

J. E. EDMUNDS.
 DISPLAY RACK.
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 21, 1910.

Patented July 1, 1913.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

1,066,090.

Fig. 4.

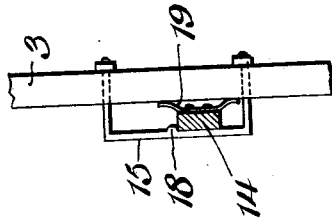
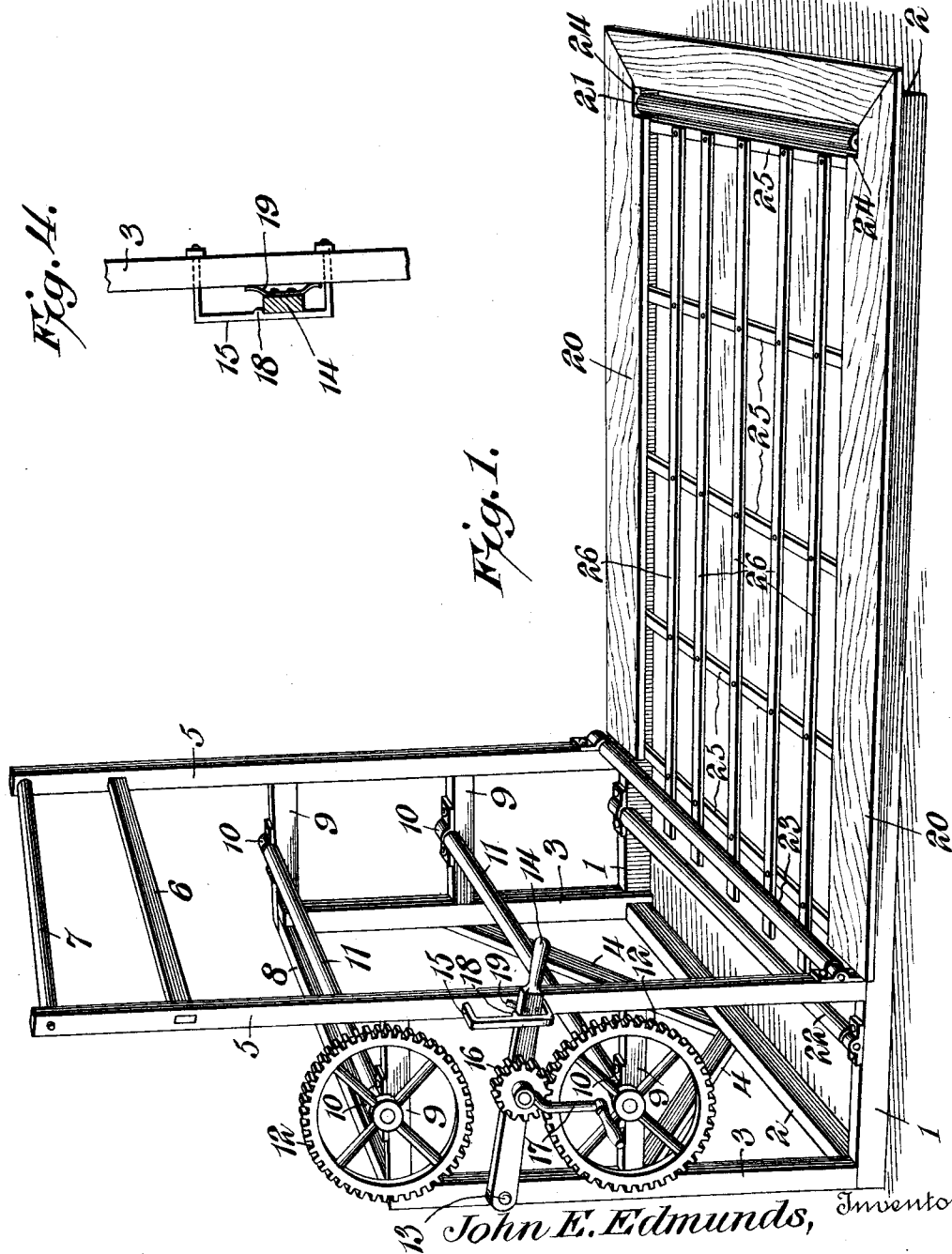


Fig. 1.



