June 10, 1952 A. H. BURRISE 2,599,607

REFRIGERATOR SHELF TRIM STRIP

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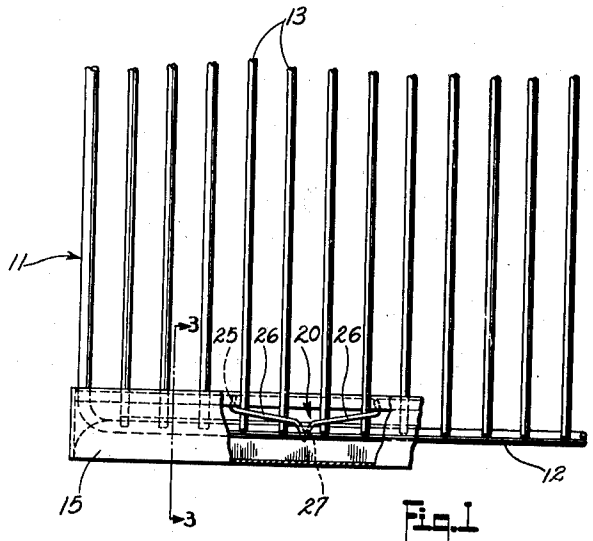


Fig. 1

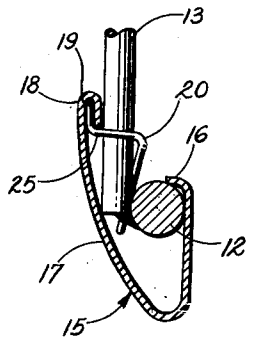
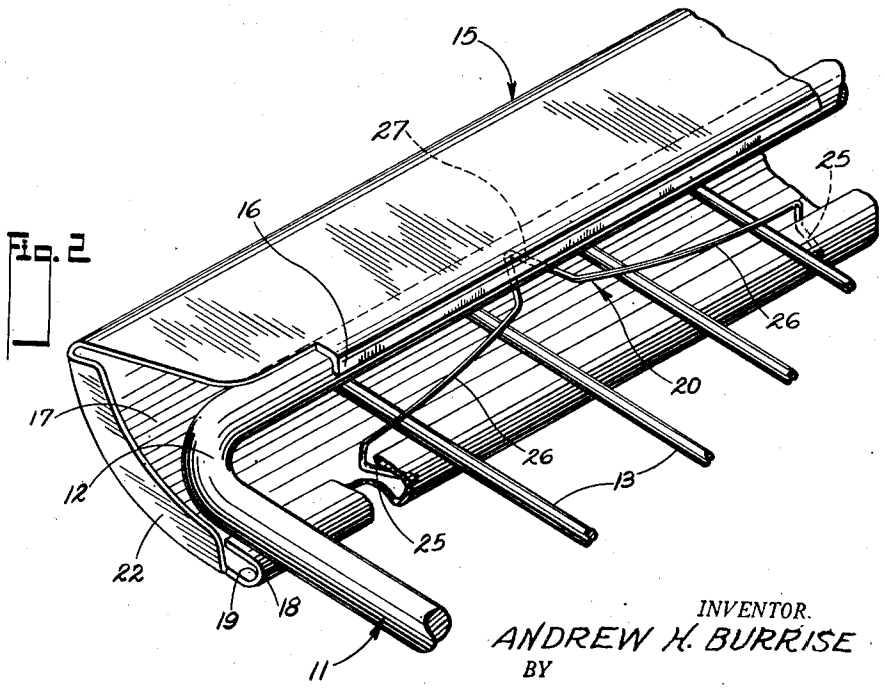


Fig. 3

Fig. 2



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REFRIGERATOR SHELF TRIM STRIP

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4 Claims. (Cl. 211—153)

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This invention relates to shelves, and more particularly a shelf formed from a wire rack and having a protective and ornamental shield.

Shelves of household refrigerators and other appliances are frequently formed of a heavy wire frame having transverse bars or rods of wire, usually somewhat lighter, welded or otherwise fixed thereto. The ends of these transverse bars projected from the frame or stood above the frame so that a rough edge was presented at all times.

By my invention, I provide a shelf of construction in which the ends of the bars are covered and shielded by a protective and ornamental strip held to the shelf by clip means. This makes the shelf more attractive, protects the hands of one reaching for anything on the shelf and makes it easier to place articles on the shelf since there are no upstanding ends which can be caught by the bottom of the article being placed on the shelf.

A more complete understanding of the invention may be had by reference to the following description and figures in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a part of the shelf with a portion of the strip broken away to show the clip;

Fig. 2 is an isometric view of the bottom part of the shelf to an enlarged scale with a part of the strip broken away;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view along line 3—3 of Fig. 1 to an enlarged scale.

Briefly, my invention comprises a shelf for a cabinet having an ornamental protective shield over the exposed edge, which shield is held in place by simple wire clips inexpensive to manufacture, easy to install and of positive operation.

