

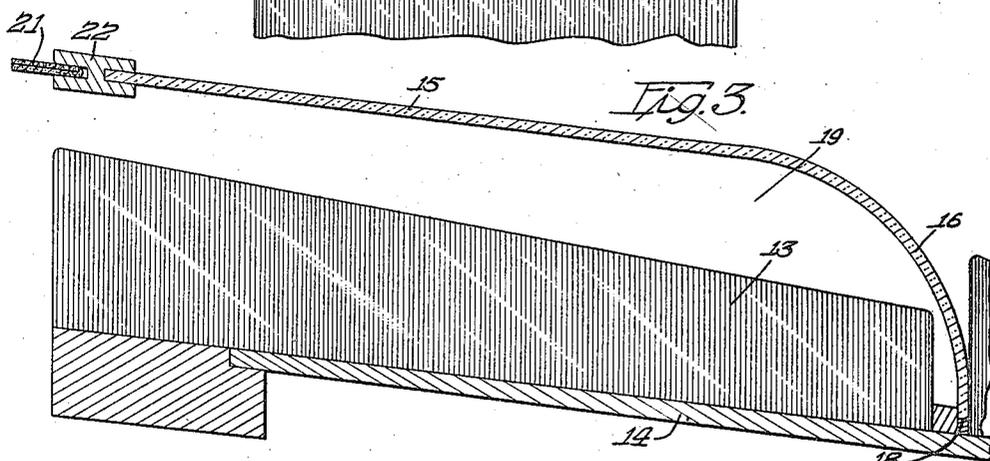
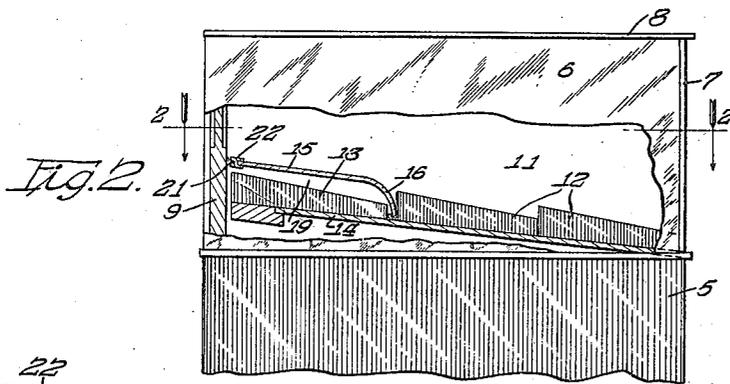
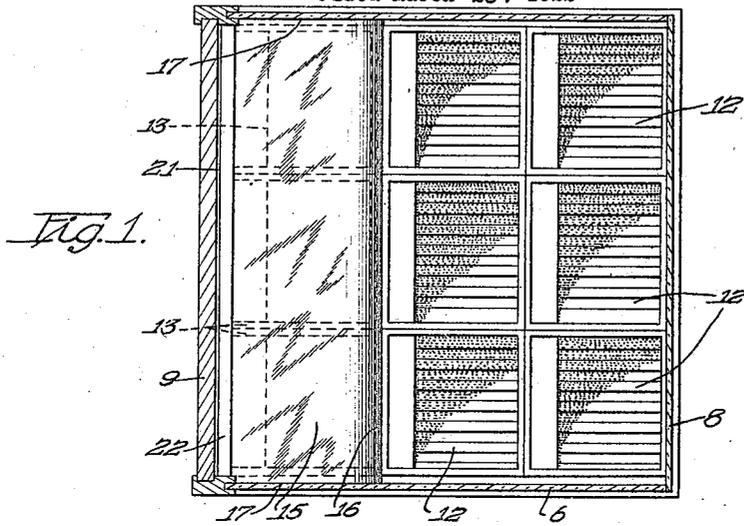
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H. G. MICHAELSON

SHOWCASE

Filed March 28, 1922



Inventor:
Henry G. Michaelson
By: *Geo. Wilson* Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY G. MICHAELSON, OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE ROCKFORD SHOW-CASE & FIXTURE COMPANY, OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, A COPARTNERSHIP CONSISTING OF OLE G. NELSON AND HENRY G. MICHAELSON.

SHOW CASE.

Application filed March 28, 1922. Serial No. 547,399.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY G. MICHAELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rockford, in the county of Winnebago and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Show Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates in general to store furniture, and has more particular reference to show cases of the type especially adapted for displaying trays of merchandise, such for example as fountain pens, pencils, etc.

Heretofore, in show cases of this type, the general practice has been to carry the merchandise such as fountain pens, metal refill pencils, etc., in display trays, in a common compartment of the showcase, the top, sides and front of which are glass, and access to which is had through a door at the back. As a result of this practice, the metal casings of the pencils have become tarnished more quickly than by ordinary exposure by reason of the chemical attraction set up by the rubber bodies of the fountain pens.

This objection I have overcome by the present invention, which provides within a showcase a substantially air-tight compartment for the metal pencils so arranged that both the pencils and fountain pens may be displayed to equal advantage and both be equally accessible through the doorway at the back of the showcase, but with the pen and pencil compartments separated and insulated against any such chemical action as might injure the finish of the metal pencils.

I have also aimed to provide a novel and particularly attractive showcase for the display of trays or of any merchandise, of the general character described.

Another object is to provide a double tray compartment showcase possessing the features mentioned and constructed in such simple manner as to be capable of economical production.

Other objects and attendant advantages will be appreciated by those familiar with this art as the invention becomes better understood by reference to the following description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a horizontal plan section

through a showcase taken on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2, illustrating one embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation partly in vertical section, of the show case; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section showing the construction of the pencil tray compartment.

