Nov. 20, 1928. 1,692,324

W. H. AVERILL

DISPLAY RACK

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Fig. 1.

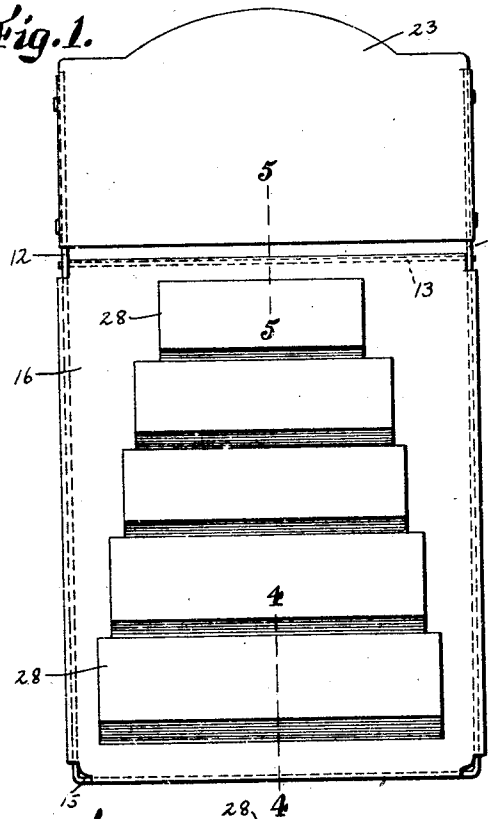


Fig. 5.

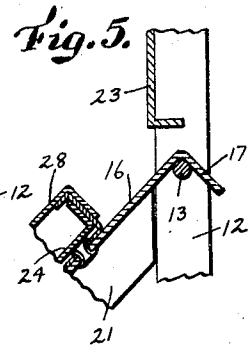


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

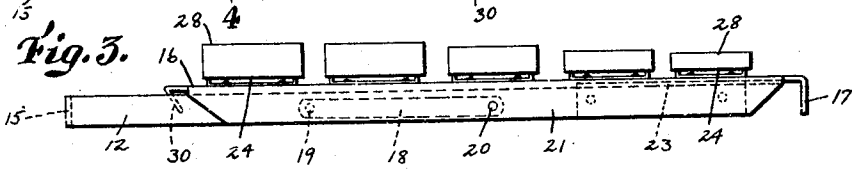


Fig. 4.

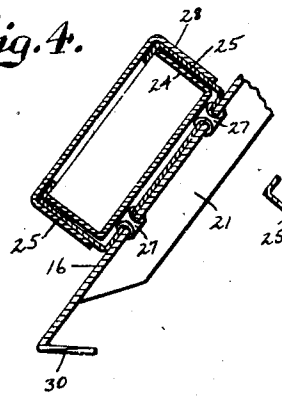


Fig. 6.

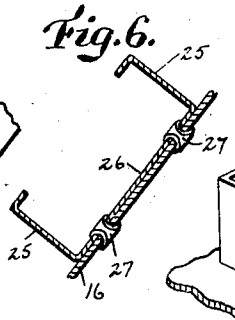
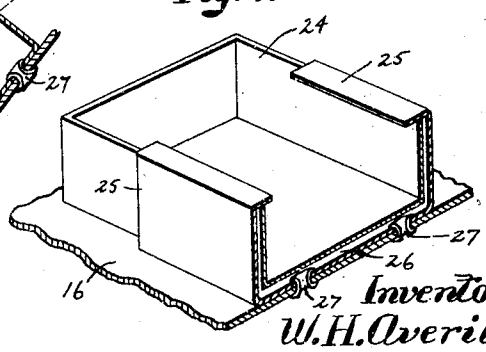


Fig. 7.



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Fig. 9.

