

No. 704,341.

Patented July 8, 1902.

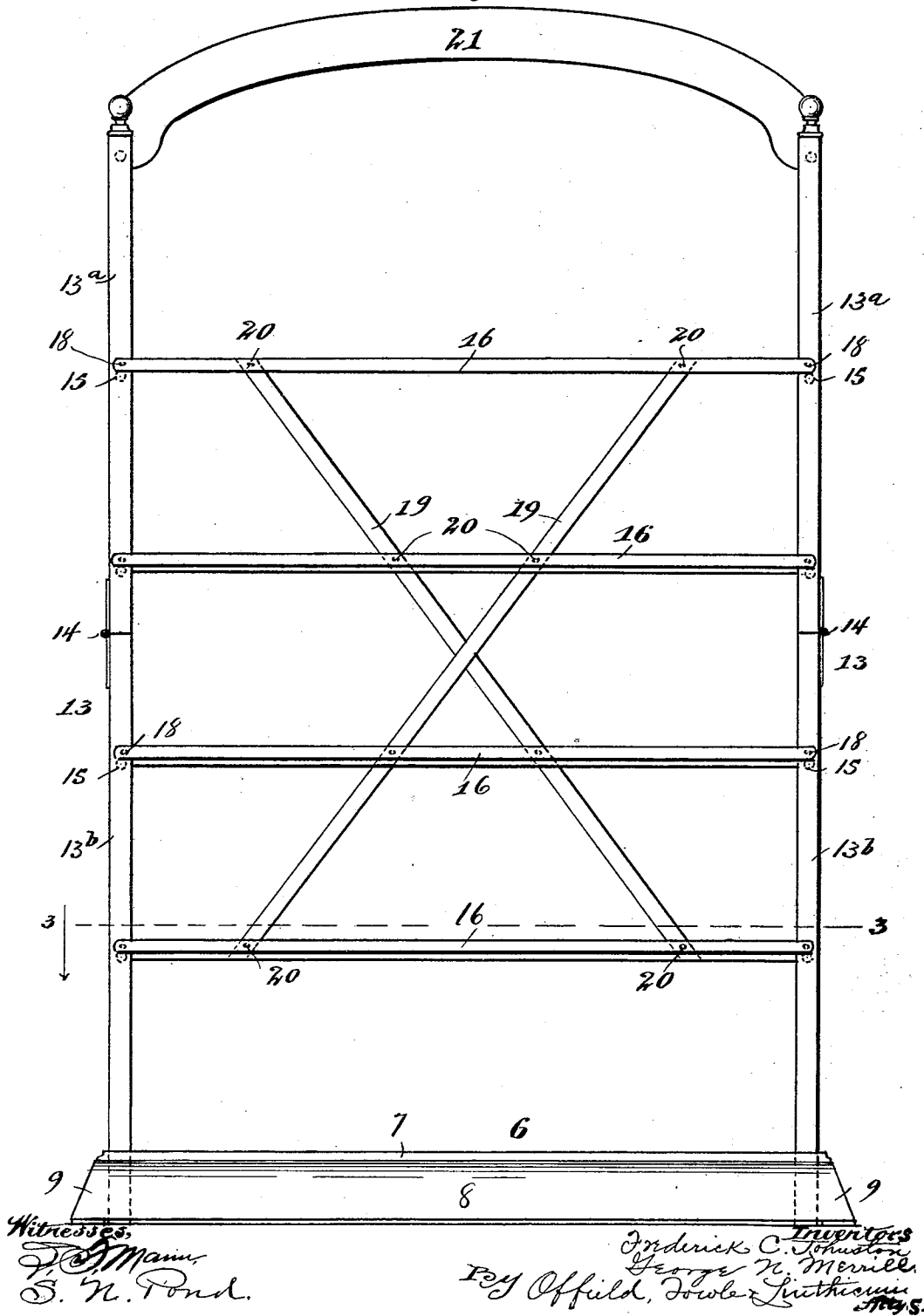
F. C. JOHNSTON & G. N. MERRILL.
COLLAPSIBLE DISPLAY RACK OR STAND.

(Application filed Aug. 23, 1901.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet I.

