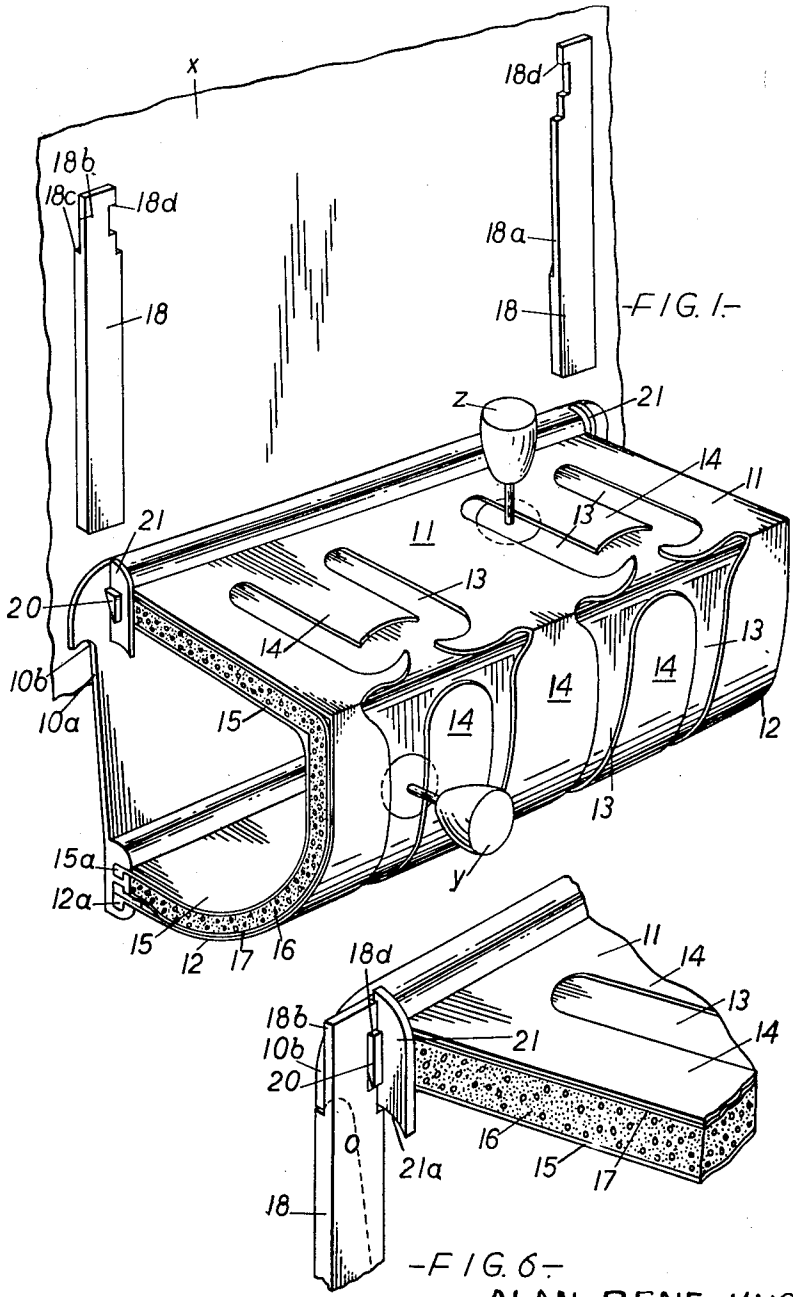
March 2, 1965 A. R. UNSWORTH 3,171,544

RACKS FOR HOLDING WINE GLASSES AND LIKE ARTICLES

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-FIG. 1-

-FIG. 6-

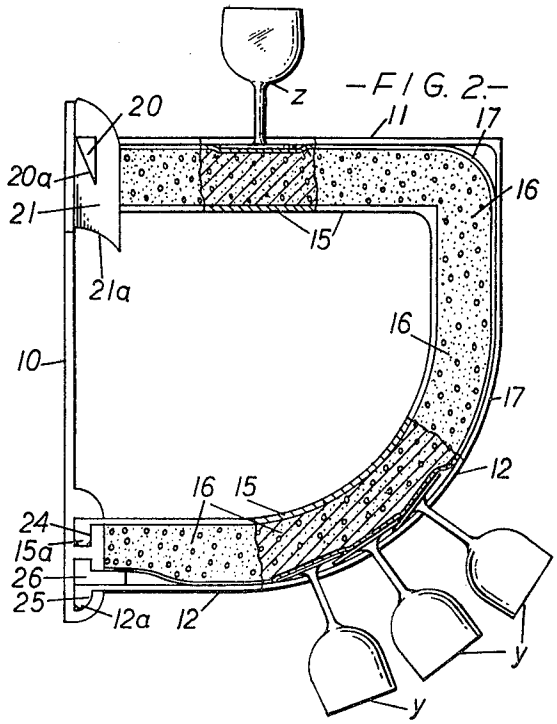
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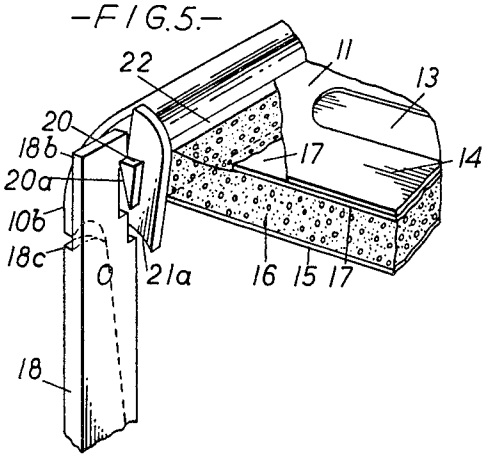
