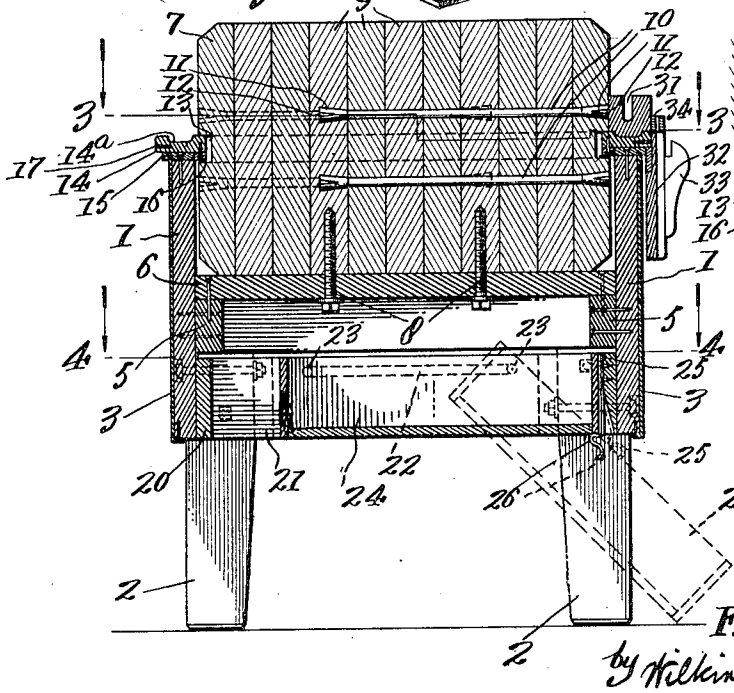
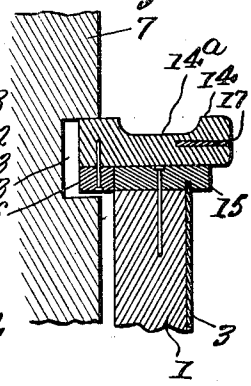


Fig. 5.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

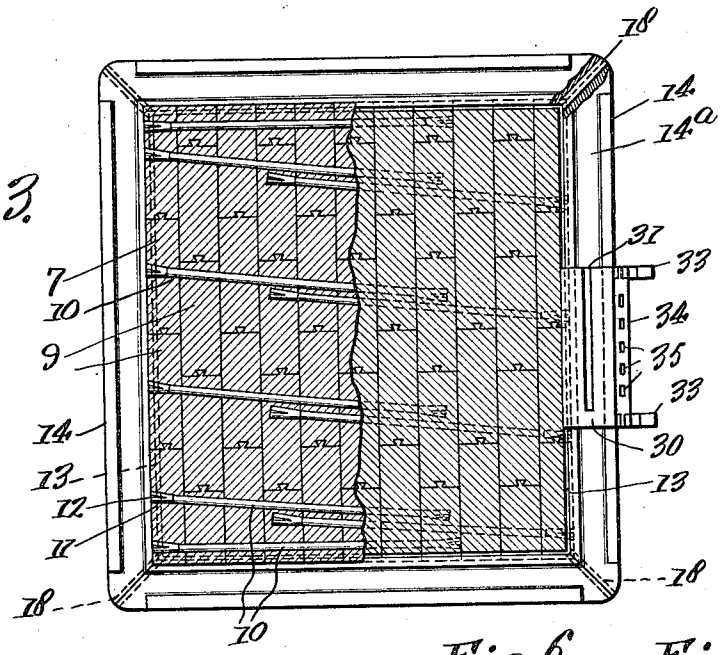


Fig. 4.

