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HOOD SUPPORT FOR CHARCOAL COOKER

Filed Jan. 14, 1965

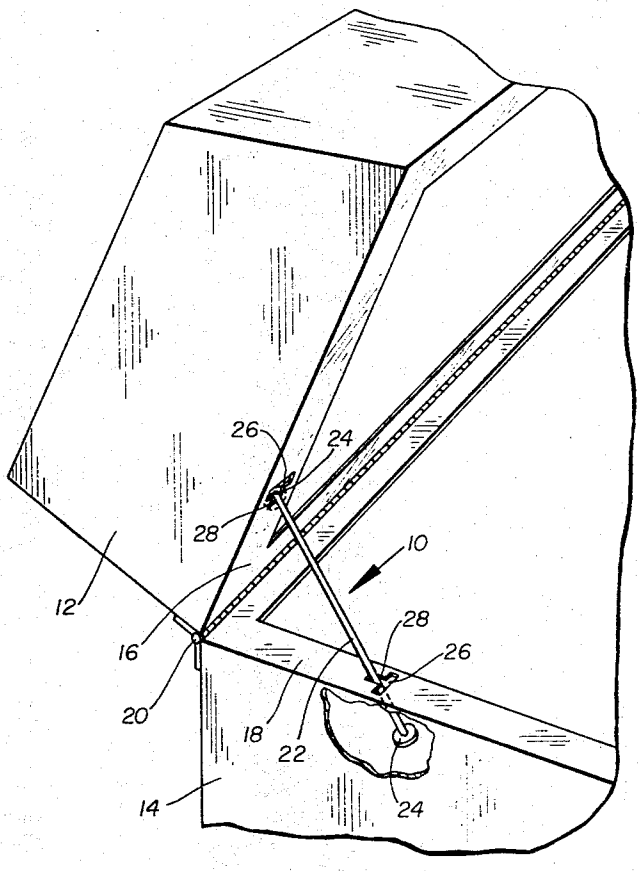


Fig. 1.

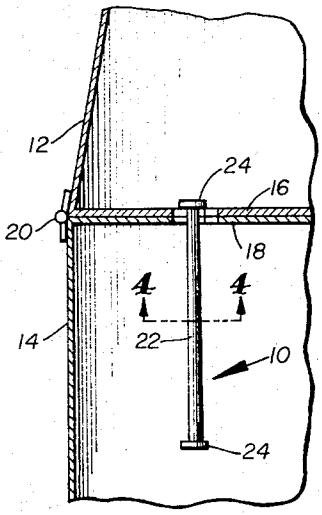


Fig. 2.

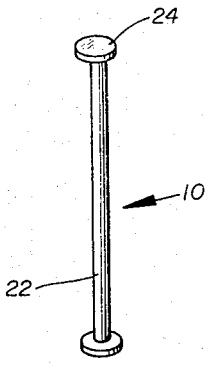


Fig. 3.

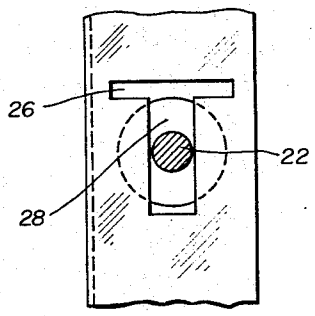


Fig. 4.

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HOOD SUPPORT FOR CHARCOAL COOKER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 126—25)

This invention relates to a support or stop which is designed to operate in conjunction with a hood which opens upwardly from a horizontal position and is designed to prevent the hood from opening beyond a chosen limit. More particularly, this invention relates to a stop designed to operate in conjunction with the hood of a charcoal cooker to prevent the lid from opening so completely that an undue strain is placed upon the hinges.

In the past the conventional method of providing a support or stop for a hood generally consisted of extending a chain between the body portion and lid portion of the container, for example, a charcoal cooker. One disadvantage in the use of a chain, however, is that the chain is sufficiently flexible that it catches occasionally between the lid as the lid is closed. Another disadvantage is that a chain occasionally kinks.

