Sept. 22, 1931. W. C. HORNADAY 1,824,142

RACK

Filed June 24, 1929

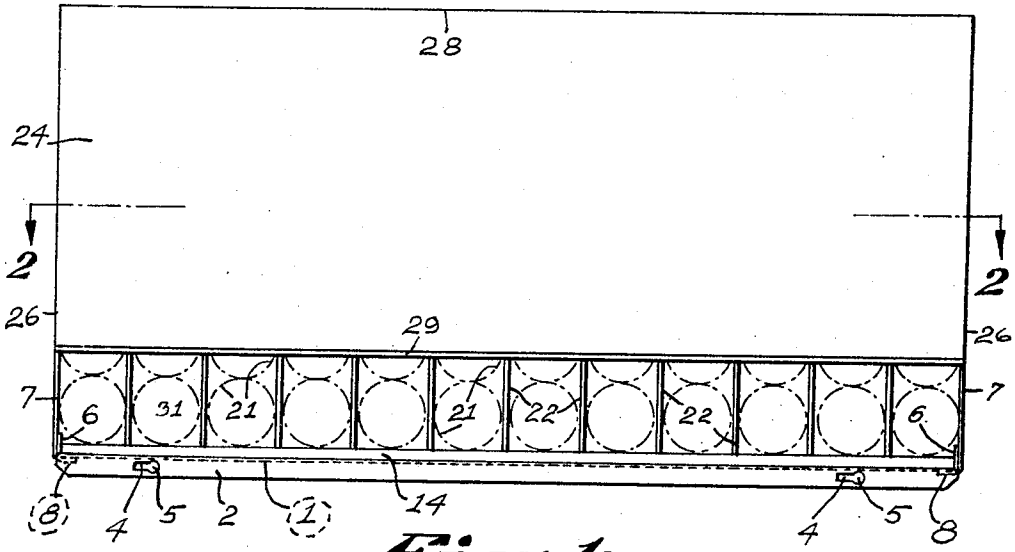


Fig. 1.

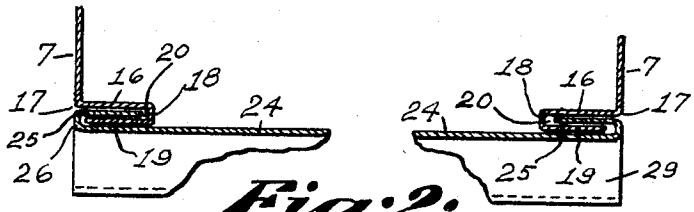


Fig. 2.

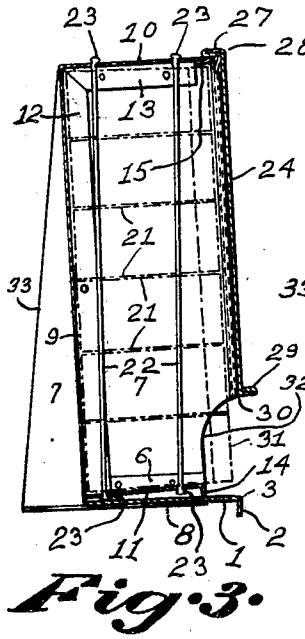


Fig. 3.

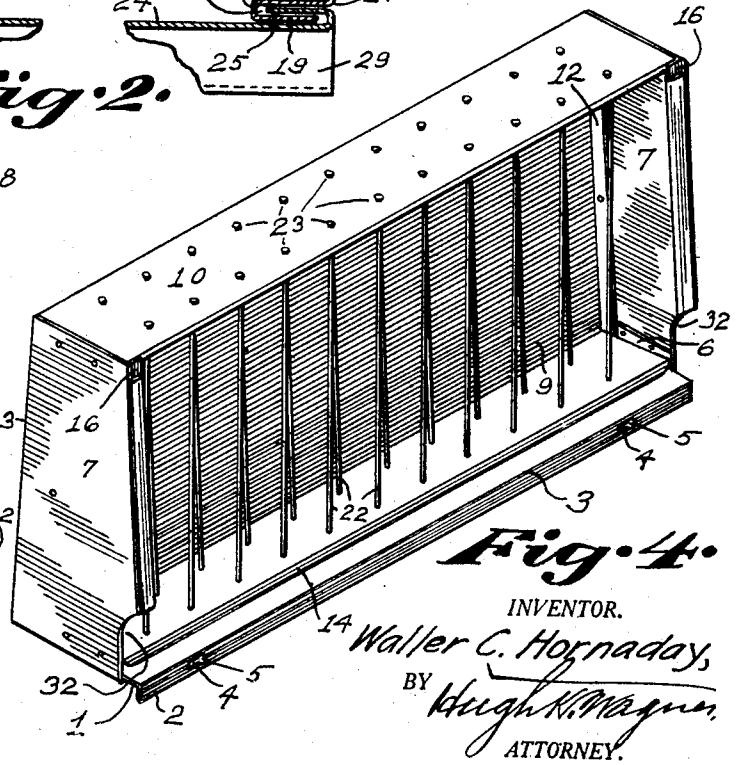


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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RACK

Application filed June 24, 1929. Serial No. 373,261.

This invention relates to racks or cases, and pertains more particularly to a case that may be employed in a store to hold articles of merchandise that may be removed individually as they are sold.

An object of the present invention is the provision of a case of this character that may be readily attached to a counter, table or shelf, and as readily detached therefrom to lay it in a convenient position for refilling it.

Another object of the invention is to provide novel barriers in the case for confining like articles into like rows or tiers.

