Sept. 9, 1941 O. W. GANNAWAY 2,255,702

SHOW WINDOW DISPLAY CASE

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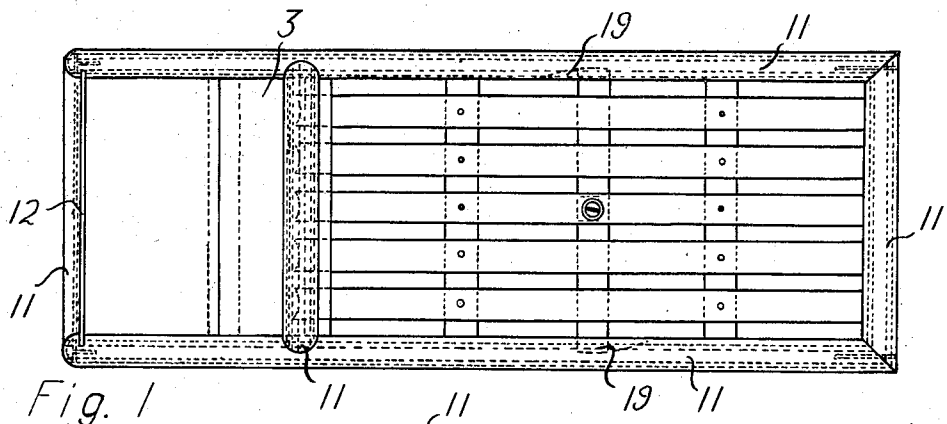


Fig. 1

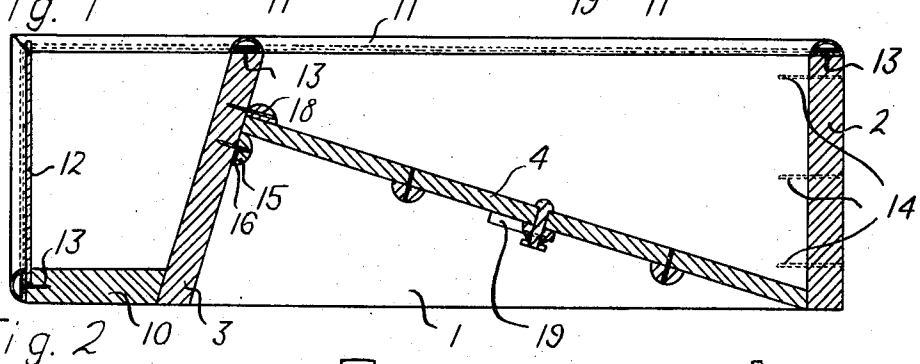


Fig. 2

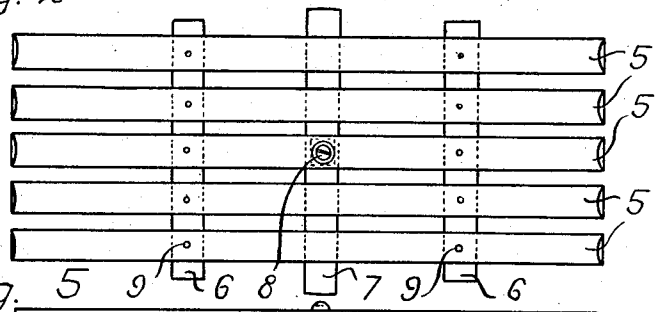


Fig. 5

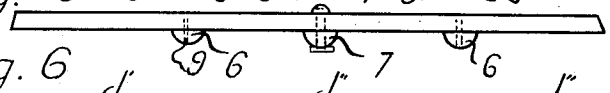


Fig. 6



Fig. 3

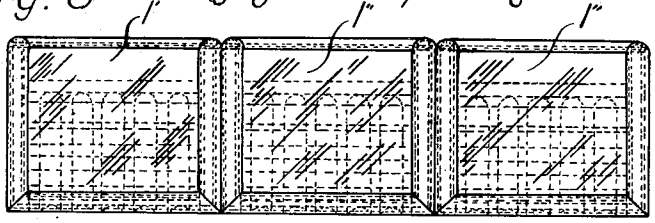


Fig. 4

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SHOW WINDOW DISPLAY CASE

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Application January 3, 1939, Serial No. 249,141

1 Claim. (Cl. 312—118)

My invention relates to display cases and more particularly to those for displaying fruits, vegetables and the like in the show windows of a grocery store.

In the prior art of displaying fruits and vegetables, in the show windows of grocery stores, it has been the practice to use a case or a cabinet extending the full length of the window and divided transversely into a series of compartments fixed relative to each other. Cases illustrative of the style, although used for a different purpose, may be found in such patents as Brawner, 1,594,995; Sorensen, 1,211,774. Each time a sale is made the whole case must be moved in from the window in order that the clerk may avail himself of the desired pieces to be removed. This is only accomplished by moving and two men are generally required for this purpose. This results in a waste of time and energy, and often breakage and injury to the case. Nor is it possible to remove a compartment of the case and clean it. This may only be accomplished by emptying all of the compartments of the case, removing it and cleaning it out of the store or at some other point. At best, it is very difficult to clean them with their solid, immovable bottoms. In most sectional compartment display cases, the gradual removal of the contents destroys the display effect since no means is provided for separating the display compartment from the vending compartment.

