J. SHEMILT.

COUNTER CONSTRUCTION.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 4, 1920.

1,385,478.

Patented July 26, 1921.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig 1

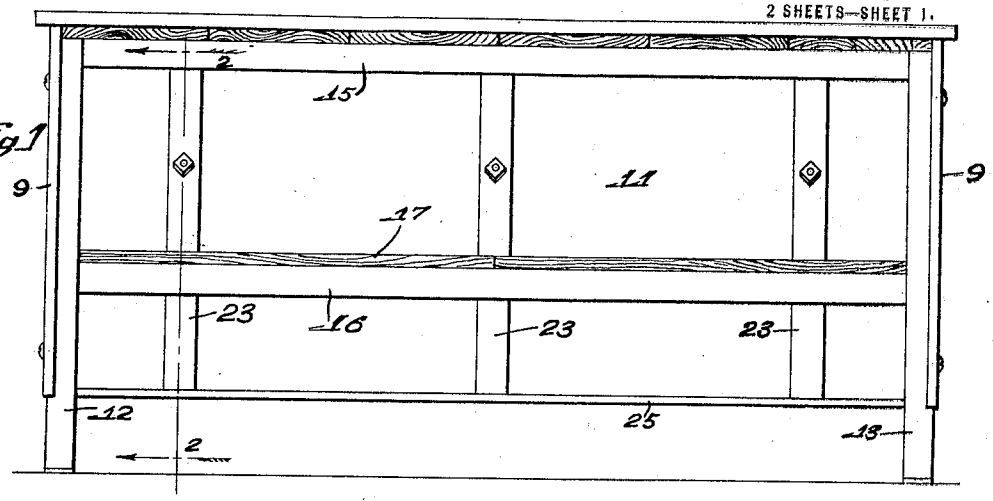


Fig 2

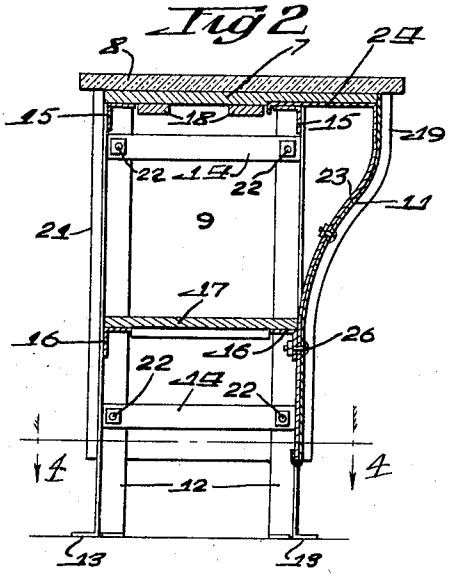


Fig 3.

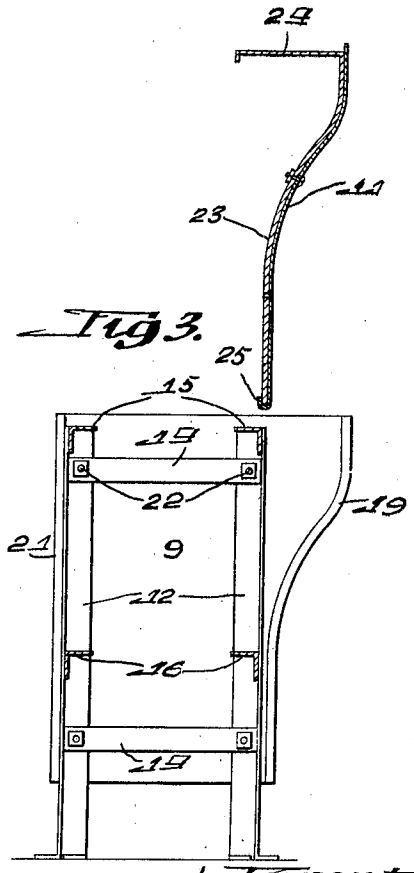
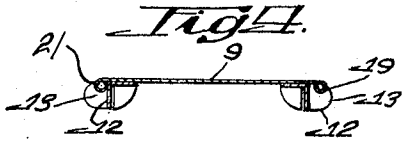


Fig 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig 5.