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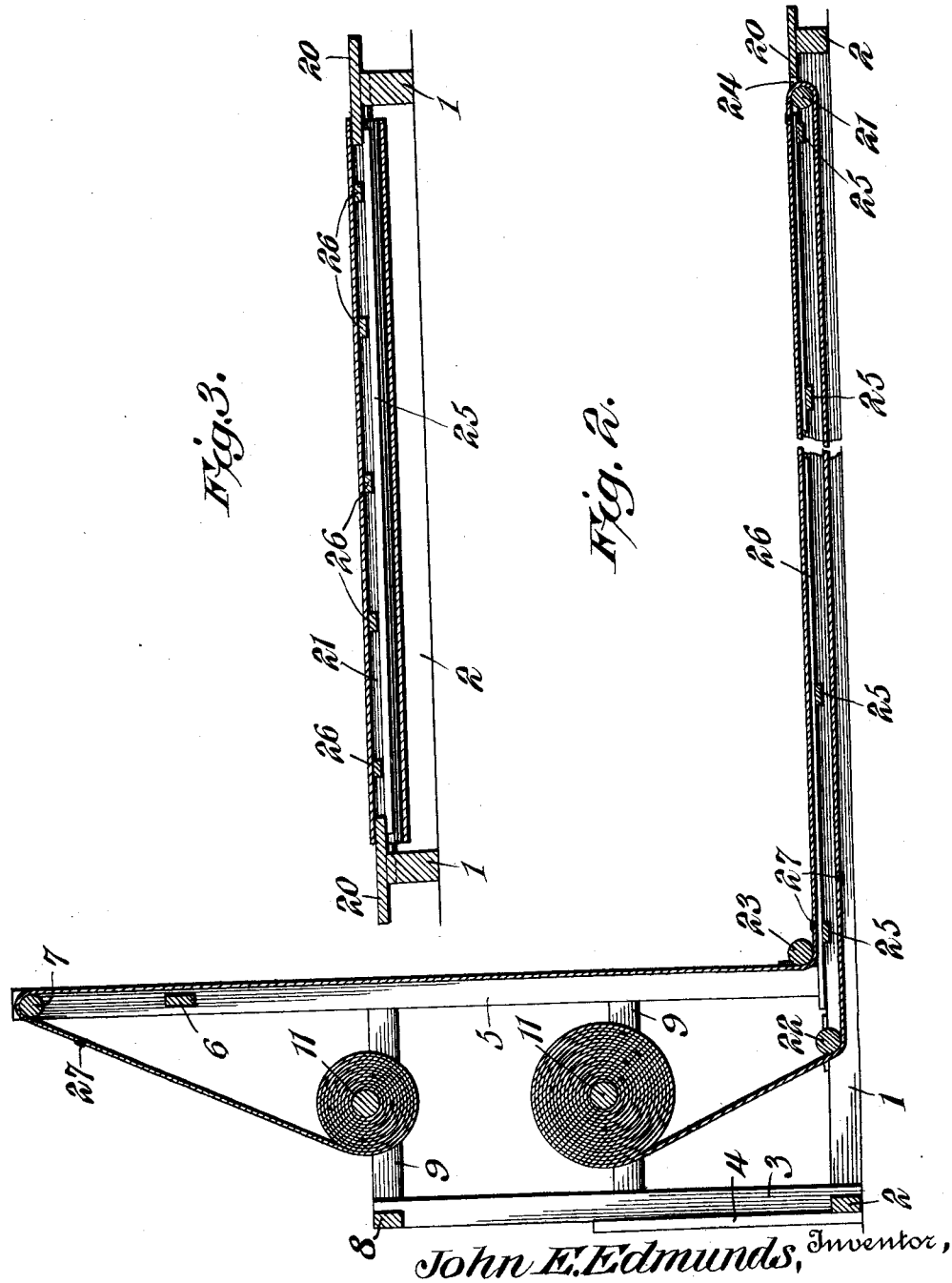
By *E. G. Siggers*
 Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. EDMUNDS, OF OTTAWA, ILLINOIS.