Another object of the invention is to provide a case of this character having an opening sufficiently large in its front face to enable the lowest one of a tier of articles to be easily withdrawn from the case therethrough, the arrangement being such that the entire tier is permitted to descend automatically after such withdrawal in order to present the next lowest article to the opening.

Another object is to provide a case of this character that may be economically and rigidly constructed of sheet metal.

Other objects, advantages, and desirable features of the invention will appear in the course of the following description of an illustrative embodiment of the spirit thereof.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which like numbers of reference denote like parts wherever they occur,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the case;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary enlargement sectional view taken on the line 2—2 in Figure 1 and exhibiting details of the door or closure for the case;

Figure 3 is a transverse verticle sectional view of the case; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the same with the door omitted.

The case is preferably formed of sheet metal, and embodies a bottom 1, having a flange 2 depending from its front edge 3. The flange 2 is provided with longitudinally extending slots or perforations 4 for accommodating screws or other suitable means for fastening the bottom to an underlying support, the screws passing through the slots and threading into the elge of the support under the flange 2. The heads of the screws will pass through the enlarged portions 5 of the slots 4, but not through the narrower portions. The ends of the bottom 1 present upturned flanges 6, to which are secured the end walls 7, which in turn present flanges 8 that underlie the bottom 1 and are suitably attached thereto. Another blank of sheet metal is bent to form a rear wall 9, a top wall 10, and a false bottom 11 that overlies the true bottom 1. The rear wall 9 presents flanges 12, secured to the end walls 7; and the top wall 10 presents flanges 13, also, secured to the end walls 7. The false bottom 11 inclines forwardly and presents a depending flange 14 at its forward edge that rests upon the true bottom 1. The front marginal portion 15 of the top wall 10 is bent back under itself to form a reinforcing seam. Flanges 16 project laterally from the front edges 17 of the end walls 7 and towards each other, as best shown in Figure 2, and then bend outwardly, as at 18, and then back toward the end of the case, as at 19, to form intervening grooves 20 between the portions 16 and 19. For the purpose of illustration, the articles in the case are shown as cylindrical cans 21 that contain different condiments, spices and flavoring materials. Cans of like contents are placed in the same tier in the case, and the adjacent tiers are separted by wire barriers 22, that extend through perforations therefor in the top wall 10 and the false bottom or floor 11, the extremities 23 of the wires 22 being enlarged or of head formation to prevent the withdrawal of the wires from the top wall 10 and the floor 11. The front of the case is open, and is provided with a door 24, presenting tongues or flanges 25 at its lateral edges 26 that enter the grooves 20 of the case, thereby permitting vertical sliding movement of the door, but limiting its movement in other directions. A flange 27, doubled back under itself for the purpose of reinforcement, projects rearwardly from the upper edge 28 of the door 24, and a similar flange 29 projects forwardly from the lower edge 30 of the door. Both flanges 27 and 29 stiffen the door; and, in addition thereto, the

flange 27 limits the descent of the door by engaging the top wall 10, while the flange 29 serves as a convenient handle or projection that is grasped to lift the door. The cans 21 preferably lie horizontally in their respective tiers so as to present their tops 31 towards the front of the case. When the door 24 is in its lowest position, its edge 30 is spaced sufficiently above the false bottom 11 to expose the top ends 31 of at least the lowermost cans 21. The flange 14 is in retracted relation to the flange 2, and the end walls 7 have their lower anterior corners cut away, as at 32, to provide room for the fingers of the store-keeper to facilitate the grasping of the lowermost cans of the tiers, and especially those juxtaposed to the end walls 7. When a lowermost can has been removed, the superposed cans of its tier descend by gravity to present the next lowermost can to the opening under the door.

It will be observed that when the bottom 1 is placed on a horizontal surface, the bottom 11 will still be inclined, thereby preventing the lowermost cans from working forwardly under the influence of vibration. The door holds the remaining cans in the case, and, also, protects them against dust and other elements of exposure. Normally, the case stands on a support so that the screws in the support pass through the narrow portion of the slots 4, in which position the heads of the screws prevent the forward withdrawal of the case from the support. To refill the can, the case is moved toward the left, so that the heads of the screws will pass through the slot enlargements 5, and the can is withdrawn forwardly from the support and may be set down with its front side up, the rear edges 33 of the end walls 7 being preferably inclined so as to hold the case with its rear side 9 slightly inclined to facilitate the filling of the case. The cover 24, of course, is preferably entirely removed when refilling the case. If desired, the front of the door may be provided with suitable indicia for identifying the contents of each tier of cans, and it may also bear advertising or instructive matter. The door 24 functions, also, as a stop for the upper containers 21 of a tier to prevent their withdrawal from the case by reason of their frictional engagement with the lowermost container 21 when the latter is pulled from the case.

Having thus fully described this invention, I hereby reserve the benefit of all changes in form, arrangement, order, or use of parts, as it is evident that many minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A case of the character described having a true bottom presenting a depending flange on its anterior edge, and a false bottom superposed on the true bottom, and terminating short of the forward edge of the true bottom, said false bottom presenting a flange resting on said true bottom to incline said false bottom rearwardly.

2. A case of the character described having a true bottom and a false bottom superposed on said true bottom and terminating short of the forward edge of said true bottom, said false bottom presenting a flange resting on said true bottom to incline said false bottom rearwardly.

3. A case of the character described embodying a lateral enclosure and including superposed true and false bottoms, said true bottom having a depending flange at its forward edge to incline said bottom rearwardly and said false bottom terminating short of the forward edge of said true bottom, and presenting a flange res ing on said true bottom to incline said false bottom rearwardly.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

WALLER C. HORNADAY.