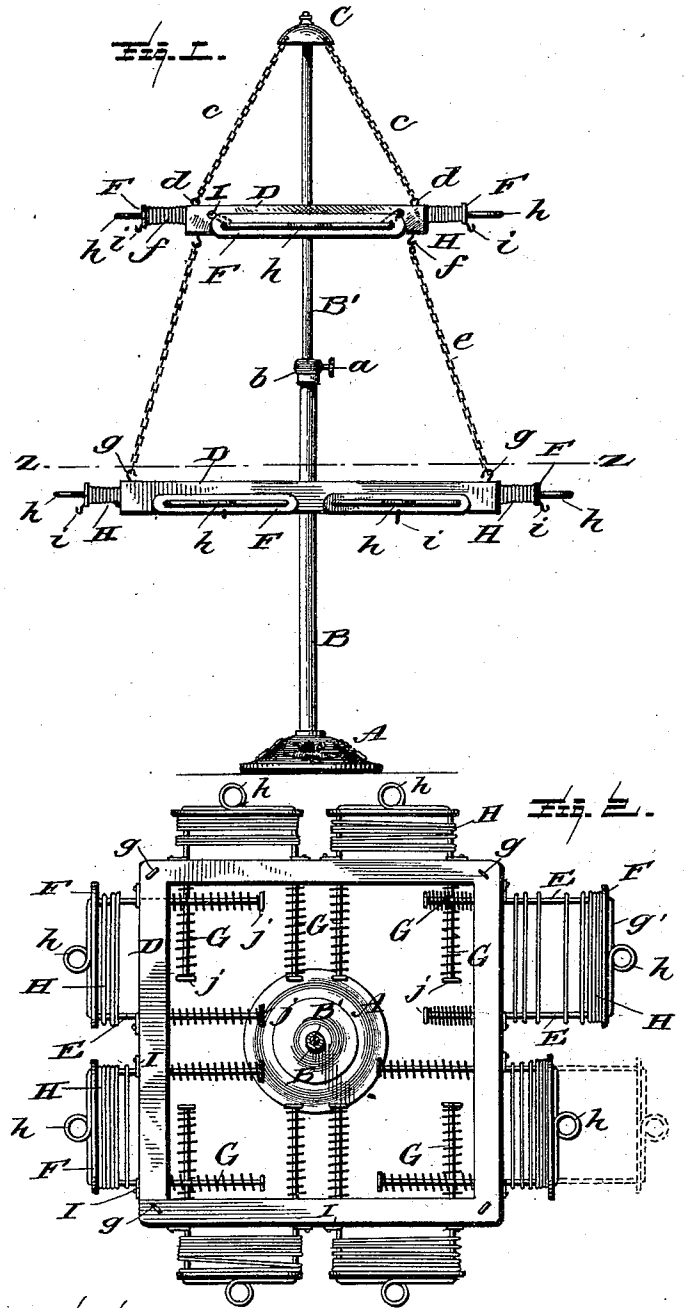


(No Model.)

D. G. MACWATERS.
WARE EXHIBITOR.

No. 473,403.

Patented Apr. 19, 1892.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID G. MACWATERS, OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

WARE-EXHIBITOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 473,403, dated April 19, 1892.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID G. MACWATERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Saginaw, in the county of Saginaw, State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ware-Exhibitors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in devices for displaying goods in stores of that class wherein provision is made by which the goods may be readily placed in position and any one article removed when desired without disturbing the others, spring-pressure being brought to bear upon the holding devices, so that as soon as one article or a number of articles are withdrawn from the holders the spring-pressure will serve to effectually hold the articles remaining.

25 The invention has for its objects, among others, to arrange the rods so that they will slide through the supports therefor with the spring-pressure applied from the inside of the space inclosed by the said supports, so that when not in use the rods will be in out of the way.

30 A further object is to provide a simple and efficient catch or latch to hold the rods against the tension of the springs while the articles are being placed on the rods.

35 Other objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter described, and the novel features thereof will be specifically defined by the appended claims.

40 The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

45 Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved device. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the same on the line *z z* of Fig. 1, looking down. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of the support and one of the rods, with its catch and holding-bars.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

50 In the drawings, the letter A designates a suitable base, which may be of any suitable shape, size, and material, according to the desire of the purchaser or the place where it

is intended to be used. This base is not necessary, however, except where the device is designed to be portable, for where it is affixed permanently in position, as on the end of a counter or on the floor, the base may be dispensed with and the supporting-rod B held in the desired position in any suitable manner. When the base is used, this rod B is held therein in any suitable manner, preferably by screw-threading it therein, so that the parts may be readily separated for shipment when desired. This rod B is hollow and adapted to receive the smaller rod B', thus rendering the same adjustable or telescopic, the two rods being designed to be held in their adjusted positions by suitable means, as the set-screw *a*, tapped through a suitable tip or collar *b* on the upper end of the rod B, as seen in Fig. 1.

