Dec. 30, 1930. A. WELLEMEYER 1,787,347

COMBINED DISPLAY AND DISPENSING APPARATUS

Filed Oct. 8. 1929

Fig. 1.

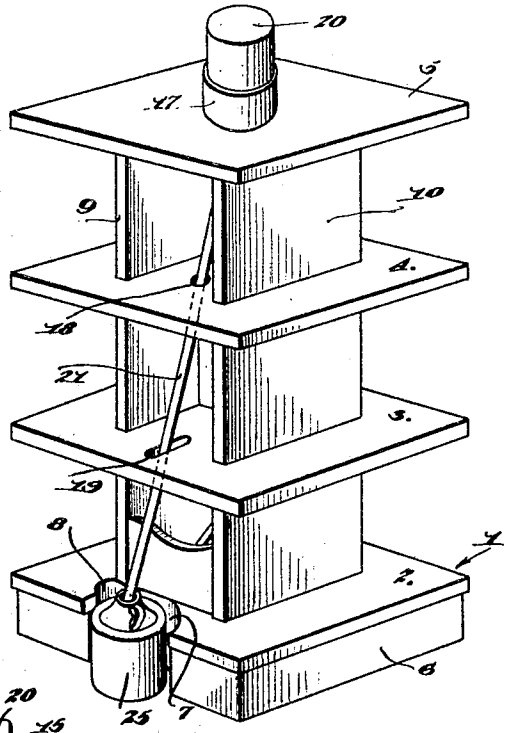


Fig. 2.

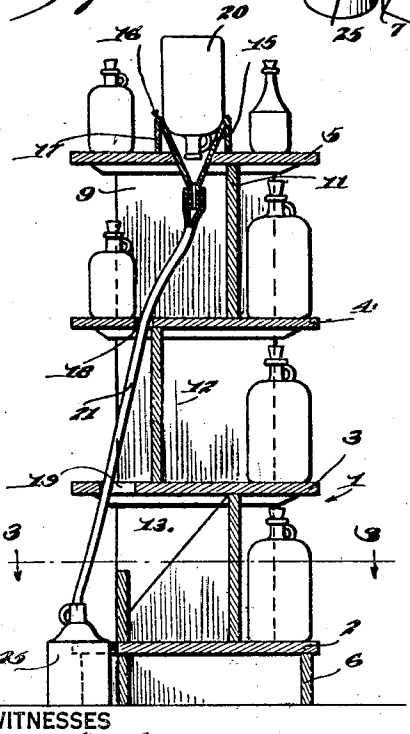
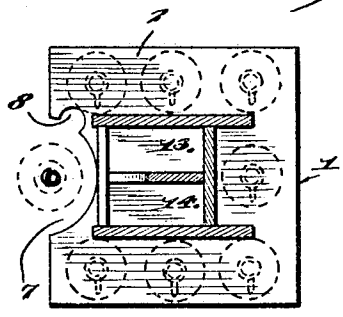


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINED DISPLAY AND DISPENSING APPARATUS

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This invention relates to store fixtures and more particularly to what may be termed rapid filling dispensers for liquid, such as vinegar and the like.

It is well known that in the usual grocery store when a customer wants a gallon or more of vinegar or other liquid such as is sold from barrels and to receive which he has his own jug, that the clerk takes the customer's jug to the store room, draws through a faucet from a barrel into a measure the desired quantity of liquid and then pours the measured liquid through a funnel into the customer's jug. This consumes considerable time of a high priced salesman and is not only expensive to the proprietor but tedious and annoying to the customer. It was to overcome this objectionable feature that this apparatus was designed and a primary object thereof is to provide a rapid fill or dispensing apparatus which not only enables the customer to inspect various grades of goods and select accordingly, but it also saves the time of the clerk and enables him to use such time in salesmanship.

Another object is to so construct such an apparatus that while quickly supplying a customer's order, attracts by gurgling and bubbling, the attention of others in the store and reminds them that they possibly need some vinegar and also discloses the clarity of the goods and thus performs the double function of an advertising as well as a dispensing apparatus.

