Nov. 14, 1939. S. ERLANGER ET AL 2,179,844

PACKAGE AND ARTICLE CARRIER

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Fig. 1

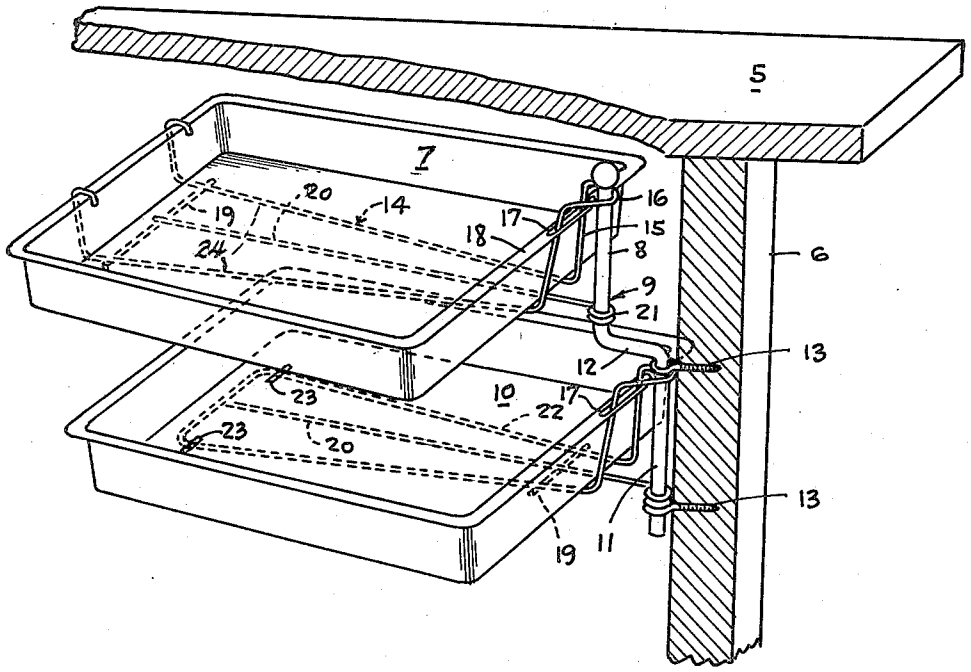
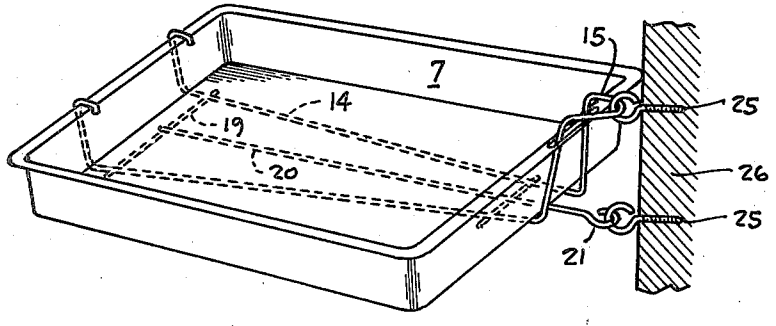


Fig. 2



INVENTOR.
SANFORD ERLANGER
DAVID E. ANDERSON

BY Joseph F. Westall
ATTORNEY.

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Fig. 3

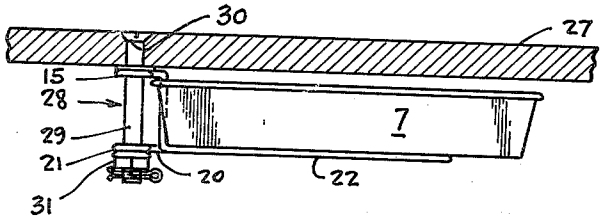


Fig. 4

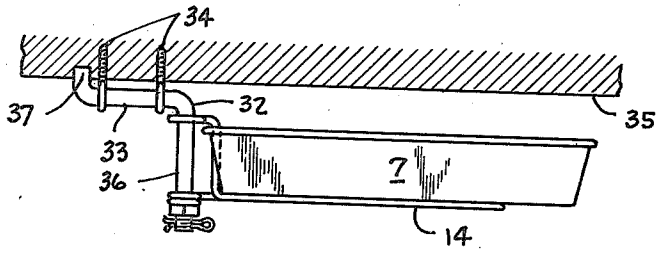
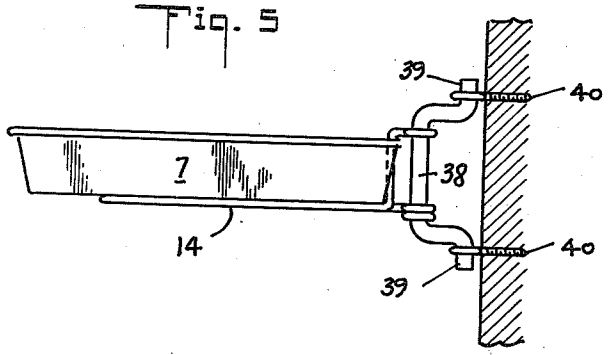