RACKS FOR HOLDING WINE GLASSES AND LIKE ARTICLES

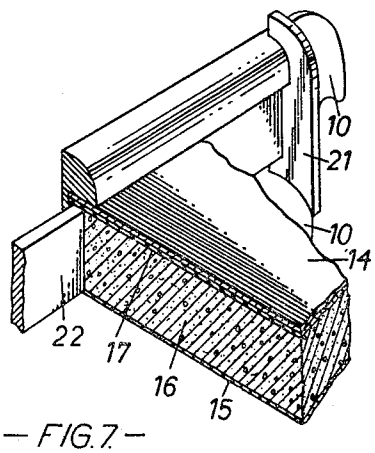
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-FIG. 2.-



-FIG.5.-





-FIG.7-

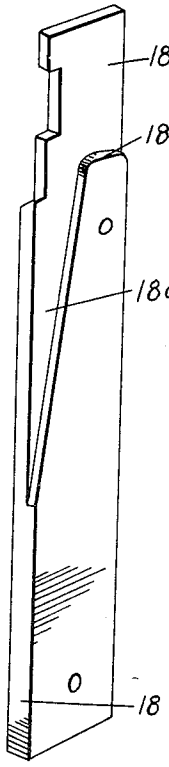
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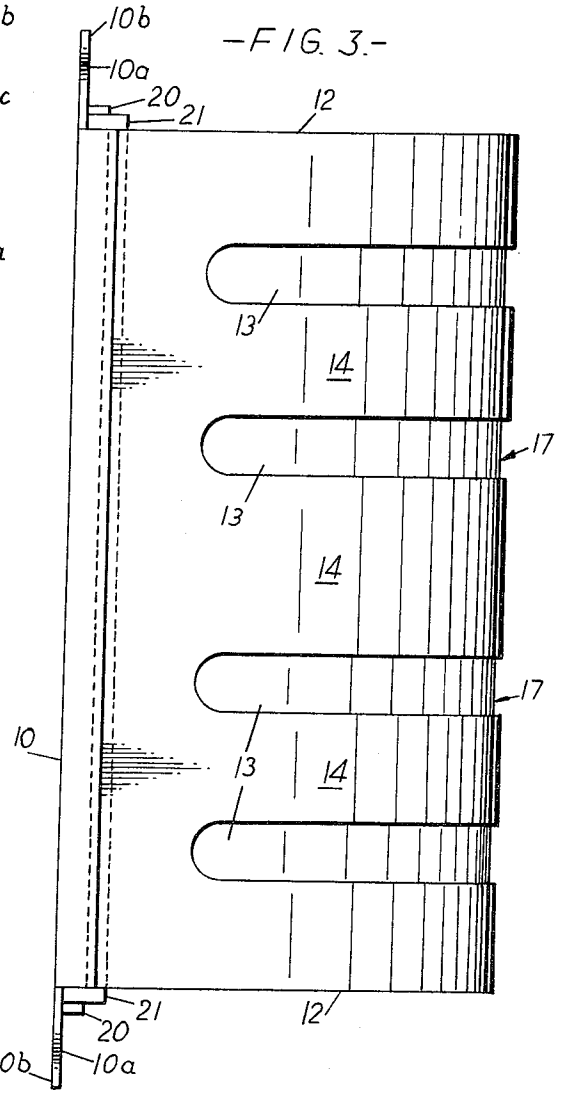
RACKS FOR HOLDING WINE GLASSES AND LIKE ARTICLES