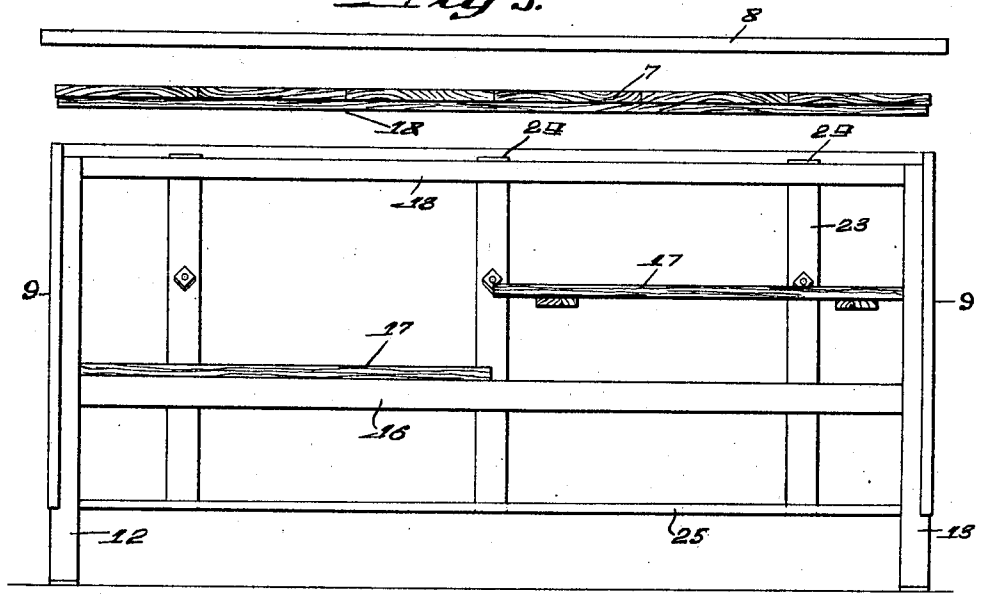
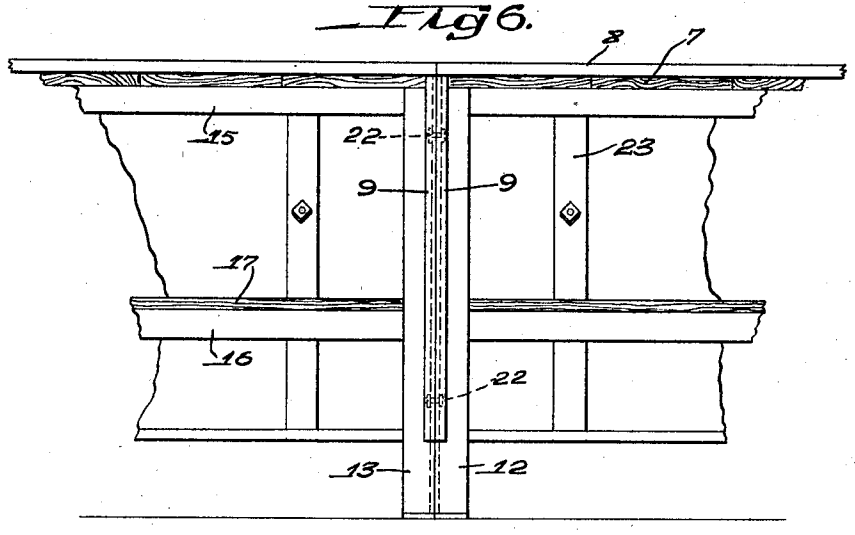


Fig 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SHEMILT, OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS.

COUNTER CONSTRUCTION.

1,385,478. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 26, 1921.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN SHEMILT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rockford, in the county of Winnebago and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Counter Constructions, of which the following is a specification.

This invention pertaining to counter construction, has for its principal object the provision of a generally improved and simplified counter especially adapted for restaurants, lunch rooms and the like.

More particularly, I have aimed to provide a counter of knock-down construction of such novel design as to be transportable in a compact bundle and capable of being quickly and easily set up for use. In this regard, my invention contemplates also the provision of counter units so constructed that they may be attached one to another to provide a continuous counter of any length desired.

Another object resides in the provision of an overhang counter with which is embodied a front panel defining the shape of the front of the counter structure. This feature is preferably incorporated in a rectangular frame structure with the view to simplicity, economy in manufacture and ready adaptability for assembling and dismantling.

Another object is to provide a counter construction characterized by a rectangular corner post frame, end plates and a front panel inclosing three sides of the frame, and an overhang counter top removably supported on the frame. In this regard, I have also aimed to provide a sub-top supported by the frame and upon and by which the counter proper is directly supported and from which it may be removed at any time. This counter preferably of marble or of a suitable composition, is quite heavy so that it retains its position on the sub-top without the use of fastening devices.

Other objects and attendant advantages will be appreciated by those familiar with this art as the invention becomes better understood by reference to the following specification when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of a counter structure embodying my invention;

Fig. 2, a cross-sectional view taken on the lines 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, a similar sectional view but with the counter top and sub-top removed and showing the front panel removed to a position above the counter;

Fig. 4, a detail sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5, a rear elevation of the counter showing the counter top and sub-top spaced above the frame; and

Fig. 6, a fragmentary rear view showing two counter units connected together.

My invention contemplates, as generally stated, the provision of a rectangular corner post frame joined by cross rails, a sub-top 7 mounted on the frame, a counter top 8 removably mounted on the sub-top and overhanging the front of the frame, end plates 9 detachably secured to the ends of the frame and shaped to overhang at the front top thereof, and a front panel 11 conforming to the contour of the front edge of the end plates and detachably associated therewith. The foregoing provides a very rigid and substantial frame inclosed on three sides by the end plates and front panel and supporting a sub-top and counter top, all of which parts are detachably associated as to be capable of quick assembling and dismantling, and which require but a minimum number of fastening devices for holding them in rigid operative relation.