Fig. 5



INVENTOR.
SANFORD ERLANGER
DAVID E. ANDERSON

BY Joseph F. Westall
ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PACKAGE AND ARTICLE CARRIER

Sanford Erlanger and David E. Anderson,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Application December 13, 1937, Serial No. 179,482

4 Claims. (Cl. 248—282)

This invention relates to trays, and particularly contemplates means for pivotally supporting such devices on most any upright or horizontal standard as, for example, a shelf, bench or cabinet top or the legs or top of a table, counter, or the like to facilitate accessibility of the tray for the storage of miscellaneous articles.

In many public eating houses efforts to obtain maximum utilization of the table area for food, and floor space adjacent the tables for seating facilities, have resulted in such crowding of patrons so as to make extremely awkward the disposition of packages, purses, and other articles while eating. Tables and counters are usually made only large enough to accommodate the food ordered. The placement of packages and other personalities on the floor beside the patron is awkward and unsanitary, as well as being dangerous to their safe keeping. Other places of lodgement of packages such as shelves, often built adjacent the walls of such eating establishments, are easily accessible to any dishonest person, and are impossible of disposition so as to be visible by more than but a few of the patrons for whose convenience they are provided.

It is a principal object of the present invention to obviate the deficiencies of the prior art accountable for the above-noted inconveniences by the provision of a table having a plurality of storage receptacles suspended from the underside of its top but offset with respect to each place at which a person is to be seated, whereby the opening of each receptacle may be most conveniently controlled by the respective persons seated adjacent thereto.

Another object is to provide a tray or container pivotally mounted to the underside of the table top, counter or the like, or to a vertical support therefor for the disposition of personal articles, which device may be swung under the horizontal part of the supporting structure whereby the latter will furnish a cover for the tray and prevent unauthorized removal of the articles.

Another object is to provide a bracket having a swinging pivot on which a tray may be mounted to facilitate manipulation of the tray and render the same more easily accessible to a particular user, said bracket adapted to have incorporated in particular embodiments thereof a second lower tray movable with respect to the one thereabove.

Other objects and salient features of our invention such, for example, as ease of operation, economy of the construction, durability, and simplicity of installation, will be obvious to those of skill in the art to which our invention appertains from an examination of the following description read in the light of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of our invention as operatively associated with a table;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the invention showing a modified form of pivotal supporting means;

Figs. 3 and 4 are side elevations of modified forms of brackets for support of the tray to the underside of the table top or the like;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of another form of bracket for the support of a tray on a vertical standard.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the numerals of which indicate similar parts throughout the several views, 5 designates a top of a table (Fig. 1) having legs 6. It will be understood that our invention is adapted for use in other than this type of table and that it may also be employed in counters, shelves, cabinets, or with any member under which it is desired to provide a receptacle.

A tray 7 (Fig. 1) is pivotally carried on the upper pin 8 of an upright crank-shaped hinge post 9 pivoted to the leg 6 of a table as about to be described. A second tray 10 is similarly carried on the lower pin 11 of post 9. The upper and lower pins of the post are vertically arranged and connected by integral horizontal portion 12. A pair of hook eyes 13 are threaded into the corner of the table leg 6 through which the lower pin 11 of the post extends, thus enabling the upper pin 8 of the post to swing in a horizontal arc on the axis of the lower pin of the post.

The pivotal connection of tray 7 on the upper pin is effected by means of a supporting frame 14 comprising a length of wire 15 turned around the upper end of the post to form a retaining hook 16. From opposite sides of the post, the wire extends through a slot 17 cut in the rim 18 of the tray 7, thence under and divergingly across the bottom of the tray and to the opposite side thereof. The ends of the wire 15 extend upwardly to engage the side of the tray opposite to that in which slot 17 is formed and are turned over the rim 18 thereof to clamp the tray on the frame. A brace 19 connects the diverging reaches of the wire 15 at the bottom of the tray. To the middle of brace 19 a lower hinge wire 20 is connected, having one end turned around the lower end of pin 8 to form a loop 21. The lower tray 10 is supported on the lower pin 11 of post 9 by a modified form of wire frame. In this embodiment of the frame, an endless wire 22 is mounted

on the post in a manner similar to that of wire 15 but its ends are secured together under the tray. Lugs 23 cut from the bottom of the tray engage the diverging portions 24 of wire 22 under the tray to coact with the engagement of the wire in slot 17 in holding the frame and tray together and pivotally on the post. In this embodiment, brace 19 reinforces the wires 22 and 20 at points at the side of the tray nearest adjacent the hinge post. It will be observed that due to the location of the hook eyes 13 in the corner of the table leg 6, that both trays are free to swing to positions with the side of the tray, nearest adjacent the leg, parallel to either of two sides of the leg, and further that the upper tray is capable of movement laterally in any direction.

