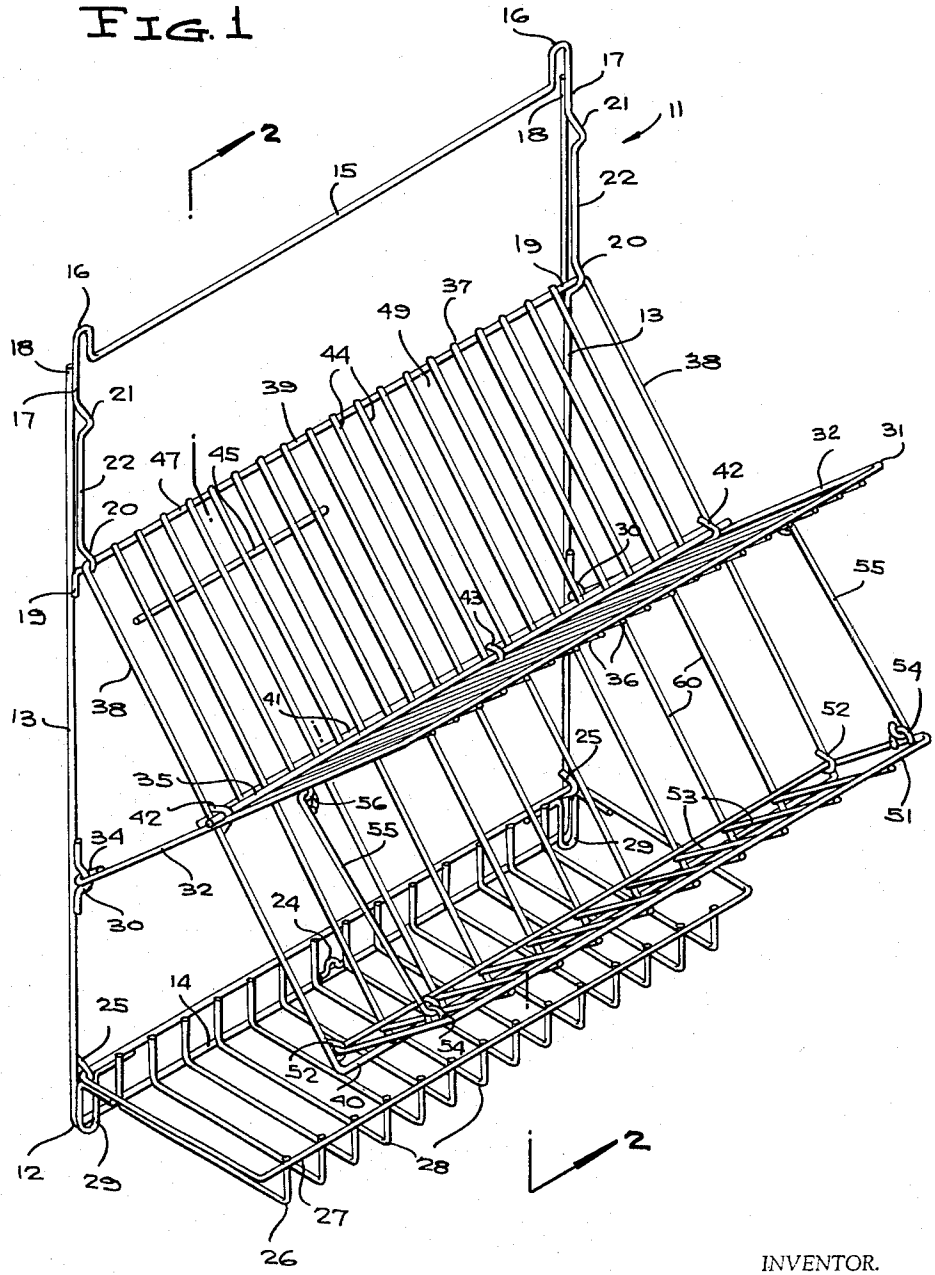
Nov. 1, 1960 A. P. F. BIGATTI 2,958,424

DISH DRYING RACK

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 3

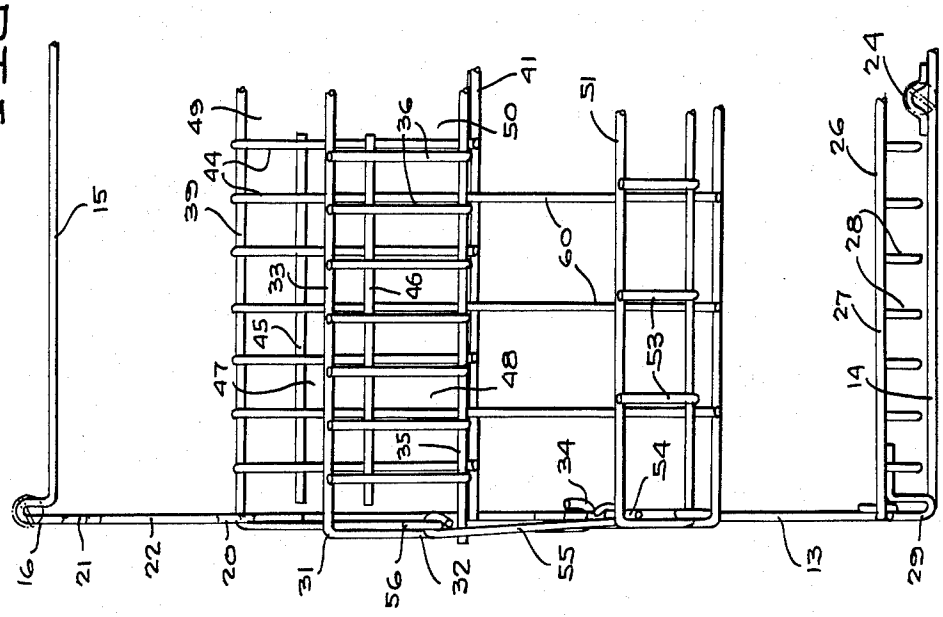
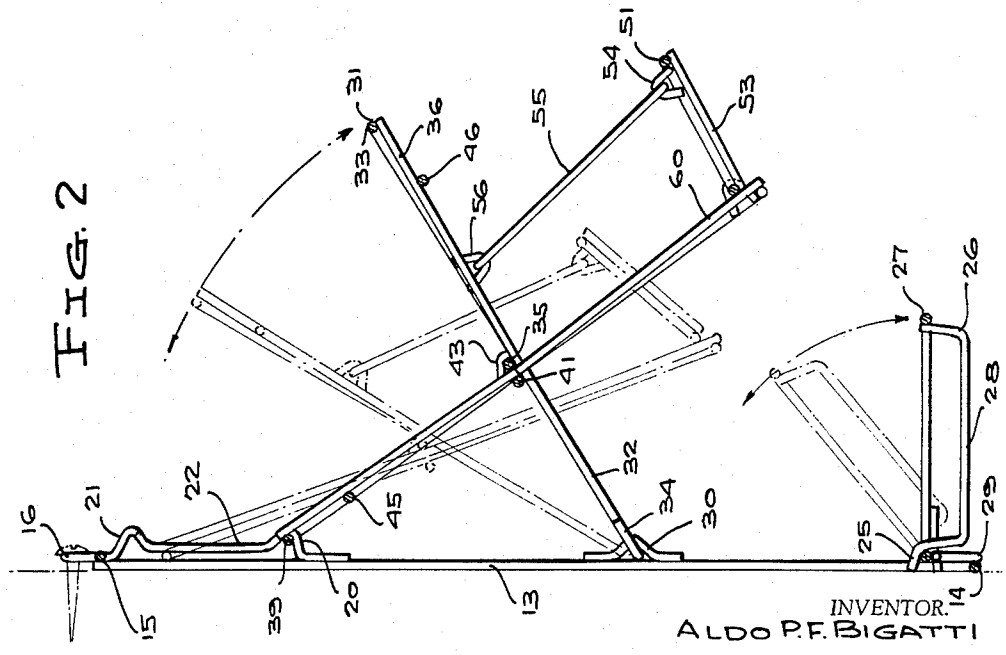


FIG. 2



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DISH DRYING RACK

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5 Claims. (Cl. 211—41)

This invention relates to support devices, and more particularly to a device for supporting dishes while they are drying.

