April 17, 1928. 1,666,851

J. F. GOOD

DISPLAY TRAY CONSTRUCTION FOR SHOW CASES

Filed Sept. 27. 1926

Fig. 1.

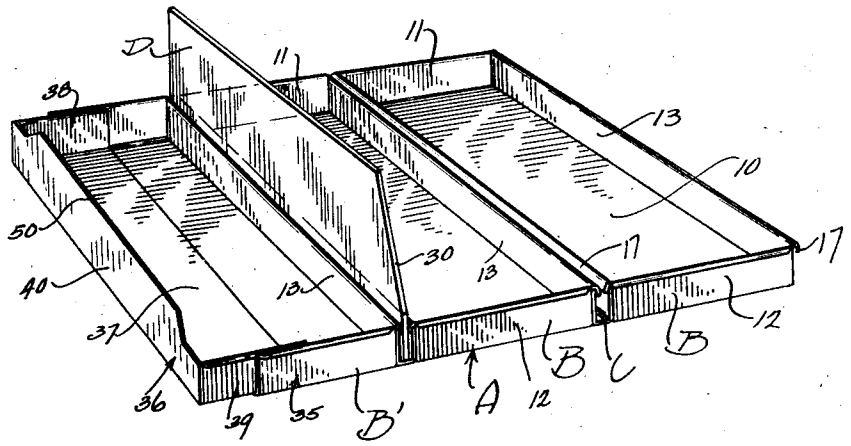


Fig. 2.

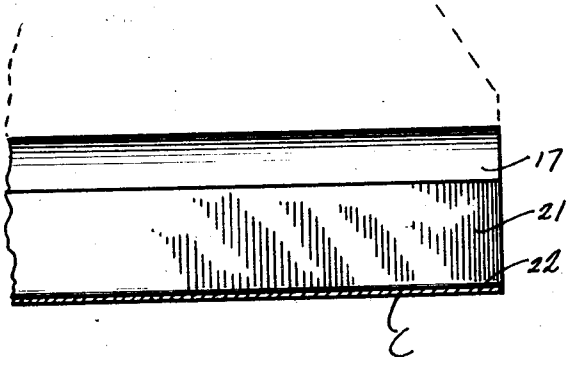


Fig. 3.

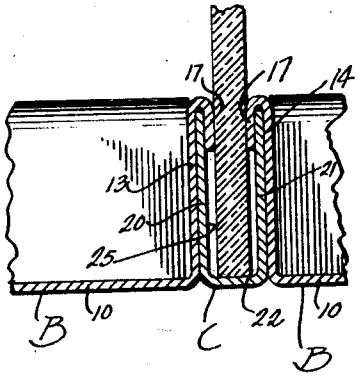
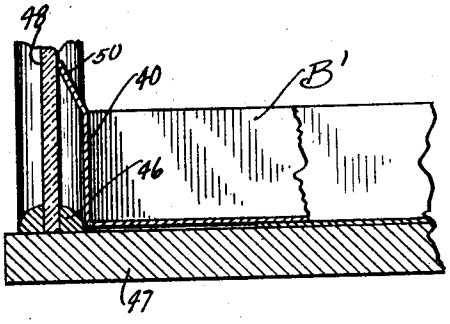


Fig. 4.



John F. Good. Inventor

By Lancaster & Allwine

Attorneys

Patented Apr. 17, 1928. 1,666,851

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. GOOD, OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

DISPLAY-TRAY CONSTRUCTION FOR SHOW CASES.

Application filed September 27, 1926. Serial No. 137,984.

This invention relates to improvements in tray constructions.

The primary object of this invention is the provision of an improved tray construction which is preferably adapted to support candies and other articles of merchandise in an orderly and segregated relation; the improved tray construction embodying a plurality of trays held together in a novel detachable relation by means of which any desired number of trays may be placed in an assembled relation, with detachable separating plates therebetween.

A further object of this invention is the provision of an improved tray construction adapted to be used on the shelving of show cases, and embodying an improved assemblage of trays which are relatively detachable with novel separating means to connect the same in the desired number consistent with the dimensions of the show case.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification, and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved tray construction, showing the assemblage of parts thereof.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along the separating line between adjacent trays.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken at the juncture or joint between adjacent trays, showing the detachable arrangement of parts.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the novel manner in which the improved tray cooperates with a conventional show case construction, to fill the space within the show case and prevent falling of any candies or articles exteriorly of the tray.

In the drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown only a preferred embodiment of the invention, the letter A may generally designate the improved tray construction, which may consist of a plurality of trays B held together by a novel channel shaped retaining member C within which a separating plate or glass D may cooperate to separate the articles of the trays from each other and assist in the retaining of the trays in a compact and efficient assembled relation.

The trays B are of conventional formation, including a bottom 10, having the upstanding end walls 11 and 12, and the upstanding longitudinally extending side walls 13 and 14. The top edges of the end walls 11 and 12 may be beaded or outwardly rolled or flanged in a compact relation, with the ends of the rolls or beads bluntly formed to prevent tearing of the hand or catching on other parts.

At the side walls 13 and 14, the tray B is novelly formed, being provided with hook-shaped retaining flanges 17, formed at the upper edges of the walls 13 and 14, the same being bent at the exterior sides of the side walls 13 and 14, into a spaced substantially parallel relation therewith to provide downwardly facing grooves or pockets 19. Thus, each of the trays provides the downwardly facing groove at each of the side walls thereof, with which the members C and D cooperate in order to maintain the trays in an assembled parallel relation in the same plane.

