Dec. 28, 1948. H. E. CHRISTENSEN ET AL 2,457,302

DISPLAY DEVICE FOR FOODSTUFFS

Filed Oct. 11, 1945

Fig. 1

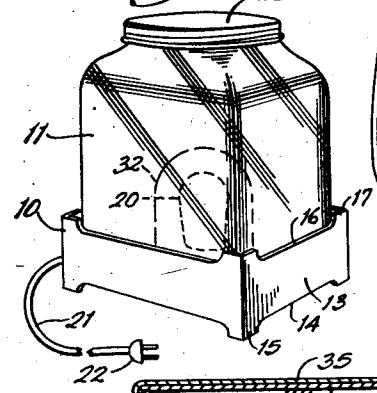


Fig. 2

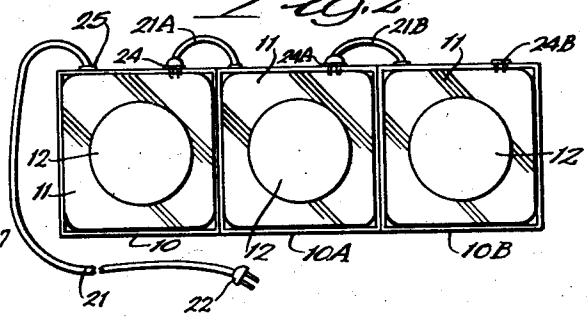


Fig. 3

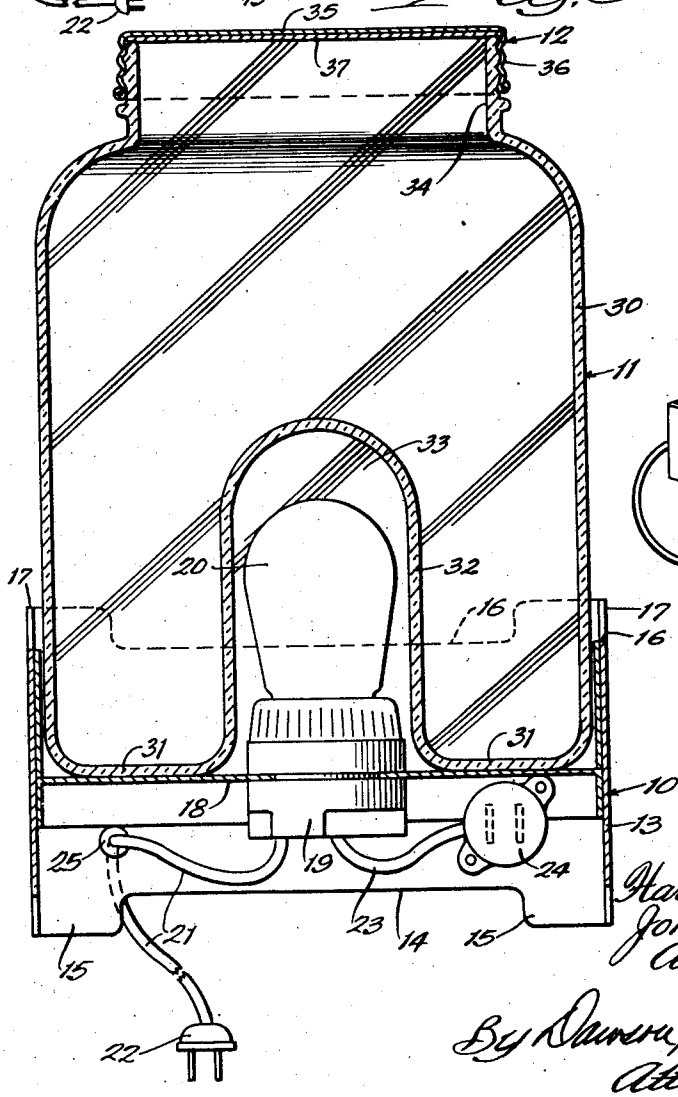
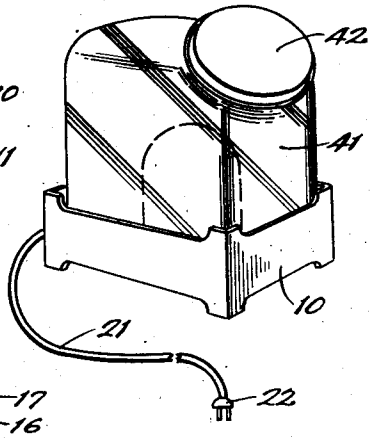


Fig. 4



Inventors:
Harold E. Christensen,
John J. Stein and
Arthur S. Kester,

By Dawson, Brittain & Shingenberg,
Attorneys.

Patented Dec. 28, 1948 2,457,302

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,457,302

DISPLAY DEVICE FOR FOODSTUFFS

Harold E. Christensen, Wilmette, Ill., John J. Stein, Cleveland, Ohio, and Arthur S. Kester, Chicago, Ill.

Application October 11, 1945, Serial No. 621,746

2 Claims. (Cl. 219—45)

1

This invention relates to display devices in general and more particularly to counter display devices for displaying foodstuffs, such as nuts, cookies, etc.

The principal object of the invention is to provide an improved illuminated display device wherein the source of illumination for the display device also provides heat for freshening or crisping the foodstuffs being displayed. In carrying out this object of the invention there is provided a base having an electric light bulb protruding therefrom and a transparent container for the foodstuff carried by the base and provided with a recess for accommodating the electric light bulb whereby the foodstuff in the container is displayed to advantage and is maintained fresh and crisp. The container is also provided with an opening whereby the attractively displayed foodstuff may be directly dispensed in fresh and crisp condition. The compact nature of the display device and the central location of the course of light and heat also provides for efficient lighting and heating. Such an arrangement, because of its heating as well as lighting characteristics, is also suitable for other displaying purposes, such as displaying tropical fish, and such further purposes as come within the purview of this invention.

