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(54) **Multifunctional drawer for upright freezers**

(57) Drawer (1) for upright freezers, having on its front side (2) a separate front container (8, 8A) (Figure 1).

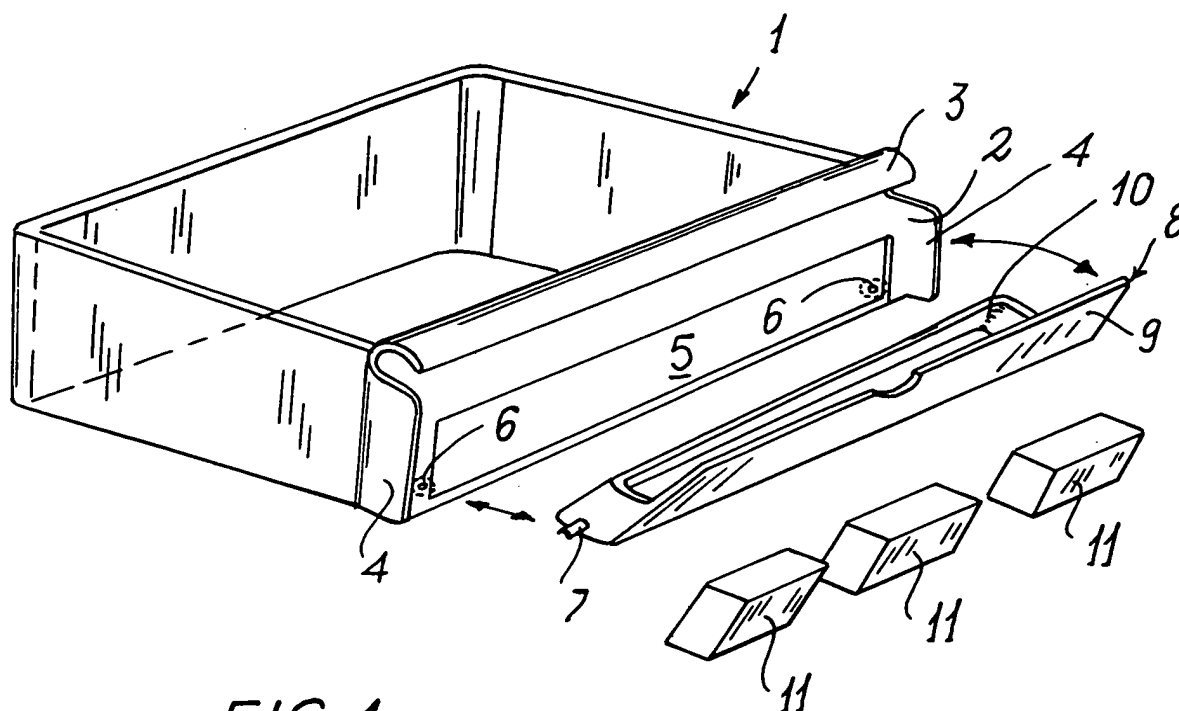


FIG. 1

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a drawer for upright freezers.

[0002] In the present context, upright freezers also include refrigerators having a freezer compartment in which one or more drawers are present.

[0003] Freezer drawers contain the frozen products (or those to be frozen) generally with random distribution, conditioned not only by the dimensions of the product but also by its shape, which may be irregular (for example in the case of pieces of meat). Frequently used products are also placed in these drawers, for example small containers (boxes) of flavouring herbs such as basil, parsley or onion in frozen form. Other frequently use products of small size such as ice-creams, ice-lollies or the like are also placed loose in these drawers, to which can also be added sealed containers containing eutectic mixtures (used as cold accumulators) or shaped flexible containers for forming spheres or pieces of ice from water placed therein.

[0004] This random or rather disordered distribution of the aforesaid frequently used products means that several drawers may have to be partially extracted in order to find them, with considerable annoyance and discomfort for the user.

[0005] An object of the present invention is to provide a drawer for upright freezers in which the aforesaid frequently used products are located in an ordered manner which facilitates their withdrawal without having to even partially extract the drawer.

