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ROOM RACK FOR HOTELS AND THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 17, 1918.

1,307,593. Patented June 24, 1919.

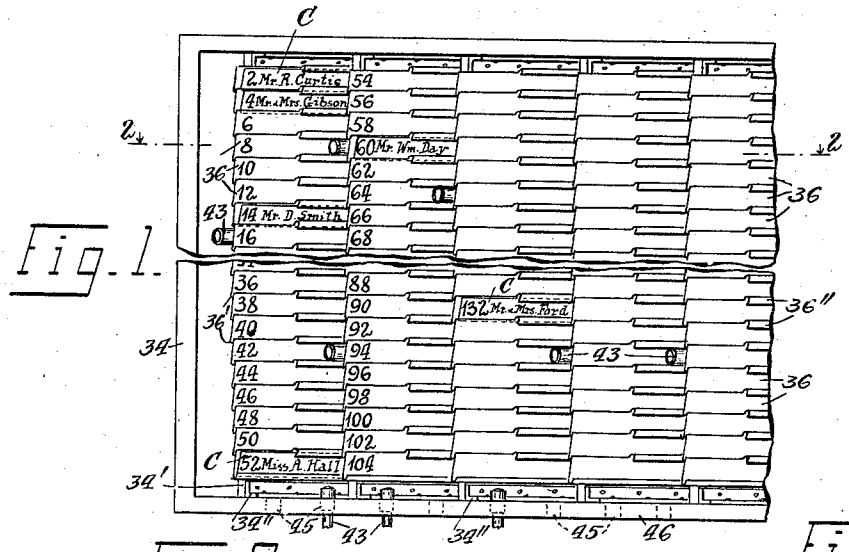


Fig. 1.

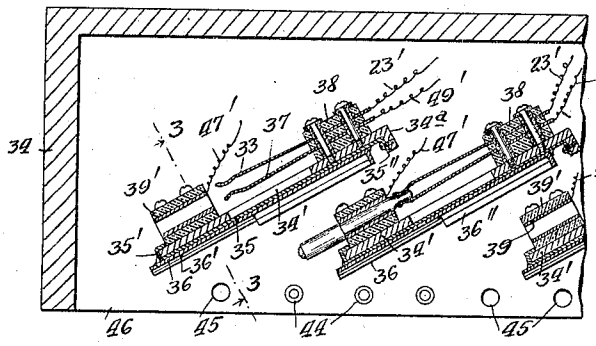


Fig. 2.

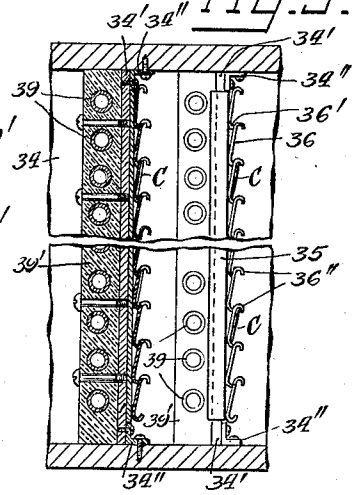


Fig. 3.

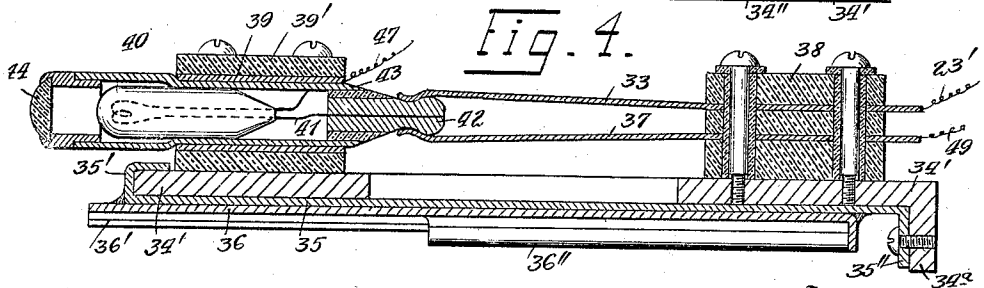


Fig. 4.

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ROOM-RACK FOR HOTELS AND THE LIKE.

1,307,593. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 24, 1919.

Original application filed January 12, 1918, Serial No. 211,502. Divided and this application filed August 17, 1918. Serial No. 250,290.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FREDERICK A. MUSCHENHEIM and FREDERIC W. BLASDALE, both citizens of the United States, and both residents of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Room-Racks for Hotels and the like, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to racks having a plurality of similar holders or compartments, such as room racks for use in hotels, clubs, and the like, and has for its object to provide a similar and compact construction of this character, which can be readily assembled and taken apart, and yet will be strong and rigid when in condition for use.