The main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved supporting rack for dishes, said rack being simple in construction, being easy to install, and being foldable to a relatively compact size when not in use.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved dish drying rack adapted to be hung on a wall adjacent a sink or in any other convenient location in a kitchen or similar area, the rack being inexpensive to manufacture, being durable in construction, and being adapted to support a large quantity of dishes and other articles for drying.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing an improved drying rack constructed according to the present invention, the rack being illustrated in its unfolded position, ready for use.

Figure 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary front elevational view of the rack of Figures 1 and 2.

Referring to the drawings, the drying rack is designated generally at **11** and comprises a generally rectangular supporting frame fabricated from stiff wire rod or other suitable material, and comprising a U-shaped main body portion **12** having the vertical side arms **13, 13** and the transversely extending horizontal bottom arm **14**. Connecting the top portions of the side arms **13, 13** is a wire rod member comprising a horizontal top portion **15** formed at its ends with the upwardly extending vertical loops **16, 16** merging with depending vertical arm portions **17, 17**. The arm portions **17, 17** are welded to the top end portions of the side arms **13, 13** at **18, 18** and are also welded to the arms **13, 13** at the lower ends thereof, as shown at **19, 19**. The depending arms **17** are formed at their lower portions with the loops **20, 20** and at their upper portions with the loops **21, 21**, said loops being connected by intermediate portions **22, 22** disposed relatively closely adjacent to and parallel to the respective vertical arms **13, 13**. The portions **22, 22** are of substantial length and are relatively yieldable for a purpose presently to be described.

Welded to the intermediate portion of the bottom horizontal arm **14** is a wire loop **24**, defining a fastening lug which may be employed in conjunction with the upstanding loops **16, 16** to secure the main frame **12** to a wall by suitable fasteners engaged through the loop elements **16, 16** and **24**.

Welded to the lower portions of the side arms **13, 13** at equal distances above the horizontal bottom arm **14** are respective loops **25, 25** which project forwardly in parallel vertical planes. Designated generally at **26** is a tray member comprising a horizontal top frame **27** formed of wire rod material and spaced U-shaped,

parallel wire rods **28** welded to the longitudinal arms of the frame **27** to define a basket, as is clearly shown in Figure 1.

The inner corner portions of the tray member top frame **27** extend through the loop members **25, 25**, thus pivotally connecting the tray member to the lower portion of frame **12**. Depending stop loops **29, 29** are welded to the inner corner portions of frame **27**, said depending loops **29, 29** being engageable with the horizontal bottom arm **14** of frame **12** to limit the tray **26** in its downward rotation to the horizontal, forwardly extending position thereof shown in Figure 1 and to support the tray member in said forwardly extending horizontal position.

Welded to the lower portions of the side arms **13, 13** are pivot loops **30, 30** which are located at equal distances above the horizontal bottom arm **14**. The loops **30, 30** project forwardly in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to the plane of frame **12**.

Designated at **31** is a first grill member which comprises a generally U-shaped frame having side arms **32, 32** and a horizontal outer arm **33**. The side arms **32, 32** are formed at their inner ends with loops **34, 34** which pivotally interengage with the loops **30, 30**, thus hingedly connecting the grill member **31** to the main frame **12** for rotation around a horizontal axis parallel to the bottom arm **14**. The grill member **31** further comprises a hinge rod **35** which is welded to the intermediate portions of the side arms **32** and which extends parallel to the hinge axis of grill member **31**. A plurality of parallel rod elements **36** are welded between the horizontal forward arm **33** of the U-shaped frame of grill **31** and the hinge rod **35**, the rods **36** being uniformly spaced apart by distances sufficient to receive a dish therebetween, the end rods being likewise spaced substantially the same distances from the side arms **32, 32**.

Designated at **37** is a second grill member comprising a generally rectangular wire frame having the side arms **38, 38** connected by the horizontal arms **39** and **40**. The corners defined between the side arms **38** and the horizontal arm **39** are pivotally engaged with the depending arm portions **17, 17**, as shown in Figure 1, whereby the corners of grill member **37** are slidably and pivotally engageable with the members **17** and may be supported either in the loops **20, 20** or in the loops **21, 21**.