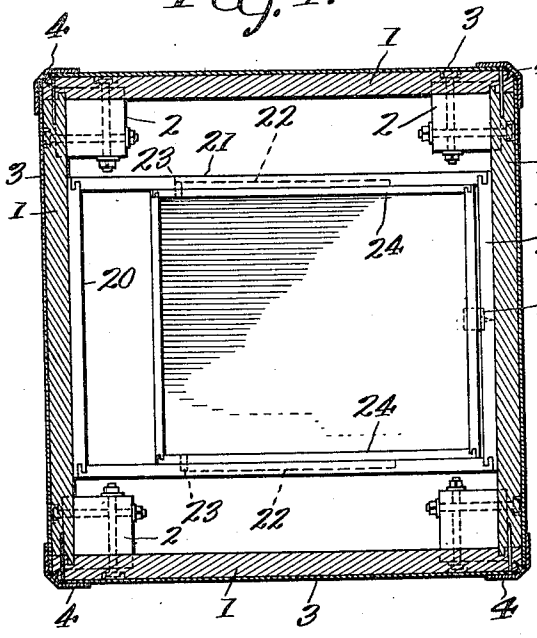


Fig. 6.

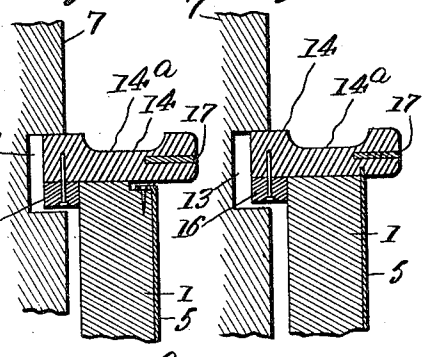


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

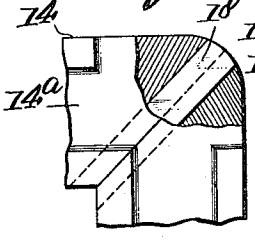
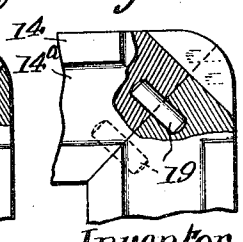


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BUTCHER'S BLOCK.

1,323,915. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

Application filed March 10, 1919. Serial No. 281,592.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK J. SCHMITT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Petoskey, in the county of Emmet and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Butchers' Blocks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My present invention relates to improvements in sectional wood blocks and cutting boards, and it is intended to provide a sanitary, durable and efficient butcher's block intended to be used in the cutting up of meat or other food products containing more or less moisture.

Butchers' blocks are apt to expand or contract owing to changes in the temperature and to the absorption of more or less moisture from the article or articles being cut thereon, and such blocks if made of a solid piece of wood are apt to crack and permit the flow into the cracks of organic matter which is apt to decompose and become extremely offensive to the smell and utterly insanitary. Moreover, the expansion of such blocks is apt to cause injury to the containing frame and to create cracks or crevices which are objectionable for the reasons hereinbefore stated.

According to my present invention I provide a composite or built-up block made of a series of wooden segments securely fastened together so as to form a substantially homogeneous mass, and this block is so mounted in the frame that it may expand and contract horizontally in all directions, without injury to the main frame.

I also provide a special arrangement for the convenient handling of the tools required in the business in which the block is used The outer parts of the main framework are also provided with suitable enameled plates which may be readily cleaned and are wholly sanitary.

I also provide a disappearing drawer conveniently mounted in the space inside the main frame and beneath the composite block, in which may be kept the additional knives or other tools or implements needed in the business for which the block is intended.

My invention will be more fully understood after reference to the accompanying drawings, in which similar parts are indicated by like reference numerals throughout the several views, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the complete apparatus, showing the disappearing drawer in the lower or open position.

Fig. 2 shows a vertical section along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 3 shows a section along the broken line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and looking down.

Fig. 4 shows a section through the main frame along the line 4—4 of Fig 2, and looking down, the disappearing drawer being shown in the normal or hidden position.

Fig. 5 shows a section on a larger scale of a portion of the main frame, carrying the knife rail, and the adjacent portion of the block showing the clearance space to allow for expansion or contraction.

Figs. 6 and 7 are similar views to Fig. 5, but show modifications in the construction of the main frame and the means of securing the enameled plates thereto.

Fig. 8 is a plan view on a larger scale of a corner of the knife rail, parts being broken away; and

Fig. 9 is a similar view to Fig. 8, but shows a modification.

