

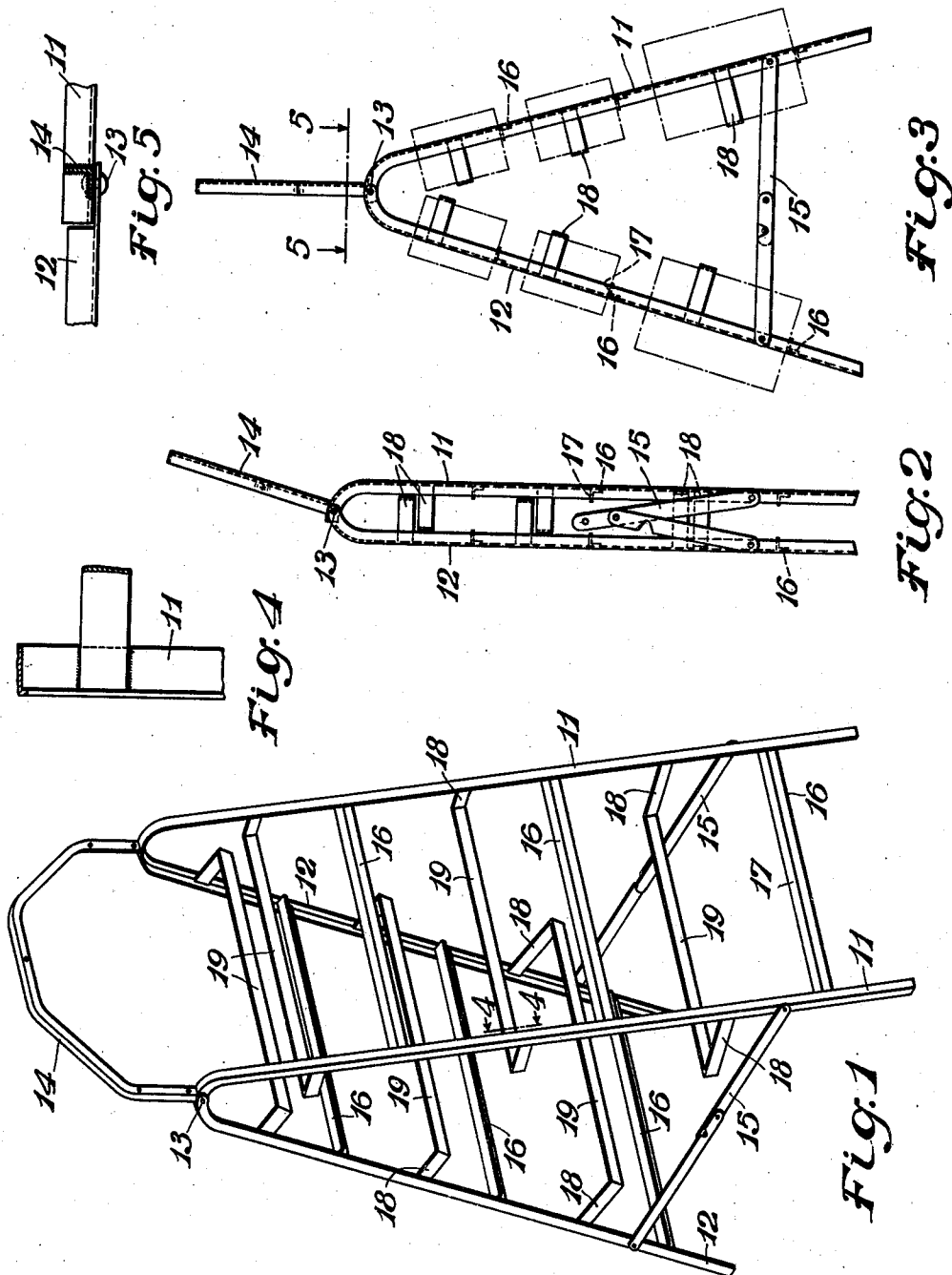
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DISPLAY RACK

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DISPLAY RACK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 211—85)

This invention relates to a double display rack of the folding type for oil cans or the like. Such racks are useful for displaying cans of oil at service stations or for displaying other pack-

ages. A display stand having some points of similarity to the display rack of my invention is shown in Moeckel Patent 1,955,509. However, this stand is relatively expensive to construct and lacks the desired sturdiness.

Objects of my invention are to provide a double display rack of the folding type which is inexpensive and sturdy and which has a minimum number of movable parts.