A horizontal rod member **41** is welded to the intermediate portion of the grill member **37**, the end portions of the rod **41** being respectively welded to the intermediate portions of the side arms **38, 38**. Respective hinge loops **42, 42** are welded to the intermediate portions of side arms **38, 38** adjacent the horizontal rod **41**, said hinge loops engaging around the hinge rod **35**, as shown in Figure 1, whereby to pivotally connect the intermediate portion of grill member **37** to the intermediate portion of grill member **31** at the hinge rod **35**. A further hinge loops **43** is welded to the intermediate portion of the rod **41** and extends around the intermediate portion of the hinge rod **35**, as is clearly shown in Figure 1.

Uniformly spaced transverse rods **44** are welded between the rod **41** and horizontal arm **39** of grill member **37**, the rods **44** being spaced apart by substantially the same distances as the rods **36**, to define slots therebetween to receive the peripheral portions of dishes, as will be presently explained.

Respective horizontal rod members **45** and **46**, substantially equal in length, are welded transversely to the upper portions of the rods **44** and **36** at one side of the drying rack, to define slots **47** and **48** which are of smaller height than the remaining slots **49** and **50**

defined by the rods 44 and 36, the smaller slots 47 and 48 being provided for the purpose of receiving relatively small dishes, whereas the larger slots 49 and 50 are intended to receive relatively large dishes.

An auxiliary rectangular grill member 51 is hingedly connected to the outer end portion of the grill 37 at hinge loops 52, 52 welded to the outer end portions of side arms 38, 38, as is clearly shown in Figure 1. The auxiliary grill or support frame 51 includes the parallel transversely extending rods 53 welded to the forward and rear horizontal arms of the auxiliary grill member 51. The outer corner portions of auxiliary grill member 51 are provided with hinge loops 54, 54 which are connected by link rods 55, 55 to hinge loops 56, 56 provided on the side arms 32, 32 of grill member 31, whereby the auxiliary grill 51 is linked to the first grill member 31 and the second grill member 37 so as to be foldable against the grill member 37 when the grill member 31 is swung upwardly, as will be presently described. The auxiliary grill element 51 defines a basket with respect to extensions 60 of alternate rod members 44, said extensions being welded at their ends to the arms 40. The aforesaid basket may be employed to support tableware, such as knives, spoons and forks, in the rack for drying, along with dishes and other utensils.

As is clearly shown, the auxiliary grill member 51 is hingedly connected to the grill member 37 on a horizontal axis parallel to the hinge rod 35 and to the hinge axis of the grill member 31.

When the use of the rack is not required, it may be folded to a collapsed position by moving the inner corner portions of the grill member 37 upwardly between the yieldable wire elements 22, 22 and the side arms 13, 13, said elements yielding to allow the corner portions of the grill 37 to be forced upwardly, until said corner portions are received in the loops 21, 21, which yieldably lock the corner portions in their elevated positions. The upward movement of said corner portions causes the grill member 31 to swing upwardly to a position adjacent to the plane of the grill member 37, namely, adjacent to the plane of the main frame 12. Simultaneously, the auxiliary grill member 51 is rotated upwardly until it is disposed closely adjacent to the plane of the grill 37. The interconnected grill members 37, 31 and 51 will be thus yieldably locked in collapsed positions by the engagement of the inner corner portions of the grill member 37 in the loops 21, 21. Similarly, the bottom tray 26 may be rotated upwardly, as shown in dotted view in Figure 2, to a vertical position adjacent to the plane of the main frame 12.

When the device is unfolded for use, as shown in Figure 1, the slots defined between the rods 44, 44 and the rods 36, 36 are substantially in transverse alignment and will receive the peripheral portions of transversely disposed dishes placed between the upper portions of grill members 37 and 31, the dishes being supported at their bottom edge portions on the hinge rod 35. As previously mentioned, relatively small dishes may be disposed between opposing slots 47 and 48, and will rest against the rods 45 and 46, as well as the hinge rod 35. Articles of flatware, such as knives, spoons and forks, may be supported in the basket defined by the rods 60 and the auxiliary grill member 51, as above mentioned, as well as in the lower basket 26.