In carrying out these objects, the invention is susceptible of a wide range of modification without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the claimed invention; there being shown in the drawings for illustrative purposes a preferred and practical form, in which:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the apparatus constituting this invention shown in use;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof; and

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In the embodiment illustrated the apparatus comprises a stand 1 including a stack of shelves arranged in vertically spaced relation five of which are here shown and numbered 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively. These shelves are preferably made of one-inch lumber of a size 24″ x 24″ more or less, and the distance between the shelves is preferably about twelve and one-half inches. The bottom shelf 2 is built up about a distance of six inches from the floor more or less, having a depending skirt 6 around it and this bottom shelf is cut out at one side as shown at 7 to accommodate the customer's jug. This recess 7 may be large enough to accommodate jugs of various sizes that has at one side thereof a smaller recess 8 designed to hold a drip catch to hold the hose and catch the drip therefrom when not in use as will be hereinafter more fully described.

The shelves are spaced and supported by means of side members 9 and 10 between which are arranged cross partitions positioned in staggered relation as shown clearly in Fig. 2 so as to render the stand rigid and adapt it to support the weight to which it will be subjected, although they need not necessarily be staggered. Two small bins 13 and 14 are provided at the lower portion of the stand for holding jug corks of different sizes.

The top shelf 5 has a central opening 15 designed to receive a funnel 16 composed of any suitable material such as glass, rubber, stone-ware or the like, and which has around its mouth a depending skirt 17 designed to rest on the top face of the shelf 5 outside of the opening and thereby form a secure support for the funnel. The larger end or top of this funnel is just big enough to receive and hold upright one-gallon glass jugs 20 when such jug is inverted into the funnel for filling the customer's jug shown at 25. The intermediate shelves 4 and 3 have openings in the front portions thereof shown at 18 and 19, the opening 19 being arranged in a plane in advance of the opening 18 and through which a hose or pipe 21 is designed to extend. This hose 21 may be of any suitable material according to the liquid which is to pass therethrough. This tube 21 is connected with the lower end of the funnel 16 as shown clearly in Fig. 2 and extends down through the open-

ings 18 and 19, being of a length sufficient to permit the lower end to be inserted in the container to be filled.

Each of the shelves of this stand is designed to hold without crowding three or more one-gallon glass jugs in a row and the top shelf may be used for one-quart glass decanters designed to contain special kinds of vinegar such as the higher priced spiced vinegars, cereal vinegar, etc.

The stand 1 is kept equipped with glass jugs of vinegar of various kinds and of different sizes for selling during the day. The stock of vinegar is usually kept in the basement or other store room in barrels and when business is quiet one of the cheap employees may occupy his time filling glass jugs with vinegar so that the stand may not only be equipped, but additional jugs may be ready for use during rush hours as often fifty gallons a day are sold in one store during the pickling season.

This dispensing apparatus is preferably set up on the main floor of the grocery department where customers may walk around it and inspect the various kinds of vinegar displayed in the glass jugs and bottles. When the desired kind of vinegar has been selected by the customer and the quantity mentioned the jug 25 is placed on the floor in the space 7 and the tube 21 is inserted in the mouth of the jug. Then one of the glass jugs containing the vinegar selected is uncorked and turned upside down into the funnel 16 and the contents thereof will be rapidly transferred to the jug 25. It will thus be seen that while the vinegar is being transferred from one of the glass jugs of the store to the container of the customer the clerk may go ahead putting up the remainder of the customer's order and when the container 25 is filled or contains the desired amount, a cork is placed therein and it is delivered to the purchaser.

While the customer's jug is being filled with vinegar the vinegar from the dispensing jug gurgles and bubbles in its passage out and thus attracts the attention of other people who may be in the store and reminds them that the store sells vinegar and also shows how clear and nice it is. This apparatus thus operates as an advertising apparatus as well as a dispensing apparatus.

It is, of course, understood that the apparatus may be painted or decorated in any suitable or desired manner to preserve it and to render it attractive.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will, of course, be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention or its scope as claimed.

I claim:

1. A combined display and dispensing apparatus comprising a stand composed of a plurality of shelves arranged in vertically spaced relation, one above the other, a funnel receiving opening in the top shelf, the other shelves having tube passages therein, a funnel mounted in said opening, a tube connected with said funnel and passing through said passages, the lower portion of said stand having a seat to receive a container to be filled whereby the container may be positioned for the insertion in the mouth thereof of the lower end of said tube.

2. An apparatus of the class described comprising a stand having a plurality of vertically spaced shelves, a skirt supporting the lowermost shelf above the floor, a container receiving recess in said lowermost shelf and skirt, the top shelf having a funnel receiving opening therein, the intermediate shelves having openings for the passage of a tube and a funnel mounted in said top shelf opening and extending through the openings in the intermediate shelves and adapted to be inserted in a container to be mounted in said recess.

ARTHUR WELLEMEYER.