C is a cap or disk swiveled upon the upper end of the rod B' in any suitable manner, so as to allow the supports to be readily revolved to bring any desired side thereof into view.

D is a support, which may be of any desired shape, but preferably rectangular, as shown in Fig. 2. It is formed of wood or metal or other material, as preferred, and one or more of these may be used upon the one device. In the present instance I have chosen to show two. They are of different size to give symmetry to the device. The smaller frame or support is arranged uppermost and is supported from the cap or disk C by means of cords or chains *c*, which are suitably connected at their upper ends to the cap or disk and at their lower ends engaging hooks, staples, or other analogous provisions *d* at the corners of the frame or support. The lower frame or support is suspended from the upper one by means of cords or chains *e*, which are held to hooks or other devices *f* upon the under side of the upper frame at the corners and at their lower ends engaging hooks or suitable provisions *g* on the upper corners of the lower frame, as seen clearly in Fig. 1.

Projecting laterally from the supports or frames D are the rods E, arranged in sets of two, and there may be one, two, or more of these sets upon each side of the frame. In the upper frame I have shown but one set on each side, and in Fig. 2 there will be seen

two sets upon each side of the lower frame. These rods are free to slide in and out through openings therefor in the frames, and I construct the two rods of each set of a single
 5 piece of wire of the proper size, the free ends thereof being arranged upon the inside of the frame—that is, in the space inclosed thereby - and the outer portion formed into a cross-bar
 10 *g'*, which at its center is bent to form a ring *h*, which constitutes a finger-hold by which the rods may be drawn out when desired.

F is a plate or bar sleeved upon the parallel rods of each set outside the support and carrying a hook or hooks *i*, upon which a card
 15 or tag carrying the price-mark or other indicating character may be hung. The inner ends of the rods are headed, as shown at *j*, and between these heads and the inner face of the frame around the rods are arranged
 20 the spiral springs *G*, as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 3.

H are cross wires or plates strung loosely upon the parallel rods and having their ends hooked or otherwise constructed so as to prevent accidental displacement of the wires and
 25 yet allow them to move loosely and freely upon the rods. There may be more or less of these wires, the number depending upon the size of the frame or support and the character of the articles to be exhibited thereon.
 30 It will be seen that by this construction the rods, when not in use for the display of goods, are by the springs held inward within the space inclosed by the frames, where they are
 35 out of the way and not liable to injury by passing persons. The rods upon one side of the support are arranged upon a slightly-different horizontal plane from those on the side
 40 at right angles thereto to allow of freedom of movement thereof without contact one with the other, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2.

The operation will be readily understood, and a detailed description thereof is not deemed necessary.

45 In order to hold the rods extended against the tension of the springs while the goods are being arranged between the wires or plates *H*, I have devised the following as one form: The rods are provided with notches *k*, as seen
 50 clearly in Fig. 3, at suitable distances apart and which are engaged by the catches or latches *I*, pivoted to the outer face of the frame or support *D* and arranged to fall by gravity into the said notches as the rods are pulled
 55 out. When the goods have been arranged the latches are disengaged from the notches, when the springs draw the rods inward and hold the articles between the plates or wires *H*, as will be readily understood. Other forms of
 60 catch may be employed for this purpose—for

instance, a plate similar to the plate *F* might be arranged upon the rods against the outer face of the frame or support *D* and provided with an opening having a square shoulder at the top to fall into and engage the notches. 65 In some cases the heads *j* on the rods may be in the form of nuts or threaded washers, as shown in Fig. 3. By this means the nuts may be adjusted on the rod to tighten or regulate the tension of the springs when necessary or 70 desired or when one spring becomes weaker than the other.

What I claim as new is—

1. The combination, with the support and the rods arranged to slide therethrough, those 75 upon one side independent of those on the opposite side, of the springs surrounding the rods upon the portion thereof inclosed within the support, as set forth.

2. The combination, with the support and the rods free to slide through openings therein, those upon one side independent of those on the opposite side, of the springs around the rods upon the inner ends between the inner 85 end of the rod and the inner face of the support, and the holding-wires free to move upon the outer portions of the rod, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with the support and the rods free to slide in openings in the support with their outer portions connected by a cross-bar, of the springs around the rods between their inner ends and the inner face of the support, as set forth.

4. The combination, with the support and 95 the rods free to slide through openings therein, those upon one side independent of those on the opposite side, of the springs arranged around the rods upon one side of the support, the holding-wires arranged to be moved upon 100 the rods upon the other side of the support, and the catches for holding the rods outward against the tension of the springs, substantially as specified.

5. The exhibitor described, consisting of the 105 telescopic rods, the cap, the supports suspended therefrom, the rods free to slide through openings in the supports and at their outer ends connected by a cross-bar, the springs upon the inner ends of the rods, the 110 holding-wires upon the outer portions of the rods, the gravity-catches, and the plates *F* on the outer portions of the rods, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 115 presence of two witnesses.

DAVID G. MACWATERS.

Witnesses:

FREDERIC E. SMITH,
 J. E. ADAMS.