Nov. 15, 1949 F. M. GREEN 2,488,010

TRAY HOLDER

Filed Sept. 3, 1946

Fig. 1.

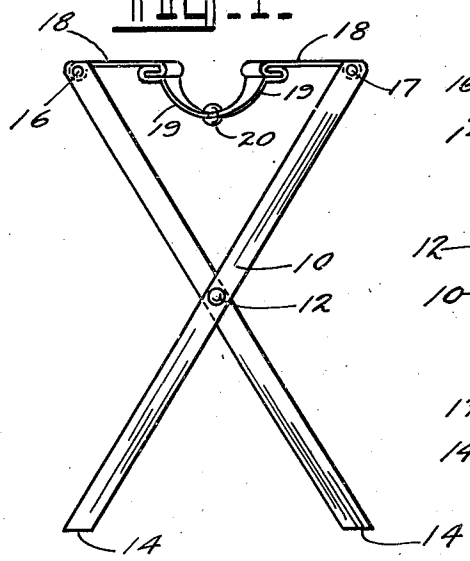


Fig. 2.

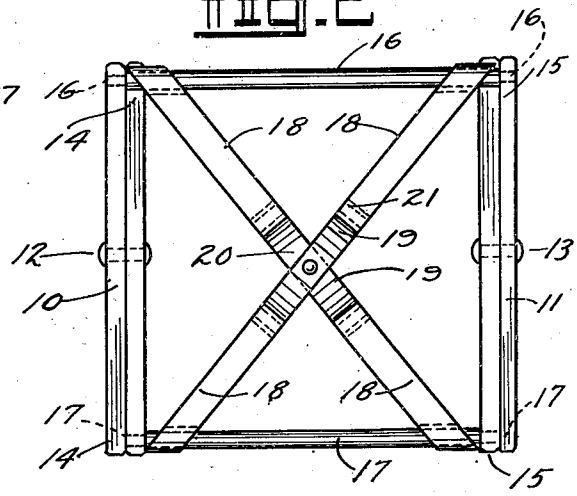


Fig. 3.

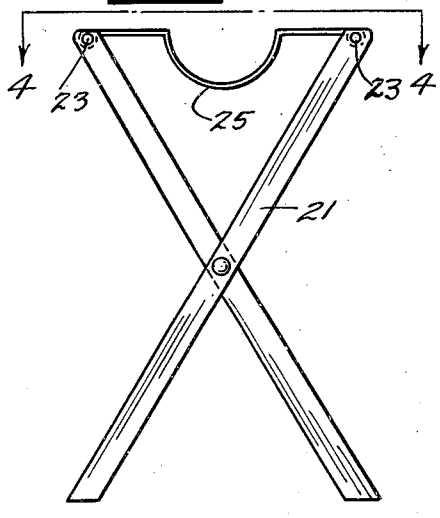
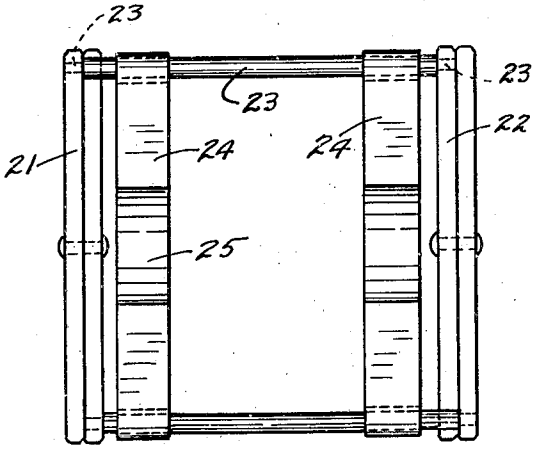


Fig. 4.



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TRAY HOLDER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—83)

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This invention relates to a tray holder and more particularly to a device for temporarily supporting a cafeteria or restaurant serving tray.

The principal object of the invention is the provision of a tray holder providing means enabling a tray to be positioned thereon and allowing the hand and arm of the person positioning the tray on the tray holder to be withdrawn from beneath the tray after the tray is firmly positioned on the tray holder.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an inexpensive collapsible tray holder providing four point support for a cafeteria or restaurant serving tray.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a tray holder for restaurant trays, the webbing top sections thereof having U-shaped members integrally formed therewith to provide clearance beneath a tray positioned thereon.

The tray holder shown and described herein has been designed to permit a restaurant or cafeteria serving tray to be carefully and firmly positioned on the supporting tray and at the same time providing adequate room for the hand and arm of the server to be withdrawn from beneath the tray after it is positioned on the tray holder.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the tray holder.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the tray holder.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a modified form of the tray holder.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of a modified form of the tray holder.

By referring to the drawings and Figures 1 and 2 in particular, it will be seen that a tray holder in the nature of a portable stand has been illustrated which comprises two crossed and pivoted pairs of legs 10 and 11, respectively, each of the pairs of legs 10 and 11 being pivoted to each other midway between their upper and lowermost ends by means of pivots 12 and 13, respectively. As illustrated in side elevation in Figure 1 of the drawings, the pair of legs 10 appears as an X-shape, the lower ends forming ground engaging feet 14, and the upper ends each supporting the ends of rods 16 and 17. The other pair of pivoted legs 11 is provided with ground engaging feet portions 15 and the uppermost ends of this pair of pivoted legs 11 support the opposite ends of the rods 16 and 17. The rods 16 and 17 thereby space the upper portions of the pairs of pivoted legs 10 and 11 and at the same time serve as mounting members for four sections of webbing 18. The ends of each section of the webbing are looped about the rods 16 and 17, respectively, and affixed thereto so that they cannot slide therealong. The inner ends of the sections of webbing 18 are each affixed to a pair of the outermost ends of a pair of U-shaped members 19, one of which overlies the other and which are pivoted together for movement by means of a pivot 20.

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The sections of webbing are clamped or sewed or stapled, as indicated by the numerals 21, to the ends of the U-shaped members 19. It will thus be observed that a horizontally positioned supporting surface is formed by the four sections of webbing 18 in connection with the two U-shaped members 19 with the result that a four point top surface is provided, the center section of which is depressed as in the U-shaped members 19 so that the arm and hand of a person positioning a serving tray on the top of the tray holder can easily and conveniently be removed from beneath the tray without any interference with the supporting means.

Modifications in the specific form of the invention illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings will occur to those skilled in the art, and one such modification is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings wherein two pairs of crossed and pivoted legs 21 and 22 are employed to form the stand portion of the tray holder and are spaced apart at their uppermost ends by means of rods 23. The rods 23 are connected crosswise with members 24 which have U-shaped depressions 25 located inwardly from the outermost ends of the members 24. The outermost ends of the members 24 are looped about the rods 23.

It will thus be seen that a simple and efficient tray holder has been devised which provides a convenient and practical stand upon which a restaurant or cafeteria serving tray may be positioned and which will enable the tray to be completely positioned on the supporting surfaces of the stand before the arm and hand of the person placing the tray on the stand is withdrawn.

Having thus described by invention, what I claim is:

A tray holder comprising a pair of crossed and

pivoted leg sections, the uppermost ends of the legs of each section being spaced apart by rods, members connecting the said rods together, each member including webbing sections and also a rigid U-shaped section positioned in the said member intermediate the webbing sections thereof to form an area in the member depressed below the normal plane of the webbing sections to facilitate the withdrawal of the arm and hand of a person placing a serving tray on the tray holder.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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