The member C is preferably of metal, and is of U-shaped formation, including the upstanding legs or side walls 20 and 21, connected by a bottom 22. The walls 20 and 21 at their upper ends or edges thereof are unobstructed and adapted to fit snugly in a frictional engagement in the grooves 19 of the walls 13 and 14 respectively, as is illustrated in Figure 3 of the drawing. When in this position and inserted to the fullest extent in the grooves 19 the retaining or connecting member C has the base or bottom 22 thereof lying flush and in the same plane with the bottoms 10 of the adjacent trays. The U-shaped connecting member C is very narrow, and the pocket 25 provided therein is of a width sufficient to comfortably receive the separator plate D in a frictional relation with the flanges 17. The member C is of course made of some material which will permit of flexing, such as sheet metal, and the legs 20 and 21 are adapted to move towards and away from each other to cooperate in a frictional clamping relation with the flanges 17 against the member D to maintain the latter in a vertical plane as a separator between the trays and also to more efficiently secure the clamping of the trays in the assembled relation.

The separating plates D are preferably of glass, and they are of the same length as the trays B. They are plane in formation, and

at their lower ends they are adapted to extend downwardly into the pocket 25, the opposite sides thereof being in abutment with the exterior surfaces of the flanges 17, to wedge said flanges into a more effective clamping relation to hold the tray assembled; the inserting action of the member D being such as to spread the legs 20 and 21 of the retainer C in order to maintain the parts in a firmly assembled relation which can only be disconnected by manually pulling the separator plates or members D upwardly out of their pockets 25.

As can readily be understood by those skilled in the art to which this invention relates, the trays in assembled relation are placed on the shelving of a show case. As the front walls of such show cases are ordinarily inclined to the vertical, it is preferred to bevel the front edges 30 of the glass separating plates C, which abut against the inside of the show case plate, as is readily apparent.

Since show cases are not of standard length, but vary considerable, it will be desirable to have the end trays B′ adjustable as to width, and to this end the said end trays each comprise an inner section 35 connected to an adjacent tray B of the several connected intermediate trays B in the relation above described, and a second outer section 36 which is slidable with respect to the section 35 transversely of the length of the tray B′. The section 35 has the outer side wall thereof removed, and the tray section 36 is telescopic therein; the tray section 36 including a bottom 37, with the upstanding end walls 38 and 39 spaced so that they may slide in abutment at the inner sides of the end walls of the tray section 35. The adjustable section 36 at the side thereof which telescopes into the tray section 35 has no upstanding side wall, but an outer upstanding side wall 40 is provided therefor, which may be moved relative to the upstanding side wall 13 of the tray section 35, and relative to the several connected intermediate trays B as is readily apparent from Figure 1 of the drawing.

As is illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawing very often beads or retainer fillets 46 are provided, in show cases at the juncture of the bottom 47 of the show case with the plate glass wall 48, and in order to place the end trays so as to prevent the falling of the merchandise in the said end trays into the space between the end wall 40 of the end tray B′, and the wall 48 of the show case, it is preferred to provide an upwardly extending flanged portion 50 at the top edge of the wall 40, integral therewith, which may be bent outwardly into an inclined outwardly flaring relation, as illustrated in Figure 4, until the top thereof at its upper edge abuts the inner side of the show case wall 48, and thus prevents articles of merchandise falling into the space between the walls 40 and 48, since this space cannot be eliminated when the fillets 46 are provided, as is well understood. The trays B at the end walls may be also formed, if necessary, with like flanges 50. The flanges 50 as they are shipped for use are in the same plane as the walls 40, but are only bent in the application of the tray structure to the show cases.

From the foregoing description of this invention it is apparent that a novel type of tray construction has been provided, for the efficient segregation of articles of merchandise, especially small articles, such as candies and the like; the improved tray construction embodying a plurality of trays which may be effectively connected in an assembled relation with any desired number of the same held together; the tray construction due to the adjustability of the end trays being of such nature that the same may entirely fill a show case shelf and thus render a very desirable display.

Various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be made to the form of invention herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. In a tray construction for displaying merchandise the combination of a pair of trays having side walls with flanged portions at the outer sides thereof providing downwardly facing grooves, a substantially U-shaped connecting piece including side walls and providing a pocket between the side walls, the side walls of the U-shaped connecting piece received at their upper ends in the grooves of the trays to retain the trays in a connected relation, and a separating plate inserted in the pocket of the U-shaped connector piece and the lower end of said separating plate disposed in frictional engagement with the outer sides of the flanges of said trays.

2. In a tray construction the combination of a pair of trays having side walls with hooked-shaped flanges at the outer sides thereof providing downwardly facing grooves, a relatively narrow U-shaped connecting member having upstanding leg portions connected at their lower ends, the upper ends of said leg portions being adapted to be received in the grooves of the side walls of said trays, the U-shaped member providing a pocket which opens upwardly between said flanges of the side walls of the trays, and a separating plate insertable at its lower end into the pocket formed by the U-shaped connector into frictional abutment against said flanges of the trays to outwardly flex the legs of the U-shaped connector member and effectively clamp the trays in a detachable connection.

3. In a tray construction of the class described a pair of trays having bottom walls and upstanding end and side walls, the side walls at the outer sides thereof and at the top thereof being provided with flanges bent outwardly and downwardly to provide downwardly facing grooves, an elongated channel-shaped connector member having side legs and a connecting bottom, the connector member providing a pocket therein between the side legs, the side legs received in the grooves of the pair of adjacent trays to connect said trays, and a separating wall clamped in the pocket at its lower end in frictional abutment with the flanges of the trays to outwardly flex the legs of said connector member in an efficient clamping relation.

JOHN F. GOOD.