My invention will be more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawing which forms a part of this specification and which shows one specific embodiment of my invention. It will be understood, however, that this embodiment merely illustrates my invention and various features can be modified without departing from the scope of the appended claim. In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rack constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is an end elevation of the rack of Figure 1 in condition for shipment or storage;

Figure 3 is an end elevation of this same rack in condition for use;

Figure 4 is a detail taken at 4—4 in Figure 1; and

Figure 5 is a detail taken at 5—5 in Figure 3. My display rack has two sloping sides, one of which comprises a pair of parallel legs 11 and the other of which comprises a second pair of parallel legs 12. The legs are made of angle iron with the flanges extending towards adjacent legs.

One leg of each pair is connected to one leg of the other pair by a pivot 13 at the top. A top member 14, which in the form shown serves as a sign carrier, braces the sloping sides at the top. This top member is carried by one pair of legs and is preferably welded in place. One or both pairs of legs are offset at their tops so that when the rack is folded at least the lower portions of the two sloping sides will be parallel and adjacent but slightly separated from each other as shown in Figure 2.

Connecting members 15, which are preferably of jack-knife construction as shown but which may be connecting chains or other devices, hold the two sloping sides in fixed positions with respect to each other when the rack is in condition

for use. The legs 11 and connecting members 15 form an A-frame at either end of the rack.

Each of the sloping sides carries a plurality of angle iron cross-members 16. These are rigidly affixed to the legs as shown, preferably by welding. The cross-members are horizontal and have flat surfaces 17 at right angles to the planes of the flanges of the angle iron legs. These cross-members serve as supports for the bottoms of oil cans or other packages as shown in Figure 3. The rack of this figure is specifically designed for one row of cylindrical five gallon cans and two rows of cylindrical one gallon cans on each sloping side.

The inwardly disposed portions of the cans are supported by U-shaped members made of strap metal, one U-shaped member being provided for each cross-member or, in other words, for each row of cans. The U-shaped members have two short arms 18 attached to the legs and extending inwardly towards the opposite sloping side at right angles to the legs to which they are affixed. The short arms are integral with a connecting long portion 19.

In the past these U-shaped members have been pivotally connected to the legs, and have been constructed and arranged to fold into position adjacent the legs. However, I have found this multitude of movable parts to be highly unsatisfactory. I therefore weld the short arms of the U-shaped members to the legs as shown in Figure 4. This gives much greater rigidity and sturdiness to the structure and markedly reduces the cost.

Symmetry is very much desired in a display of this kind and it is therefore highly desirable to have the corresponding rows of cans at the same height on opposite sloping sides. This means that the corresponding cross-members must be at the same height. However, rigidly affixed U-shaped members at the same height on opposite sloping sides prevent folding of the rack since they hit and interfere with each other. It was, presumably, for this reason that the prior patentee, Moeckel, went to the expensive and unsatisfactory expedient of folding U-shaped members.

I overcome this difficulty and achieve a sturdy, inexpensive structure with a minimum number of movable parts by rigidly affixing my U-shaped members to the legs and vertically staggering the U-shaped members on opposite sloping sides so that the rack can be folded into a compact structure for shipment or storage. If the U-shaped members on opposite sloping sides are positioned an inch or two apart vertically when the rack is

folded, folding and unfolding can be accomplished without interference and the aforementioned objects are attained.

I claim:

5 A double display rack for cans or the like comprising four angle iron legs, the flanges of each of said angle iron legs extending towards the adjacent legs, one pair of said legs defining a sloping side of said rack when said rack is in condition for use, the other pair of said legs defining
10 an oppositely sloping side of said rack when said rack is in condition for use, said sides being pivotally connected at the top thereof, means for holding said sides in fixed position with respect to
15 each other when said rack is in condition for use, a plurality of rigid cross-members connecting the legs forming each of said sides at a plurality of heights, the cross-members on each of said sides being located at substantially the same
20 heights as the corresponding cross-members on the other of said sides, said cross-members serving as supports for a plurality of cans or the like

on each of said sides, a rigid U-shaped member corresponding to each of said cross-members located above the corresponding cross-member in fixed relation thereto, each U-shaped member comprising two inwardly extending arms, one of which is rigidly and immovably affixed to one of said legs and the other of which is rigidly and immovably affixed to the other leg of the same side, each of said U-shaped members serving as a back support for the cans or the like resting
5 on the corresponding cross-member, the respective U-shaped members on one of said sides being located at slightly different heights as compared with the corresponding U-shaped members on the other side, whereby rows of cans or the like can
10 be supported on each side of said rack in a symmetrical manner when said rack is in condition for use, and whereby said rack can be collapsed by folding the adjacent sides together without
15 interference between the U-shaped members on the respective opposite sides.
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