More specifically, and referring to the figures throughout which like reference characters refer to like parts, the invention comprises a shelf 11 of a type customarily used in household refrigerators. This shelf is constructed of a frame 12 of heavy wire extending around the border of the shelf. Bars 13 of wire somewhat lighter than the frame extend across it and are welded or soldered to the frame at the points of contact. Shelves such as these are customarily placed so that these bars 13 extend toward the door of the compartment in which the shelf is to be used. This makes easier the sliding of articles in and out of the shelf space. Such placement, however, exposes the ends of the bars at the points of attachment and may result in skinned knuckles unless the ends were smoothly rounded off.

However, by my invention a guard covers these

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ends and provides a number of other advantages as will appear. The guard takes the form of a strip 15 preferably of sheet metal but which could be formed of a hard plastic material. This strip is formed into a cross sectional shape best shown in Fig. 3. The lower edge 16 is curved to engage the wire frame 12. The strip extends substantially horizontally from these, toward the front somewhat beyond the frame 12. It is then bent back on itself to form an upward sloping, convex curvature at 17, and at the upper edge is folded under to form a hooked edge 18 leaving a slot at 19 only wide enough for the clip 20 to be described hereinafter.

At the ends of the strip near the corner of the frame 12, the hook portion 16 may be cut away (Fig. 2) to allow clearance for an arcuate corner of the frame 12. A portion of the curved surface 17 may also be bent downward from that surface to form a closing wall 22 which will engage the sides of the frame 12 to prevent sidewise sliding of the strip 15.

The clips 20, a plurality of which are used to hold the strip 15 in place, are formed from spring wire. Hooks 25 are formed at each end having a portion engaged in the slot 19. The wire extends vertically from these hooks to a point approximately at the bottom level of the bars 13. From this point at each end of the hook, the clips are formed with arms 26 extending toward each other on the under side of the bars 13. These arms are shown in the figures as crossing two bars. It is obvious, however, that they could cross more or fewer bars and still serve the purpose for which they were designed.

The center portion of the clip 20 is in the form of a projection 27 bent forward to extend above the front piece of the frame 12. It is apparent that the clip by engaging the bottom of the bars 13 and the top of the frame 17 and having its ends 25 extending into the slots 19 will hold the strip 15. These clips 20 are spaced at convenient intervals along the strip 15 to hold it securely in position.

The assembly of the device is apparent from the figures. One preferred method is to place the strip 15 in place on the frame 12 in an inverted position as shown in Fig. 2; hook one hooked end 25 of the clip in place in the slot 19 through a space between any two bars 13; press the arms 26 against the bars 13 to allow the extension 27 to be slid into place engaging the frame 12; and then hooking the other end 25 of the clip in place.

It is apparent from the above description that the strip 15 is not only ornamental but serves

as a guard covering the ends of the bars 13. In addition, the folded portion 18 forms a slight ridge at the front edge of the shelf to prevent inadvertent sliding of articles off the front edge. The sloping portion 17 also provides a smooth surface for sliding articles up onto the shelf. It is also apparent that the novel clip device 20 provides for easy assembly and also disassembly for cleaning if desired.

Having thus described my invention, I am aware that numerous and extensive departures may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit or scope of my invention.

I claim:

1. In a shelf comprising a frame, rods fixed to said frame, and a strip having a hooked edge engaging said frame and a folded edge lying on said rods; clip means having hooked ends engaged in said folded edge, arms extending from said ends engaged beneath said rods and an extension engaging said frame to hold said strip in place.

2. For use with a shelf comprising a rectangular frame, and rods fixed to said frame; a strip having a hooked edge engaging the front of said frame, a folded edge lying on said rods and having its ends folded down to prevent sidewise motion of the strip, and wire clip means engaged in said hooked edge of said strip and with said frame to hold said strip in place.

3. For use with a shelf comprising a wire frame, rods fixed to said frame, and a strip having a hooked edge engaging the front of said frame and a folded edge lying on said rods; clip means for holding said strip on said frame, said clip being formed with a center extension engaging the top of said frame, a pair of arms extending outwardly from said extension and each engaging the underside of at least one of said bars, and an outer terminating portion extending from each of said arms in an upward and rearward direction engaging said folded portion of said strip, said spring being of resilient wire and adapted to hold said strip springably in place.

4. For use with a shelf comprising a frame comprising an outer marginal member, rod members secured to opposite sides of and bridging said marginal member, and a trim strip comprising an upper portion overlying said marginal member and the ends of said rods, said trim strip extending around the edge and underneath the marginal member and having an upwardly turned portion engaging the marginal member on the inner sides thereof, said upper portion of the strip having an edge formed with a groove opening toward the edge of the trim strip; clip means for interlocking engagement with said shelf and trim strip comprising a tongue portion for engagement with said marginal member on the upper side thereof, portions extending laterally from opposite sides of said tongue under at least one of said rods and each provided with terminating portions extending upwardly and rearwardly for engagement in said grooved portion above the rods.

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