In the type of showcases to which my invention pertains, it is desired to display the merchandise in trays supported either in a horizontally or a slightly inclined position so that it may be viewed from above through a glass casing which forms the top, sides and front of the showcase. The trays may be supported in one or more tiers in the showcase, but I prefer to support them in a single tier, that is, in a substantially common plane, and to so partition and inclose a portion of the display supporting surface as to provide a substantially airtight compartment in which trays may be displayed to equal advantage. The purpose of this special compartment is to isolate its contents from the remaining compartment to prevent chemical attraction between the contents of both compartments, but without impairing the display advantages of the contents in either compartment, nor the facility of access to said compartments.

In the present instance, I have illustrated my improvements in connection with a conventional showcase comprising a suitable base 5 supporting a glass casing consisting of side walls 6, a front wall 7, top 8 and a vertically slidable door or closure 9, normally closing the back of the main compartment 11 and adapted to be lowered to give access to said compartment.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention, two groups of merchandise display trays designated generally by 12 and 13 are adapted to be supported in a substantially common plane as on an inclined surface 14. The group of trays 12 are for displaying goods of common characteristics and the trays 13 for goods whose composition or substance makes it desirable to isolate them from the goods in the trays 12, but without impairing the display advantages of the goods in both groups of trays and without interfering with convenience of access to the trays in said groups. With this desideratum

in mind, I have provided a special compartment for the trays 13 by means of a glass or other transparent partition having a horizontally disposed or inclined top portion 15 reaching from side to side of the main glass casing and terminating at its forward end in a downwardly curved portion 16, which seats at its lower end in connection with the support 14. The sides 17 and the forward lower end 18 of said glass partition may be fitted to or joined with their respective contiguous parts in any suitable manner to provide a substantially airtight separation of the compartments 11 and 19. The rear edge of the glass partition is equipped with suitable means for effecting a seal with the door 9, and in the present instance I employ a felt strip 21 united to the glass partition by a coupling strip 22. The felt strip 21 serves to effectually seal the space between the rear edge of the glass partition and the door 9, and at the same time does not interfere with free movement of the door.

From the foregoing, it will be noted that the glass partition, separating the compartments 11 and 19, is in the form of a single plate, the forward end of which is curved downwardly to define the forward end of the compartment 19. As a result of this construction, there is no undesirable or noticeable refraction in the view from above of articles displayed in the trays 13. Furthermore, the curved forward end of said partition allows the trays in the group 12, and especially the rearmost trays thereof, to be easily and conveniently positioned on the support 14 and removed therefrom. In other words, the glass partition is not an obstruction and it allows plenty of room at the rear of the rearmost trays 12 to grasp said trays when arranging or handling them. It will be manifest that the compartment 19 is substantially insulated against communication of air with the compartment 11, except of course, when the door 9 is open, and in this event, the period is generally short and both compartments are open to the outer atmosphere and there is nothing to induce circulation of air between the compartments. It follows, therefore, that such slight communication has a negligible effect so far as the object of the present invention is concerned. As a result of the foregoing construction, the metal pencils or other articles to be protected are housed in the compartment 19 against exposure from air in the compartment 11. In this way I have prevented any such chemical action, however slight, as might be set up by reason of affinities between the properties of the goods in the different groups of trays.

It is believed that the foregoing conveys a clear understanding of the objects prefaced above, and while I have illustrated but

a single working embodiment, it should be understood that considerable change might be made in arrangement of parts and details of construction without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a showcase, the combination of a transparent casing, a door providing access thereto, means for supporting a tier of display trays in said casing, a transparent partition within said casing separating said tier of trays to prevent communication of air from one to another, said partition reaching into proximity to said door, and means for sealing the opening between the partition and door.

2. In a showcase, the combination of a display casing having a door at its rear, a merchandise-carrying support in the casing reaching substantially from front to rear and side to side thereof, and a partition having a transparent top reaching from a medial point on the support to the door and shaped to provide a relatively low compartment adapted to receive merchandise from the rear through the doorway and to isolate such merchandise from the remainder of the casing, said casing adapted to receive merchandise passed through said doorway over said partition for placement in a display position on said support in front of said partition.

3. In a showcase, the combination of display casing having glass side walls, front wall and a top wall and a vertically slidable door for closing the back of the display compartment defined by said walls, a merchandise-carrying support in the casing reaching substantially from front to back and side to side thereof, and a partition having a transparent top reaching from a medial point on said support to the door, providing a display compartment adapted to receive merchandise from the rear through the doorway and being sealed from the principal display compartment and having a substantially air-tight connection with the door, whereby to isolate such merchandise from the remainder of the casing, said casing adapted to receive merchandise passed through the doorway over said partition for placement in a display position on said support in front of said partition.

4. In a showcase, the combination of a display casing having a door at its rear, a merchandise-carrying support in the casing reaching substantially from front to rear and side to side thereof, and a partition having a transparent top reaching from a medial point on the support to the door and from side to side of the casing, providing a compartment adapted to receive merchandise from the rear through the doorway and being isolated from the remainder

of the casing, said casing adapted to receive merchandise passed through the doorway over said partition for placement in a display position on said support in front of said partition.

5 5. In a showcase, the combination of a display casing having a door at its rear, merchandise-carrying means in the front portion of the casing, a compartment in the casing at the rear of said merchandise-carrying means having a transparent top reaching rearwardly in proximity to the door and equipped along its rear edge with means for effecting substantially an air-seal

between said compartment and the remainder of the casing when the door is closed. 15

6. In a showcase, the combination of a casing having a front and a rear merchandise-displaying compartment, a door at the rear of the casing common to both compartments, and the rear compartment being substantially air-sealed from the remainder of the casing compartment when the door is closed and being so arranged that merchandise may be passed through said doorway over the rear compartment for placement in the front compartment. 20 25

HENRY G. MICHAELSON.