[0006] This and further objects which will be apparent from the ensuing description are attained by a drawer in accordance with the teachings of the accompanying claims.

[0007] The invention will be more apparent from the following detailed description, provided by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view of one version of the drawer of the invention;

Figure 2 is a front perspective view of a different version of the drawer, the front of which can contain already formed ice-lollies and be used to form ice-lollies.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a variant of the drawer according to the invention, in which frontal seats are provided to house containers for forming ice cubes or spheres.

[0008] With reference to Figure 1, the drawer of the invention is indicated overall by 1. It is of conventional thermopolymer and presents a base, three side walls and a front wall 2. The front wall upperly presents a conventional formation of hook cross-section 3 for gripping by the user to extract the drawer. This front wall also presents a projecting lug or cheek 4 on each of its ver-

tical sides, and a longitudinal window or aperture 5 with, in each vertical side, an eyelet 6 facing towards the drawer interior.

[0009] Hinge pins 7, laterally projecting from a front container, indicated overall by 8 and also of thermopolymer, are inserted into these eyelets by utilizing the elasticity of the thermopolymer. The front container 8 presents a front wall 9 arranged to mate with the front wall 2 of the drawer 1, when in its end-of-travel position. The container 8 defines, on the rear of its front wall 9, a containing channel 10 with closed ends which is suitably dimensioned to receive, in an easily accessible ordered arrangement, for example small boxes (indicated by 11) containing the most frequently used flavouring herbs, cold accumulators or ice forming bags. To withdraw these boxes or the like the container 8 has merely to be rotated outwards (see arrows) about the hinge formed by the pins 7 and eyelets 6.

[0010] The front container can be of different shape from that described, for example that of Figure 2, in which the front container is indicated by 8A. The front container 8A presents a series of substantially adjacent separate aligned compartments 12 shaped to receive ice-lollies 13 already formed, or alternatively to produce ice-lollies starting from suitable conventional aqueous solutions, poured into these compartments. For its rotation, the front container 8A presents lateral hinge pins 7A which engage eyelets, not shown, but formed for example by holes present in the cheeks 4 already described in relation to Figure 1. The front container 8A can also be without the lateral hinge pins, in which case it is shaped such as to be easily inserted into the aperture 5.

[0011] In the variant shown in Figure 3, the front container consists of two ice formers 16, of flexible polymer shaped to be inserted vertically into, and retained in, front seats 18 of the drawer 1.

Claims

1. A drawer (1) for upright freezers, **characterised by** presenting on its front side (2) a separate front container (8, 8A).
2. A drawer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front container (8, 8A) is hinged (6, 7, 7A) in correspondence with said front side (2).
3. A drawer as claimed in the preceding claims, wherein the front container (8, 8A) presents at least one housing for containing small-dimension products, not only of food type.
4. A drawer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the housing is a longitudinal channel with closed ends, which is substantially of the same length as the front container (8).

5. A drawer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the housing is formed from a series of shaped compartments (12) separated from each other.
6. A drawer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front container (8A) is able to be inserted into and removed from a front seat of the drawer, said front container (8A) presenting a plurality of shaped compartments (12) acting as moulds for ice-lollies.
7. A drawer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front container consists of at least one ice tray (16) removable from the drawer (1).