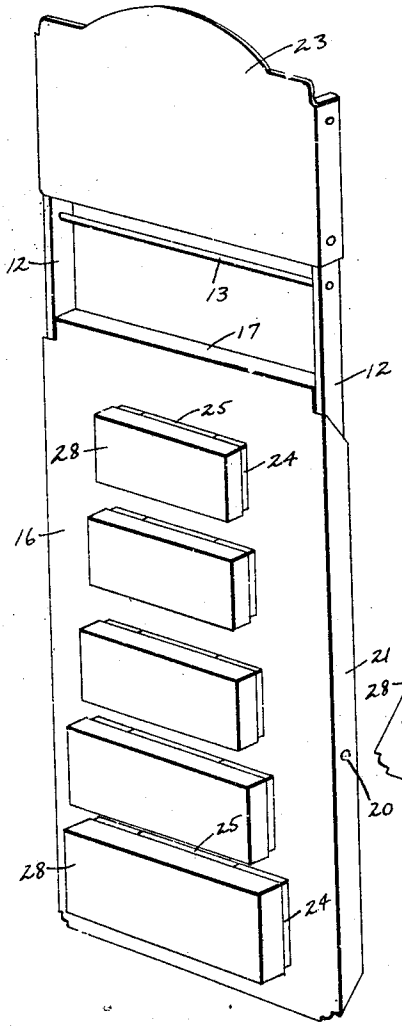
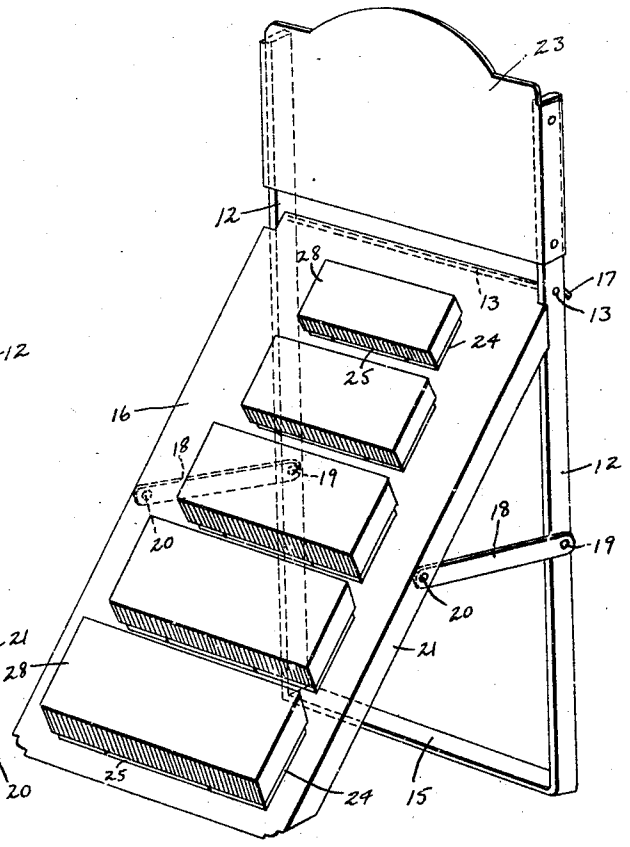


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DISPLAY RACK.

Application filed October 26, 1927. Serial No. 228,783.

The invention is embodied in a display rack structure of improved construction, adapted to be supported on a level surface as an easel, or hung as a flat rack on a vertical surface, and to hold and display articles of merchandise, the rack being adapted to be conveniently reduced to a minimum length for storage and opened for use.

The preferred embodiment of my improved rack structure is adapted to hold a plurality of boxes, each enclosing an oil stone for sharpening tools.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification,—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a display rack structure embodying the invention, adjusted to form an easel.

Figure 2 is an edge view of the same.

Figure 3 is an edge view showing the rack structure folded for storage.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section on line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary section on line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 1, omitting the box.

Figure 7 is a perspective sectional view, showing the parts shown by Figure 4, without the box cover.

Figure 8 is a perspective view, showing the rack structure adjusted as in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 9 is a perspective view, showing the rack structure adjusted for use as a hanger.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

An element of my improved rack structure is a substantially U-shaped bow having a coupling part, and another element is a display board having merchandise-confining means, and a complemental coupling part, separably engageable with the coupling part of the bow. In this instance, the bow is a flat-sided metal strip, bent to form spaced apart parallel arms 12, 12, and a neck 15, connecting the members at one end thereof. The bow is adapted to be vertically supported, and the arms 12 are connected at their upper end portions by a transverse rod 13, constituting the above-mentioned coupling part.

16 designates the display board, which is preferably flat-sided and of sheet metal, and is provided with merchandise-confining means hereinafter described, at one side, and with a flange or hook 17 at one end, constituting the above-mentioned coupling part of the board, and separably engaged with the rod 13.

