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2,482,376

WALL PROTECTOR

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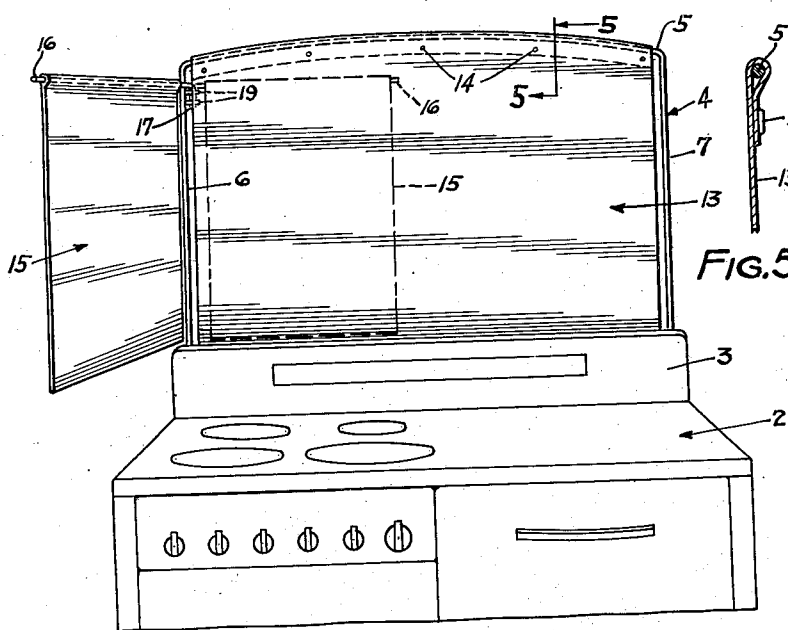


FIG. 1

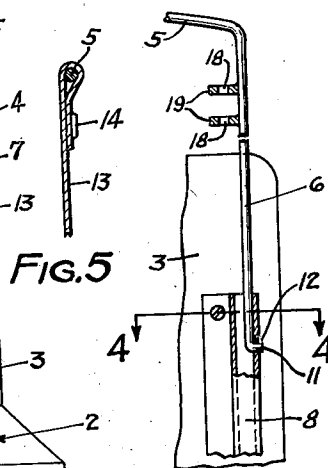


FIG. 3

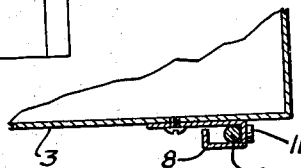


FIG. 4

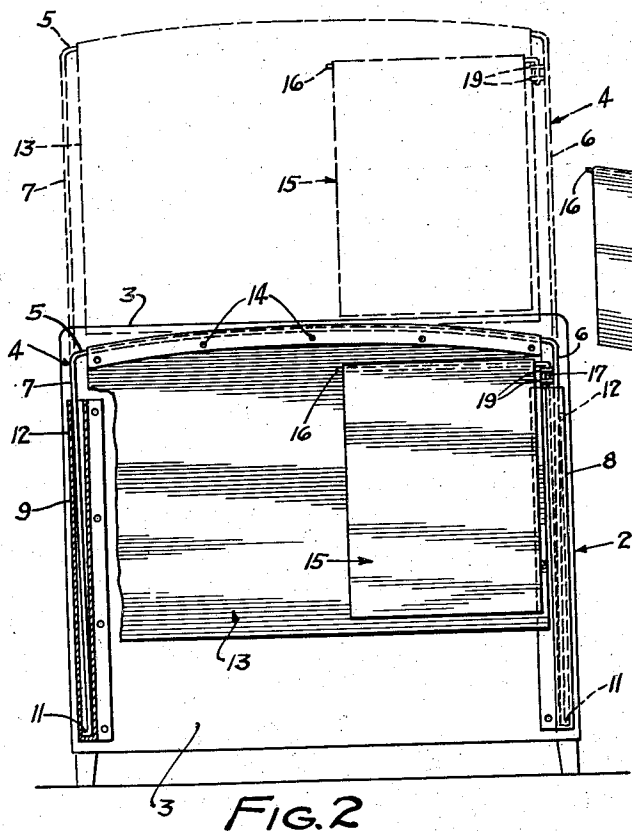


FIG. 2

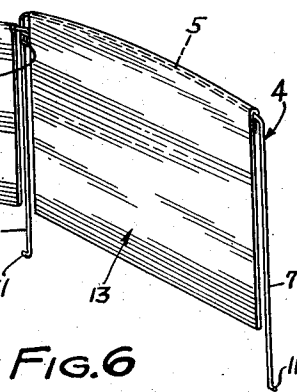


FIG. 6

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WALL PROTECTOR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 45—36)

1

This invention relates to an improved device adapted for use in connection with modern cooking stoves and other appliances where applicable, to prevent particles of food or other liquids from spraying onto or contacting walls or other objects adjacent to the stove under adverse or abnormal cooking conditions.