The dish drying rack above described may be of any height or size suitable for mounting in the space available, for example, to fit into the standard spaces available between kitchen cabinets and kitchen sinks.

While a specific embodiment of an improved dish drying rack has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A dish drying rack comprising a vertical support member, a first grill member pivoted to the lower portion of said support member for rotation on a horizontal axis, a second grill member hingedly connected to the first grill member on a horizontal axis parallel to said first-named axis, means slidably and pivotally connecting an edge of said second grill member to said vertical support member at a location above said first-named axis, said grill members being formed to define opposing slots located in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to said support member and shaped to supportingly receive portions of vertically disposed dishes therein, a support frame hinged to the lower marginal portion of said second grill member on a horizontal axis, and means constructed and arranged to at times support said support frame in an upstanding position with respect to said second grill member.

2. A dish drying rack comprising a generally rectangular wire frame defining a vertical support member having rod-like sides, a first grill member pivoted to the lower portions of said rod-like sides for rotation on a horizontal axis, a second grill member intersecting said first grill member, a common hinge rod pivotally connecting said grill members on a horizontal axis parallel to said first-named axis, means slidably and pivotally connecting the upper corner portions of said second grill member to the upper portions of said rod-like sides at a location above said first-named axis, said grill members being formed to define opposing slots located in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to said support member and shaped to supportingly receive portions of vertically disposed dishes therein, a support frame hinged to the lower marginal portion of said second grill member on a horizontal axis, and means constructed and arranged to at times support said support frame in an upstanding position with respect to said second grill member.

3. A dish drying rack comprising a generally rectangular wire frame defining a vertical support member having rod-like sides, a first grill member pivoted to the lower portions of said rod-like sides for rotation on a horizontal axis, a second grill member intersecting said first grill member, a common hinge rod pivotally connecting said grill members on a horizontal axis parallel to said first-named axis, means slidably and pivotally connecting the upper corner portions of said second grill member to the upper portions of said rod-like sides at a location above said first-named axis, said grill members being formed to define opposing slots located in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to said support member and shaped to supportingly receive portions of vertically disposed dishes therein, a support frame hinged to the lower marginal portion of said second grill member parallel to said hange rod, and link rods connecting the side portions of said support frame to the side portions of said first grill member.

4. A dish drying rack camprising a generally rectangular wire frame defining a vertical support member having rod-like sides, a first grill member pivoted to the lower portions of said rod-like sides for rotation on a horizontal axis, a second grill intersecting said first grill member, a common hinge rod pivotally connecting said grill members on a horizontal axis parallel to said first-named axis, means slidably and pivotally connecting the upper corner portions of said second grill member to the upper portions of said rod-like sides at a location above said first-named axis, said grill members being formed to define opposing slots located in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to said support member and shaped to supportingly receive portions of vertically disposed dishes therein, a support frame hinged to the lower marginal portion of said second grill member parallel to said hinge rod, link rods connecting the side por-

tions of said support frame to the side portions of said first grill member, a tray member hinged to the lower end portion and being foldable upwardly towards said rod-like sides, and lug elements on said tray member engageable with the lower portion of said wire frame and supporting said tray member in a substantially horizontal position.

5. A dish drying rack comprising a generally rectangular wire frame defining a vertical support member having rod-like sides, a first grill member pivoted to the lower portions of said rod-like sides for rotation on a horizontal axis, a second grill member intersecting said first grill member, a common hinge rod pivotally connecting said grill members on a horizontal axis parallel to said first-named axis, wire loop elements on the top portions of said rod-like sides slidably and pivotally engaging the upper corner portions of said second grill member, said loop elements being closely adjacent said rod-like sides at their intermediate portions but being yieldable to allow said upper corner portions to at times pass therebetween, said wire loop elements being formed

with outwardly bowed top portions located to lockingly receive the upper corner portions of said second grill member when said second grill member has been rotated to a position adjacent the plane of said wire frame, said grill members being formed to define opposing slots located in parallel vertical planes perpendicular to said support member and shaped to supportingly receive portions of vertically disposed dishes therein, a support frame hinged to the lower marginal portion of said second grill member parallel to said hinge rod, and means connecting said support frame to said first grill member.

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