DISPLAY-RACK.

1,066,090.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 1, 1913.

Application filed April 21, 1910. Serial No. 556,770.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. EDMUNDS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ottawa, in the county of Lasalle and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Display-Rack, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to display racks and the object of the invention is to provide a strong and inexpensive rack by which rugs may be displayed in either a vertical or a horizontal position, or partially in both positions.

In the ordinary rug rack, the rugs are held in a vertical position, and, quite frequently, the customer will ask the salesman to take a certain rug down from the hanging rack and lay it upon the floor before deciding to purchase. A rug which has been viewed in a vertical position looks differently when placed upon the floor.

By providing a rack in which the rugs may be viewed in either a vertical position, or a horizontal position, or partially in both positions, the objections to the present manner of displaying rugs are obviated, and a rack is produced which will be of great convenience in use.

These stated objects, and such other objects as will hereinafter appear, are attained in the use of the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and the invention consists in certain novel features of the same which will be hereinafter first fully described and then more particularly defined in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a display rack embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same showing rugs in position thereon. Fig. 3 is a transverse section through the lower portion of the rack. Fig. 4 is a detail view of a portion of the operating mechanism.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a pair of longitudinal sills 1 connected by transverse sills 2 at their ends whereby a rigid base is provided. At that end of the base which appears at the left in the drawings, I erect corner posts 3 connected with the transverse sill 2 by braces 4 to impart rigidity to the structure, and upon the upper sides of the sills, near the said posts 3,

I provide the standards 5 which extend to the height desired for the rack. The posts 5 are connected near their upper ends by a cross bar 6, and a roller 7 is journaled in the upper ends of the posts or standards, as shown. The upper ends of the corner posts 3 are also connected by a cross bar 8 and the said posts are connected with the inner posts or standards 5 by short connecting bars 9, as shown. It will be understood that the posts, sills and braces form an upright frame which is open on the front side along which the rugs are carried in a vertical position, as hereinafter explained. Upon the said bars 9, I provide bearings 10 in which upper and lower transverse shafts or rollers 11 are journaled, the said shafts or rollers being equipped at their front ends with gear wheels 12, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. Pivoted, at 13, on the front corner post 3 is a lever 14 which extends through a keeper or bracket 15 on the side of the front standard 5. A pinion 16 is carried by the lever 14 and is adapted to mesh with the upper or the lower gear wheel 12 accordingly as the lever is raised or lowered, as will be readily understood, the said pinion being provided with a crank arm 17 integral with or secured rigidly to its hub, whereby the pinion may be rotated and thereby impart motion to that gear wheel 12 with which it meshes. The lever 14 may be held in its upper or lower position by any suitable means, and, in the drawings, I have illustrated a lug or projection 18 on the inner side of the bracket or keeper 15 adapted to engage the upper or the lower edge of the lever, and the lever is equipped with a spring 19 bearing against the adjacent standard and holding the lever normally toward the outer side of the bracket so that it will be held against the said lug or projection 18, and, at the same time, may be readily moved past the same when it is desired to change the direction of movement of the rugs.

