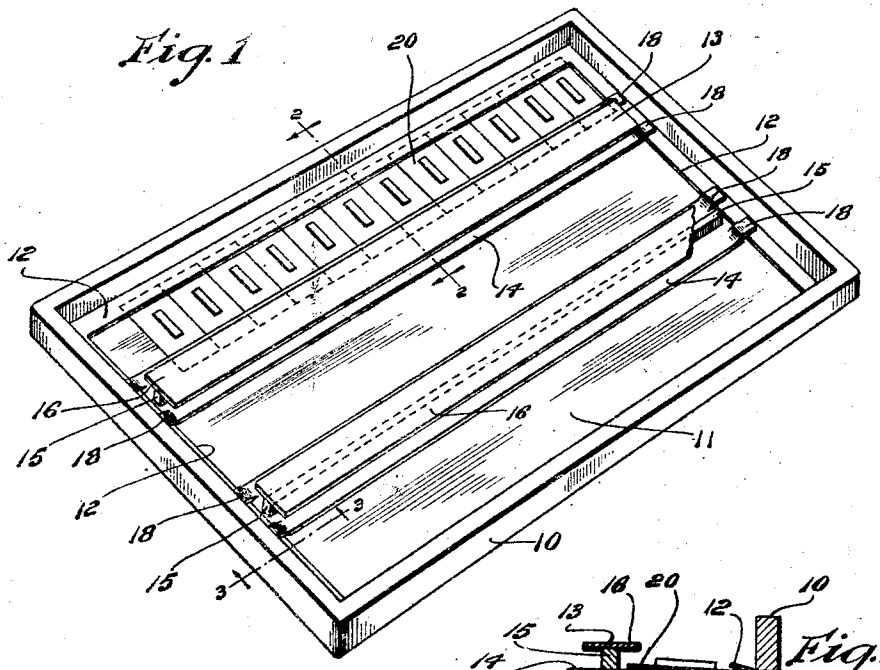
March 30, 1926. 1,578,573

F. A. BALLOU, JR

DISPLAY TRAY

Filed June 21, 1923

Fig. 1



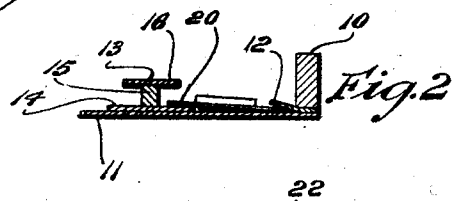
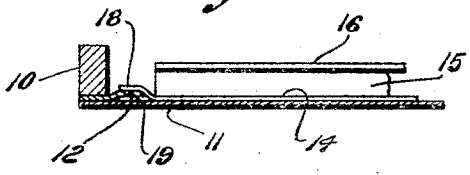


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



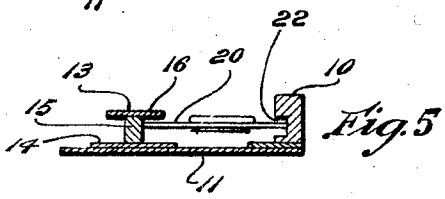
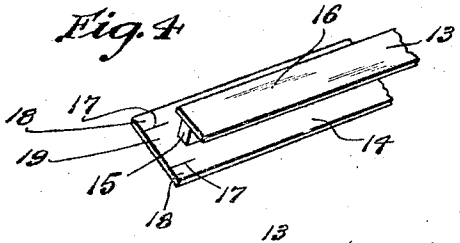


Fig. 5

Fig. 4



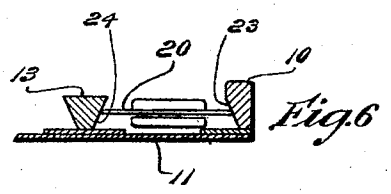


Fig. 6

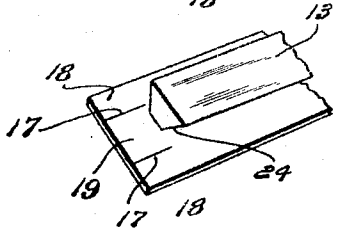


Fig. 7

Inventor

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By Barlow & Barlow

Attorneys

Patented Mar. 30, 1926. 1,578,573

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK A. BALLOU, JR., OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR TO B. A. BALLOU & CO. INC., OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, A CORPORATION OF RHODE ISLAND.

DISPLAY TRAY.

Application filed June 21, 1923. Serial No. 646,805.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK A. BALLOU, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display Trays, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of display trays employed more particularly for transporting and displaying articles of jewelry which are mounted upon cards, and the object of this invention is to provide a tray having one or more cross bars adjustably mounted therein, the bars being provided with means for engaging the edges of the cards on which the jewelry is mounted, to assist in preventing the cards from dropping from the tray even though it be inverted.

A further object of the invention is the provision of means on the ends of these cross bars for gripping parts of the frame whereby the bars are frictionally retained in adjusted position in the tray.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved tray showing the cross bars mounted therein and jewelry supporting cards or holders mounted in the tray.

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Figure 1, showing the cross bars as having laterally-extending, overlapping lips to prevent the cards or holders from dropping out of the tray.

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 1, showing the base member of the cross bar as being split to overlap and frictionally engage both the upper and under faces of the guide strips on the frame.