The main object of this invention is to provide a hood stop for a charcoal cooker which is strong, durable and does not impede either the opening or closing of the lid.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hood stop which is extremely simple to install in the charcoal cooker.

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 partially cut away of a portion of a charcoal cooker showing the invention in place.

FIGURE 2 is a partial sectional view of a charcoal cooker showing the hood closed and the invention hanging in place.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the hood stop alone.

FIGURE 4 is a view along the lines 4—4 of FIGURE 2.

The hood stop, generally **10**, is shown in FIGURE 1 as supporting the hood of a charcoal cooker which is partially opened, in FIGURE 2 as hanging down inside the charcoal cooker with the hood closed, and in FIGURE 3 in perspective. In the figures, the lid or hood **12** of the charcoal cooker is shown attached to the body **14** means of a hinge **20**. Both the hood **12** and the body **14** have been formed to contain flanges. In this instance, the flanges are disposed inwardly from the walls of the hood and the body respectively. Hood flange **16** and body flange **18** meet substantially flush with each other when the hood is closed. The body flange **18** provides a support for the closed hood. Also, both the hood flange **16** and the body flange **18** contain an opening into which the hood stop fits. The openings in both the hood flange **16** and the body flange **18** are each made up of a T-slot **26** and a perpendicular T-stem **28**. It is readily seen that the hood stop **10** has a long cylindrical body with flat disc-shaped portions at either end, like a nail with a head at each end.

FIGURE 1 demonstrates the extreme simplicity of installation of the hood stop **10**. The hood of the cooker is first opened partially. One head **24** of the hood stop **10** is inserted into a T-stem **26** of either the hood **12** or the body **14**. The other head **24** of the hood stop **10** is then inserted into the T-slot **26** of the other unit, i.e., either the body **14** or the hood **12**. The T-slot **26** is constructed to be slightly wider than the thickness of the head **24** and to be slightly longer than the diameter of the head **24**. Also, the diameter **22** of the hood stop **10**

is designed to be somewhat greater than the thickness of the head **24**. The T-stem **28** is designed to be very slightly wider than the diameter of the body **22** of the hood stop **10**. This choice of dimensions therefore means that the T-stem **28** will be somewhat wider than the width of the T-slot **26**. Consequently, when the hood stop **10** is installed the body **22** of the stop must remain within the T-stem **28** portion of the opening and cannot get caught in the T-slot **26** portion of the opening.

The openings in the hood **12** and the body **14** are made so that the top of each T-slot **26** of each of the openings is directed toward the front of the cooker. The openings must be in this configuration in order for the hood stop **10** to be properly installed. When the hood stop **10** is installed and the hood **12** is open, the hood stop **10** generally remains and slides within the T-stem **28** portion of the opening. The hood stop **10** cannot fall out since it can be removed only by lifting vertically the head **24** through the T-stem **26**.

It should be obvious that the flanges on the body and on the lid would not necessarily have to be located on all four sides of the body or lid. It would be possible to have the flanges on just one side of the body and hood and still have an operable hood support. Nor would it be necessary to have the flanges on the body and hood extend inwardly. The flanges could extend outwardly. Also, should a different manner of resting the hood on the body require it, the T-slot portions could be formed from a separate small piece of metal attached to either the inside or outside of the body or hood along one of the sides.

For the most efficient operation of this invention the openings in the hood **12** in body **14** should substantially coincide when the hood is closed as shown in FIGURE 2. However, a slight displacement of the openings in relation to each other may be tolerated without seriously affecting the operation of this invention.

The length of the hood stop **10** is critical only in that its length must be such that when the hood stop **10** is installed and the hood **12** open, the weight of the hood **12** will maintain the hood in an open position. That is, if the hood stop **10** is too short, the hood will not be permitted to reach a position where its center of gravity is beyond the vertical position and will consequently fail to stay open.

Of course, since the hood stop **10** is to be installed in a charcoal cooker, the hood stop must be constructed of a heat resistant metal.