Fig. 1



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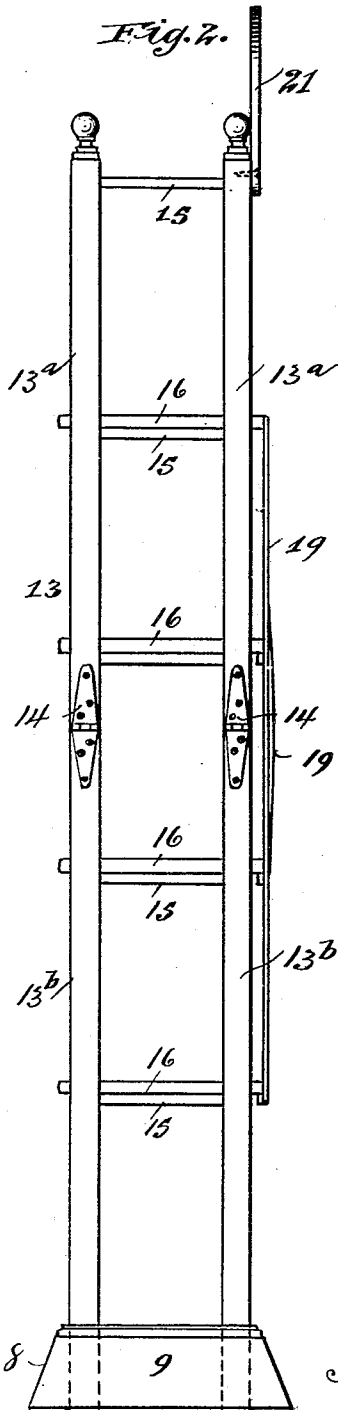
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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F. C. JOHNSTON & G. N. MERRILL.
COLLAPSIBLE DISPLAY RACK OR STAND.

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(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

Fig. 3.

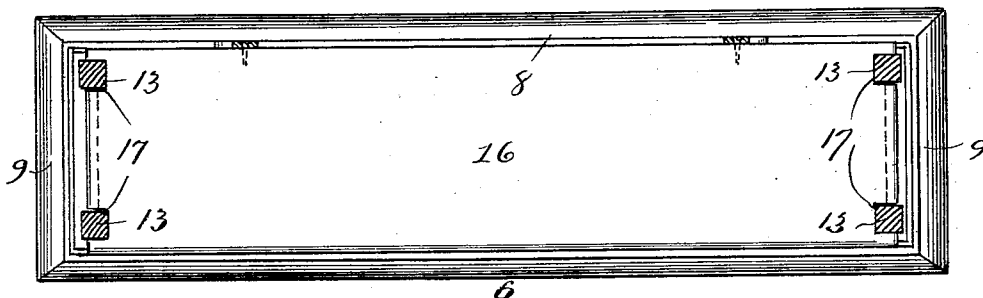


Fig. 4.

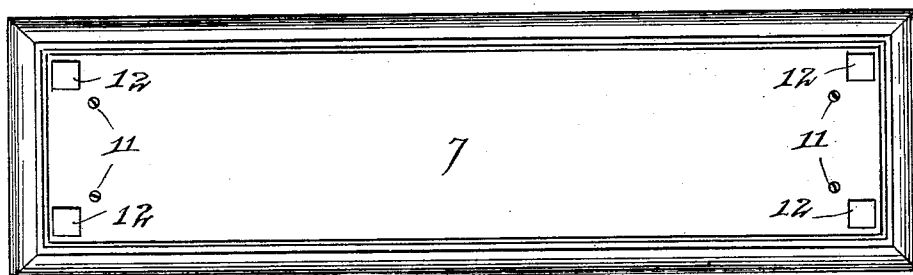
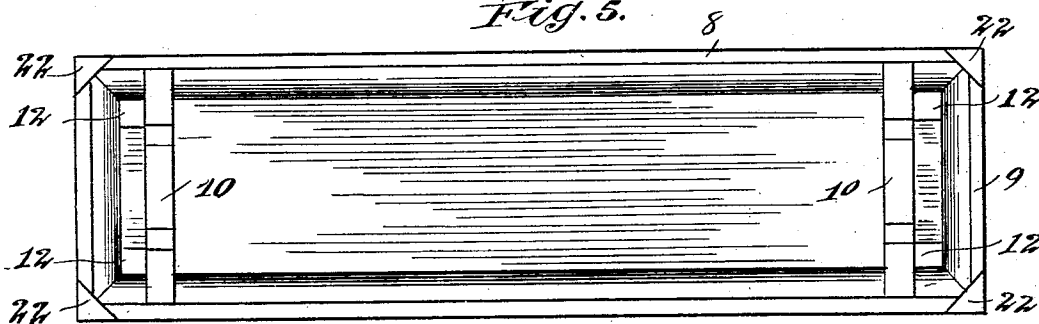


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK C. JOHNSTON AND GEORGE N. MERRILL, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNORS TO THE NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

COLLAPSIBLE DISPLAY RACK OR STAND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 704,341, dated July 8, 1902.