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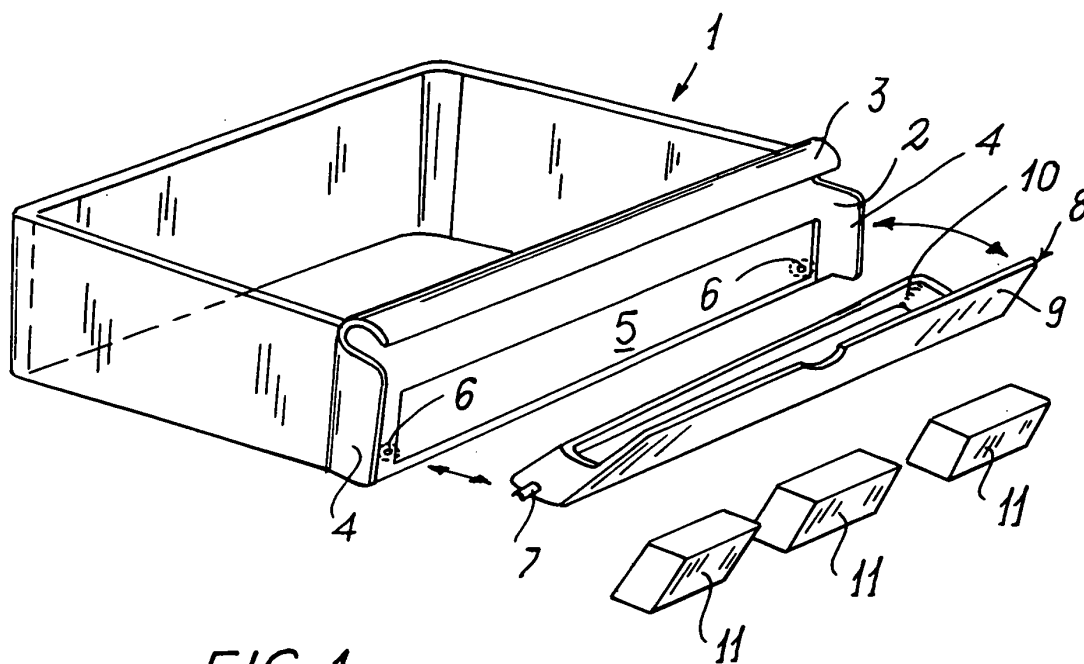


FIG. 1

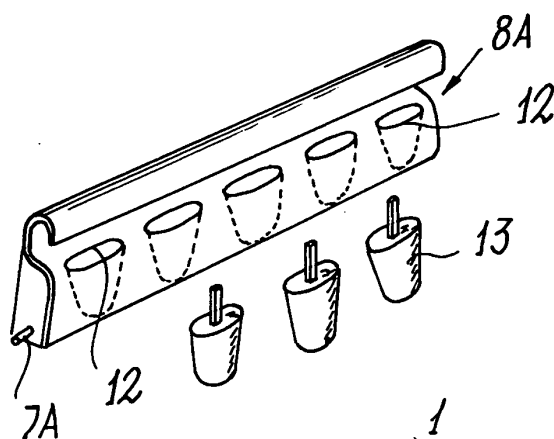


FIG. 2

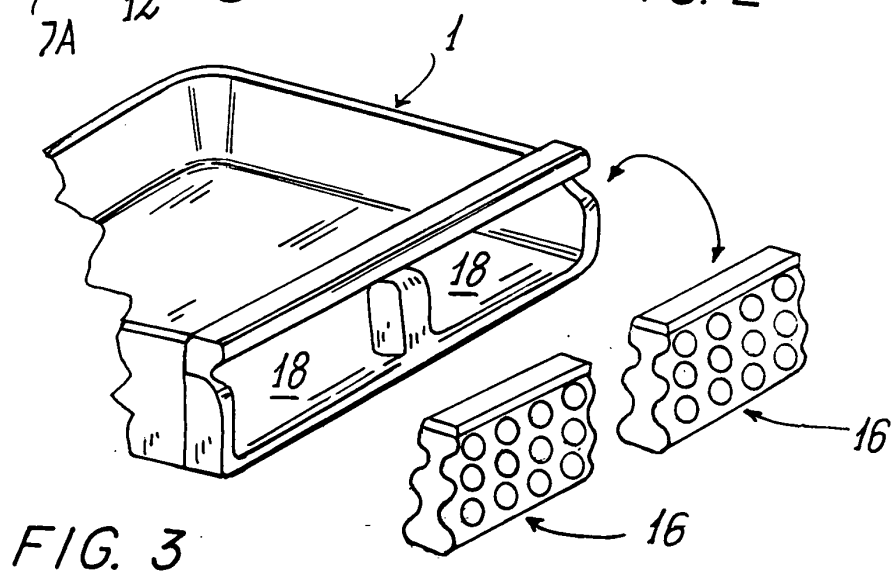


FIG. 3