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-FIG. 4-



-FIG. 3-



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RACKS FOR HOLDING WINE GLASSES AND LIKE ARTICLES

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Filed Nov. 21, 1961, Ser. No. 153,894
Claims priority, application Great Britain, Nov. 22, 1960, 40,031/60
1 Claim. (Cl. 211—71)

This invention relates to racks for holding wine glasses and like stemmed vessels and articles (all hereinafter for convenience of reference included in the terms "wine glass" or "glass") and has for its object to provide an improved device or appliance adapted to hold a plurality of glasses for storage purposes and which is particularly useful on board ships, boats, aircraft, caravans, or other vehicles, or in other situations where likelihood of violent motion necessitates a positive location of fragile articles.

A further object is to provide a device or appliance which is of a portable nature, or may be rendered portable in a simple manner, and be carried on one arm whereby it can be employed to facilitate the serving and dispensing of drinks, or/and the collection of glasses leaving one hand free for any other necessary purpose.

Broadly, according to the invention, a device or appliance for holding wine glasses and the like comprises a plate member, or members, having at least one slot or passage formed therein, or therebetween, wherein the stems of glasses may be engaged, and means for bearing resiliently against the bases of the glasses for locating same firmly against accidental displacement from said slot. Usually the device will comprise more than one slot or passage for the reception of glasses and is or may be adapted for connection with a wall or the underside of a shelf or other supporting surface whereby it may be employed as a drying or storage rack, or, when detached from the support, as a portable serving tray and collecting rack.

The invention is further described with the aid of the accompanying drawings which illustrate, by way of example only, one mode of embodiment.

In said drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a glass-holding device adapted to be secured to a wall or like support but which may be detached and used for serving purposes.

FIG. 2 is an end view in part section of the device, and

FIG. 3 an underneath plan view.

FIG. 4 is a rear perspective view of one of two brackets employed for attaching the glass-holding device to a support.

FIGS. 5 and 6 are fragmentary perspective views showing two positions in the engaging of the device with the support brackets, and

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary detail sectional view showing a catch means whereby the glass holding device is engaged with the support brackets.

Referring now to said drawings, **10** denotes a back-plate of generally rectangular configuration from the upper edge whereof extends a forwardly projecting horizontal plate member **11**. From the lower edge of back-plate **10** there extends a forwardly and upwardly curved member **12** which is connected to the component **11** at its front edge or is an extension thereof. Slots **13** defining finger portions **14** are formed as shown in members **11** and **12**, said slots **13** being of a width such that the stems of glasses may be passed therethrough but not their bases. Fitted within the hollow structure formed by back-plate **10** and members **11** and **12**, is a member **15** which functions to hold against said members **11**, **12**, a

layer or interlining **16** of resiliently compressible substance such, for example, as foamed plastic or sponge rubber. Preferably the outer surface of said resilient interlining **16** is formed or provided with a smooth skin or film **17** which bears against the underside of member **11** and the inner surface of member **12**.

Said back-plate **10** is adapted for detachable connection with a supporting surface *x*, as, e.g., a wall, by means of a pair of brackets **18**, **18** which can be screwed or otherwise attached to said surface, and have opposed under-cut portions **18***a* (FIG. 4) with which the divergent sides **10***a* of the back-plate can slidably engage. Said back-plate is also formed with laterally extending lugs **10***b* which, when the back-plate is fully engaged with the brackets, are located behind the upper ends **18***b* of said brackets and rest upon the shoulders **18***c* formed by said under-cuts **18***a*.