The main frame comprises the side boards 1 mounted on the supporting legs 2 and covered on the outside with the enameled plates 3, having the corners secured together by the plates 4, which may be enameled, or coated with non-corrosive metal, such as nickel.

This main frame is provided with cleats 5 on which the bottom board 6 is secured, and on which board the main block 7 is mounted and to which it may be secured in any convenient way, as by the screws 8, see Fig 2.

This bottom piece 6 and the side boards 1 form a rectangular box open at the top in which the block 7 loosely fits. This block 7 is made up of a series of segments 9, secured together by diagonal dowel pins 10, split at the ends 11, and provided with wedges 12 so that these dowel pins firmly hold the blocks in place. These dowel pins are preferably of the same material as the

blocks themselves so that they will expand and contract with the blocks, and with the same coefficient of expansion.

In the sides of the main block 7 I provide grooves 13 adapted to receive the knife rails 14 and to permit the limited play of the block relative to the knife rail, as shown most clearly in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. The knife rails are supported on top of the side boards 1 in any convenient way, either directly as shown in Figs. 6—7, or upon an interposed block 15, as shown in Fig. 5; and these knife rails are preferably curved in their center, as at 14ª, and are held against warping on one edge by the cleats 16 and on the other edge by the spline plate 17. These knife rails form a convenient shelf surrounding the main block and into which the knives of the operator, or little pieces of meat, bones, or other material may be conveniently placed.

The knife rails are secured together at their upper corners in any convenient way, as by means of the spline pins 18, see Figs. 3 and 8, or the dowel pins 19, see Fig. 9.

The knife rails form a complete rectangle surrounding the block and projecting partly into the recess 13 in said block, and may be preferably arranged so as to be detachably mounted on the top of the side boards 1 of the main frame, as shown in Figs. 5 to 7.

In order to provide a disappearing drawer in the empty space beneath the bottom board 6, I provide an inner frame 20 having side pieces 21 provided with grooves 22, into which project pins 23 from the sides of the drawer 24 near the top and rear end thereof. In front of the drawer and fastened to the frame 20, I provide a spring 25 having an engaging shoulder 26, which normally supports the front end of the drawer, but when this spring is drawn forward to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 the front end of the drawer will tip downward and the drawer may be moved forward and swung downward to the position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2 and in full lines in Fig. 1.

As a convenient attachment to the construction described, I provide a detachable tool holder shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, in which 30 represents a block with a slot 31 adapted to hold the butcher's cleaver. 32 represents a vertical board which carries near its ends brackets 33 to support the saw, and 34 indicates a rail with holes 35 therethrough to permit the insertion of the knives, skewers, steel saws or other implements used by the operator. This tool holder is adapted to rest on the knife rail and may be applied to any side of the block that may be most convenient, but is preferably on the same side of the block with the front of the drawer 24.

The entire exterior portion of the block is intended to be smooth and polished, without any cracks or crevices into which any insanitary matter may accumulate.

The whole apparatus is so arranged that it may be at all times kept clean and sanitary, which is especially essential in an apparatus of the character described.

It will be seen that the knife rails surround the main block and serve to obstruct the dropping of any particles of material, whether solid or liquid, from the top and sides of the block down into the space between the block and the main frame and thus prevent any accumulation of organic matter in the space between the block and the main frame which would tend to putrefy in said space if allowed to accumulate there or dropping on the floor.

It will be obvious that various details in the herein described construction, and in the combination and arrangement of parts might be used without departing from the spirit of my invention, and I do not mean to limit the invention to such details except as particularly pointed out in the claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A butcher's block comprising a rectangular main frame, with a bottom piece forming a rectangular box, legs supporting said main frame, a built-up block loosely mounted in said box and provided with a horizontal groove on each side thereof, and a knife rail loosely surrounding said block and projecting into said groove, substantially as described.

2. A butcher's block comprising a rectangular main frame, with a bottom piece forming a rectangular box, legs supporting said main frame, a built-up block loosely mounted in said box and provided with a horizontal groove on each side thereof, and a knife rail grooved on its upper face and loosely surrounding said block and projecting into said groove, said knife rail being detachably mounted on said main frame, substantially as described.

FREDERICK J. SCHMITT.