The arms 12 are connected with the board 16, by a swinging hinge connection embodied in two parallel links 18, indicated by Figure 8, the links being pivoted at 19 to the arms 12, and at 20 to ears or flanges 21, formed on the board 16. The arrangement is such that when the coupling hook 17 of the board is engaged with the coupling rod 13 of the bow, and the links 18 are substantially at right angles with the arms 12, the bow and board are connected in the form of an easel, as shown by Figures 1, 2, and 8, the bow constituting a vertical member, and the board an inclined member of the easel.

When the coupling hook 17 is disengaged from the coupling rod 13, the board 16 and links 18 are movable relative to the bow, until the board is parallel with and bears on the bow. The board and bow may be so folded together that the rack is reduced to a minimum length, as shown by Figure 3, so that the rack is adapted to be compactly stored, the hook or flange 17 being at one end, and the neck 15 at the opposite end of the folded rack. The board flanges 21 extend lengthwise of the board and are spaced apart farther than the arms 12, so that said flanges overlap the outer sides of the arms when the rack is folded. The links 18 are interposed between the arms 12 and the flanges 21, when the rack is folded, so that the links are concealed. The arms 12 preferably have extensions projecting above the rod 13, and provided with a sheet metal head piece 23, constituting a decorative finial, adapted to carry advertising matter, or a description of the goods held by the rack. When the rack is folded, as shown by Figure 3, the head piece 23 is concealed.

In folding the bow and display board together to reduce the rack to a minimum length, as shown by Figure 4, the links are swung toward the end of the board having the hook or flange 17. The links, however, may be swung in the opposite direction, to move the display board away from the rod 13, and fold it against the bow in the position shown by Figure 9, without concealing the head piece 23. The structure is thus converted into a display hanger, and may be supported by projections on a wall, such as nails engaged with either the rod 13, or the flange 17.

Any suitable means may be employed for

confining articles of merchandise on the outer face of the display board 16. When the rack is used to display articles, such as oil stones, a use to which it is being extensively put, I prefer to embody the confining means as next described.

The oil stones are enclosed in oblong paper boxes 24, preparatory to being displayed by the rack.

The display board is provided with a plurality of pairs of hooked ears 25, projecting from the outer side of the board, each pair of ears being preferably the end portions of a strip of resilient sheet metal including a neck 26, secured by rivets 27 to the board 16. The ears of each pair are adapted to engage opposite sides of a box 24, as best shown by Figure 7, and be interposed between said sides and the flanges of the cover 28, of the box, as shown by Figure 4. The ears prevent the box from being moved sidewise or outward from the board, and when the cover 28 is applied, they form stops for the flange portions at the ends of the cover, and thus prevent the box from being moved endwise from the board. When the cover is removed, the box and a stone therein may be moved endwise and released from the ears and from the display board, the box and the stone contained therein being deliverable to a customer.

The boxes may, of course, be used for holding other merchandise.

The outer or lower end of the display board is preferably provided with an inclined flange 30, constituting a foot adapted to bear on a flat support, as indicated by Figure 2.

I claim:

1. A display-rack structure comprising a substantially U-shaped bow composed of spaced apart parallel arms and a neck connecting the arms; a transverse coupling rod connecting the arms and spaced from the neck; a display board having merchandise-confining means, flanges adapted to overlap the outer sides of said arms, and a coupling hook adapted to separably engage the coupling rod; and parallel links pivoted to said arms and flanges, and adapted to extend either parallel with the arms, or at an angle therewith, the arrangement being such that the structure may be converted into an easel-shaped rack, adapted to bear on a horizontal support, by engaging the coupling hook with the coupling rod, and arranging the links substantially at right angles with the arms, and into a flat rack adapted to be hung on a vertical support, by disconnecting the hook from the rod, and arranging the links parallel with said arms, and extending toward the neck.

2. A display-rack structure as specified by claim 1, the ends of the links bearing on the outer sides of the arms and on the inner sides of the board flanges, so that the links are concealed between said arms and flanges when the structure is converted into a flat rack.

3. A display-rack structure as specified by claim 1, the body portion including also a head piece attached to the arms above the coupling rod and separated from the latter by a space permitting the engagement of the coupling hook with said rod, the hook being located below said space when the structure is converted into a flat rack.

4. A display-rack structure as specified by claim 1, the arrangement being also such that the structure may be reduced to a minimum length for storage, by disconnecting the hook from the coupling-rod and arranging the links parallel with the arms and extending away from the neck.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WILLIAM H. AVERILL.