An object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive protecting device which may readily be applied to a conventional cooking stove, and which is so constructed that when not required, it may be dropped or folded to an out-of-the-way place whereby it does not mar the general appearance of the stove when not in use.

A further object is to provide a wall protector comprising a frame adapted for vertical sliding movement in guides provided, preferably, on the back side of the stove adjacent to the wall, whereby the protector may readily be slid upwardly to an operative position above the range or stove when needed, and whereby it may be moved downwardly to an out-of-sight position back of the stove when not required, whereby it does not mar the beauty of a modern kitchen.

A further and more specific object of the invention is to provide a wall protector comprising an inverted U-shaped frame having spaced legs adapted for sliding movement in vertical guides secured to the range, and a flexible protecting member or curtain detachably secured to the upper cross-member of the frame, whereby when the frame is elevated to an operative position, the curtain will be positioned to prevent food and other particles from contacting the wall, as occur at times when preparing certain foods.

A further object is to provide a device of the class described comprising a main protecting curtain carried by a vertically movable frame and extending substantially the length of the range, and one or more wing members pivotally supported on said frame adapted to be swung outwardly to angular operative positions with respect to the main curtain to prevent or minimize the possibility of particles of food contacting the wall or other objects adjacent to the stove during the preparation of meals and the like.

Other objects of the invention reside in the construction of the tubular guides provided at the rear of the stove which are provided with means adapted to cooperate with means on the frame of the device, to retain the device in operative position, when moved upwardly to a position above the range or stove; in the simple construction of the main protecting member or curtain whereby it may readily and quickly be detached

2

from the frame for cleaning or other purposes when desired; in the unique mounting of the auxiliary wing member upon the supporting frame, whereby it may be folded into flatwise relation against the main curtain for convenient storage back of the range or stove, when the device is moved downwardly to an inoperative position, and also whereby it may be swung outwardly to an operative position when the main curtain is moved upwardly to its operative position, thereby to greatly extend the usefulness of the device; and in the provision of such a device which may readily and quickly be attached to conventional ranges or stoves now in domestic use without requiring any alterations in the construction of the stove.

Other objects of the invention will appear from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein there has been disclosed a structure designed to carry out the various objects of the invention, but it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the exact features shown, as various changes may be made within the scope of the claim which follows.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of a portion of a conventional modern kitchen stove showing the invention applied thereto and in operative position;

Figure 2 is a rear view of the stove showing the apparatus lowered to an inoperative position;

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail sectional view of the upper end of one of the guides, showing the means provided therein for supporting the protector frame in operative position;

Figure 4 is a detail sectional plan view on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a detail sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 1; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the protector detached from the stove and showing the auxiliary wing swung outwardly to an operative position.

In the selected embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, there is illustrated in Figure 1, for purposes of disclosure, the upper portion of a conventional kitchen stove or range, generally designated by the numeral 2. The rear wall 3 of the stove is shown extending upwardly above the top of the stove, as best illustrated in Figure 1.

The novel invention herein disclosed is shown comprising a U-shaped frame, generally designated by the numeral 4. This frame comprises an upper, preferably slightly arched cross member 5, provided with spaced legs 6 and 7, which, to

simplify construction, are preferably integrally

formed with the upper cross member 5, as best illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.

Suitable vertical guides 8 and 9 are secured to the rear wall 3 of the stove and are adapted to receive respectively the legs 6 and 7 of the frame 4, as shown in Figure 2. Each leg 6 and 7 is provided at its lower end with an outwardly turned portion or detent 11 adapted to be received in suitable apertures 12 provided in the guides 8 and 9, as best illustrated in Figure 3. The legs 6 and 7 are more or less resilient and are so formed that when received in the guides 8 and 9 the terminals of the detents 11 will engage the outer wall portions of the guides 8 and 9, whereby when the frame 4 is moved upwardly to its operative position, shown in Figure 1, the resiliency of the legs 6 and 7 will cause the detents 11 to enter the apertures 12 with a "snap" action, thereby locking the frame 4 in its operative position.

When it is desired to lower the frame to its inoperative position, shown in Figure 2, the attendant or housewife simply exerts a slight inward pressure upon the two legs 6 and 7 to move the detents or offset end portions 11 out of the apertures 12, whereupon the frame may drop by gravity to its inoperative position back of the stove, as shown in full lines in Figure 2.