Application filed August 23, 1901. Serial No. 73,061. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FREDERICK C. JOHNSTON and GEORGE N. MERRILL, citizens of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Display Racks or Stands, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to display racks or stands such as are conveniently adapted to hold and exhibit in an attractive manner articles of merchandise which have been packed for the market in boxes and cartons of pasteboard, tin, and the like and suitably sealed and labeled to preserve the freshness of the contents—such as crackers, biscuit, fancy cakes, and like manufactured articles of food; and the principal object of our invention is to provide a rack or stand of this character, well adapted for the use above mentioned and other kindred uses, which shall be light, strong, simple, and durable in construction and which shall possess the further capability of being easily and quickly knocked down and set up and the parts or elements of which when in knocked-down or collapsed condition are capable of being assembled in close and compact order, whereby the device may be easily crated for shipment and when thus crated will occupy a minimum of space and possess a minimum of weight relatively to the carrying and exhibiting capacity of the device when set up and in operative order and position.

To these and other ends our invention resides in a collapsible rack or stand having the peculiar features of construction and relative arrangement of its several parts or elements, all as hereinafter clearly described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a front elevation of our improved stand, showing the same set up and in operative position. Fig. 2 is a side or edge elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the base detached, and Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the base.

Referring to the drawings in detail, 6 des-

ignates as an entirety the base or support of our improved stand, which comprises a plane top 7, constituting the lower shelf of the stand, this top 7 being secured and supported by outwardly-flaring side and end pieces 8 and 9, respectively, the base as a whole being rectangular in form and having the meeting ends of its side and end pieces 8 and 9 preferably mitered, as shown in Fig. 4. For the sake of greater rigidity and as an auxiliary lateral support for the corner-uprights of the frame we preferably connect the opposite side pieces 8 of the base near their ends by transverse sills 10, as shown in Fig. 5, and to the upper edges of the sills 10 the floor-piece 7 is preferably secured by screws 11.

Through the top or floor 7 of the base at its four corners we mortise four holes 12, these latter being preferably square or polygonal in cross-section, their inner edges being substantially in vertical line with the outer faces of the underlying sills 10, as shown in Fig. 5.

Through the holes 12 are passed the lower ends of four uprights or corner-posts, (designated by 13,) each of which posts is made in a plurality of sections, (herein shown as two,) the upper and lower sections of these posts being designated by 13^a and 13^b, respectively. The meeting ends of the sections 13^a and 13^b are united, preferably on their outer faces, by ordinary strap-hinges 14, whereby when the stand is dismantled and knocked down the upper sections 13^a of the corner-posts may be folded down to lie against and parallel with their companion lower sections 13^b.

The two uprights 13 at each side of the stand are connected at suitably-spaced intervals by transversely-disposed rounds 15, these latter serving the double function of mutually bracing the uprights and maintaining their proper relative disposition and also of supporting the ends of a series of shelves 16, extending within and from side to side of the frame. In order to secure the shelves 16 against either lateral or longitudinal displacement, the ends of the shelves are mortised out, as shown at 17, so that when the shelves are in position in the stand the mortises will engage the side and inner faces of the uprights 13, that portion of the end of

the shelves lying between the two uprights on each side of the frame resting upon the rounds 15, which latter form the vertical supports of the shelves and their contents. The shelves 16 may be further secured against vertical displacement relative to the corner-uprights, if desired, by means of screws 18, passed through either or both of the front and rear overlapping ends of the edge portions of the shelves and screwing into the underlying faces of the uprights. This latter provision also serves to maintain the upper sections of the uprights in place and prevent their spreading apart or folding down upon the lower sections when the stand is in operative form.