In order that the glass-holder may be positively located against accidental displacement, pivotal catch members **20** are provided at each side thereof and are biased towards positions in which they engage below lugs **18***d* of brackets **18**. Said catch members **20** are formed or provided on catch plates **21** mounted one at each end of a rod **22** (FIG. 5 and FIG. 7) which extends between member **11** and the inner member **15** at the rear of the resilient interlining **16** which is arranged to bear against said rod. Said layer **16** is thus conveniently employed as the means whereby said catch members **20** are biased resiliently towards operative positions.

Said catch members **20** have inclined rear faces **20***a* (see more particularly FIG. 2) whereby, in the engaging of the sides **10***a* of the glass-holder with the brackets **18**, said catches will over-ride the upper edges of said brackets (FIG. 5) and automatically engage below the lugs **18***d* (FIG. 6). Other means of biasing said catches towards operative positions may of course be employed. The catch plates **21** are formed with finger grip portions **21***a* which enable ready disengagement of the catches **20** from the lugs **18***d* of brackets **18**.

Thus constructed, the slots or passages **13** of the curved member **12** are adapted to receive (as at *y*, FIGS. 1 and 2) a plurality of glasses and hold same in a pendant or semi-pendant position with the stems entered in said slots **13** and their bases firmly engaged between the resilient interlining **16** and the fingers **14**. Said slots **13** are of such length that a number of glasses can be held between adjacent fingers **14** with their bases in overlapping engagement, and thus a glass-holding device of only moderate dimensions will have a substantial capacity for holding glasses. Similarly, the stems of glasses may be entered within the slots **13** of the horizontal component **11** to firmly locate glasses in an upright position (as at *z*, FIG. 1) by reason of the resilient interlining **16** which presses against their bases. Thus, glasses may be spacedly held ready for the serving of drinks. When the rack is detached from its support it may be safely carried, e.g., by passing a forearm down its hollow center, leaving the other hand free for use. Alternatively it may be supported between the bend of the elbow and the fingers, the forearm being disposed along the rear of the back-plate.

A glass-holding device according to my invention may be composed wholly or partially from one or more of the so called plastics, and members **11** and **12** may together be manufactured by blanking out and forming a single sheet of material. Member **15** may similarly be formed from a single sheet of material.

In the embodiment illustrated, the lower ends of members **12** and **15** are associated with the backplate **10** by means of flanges or beads **12***a*, **15***a* thereof which are engaged with under-cut channels **24**, **25** formed or pro-

vided adjacent to the lower edge of said back-plate. Similar channels (not shown) are provided adjacent to the upper edge of the back-plate and are adapted to receive flanges (similar to the flanges **12***a*, **15***a*) formed on the rear edge of the horizontal member **11** and the upper edge of member **15**.

For ease of assembly, a locking strip **26** (FIG. 2) of angle cross-section is provided in the lower channel **25** and which can be slidably engaged therewith subsequent to the flange **12***a* of member **12** being engaged in said channel. Conversely, withdrawal of said locking strip frees said flange **12***a* and permits of the device being separated readily into its component parts.

For lightness and economy in material, the back-plate **10** and the inner member **15** may be of skeleton form.

Glass-holding devices according to my invention may be of simple planar construction if so desired and be fitted or/and used in any position or situation as the glasses held thereby are firmly and resiliently located against displacement relative to the device. It will therefore be clear that a device according to my invention is eminently suited for use in situations liable to movements of an unpredictable or more or less violent nature.

If desired, the interior of said inner member **15** may be adapted to house small bottles and the like (containing, for example, flavouring, essences, et cetera) and other drink accessories.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A device for holding wine glasses and like stemmed vessels comprising a first plate-like member, a second member spaced from said first member, a plurality of

elongated slots formed in said first member to define a series of finger-like components, a layer of resiliently compressible substance disposed and confined between said two members and adapted to engage and press against the bases of glasses between said first member and said compressible substance when the stems thereof are located between the finger-like components of said first member, brackets capable of being attached to a supporting surface, lugs being provided on said brackets, catch members, a rod disposed between said first member and said second member at the rear of said resiliently compressible substance confined therebetween and having said catch members attached to each end thereof, and said resiliently compressible substance functioning to bias said rod and said catch members carried thereby towards a position for engaging said lugs for connecting said members to said bracket.

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