A suitable curtain member, generally designated by the numeral 13, is detachably supported on the frame 4 and is shown provided at its upper edge portion with a plurality of suitable fastening elements such as snap buttons 14, whereby the upper marginal edge of the curtain 13 may readily be folded over the upper cross member 5 of the frame 4 and secured in such position by manipulation of the snap buttons 14, as will be understood by reference to Figure 5. The side and lower edges of the curtain 13 are shown unsecured to the frame 4, as it has been found that the curtain will hang in a perfectly flat condition, when thus freely suspended from the upper cross member 5 of the frame 4. Under ordinary conditions, it is therefore unnecessary to secure the side and lower edges of the curtain to the frame 4.

By reference to Figure 1 it will be noted that when the curtain 13 is elevated to its operative position, the wall back of the stove or range is protected against food particles which may otherwise be sprayed thereto from cooking utensils on the stove.

The device, in addition to protecting a wall back of the stove as above described, may also be utilized to protect other walls or objects adjacent to the range from becoming sprayed with food particles under adverse or abnormal cooking conditions, and to so protect other walls or objects adjacent to the stove, an auxiliary protecting curtain member 15 is shown suspended from a rod 16 having one end pivoted to one of the legs of the main frame 4. To pivotally support the rod 16, one end thereof is offset or bent at right angles to the axis of the rod as shown at 17. The offset end portion 17 is pivotally received in openings or aligned apertures 18 shown provided in a pair of lugs 19 secured to the leg 6 of the supporting frame. If desired, the leg 7 may be provided with similar lugs 19 whereby the auxiliary curtain 15 may be supported at either end of the main protecting curtain 13. In some instances it may be desirable to provide two auxiliary curtains whereby such a curtain may be supported on each leg 6 and 7 of the main supporting frame. In most instances, however, one

auxiliary protecting member has been found adequate.

The auxiliary curtain 15 is so supported on the leg 6 of the main frame 4 that when not required, it may be swung to an inoperative position rearwardly of the main protecting curtain 13, as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1 and full lines in Figure 2.

To thus position the auxiliary curtain 15 back of the main protecting member or curtain 13, the attendant or housewife may simply grasp the lower free edge of the main curtain 13 and pull it inwardly and upwardly over the top of the stove to a position whereby the rod 16 supporting the auxiliary protecting member 15 may be swung inwardly over the stove and then rearwardly to a position substantially between the legs 6 and 7 of the U-shaped frame 4, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, after which the main protecting member is released and returns to its normal position in front of the auxiliary member 15.

As hereinbefore stated, the invention is extremely simple and inexpensive. The frame 4 may readily be made of a single strand of suitable wire or rod bent to the form shown in Figure 1, and applying the lugs 19 to one or both legs thereof. The curtains or protecting members 13 and 15 may be constructed of any material suitable for the purpose, and may be quickly and inexpensively provided with means at their upper marginal edges for attaching them to their respective supporting members 5 and 16. The auxiliary curtain or member 15 may be provided with a permanent tube at its upper edge adapted to receive the rod 16 because the rod 16 is supported at one end only and the curtain may therefore be readily slipped onto or off the rod, as will be understood. The main protecting member or curtain 13 is preferably provided with suitable snap buttons or other fastening elements whereby it may readily be attached to or detached from the upper cross member 5 of the frame 4.

The novel device herein disclosed has been found extremely practical and useful in connection with conventional cooking stoves or ranges. The unique mounting thereof on the stove makes it possible to quickly move it into an inoperative and out-of-sight position back of the stove, as illustrated in Figure 2, when not in use, whereby the device does not mar the attractiveness or appearance of the stove when in inoperative position. It will also be noted that it requires a minimum of effort to move it from one position to another. When in its lowered position, the lower ends of the legs 6 and 7 of the frame may be seated upon the bottom walls of the guides 8 and 9, as will be understood by reference to the left hand side of Figure 2, and when pulled upwardly, the lower terminals 11 of the legs 6 and 7 automatically snap into the apertures 12, thereby to retain the protecting member 13 in its operative position, as shown in Figures 1 and 3.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal objects of my invention, and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments herein described may be variously changed and modified, without departing from the spirit of the invention, and that the invention is capable of uses and has advantages not herein specifically described; hence it will be appreciated that the herein disclosed embodiments are illustrative only, and that my invention is not limited thereto, I claim as my invention:

A wall protector comprising an inverted U-shaped frame having spaced resilient downwardly extending legs connected together at their upper ends by a substantially horizontally disposed cross member, the lower end of each leg having a laterally disposed off-set terminal, tubular guides adapted to be secured to a fixed part of an apparatus with which the protector is to be used, said guides being adapted to slidably receive said frame legs, a flexible wall protecting member having its upper marginal edge portion folded to provide a tube adapted to receive the upper horizontal cross member of the U-shaped frame and whereby the wall protecting member is pendently supported from said horizontal cross member, and the wall of each guide having an aperture adapted to receive the off-set terminals at the lower ends of said legs, thereby to support the frame and wall protecting member in an elevated operative position.

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