W. T. HORMES.

SPACING DEVICE FOR DISPLAY TRAYS.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 15, 1915.

1,322,791. Patented Nov. 25, 1919.

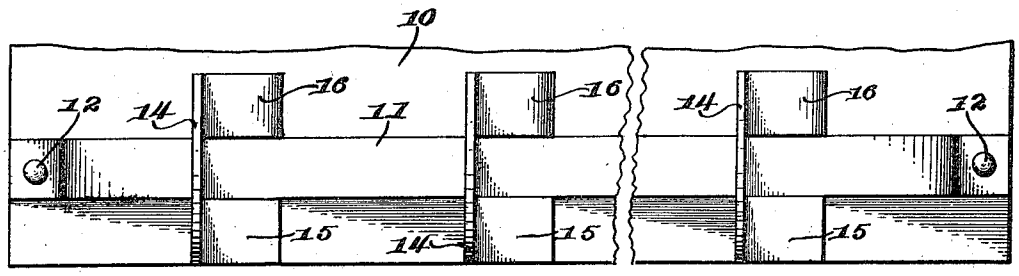


Fig. 1.

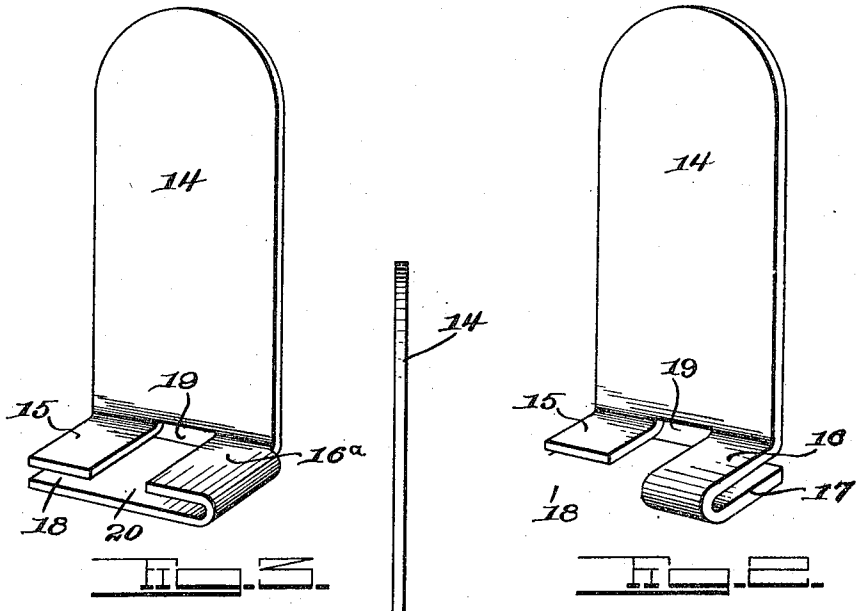


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

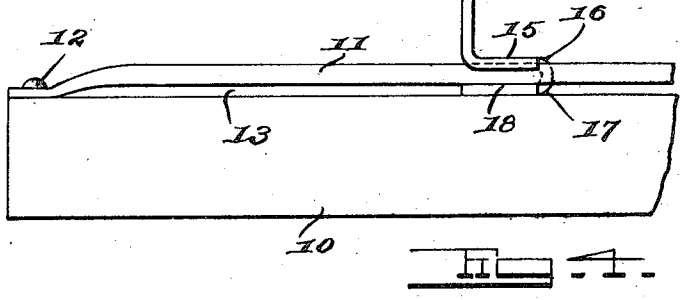


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SPACING DEVICE FOR DISPLAY-TRAYS.

1,322,791. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 25, 1919.

Application filed May 15, 1915. Serial No. 28,307.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM T. HORMES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Govans, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Spacing Devices for Display-Trays, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an improved device designed for use in connection with display trays, or other similar receptacles, wherein it is desirable or necessary to retain the articles on display, in spaced relation, to prevent rubbing, and to enhance the display thereof.