On the upper sides of the sills 1 and 2, I secure a border frame 20 consisting of smooth boards secured rigidly to the upper sides of the said sills between the standards 5 and the right hand end of the base and finished in imitation of a hard wood floor. Between the longitudinal sills, adja-

cent the right hand transverse sill 2, I journal a roller 21 which is adapted to support and guide a rug passing over the rack, and on the upper side of the longitudinal sills, between the standards 5 and the corner post 3, I provide a similar roller 22, while upon the standards 5, immediately above the border frame 20, a third supporting and guiding roller 23 is located. The border frame is provided near its outer end, in its inner opposed side edges, with notches 24 through which the edges of the rugs may pass and below this border frame between the longitudinal sills of the base, I provide a rack consisting of the transverse bars or strips 25 and the longitudinal strips or bars 26 secured to the upper sides of the transverse bars in order that the body of the rug may be supported horizontally with its edges overlapping the edges of the border frame, as will be readily understood on reference to Fig. 3.

Having thus made known the construction and arrangement of the several parts of the display rack, it is thought the operation and advantages of the same will be readily understood and appreciated. The rugs to be displayed are connected by means of any suitable connecting hooks, indicated at 27, so as to form a continuous web, and they are then wound on the upper and lower rollers or shafts 11, after being threaded over the roller 7, under the roller 23, over the roller 21, and under the roller 22, as clearly shown in Fig. 2. The web of rugs will thus be caused to travel over the rack consisting of the bars 25 and 26 to be displayed and may then be drawn up in a vertical position over the roller 7 and wound upon the upper roller or shaft 11, or may be drawn under the rack and wound on the lower roller 11, as will be readily understood. Motion is imparted to the web of rugs by shifting the lever 14 so as to bring the pinion 16 into mesh with either the upper or the lower gear wheel 12 and then rotating the pinion by means of the handle or crank 17. The web of rugs will thus be caused to wind on one of the rollers or shafts 11 and unwind from the other shaft. It will be noted that when a rug has been brought over the bars 25 and 26, its edges will overlap and lie upon the border frame 20 so that the rug will be seen independent of other rugs and in connection with an imitation of hard wood floor, so that the customer may obtain a clear impression of the appearance the rug will have when placed upon the floor of the room. Should it be desired to remove any particular rug, it may be detached from the web of rugs by disconnecting the hooks or other fastenings 27, and the rugs which were formerly at the opposite sides of the separated rug may be then connected.

It will be noted that the upright frame is

arranged at the inner end of the border frame and at a right angle thereto, so that the rugs assume a position approximating the shape of the letter L, as shown clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawings. It is manifest that the mechanism may be operated to display an entire rug in a horizontal position within the border frame, or in a vertical position between the rollers 7 and 23, or a part of the rug within the border frame and the remaining portion in the open front side of the upright frame.

The rugs at the ends of the web may be wound directly upon the shafts or rollers 11, or may be connected with the said shafts through supplemental webs of cheaper fabric permanently attached to the shafts so as to permit the rugs at the ends of the web to be displayed without necessitating the manual reengagement of the rugs with the shafts. With my improved display rack, the rugs will not be placed upon the floor of the storeroom so as to invite the customer to walk upon and soil the face of the rugs and at the same time the rugs are not hung vertically upon the walls of the storeroom, nor upon space-consuming racks or swinging arms which will not display the rugs in the position they will have when in use. Furthermore, the device employed by me will accommodate a large number of rugs within a small space and, when not in use, will facilitate the protection of the rugs against dust, as a comparatively small covering may be thrown over the rack and thereby protect the entire web of rugs against the dust raised in cleaning the storeroom.

The advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claim appended hereto.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

A display rack for rugs or like articles comprising a horizontal framework and a vertical framework, the vertical framework being located at one end of the horizontal framework, rollers mounted in the vertical framework upon which may be rolled a series of the articles to be displayed connected end to end, means for turning one of said rollers, and guides for the series of articles whereby the series of articles may be wound from one roller to the other and caused to pass over the horizontal framework and over

the vertical framework, the view of the articles passing over each framework being unobstructed and the size of each framework being such that a single article may be presented to the view substantially in its entirety upon each framework.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing

as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN E. EDMUNDS.

Witnesses:

H. W. JOHNSON,

S. B. BRADFORD.

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