Referring now more particularly to the main frame, it will be observed that this is built up of two pairs of corner posts 12 and 13, at present in the form of angle iron bars shaped at their lower ends to provide feet 13 and rigidly joined together by cross rails 14. These pairs of corner posts are rigidly connected in spaced relation by upper and lower cross rails 15 and 16 respectively, in the form of angle iron bars. A shelf 17 is supported on the lower cross rails 16, this shelf being preferably made in two sections, as shown in Fig. 5, each of which is freely removable at will for cleaning. The sub-top 7 above mentioned, rests directly upon the top rails 15 and overhangs the front of the frame as plainly shown in Fig. 2. This sub-top is retained in position against sidewise or endwise displacement both by the longitudinal cleats 18 and by the end plates 9 which extend above the tops of the corner posts. Each end plate is preferably formed of sheet material and shaped to inclose an end of the frame with the exception of the lower end thereof which is open for purpose of cleaning. Front and

rear edges 19 and 21 are rolled or flanged to provide retaining edges. Each end plate is detachably secured to the adjacent corner post by the bolts 22, which also connect the cross rails 14 to the posts. When in operative position, the rear flange 21 fits against the rear edge of the rear corner post and the front flange 19 is positioned forwardly of the front corner post, providing a guideway conforming in contour to the shape of the front panel 11. It will be further observed that the front flange 19 follows the front contour of the end plate, which latter has an overhang at its top reaching substantially to the front of the overhang counter. The front panel 11 preferably of sheet metal is of such length as to fit between the opposed end plates and be retained in position against forward displacement by the flanges 19 and against rearward displacement by the front corner posts. The front panel is equipped with a series of reinforcing bars 23 which have rearwardly turned upper ends 24 extending over and resting upon the front top rail 15, and thereby serve in part to support the front panel in position. The lower end of the front panel is turned up at 25 to provide a rounded smooth edge.

It will be observed from the foregoing that in setting up the counter the rectangular frame is first assembled, requiring in this instance assembly also of the end plates 9, by reason of the fact that the bolts 22 are employed to connect the corner posts of each pair by means of cross rails 14. The front panel 11 will then be placed in position from the top as will be obvious from Fig. 3. The sub-top 7 may now be added, and finally the counter top 8. To insure rigidity the front panel after being placed in position is fastened to the lower front rail 16 by means of bolts 26, Fig. 2. This completes the counter unit, it being observed that the purpose of the overhang construction is to secure a relatively wide counter top and allow room for positioning the counter seats or stools close to the counter, thus adding to the convenience and comfort of the customers.

Two or more counter units such as described above may be connected together end to end as shown in Fig. 6, by passing the bolts 22 entirely through the adjoining end plates and corner posts.

It is believed that the foregoing conveys a clear understanding of the objects prefaced above, and while I have illustrated and described but a single embodiment, it should be manifest that various changes might be made in details of construction without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A counter construction comprising a rectangular frame, a counter top on the frame overhanging the front thereof, end plates inclosing the ends of the frame and overhanging the front thereof, and a front panel conforming in shape to the front edge of the end plates and detachably connected with the frame.

2. A counter construction comprising a frame of corner posts and cross rails, an end plate detachably connected to and inclosing each end of the frame, each end plate shaped to project substantially beyond the frame at the front and top thereof whereby to define a top support of greater depth than the frame, a front panel detachably supported between and conforming in shape to the front of said end plates, and a top removably supported upon the frame and end plates.

3. In a counter construction, the combination of a frame, a top removably mounted on the frame and overhanging the front thereof, a front panel removably mounted on the frame, reaching from the lower portion of the frame to the front portion of the overhang top and equipped at its upper end with a series of rearwardly extending supporting arms resting on the frame.

4. A knock-down counter construction comprising a frame composed of corner posts, cross rails detachably connected to the corner posts for holding them in spaced rectangular relation, an end plate detachably fastened to each end of the frame and having an overhanging top portion, an overhanging front panel adapted to be interposed between the end plates and removably held in position therebetween, and a counter top removably supported on the frame and over-reaching the top of the front panel.

5. A counter construction comprising a frame including corner posts, end plates formed of sheet material each shaped to substantially inclose an end of the frame and flanged at its rear edge for abutment against the rear face of the rear post and flanged at its forward edge to provide a guide for an overhang front panel, an overhanging front panel interposed between the end plates and adapted to be guided into position by the front flanges thereof, and a counter top supported by the frame.

6. In a counter construction, a frame structure having ends each provided with an overhang portion, and means on said ends for guiding an overhang front panel into position, an overhang front panel interposed between said overhang portions and adapted to be guided into position by said means, and a counter top supported on the frame.

JOHN SHEMILT.