Another object of this invention is to provide the display device with suitable electrical connections and fittings to facilitate tandem arrangement of a plurality of such devices requiring only a single extension cord leading to a conventional plug in or wall plug. Further objects reside in the details of construction of the display device.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reference to the accompanying specification, claims and drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of the display device;

Figure 2 is a plan view illustrating a plurality of display devices connected in tandem;

Figure 3 is a sectional view through the display device of Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the display device.

Referring first to Figures 1 and 3, the display device comprises a base 10, a transparent container 11 and a cover 12 providing access into the container 11.

The base 10 includes side walls 13 which are cut away at 14 to provide legs 15 and which are also cut away at 16 to provide shoulders 17 for enhancing the appearance of the base. A floor 18 is located between the side walls 13 and is suitably

2

secured thereto as by spot welding. The floor 18 is provided with an electric light socket 19 which faces upwardly and carries an electric light bulb 20. Electrical energy is supplied to the socket 19 by an extension cord 21 provided with the usual plug 22 adapted to be inserted in the usual wall socket. Electrical energy is also supplied from the light bulb socket 19 by an electrical connection 23 to a female socket 24 suitably secured to the side wall 13 of the base 10. The female socket 24 and the electric light socket 19 are connected in parallel and the female socket opens outwardly through the side wall 13 of the base. The extension cord 21 may pass through a suitable grommet 25 in the side wall 13 of the base.

The transparent container 11 may be made of glass or suitable plastic and comprises side walls 30 merging into a bottom wall 31. The bottom wall 31 is indented at 32 to provide an external recess 33 for accommodating the socket 19 and the light bulb 20 when the container 11 is mounted on the base 10. The upper end of the container 11 is provided with an opening 34 to provide access into the container.

The cover 12 may be of usual construction formed from a plate 35 and having a flange 36 formed into screw threads for coacting with screw threads formed on the container 11 adjacent the opening 34. If desired, the cover may be provided with a suitable gasket 37 for more positively sealing the opening 34 in the container.

The container 11 is mounted on the base 10 by inserting it within the side walls 13 of the base 10 so that the bottom wall 31 of the container 11 rests on the floor 18 of the base 10. A gasket 39 of resilient material may be inserted between the side wall 13 and the container 11 for more readily retaining the container 11 on the base 10.

When electrical energy is supplied to the light bulb 20, the interior of the container 11 and also the foodstuffs contained therein are attractively illuminated, and the heat given off by the light bulb 20 is transmitted to the interior of the container 11 for freshening and crisping the foodstuffs contained therein. The light bulb 20 associated with the arrangement herein disclosed, therefore performs two functions, that of attractively illuminating and displaying the foodstuffs within the transparent container 11 and that of heating the interior of the container 11 for freshening and crisping the foodstuff contained therein.

The female socket 24 being electrically connected in parallel to the electric light socket 19 permits ready association of a plurality of dis-

play devices in tandem, as shown in Figure 2, where three display devices are illustrated and are designated at 10, 10A and 10B. The extension cord 21A of the base 10A is inserted in the female socket 24 of the base 10 and the extension cord 21B of the base 10B is inserted in the female socket 24A of the base 10A. Thus when the plug 22 of the extension cord 21 is inserted in the usual wall outlet, the electric light bulbs in all of the devices will be connected in parallel and simultaneously illuminated. Therefore, all of the display devices may be supplied with electrical energy from a single extension cord. This tandem arrangement of the display devices makes a very attractive counter display and dispensing arrangement.

Figure 4 shows a slightly modified form of the display device. It utilizes the same base 10, but the transparent container 41 is provided with an opening at the top of the container and at an angle to the base to provide access from the top and front of the container into the interior thereof. The opening into the container 41 may be provided with a suitable cover 42 similar to the cover 12 of Figure 1. Of course, this invention may also be utilized in connection with coin controlled dispensing machines and the like.

While for purposes of illustration two forms of this invention have been disclosed, other forms thereof may become apparent to those skilled in the art, and, therefore, this invention is to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

We claim as our invention:

1. A food crisping and display device for displaying and crisping foodstuffs comprising a base having an electric light socket facing upwardly from the base for receiving an electric light bulb to provide a source of heat and light, and a transparent container for the foodstuffs carried by the base and including a recess in the bottom thereof for accommodating the electric light bulb to heat and illuminate the container for displaying and crisping the foodstuffs therein, an opening at the top of the container to provide access into the container for dispensing the foodstuffs and a cover for the opening.

2. A food crisping and display device for displaying and crisping foodstuffs comprising a base having a vertically extending flange around the top thereof and an electric light socket at the center of the base and facing upwardly therefrom for receiving an electric light bulb to provide a source of heat and light, and a transparent container for the foodstuffs carried by the base within the vertically extending flange and including a recess in the bottom thereof for accommodating the electric light bulb to heat and illuminate the container for displaying and crisping the foodstuffs therein, an opening at the top of the container to provide access into the container for dispensing the foodstuffs and a cover for the opening.

HAROLD E. CHRISTENSEN.
JOHN J. STEIN.
ARTHUR S. KESTER.

REFERENCES CITED

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

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
697,825	Fisk	Apr. 15, 1902
1,144,508	Taylor	June 29, 1915
1,767,262	Schmitz	June 24, 1930
1,787,703	Rau	Jan. 6, 1931
2,230,900	Neitzke	Feb. 4, 1941