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing my improved form of cross bar with the base member split to provide portions for binding both the upper and under faces of the guide strip on the frame.

Figure 5 shows the inner face of the frame as grooved to receive and assist in retaining one edge of the card or holder.

Figure 6 is a modification showing both the side frame and the cross bar as undercut to cooperate in retaining the edges of the cards or holders on which the jewelry is mounted.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the end portion of the cross bar and showing the same undercut, as illustrated in Figure 6.

It is found in the practical use of trays of this character, for transporting and displaying carded jewelry, of importance to so construct the parts of the tray that the cards will not fall out or be displaced even though the tray be inverted or tipped up at a sharp angle; and to accomplish this in a simple and effective way, I have provided a set of cross bars which are adapted to be frictionally retained in adjusted position in the tray, these bars being also provided with grooves or laterally extending side edges to cooperate with edge guiding strips on the frame for engaging the card mounts or holders to prevent them from displacement, but permitting the holders to be readily positioned and removed as often as desired; and the following is a detailed description of one construction by which these results may be obtained:—

With reference to the drawings, 10 designates the frame of a tray, which is preferably formed of very light material such as wood and which is preferably provided with a bottom plate or covering 11 usually made of a light weight material such as cloth or the like and around the bottom edge of this frame above the bottom member 11 and forming a part of the frame, I have formed a narrow, inwardly-extending, guide strip 12 which preferably extends entirely around the frame, which guide strips perform a number of useful functions, presently described:—

My improved type of tray is designed more particularly for displaying that kind of jewelry which is mounted on cards, and to accommodate these cards and properly retain them in position in the tray, I have provided a plurality of longitudinally disposed cross bars 13, the same being constructed with a base plate 14, a middle section or rib 15, and a top-plate 16 with overhanging edges. The base-plate is preferably formed of a thin material such as cardboard or the like which is stiff, pliable and strong. In order to mount these cross bars in the tray,

I preferably split the ends of the base-plate as at 17, providing edge finger portions 18 which are adapted to be raised as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, to extend over the upper face of the guide strip 12 while the middle portion 19 of this base-plate is adapted to extend under this guide strip whereby these different members serve to firmly grip the guide strip and so retain the cross bars in any adjusted position in the tray, but the relative engaging positions of these edge and middle portions of the base-plate may be reversed, if desired.

By forming these cross bars with a top-plate 16 which extends laterally beyond the middle portion 15 thereof, longitudinally-disposed grooves are thus formed in these bars into which one edge of the jewelry supporting cards or holders 20 may be positioned.

In mounting the cards or holders in the tray one edge of each of the cards in the first row is tucked under the edge of the adjacent guide strip, then the cross bar 13 is moved laterally so that the opposite edges of the cards will project into its groove; then another row of cards is placed between the two bars which are positioned as illustrated in Figure 1, the edges of this second row being engaged by the opposite grooves of these bars, and a third row of cards may then be introduced and placed the same as the first row with one of their edges extending beneath the adjacent guide strip and their opposite edges engaging adjacent grooves in the side of the cross bar. In some instances, shorter bars may be employed to run transversely across the tray to replace the longer bars, if desired, the guide strip serving in both instances for frictionally retaining the bars and the edge row of cards in their relative adjusted positions.

In some instances, instead of tucking the edges of the cards beneath the guide strip, the inner face of the frame may be grooved as at 22, see Figure 5, to receive these edges of the cards, while in other cases this inner edge of the frame may be undercut or grooved as at 23 in Figure 6, to receive the edges of the cards, and in still other instances the cross bars instead of being provided with a top plate having overlapping edges may, itself, be undercut as at 24, along its sides to receive the opposite edges of the cards, as illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

My improved tray is extremely simple and practical in construction and by its use the carded jewelry may be positioned therein and readily removed therefrom and at the same time held sufficiently tight in the tray so that it cannot accidentally fall out even though the tray is inverted.

The foregoing description is directed solely towards the construction illustrated, but I desire it to be understood that I reserve the privilege of resorting to all the mechanical changes to which the device is susceptible, the invention being defined and limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A display tray comprising a frame, a readily removable and adjustable cross bar having gripping means at each end engaging portions of said frame, the sides of said bar being undercut longitudinally to receive holder cards and retain the edges of the holder cards mounted therein.

2. A display tray comprising a frame, having an inwardly-projecting guide strip around its edge, an adjustable cross bar having means in its ends for yieldingly gripping said strip, said bar being reduced in cross section along its side between its top and bottom edges to receive holder cards whereby one edge of each of the holder cards may be retained in said reduced side and its opposite edge retained beneath the adjacent guide strip under which it is adapted to project to hold the card in position in the tray.

3. A display tray comprising a frame having an inwardly-projecting guide strip about its bottom edge, a cross bar having means at its ends for yieldingly gripping each side of said strip, said bar having a cooperating overhanging card-edge-retaining lip along its upper edge.

4. A display tray comprising a frame having an inwardly-extending guide strip about its bottom edge, a cross bar having a base portion formed of thin flexible material split on its end to overlap the top and bottom of said strip and yieldingly grip said strip to frictionally retain said bar in adjusted position in the tray.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FREDERICK A. BALLOU, JR.