Applicant with a knowledge of all of these defects in and objections to the prior art has for an object of his invention the provision of a series of display cases which may be associated one with the other in side by side relation in a window, and which are movable, one with respect to the other, to facilitate the ready access thereto by the clerk for the purpose of assorting or removing the contents thereof to fill the customers' orders, and to facilitate their removal for the purpose of cleaning or replacing without disturbing the remaining cases.

Applicant has as another object of his invention the provision of a display case for show windows including a body divided into a display compartment with a front glass and an inclined rear wall for urging its contents towards the glass, and a vending compartment with an inclined bottom to urge the contents of such compartment towards the rear and facilitate its removal by the clerk thus ordinarily rendering it unnecessary to remove the case in order to obtain ready access to its contents.

Applicant has as another object of his invention the provision of a display case having a vending compartment with a removable bottom to facilitate cleaning or repairing.

Applicant has as another object of his invention the provision of a case with a vending compartment having a latticed bottom for the passage of dirt or trash therethrough and for only supporting vegetables or the other desired contents.

Applicant has as another object of his invention the provision of a display case having a front display compartment with a removable display glass in order that same may be emptied or cleaned without causing injury to such glass, and to easily replace same when it is damaged.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will appear from the following specification and the accompanying drawing and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the annexed claim.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved display case. Figure 2 is a side elevation in section of the same case. Figure 3 is an end view of the latticed bottom for said case. Figure 4 shows a series of such cases positioned in side by side relation for the display of different vegetables or fruits. Figure 5 is a plan view of the removable bottom of said case. Figure 6 is a side view of the same bottom.

Referring to the drawings in detail, 1', 1'', 1''', show a series of my improved cases positioned to display their contents in an appropriate window or other place. These cases are comprised of sides 1—1, rear end wall 2, an intermediate end wall 3, dividing said case into a front display compartment and a rear vending compartment, and a front glass 12 for the display compartment. Joined to the side walls 1—1 and intermediate end wall 3 is a bottom 10 for engagement with and support of glass 12. The display compartment bottom 10 is preferably rigidly secured to the side walls and intermediate end wall 3, since it is generally unnecessary to remove same as it does not require as much cleansing and as much attention as the bottom 4 of the vending compartment, due to the fact that the contents thereof are not removed or displaced or injured as often as is the case in the vending compartment. Extending along the outer top and front edges of the sides 1—1 rear end wall 2 and display compartment bottom 10 is a metallic molding 11. This molding is secured to its edges by means of nails, 13, or other appropriate means. This molding is not only sanitary but serves as an attractive finish or

ornament for the case which is preferably of wood.

Mounted on the rear face of the intermediate wall 3 and extending transversely along the same in spaced relation to each other are a pair of strips 15—17 joined to the intermediate end wall by nails or other appropriate securing means 16—18. These strips serve to receive and support the upper end of the lattice bottom 4, whose lower end abuts against and rests upon the lower edge or end of the rear end wall 2, which rear end wall is secured through appropriate fastening means such as nails 14 to the side walls 1.

The bottom 4 of the vending compartment, as already indicated, comprises a plurality of spaced longitudinal members 5—5 joined to and rigidly separated from each other by means of a plurality of securing means 9 which may be nailed or any other appropriate securing means which pass through the respective longitudinal members 5 and then transverse members 6. Mounted on the central longitudinal member 5 and rotatable with respect thereto on a pivot 8 is a cross member or toggle 7. This toggle is adapted to be rotated about its pivot 8 which may be a screw or any other appropriate pivot to a position where its ends set in recesses 19—19 in the side walls 1—1, thus locking the bottom 4 against removal from the display case. The ends of the longitudinal members 5—5 may be beveled or otherwise formed to facilitate mounting or removal from the case.

In its use, a series of these cases as indicated in Figure 4 are positioned in side by side relation in a display window of a store so that their front ends or display compartments are clearly visible from the window and their glasses 12 being recessed from the front are protected from contact with the display window of the store. Vegetables, fruits or other appropriate stock may be inserted in the front compartment and due to the slant of the intermediate end wall 3 will be urged against the front glass 12 for display to the greatest advantage. The remainder of the vegetables or fruits are packed in the rear or vending compartment and due to the slant of the bottom 4 are always fed towards the rear end wall 2 where they may be easily assorted or removed by the clerk without disturbing the contents in the front display compartment, but providing ready and easy access for removal of contents to supply the customer.

The lattice bottom 4 being comprised of spaced portions permit small amounts of dirt or other trash carried by fresh vegetables to fall down between them and be removed. If the bottom 4 becomes dirty or injured, it is only necessary to rotate the cross arm or toggle 7 to disengage its ends, from the recesses 19—19 to permit the ready removal of such bottom therefrom so that it may be carefully cleansed and dried without disturbing the remaining part of the case. To cleanse the front compartment, it is only necessary to slide the front glass 12 upwardly and to remove its contents. It will be noted that the case may be slid forward or rearwardly by a really small force, without straining the clerk and without disturbing the other cases and in this way, the case may be removed from the show windows or the contents may be changed without disturbing the other cases.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A display case of the character described comprising sides and ends defining a chamber, a partition element disposed therein and extending upwardly and rearwardly dividing said chamber into front and rear compartments, strips mounted on the rear face of said partition, and a bottom for said rear compartment having ends engageable with said strips to interlock and support them, and means engageable in recesses in the sides for removably securing said bottom in position.

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