In Fig. 2 the tray 7 is identical with the upper tray of Fig. 1. The wire frame 14 is reinforced by a brace 19 under the tray in the same manner as are the wires 14 and 20 supporting tray 7. The tray is pivotally connected to the table leg or other vertical support by the engagement of the hook 15 and loop 21 of wires 15 and 20, respectively, with hook eyes 25 screwed into the corner of the table leg or other upright 26.

Referring to Fig. 3: The tray 7 may be mounted on a horizontal member as a shelf 27 by placing a hinge bolt 28 through a hole bored in the shelf, so as to provide a downwardly extending shank 29 thereof below the shelf. The head of the bolt is preferably countersunk in the upper surface of the shelf 27 as at 30. The hook 15 and loop 21 of the frame wires 20 and 22 supporting the tray are mounted on shank 29 and supported vertically by means of a nut 31 threaded on the lower end of the bolt 28. Where the horizontal member to which it is desired to pivotally attach a tray is too thick or it is desirable to avoid marring the surface thereof (Fig. 4), an angular hinge bolt 32 may be supported by engagement of a horizontal portion 33 thereof in hook eyes 34 screwed into the underside of the horizontal member 35 so as to provide a vertical portion 36 thereof, on which the supporting frame and tray is carried, as above indicated in connection with the embodiment of Fig. 3. To prevent the angular bolt from swinging in a vertical arc in the hook eyes 34 with a consequent tilting of the tray 7, the end 37 of the horizontal portion 33 is turned upwardly to engage in a hole in the member 35 from which the device is suspended.

A single pivotal tray support is provided with a swinging pivot in the modification illustrated in Fig. 5 comprising a hinge post 38 having axially aligned offset trunnions 39 pivotally held by hook eyes 40 in the corner of the table leg 6 or other upright. A tray frame 14 is pivoted on the post in the manner above-described.

It will be observed that we have provided a receptacle adapted for attachment to the underside of counters, tables, shelves, benches, and the like, i. e., for location in what is usually waste space, yet enabling movement thereof to a position for easy access to its interior for placement and removal of articles; and referring to specific embodiments, it will be noted that the upper tray in Fig. 1 and the tray of Fig. 5, due to the double pivot of their supporting structure, are movable in any horizontal direction to facilitate manipulation in use.

While we have described but a few of the many possible embodiments of our invention, it will be understood that numerous changes in size, shape, proportion and number of the various parts may be made; that other well known expedients for pivotally supporting the tray may be employed, and that any basket, receptacle or support may be sustituted for the tray illustrated and described, all without departing from the spirit of our invention as defined by the appended claims.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a device of the character described, a tray comprising a flat member having a rim at the edge thereof, a hinge post, means to mount said hinge post in a vertical position, a wire turned around the upper end of said post and extending through an opening in said rim, the reach of said wire extending under said member, and a portion of said wire being secured to the opposite side of said tray from said opening.

2. In a device of the character described, a tray comprising a flat member having a rim at the edge thereof, a hinge post, means to mount said hinge post in a vertical position, a wire turned around the upper end of said post and extending through an opening in said rim, a reach of said wire extending under said member, the opposite ends of said wire terminating in a hook engaging the rim of the tray at the opposite side thereof from said opening.

3. In a device of the character described, a tray comprising a flat member having a rim at the edge thereof, a hinge post, means to mount said hinge post in a vertical position, a wire turned around the upper end of said post and extending through an opening in said rim, a reach of said wire extending under said member, the opposite ends of said wire terminating in a hook engaging the rim of the tray at the opposite side thereof from said opening, a second wire connected to said first-named wire adjacent the opposite side of said tray from said opening, said second wire extending under said tray and turned around the lower end of said post.

4. In a device of the character described, a vertical hinge post, a receptacle, a frame comprising a wire having its ends terminating in hooks engaging one edge of said receptacle and extending from said hooks downwardly to the adjacent lower edge of said receptacle, straight reaches of said wire adjoining said ends extending under said receptacle parallel to the bottom of the receptacle and converging toward the opposite edge of said receptacle, reaches of said wire adjoining said last-named reaches extending upwardly through an opening in the edge of said receptacle and turned around the upper end of said hinge post, and a second wire turned around the lower end of said hinge post having its opposite end secured to said first wire under said receptacle adjacent the ends of said first wire.

SANFORD ERLANGER.
DAVID E. ANDERSON.