We have illustrated herein a specific example of our invention in which the mechanical features of the rack construction are combined with certain electrical signaling or switchboard devices, intended to form part of an electrical indicator more fully set forth in our application for Letters Patent filed in the United States Patent Office on January 12, 1918, Serial No. 211,502 of which our present application is a division. Said electrical features, however, are not claimed herein, but partly (in so far as they relate to the switchboard) in another application filed by us simultaneously herewith, and partly in said parent application.

For the sake of completeness, the electrical switchboard features will now be described in conjunction with the mechanical or structural features claimed in the present application, a specific embodiment of our invention being illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a hotel room rack constructed according to our invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary horizontal section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, showing a portion of the rack on an enlarged scale;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section, showing on a still larger scale, one of the compartments or holders of Fig. 2.

The rack comprises a frame 34, and a plurality of vertically disposed parallel slats or uprights 34′ rigidly mounted within the frame at an inclination to its transverse axis, so that the front and rear sides of the slats will permanently face the corresponding sides of the frame in an oblique direction. The connection of each upright with the said frame members may be made by means of horizontal angle irons 34″. Against the front face of each upright, between the corresponding angle irons 34″, is secured a piece of sheet metal 35, the forward edge 35′ of which may be bent to fit the corresponding edge of the upright, while its rear edge 35″ is bent at right angles so that it may be readily fastened (say by screws) to the corresponding rear portion 34^a of the upright 34′. To the metal sheet 35 we secure, as by soldering, a series of superposed horizontal holders 36 for the cards C, the cards being adapted to have written thereon the guest's name, room number, and other data. Each holder 36 has its back inclined forwardly and upwardly as shown in Fig. 3, and preferably projects slightly beyond the sheet 35 at its forward edge. Each holder has a horizontal channel 36′ along its entire lower edge, and a horizontal channel 36″ along the rear half or portion of its upper edge, the edges of the cards C sliding in said channels as the cards are inserted or removed. The back of each card holder rests at its upper end against the bottom channel 36′ of the next holder above. At the front end of each holder, the room number is painted. The uprights are spaced from one another and are arranged in overlapping step-shaped relation, so that the front upright rims of all the uprights remain fully exposed or uncovered. The card holders 36, extending horizontally across these rims are thus likewise fully exposed at their forward sections, and owing to the spacing between the uprights, the cards may be freely read from end to end. The space formed between adjoining uprights is furthermore utilized for the interposition of the signaling or indicating apparatus mentioned above as located at the clerk's desk. This apparatus comprises forwardly extending contacts or terminals 33, 37 the rear ends of which are secured to a suitable stationary carrier 38 (fastened to the upright 34′) in such a manner, that one terminal will be insulated from the other. At the forward portion of each card holder is secured a conducting socket 39. The sockets of the same column, may be, for instance, carried

by a vertical bar 39′ of insulating material secured by screws or otherwise to the respective upright 34′. Each socket 39 extends horizontally lengthwise of the holder, and is adapted to receive one of the clerk's signal lights. This light comprises a suitable bulb 40 with a filament 41 one end of which is secured to a metallic plug 42 adapted to be fitted between the terminals 33, 37 the plug preferably having a groove to receive the curved outer ends of said terminals, which latter are made of spring metal. The bulb is fitted into a tubular casing 43, of a conducting material to which the other end of the filament 41 is secured. Said casing is adapted to slide in or out in the conducting socket 39 and is provided at its forward portion with an opening in which is set a lens 44, to direct the clerk's attention to the card or card holder corresponding to the room that is signaling. It will be understood that the parts 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 are connected with each other rigidly and move as a unit when being inserted into, or removed from the socket 39. When not in their sockets 39, these signal units may be kept in any manner convenient for the clerk's use, and we prefer to set them, when not in use, in vertical sockets 45 (say of wood) located in a board 46 at the bottom of the room rack and slightly in advance thereof, so as to be within the clerk's reach.

Each of the terminals 33, 37 and each of the sockets 39 is connected, by wires 23′, 49′ and 47′ respectively, with suitable circuits, for instance in the manner set forth in detail in our parent application, which enables the clerk to signal an attendant near any particular room, and to receive a return signal from such attendant. However, as the circuit arrangements are not claimed in the present application, it is not considered necessary to show or explain them in detail.

We claim:

1. A room rack, comprising a frame, a plurality of spaced vertical slats rigidly mounted in said frame at an inclination to its transverse axis, said slats being arranged in step-shaped relation, whereby the front upright rims of said slats remain uncovered, and a plurality of horizontal card holders mounted on said slats and extending across said exposed rims.

2. A room rack comprising a frame, a plurality of spaced vertical slats rigidly mounted in the frame at an inclination to its transverse axis, and a plurality of superposed inclined card holders mounted on the forward sides of the slats, said card holders being provided with upper and lower channels, the top of any one card holder resting against the bottom of the superimposed card holder.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."