The main object of the invention is to provide an improved spacing device which will occupy minimum space and which may be readily attached to or detached from a suitable supporting element carried by a display receptacle, and the positions of which may be readily shifted to accommodate articles of different character, or articles of the same character but differing in size.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing:—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a portion of the bottom of a display tray, illustrating the use of spacing devices. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view illustrating the spacing device detached. Fig. 3 is a similar view of a slight modification. Fig. 4 is an edge view illustrating the guide strip with a spacing device in engagement therewith.

Referring to the drawing, 10 designates a portion of the base of a display tray, and 11 a guide strip attached thereto by means of securing devices 12 passed through the ends of the strip. It will be noted that the body of the strip is spaced from the base of the tray, as indicated at 13, said strip being preferably made of resilient material.

The spacing device illustrated in Fig. 2, comprises an upstanding body portion 14, provided at its lower end with spaced apart guide members 15, 16, forming a guide foot arranged at an angle to the body, the guide member 16 being bent downwardly and back to form a resilient clip 17, which extends transversely of the foot beneath the guide member 15, a space 18 being provided between said clip and said guide member 15. When it is desired to employ the spacing device, the free end of the clip 17 is passed laterally beneath the guide strip until the space 19, between the guide members, comes opposite said strip, whereupon the edges of the guide members on opposite sides of said space, engage the longitudinal edges of the guide strip 11, preventing lateral movement of the spacing device with respect to said guide strip, but permitting longitudinal movement along said strip. The clip 17 is sufficiently resilient to prevent accidental upward movement of the spacing device sufficient to disengage the guide members from said strip, and strip 11 is sufficiently resilient to create considerable friction on the clip 17 between the strip and the base 10. When it is desired to detach the spacing device, the body 14 is pulled upwardly a sufficient distance to disengage the guide members from the sides of the guide strip 11, whereupon the device may be disengaged by a lateral movement causing the strip to pass through the space between the clip 17 and guide member 15.

In Fig. 3, the structure illustrated is practically the same as that illustrated in Fig. 2, the clip 20 being formed by bending the guide member 16^a laterally instead of longitudinally, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The two devices function in identically the same manner.

From the foregoing it will be readily seen that I have produced a simple and effective spacing device which will not take up much room in a drawer or other container. The guide strip 11 and the spacing elements 14 are constructed of sheet metal or other thin and flat material to conserve the interior capacity of the container, the spacing elements having means to maintain the proper angular relation to the guide during adjustment, the guide and the spacing elements having coöperating means to prevent accidental displacement of the spacing elements.

Having thus explained the nature of my invention and described an operative manner of constructing and using the same, although without attempting to set forth all of the forms of its use, or all of the forms in which it may be made, what I claim is:—

1. The combination with a tray having a bottom wall provided with a uniformly flat surface throughout its area, and a guide

strip attached to said flat surface, of a plurality of spacing members slidably mounted on said guide strip, each spacing member consisting of an upright body portion provided with spaced apart integral arms bent over from said body portion parallel with the guide strip and spaced to receive the guide strip between them, said spacing member also having integral means for resiliently gripping said guide strip, and so shaped that it may by lateral movement be engaged with and disengaged from the guide strip at any point along the length of the latter, said spacing members being positioned along the guide strip to separate merchandise placed on both sides of the body portions thereof.

2. The combination with a tray having a bottom wall provided with a uniformly flat surface throughout its area, and a guide strip attached to said flat surface, of a plurality of spacing members slidably mounted on said guide strip, each spacing member consisting of an upright body portion provided with spaced apart integral arms bent over from said body portion parallel with the guide strip and spaced to receive the guide strip between them, one of said arms having a turned over resilient portion positioned to grip said guide strip, said spacing members being positioned along the guide strip to separate merchandise placed on both sides of the body portions thereof.

3. The combination with a tray having a bottom wall provided with a uniformly flat surface throughout its area, and a guide strip attached to said flat surface, of a plurality of spacing members slidably mounted on said guide strip, each spacing member consisting of an upright body portion provided with spaced apart integral arms bent over from said body portion parallel with the guide strip and spaced to receive the guide strip between them, one of said arms having an extension passed laterally beneath both arms and spaced therefrom to resiliently grip the underside of the guide strip, said spacing members being positioned along the guide strip to separate merchandise placed on both sides of the body portion thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM T. HORMES.

Witnesses:
E. A. CAMPBELL,
STEPHEN CAMPBELL.