In addition to the configuration of the hood stop **10** described above wherein the head **24** is a flat, disc-shaped portion, this head portion may have other shapes such as spherical, hemispherical or hemi-ellipsoidal configuration. That is, that portion of the head which is adjacent to and touches the cylindrical body portion **22**, may have a curved surface. Preferably that portion of the head farthest away from the cylindrical body portion is a flat surface. The T-slot **26** is varied accordingly. Such modified designs provide smoother operation with less opportunity for the head portion to bind itself or to become stuck in the sharply angular portions of the T-stem and T-slot.

Since many different embodiments of this invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, it is to be understood that the specific embodiment described in detail herein is not to be taken in a limiting sense, since the scope of the invention is best defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a charcoal cooker, the combination comprising: a body portion having a flange at the top of said body portion, said flange having an opening therein consisting of a T-slot and T-stem;

a hood portion having a flange at the bottom thereof, said flange having an opening therein consisting of a T-slot and T-stem;

said T-slots and T-stems in said body portion and said hood portion being positioned so that when the hood portion is closed upon said body portion said T-slots and T-stems substantially coincide; and

a hood stop disposed within said T-stem and T-slot of said body portion and within said T-stem and T-slot of said hood portion.

2. In a charcoal cooker as described in claim 1, said body portion having a flange at the top thereof whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said body portion and is substantially perpendicular to the walls of said body portion, said flange having an opening in one side thereof consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem.

3. In a charcoal cooker as described in claim 2, said hood portion having a flange at the bottom thereof whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said hood portion and is substantially perpendicular to the walls of said hood portion, said flange having an opening in one side thereof consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem.

4. In a charcoal cooker as described in claim 3, said hood stop consisting of a cylindrical body portion having a length greater than the diameter thereof and a circular head portion at each end of said cylindrical body portion, said head portions each having a diameter considerably greater than the thickness thereof and each of said head portions being concentric with the axis of said cylindrical body portion.

5. In a charcoal cooker, the combination comprising:

a body portion having two side walls, a front wall and rear wall, and having a flange at the top of said body portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said body portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem;

a hood portion having two side walls, a front wall and a rear wall, and having a flange at the bottom of said hood portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said hood portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said side walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem; and

a hood stop removably disposed within said T-slot and T-stem of said body portion and within said T-slot and T-stem of said hood portion, said hood stop consisting of a cylindrical body portion having a length greater than the diameter thereof and a circular head portion at each end of said cylindrical body portion, said head portions each having a diameter greater than the thickness thereof and each of said head portions being concentric with the axis of said cylindrcial body portions.

6. In a charcoal cooker, the combination comprising:

a body portion having two side walls, a front wall and rear wall, and having a flange at the top of said body portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said body portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem;

a hood portion having two side walls, a front wall and a rear wall, and having a flange at the bottom of said hood portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said hood portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said side walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem; and

a hood stop removably disposed within said T-slot and T-stem of said body portion and within said T-slot and T-stem of said hood portion, said hood stop consisting of a cylindrical body portion having a length greater than the diameter thereof and a flat, disc-shaped head portion at each end of said cylindrical body portion, said head portions each having a diameter greater than the thickness thereof and each of said head portions being concentric with the axis of said cylindrical body portions.

7. In a charcoal cooker, the combination comprising:

a body portion having two side walls, a front wall and rear wall, and having a flange at the top of said body portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said body portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem;

a hood portion having two side walls, a front wall and a rear wall, and having a flange at the bottom of said hood portion whereby said flange is disposed inwardly from said hood portion and is substantially perpendicular to each of said side walls, said flange having an opening in one side thereof adjacent one of said side walls, said opening consisting of a T-slot and a T-stem, said T-slot being positioned closer to said front wall than said T-stem, and said T-slot having a width substantially less than the width of said T-stem; and

a hood stop removably disposed within said T-slot and T-stem of said body portion and within said T-slot and T-stem of said hood portion, said hood stop consisting of a cylindrical body portion having a length greater than the diameter thereof and a hemispherical head portion at each end of said cylindrical body portion, said head portions each having a diameter greater than the thickness thereof and each of said head portions being concentric with the axis of said cylindrical body portions.

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