To further strengthen and render more rigid the elements of the stand when assembled in operative relation, we employ one or more diagonally-disposed braces 19, applied to the rear of the stand and connecting the several shelves thereof at points intermediate their ends. These braces 19 may conveniently be secured directly to the rear edges of the shelves by screws 20, as shown. The upper ends of the top sections of the uprights may also be connected by a transverse strip or plank 21, removably secured at its ends to the upper ends of the front or rear corner-posts of the frame on opposite sides of the stand. This strip or plank 21 thus serving as a tie-bar is preferably made in the bent or arched form shown in Fig. 1, this latter form affording a more attractive and finished appearance to the top of the stand, as well as furnishing a convenient background for words or symbols designating the articles carried by the stand and their source of manufacture.

It will be observed that the lower ends of the uprights 13, which pass through the holes 12 in the corners of the base, lie against the proximate outer faces of the sills 10, thereby contributing to the rigidity and firmness of the support of the superstructure in its base, it being, however, observed that the superstructure is not supported vertically on the base, since the lower ends of the uprights are designed to rest on the floor or other foundation on which the stand is supported. The principal function of the base it will thus be seen is to afford a lateral support for the superstructure.

On each corner of the under face of the base is preferably applied a small triangular-shaped block 22, which blocks serve to prevent the stand from rocking wherever the floors are uneven.

It will be seen that the construction of the stand as hereinabove described is such as enables the parts or elements to be easily and quickly separated and disassociated when the stand is to be taken down for shipment or storage and also enables the stand with equal facility and dispatch to be assembled and set up in operative position. A particular feature of the construction and one upon which

we lay considerable emphasis resides in the formation of all of the several elements of substantially the same length and having plane flat and for the most part parallel surfaces on all sides and edges thereof. From this it will be understood in how simple and compact a manner the device is capable of being crated for shipment or storage. The uprights when folded are slightly less than the length of the base. The several shelves are substantially the length of the base, as are also the braces 19. The tie-bar 21 does not exceed the length of the base and when laid on its side does not overlie the lines marking the width of the base. The wholestand, therefore, when knocked down can be packed in very small compass, with the parts closely assembled side by side, thus making it convenient and inexpensive for shipment from the place of manufacture to the place of use or from one place of use to another. Owing to the light and skeleton formation of the stand it is excellently adapted for the full display of the goods disposed thereon, the wrappers of such goods not being concealed from view to any appreciable extent by the framework of the stand, and hence being capable of a maximum display. Being designed more especially to hold and display packages of bakery products, which are light and usually put up in sealed receptacles of uniform shape and size, the stand constructed as above described affords ample strength and efficiency for such uses. Our invention, however, is obviously not limited to its employment in connection with any particular class of goods or articles to be carried thereby, since it might be used to contain books or other articles for which its shelves offer a convenient and readily-accessible support.

Our invention is not limited to the precise means and manner herein shown and described of joining and connecting the several separable elements of the stand, since these may be considerably varied within the judgment and skill of the maker without departing from the collapsible characteristic and the capacity for crating in a minimum space and with a maximum degree of compactness, which constitute the leading features and distinguish the underlying principle of our invention.

We claim as our invention—

1. A collapsible display rack or stand comprising in combination a rectangular base, a series of uprights formed in a plurality of hinged sections and at their lower ends supported in said base, a series of suitably-spaced rounds connecting the uprights at each side of the structure, a series of shelves resting on said rounds and cut out at their ends to engage said uprights, and one or more diagonally-disposed braces secured to and uniting the rear edges of said shelves, substantially as described.

2. A collapsible display rack or stand, the same having a base, a series of hinged up-

rights or corner-posts removably supported therein, a series of removable shelves carried by said uprights, a removable tie-bar connecting the upper ends of said uprights on
5 opposite sides of the structure, and one or more diagonal braces connecting the shelves along their rear edges, the elements enumerated being all of substantially the same length whereby they may be compactly assembled
10 when the stand is knocked down, substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. A collapsible display rack or stand comprising in combination a rectangular hollow base having square holes formed through the
15 top at the several corners thereof, two pairs of hinged and foldable uprights square in cross-section and at their lower ends passing through said holes in the base, a series of suitably-spaced rounds rigidly connecting the

two uprights of each pair, a series of shelves 20 at their ends overlying and resting upon said rounds and further having their ends cut out near the corners thereof to engage the side and inner walls of the uprights, a pair of removable diagonal braces applied to the rear 25 edges of the shelves, and a removable tie-bar connecting the opposite side uprights of the structure at their upper ends, said base, shelves, braces, tie-bar, and sections of uprights being constructed of substantially uni- 30 form length, as and for the purposes described.

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