Oct. 18, 1938. M. B. SHELDON 2,133,834

BASKET CARRIER

Filed May 5, 1937

Fig. 1.

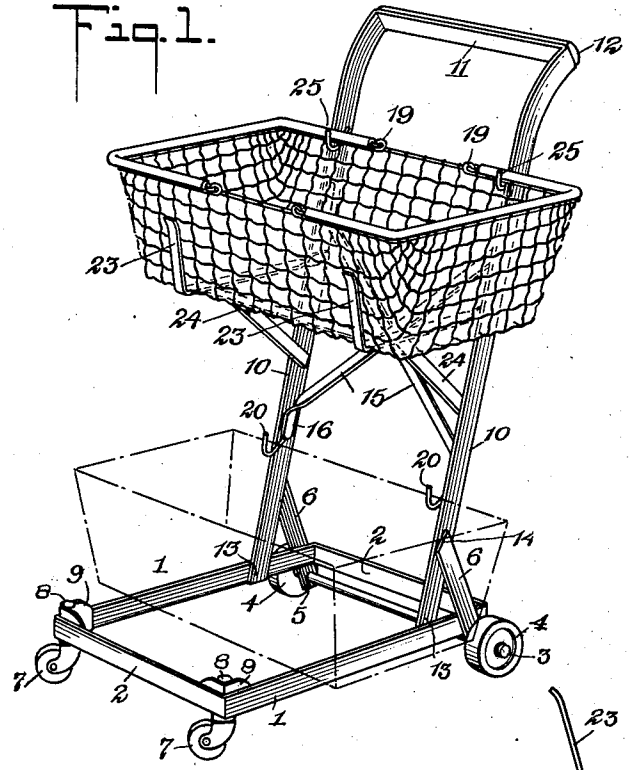


Fig. 2.

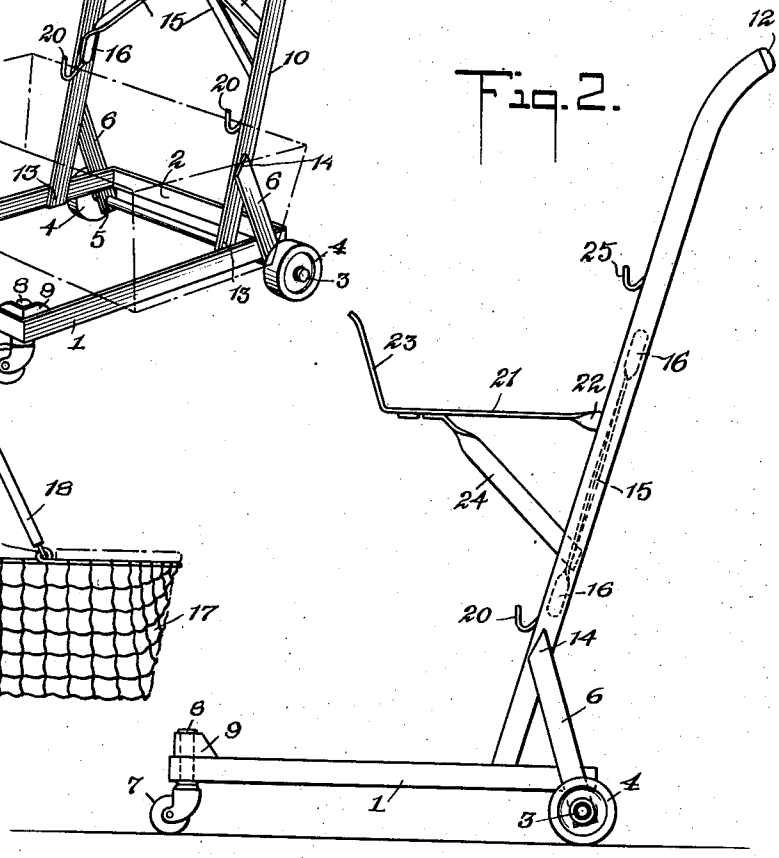
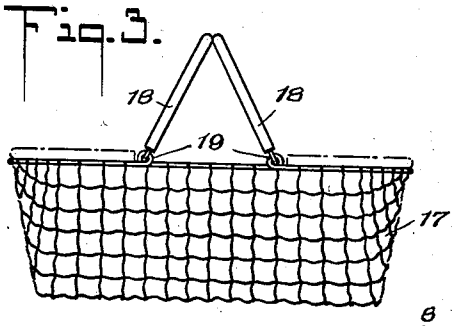


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

Chas. H. Leibman

M. Mark Anderson

INVENTOR

Murray B. Sheldon

BY

Munn Anderson & Liddy

ATTORNEY

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BASKET CARRIER

Murray B. Sheldon, Jersey City, N. J.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 280—49)

The present invention relates to a basket carrier for the use of shoppers and is intended to receive and support and transport baskets or other containers for various articles of merchandise constituting an assortment selected by the purchaser and by means of which the assortment may be kept intact while the selection is being assembled. It is primarily intended to be used in those stores, generally characterized as "self service stores," where the purchaser is free to select from open bins or tables various items of merchandise and by means of which the assortment constituting a particular purchase or order may be kept assembled and retained until checked, wrapped and paid for by the purchaser.

The carrier consists generally of a base frame or support mounted on wheels or casters with an upwardly and rearwardly extending actuator, the upper end of which is provided with a handle bar, and with means whereby a basket or a plurality of baskets may be independently supported, one above the other, in such relative position as to permit free access thereto at all times and constitute a firm support for the baskets, and so constructed that with very slight effort the user may move the device about the store from counter to counter until the selection of merchandise constituting a particular order shall have been completed by the purchaser.

The basket carrier is shown in the accompanying drawing in which—

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of the basket carrier with one basket supported thereon and the other indicated in dotted lines;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the carrier with the baskets removed;

Fig. 3 shows in side elevation one of the baskets removed.

Similar reference characters will be employed throughout the specification and drawing to designate corresponding parts.

The device comprises a supporting base frame 1 preferably made of strips of flat metal and is rectangular in shape having oppositely disposed relatively long side bars 1 and oppositely disposed back and front bars 2. The carrier may be made of any suitable metal having the required strength and regidity. This base frame or support carries at its rear end an axle 3 upon the opposite ends of which are disposed metal wheels 4, the axle 3 being mounted in the depending lower ends 5 of braces 6 which will be hereinafter referred to.

At its forward end the base frame is provided with casters 7 carried by spindles 8 mounted to freely turn or swivel in bearings 9 secured within the frame and the angles formed by the corners at the front thereof. As shown in Fig. 2, the casters 7 and the wheels 4 will be of such relative diameter and so placed that when all of them rest upon a horizontal surface the supporting platform or base will be substantially parallel to that surface and will afford a firm support for the baskets even when filled with merchandise.

At or near the rear end of the base frame is an upwardly extending actuator consisting of parallel side bars 10 united at their upper ends by a horizontal bar 11, to which may be applied a plate 12 having a rounded face, the said plate being of substantially the same length and width as the bar 11, thus providing a handle bar to be grasped by the user in pushing the carrier about in selecting various items of merchandise.

The actuator is made of strips of metal of substantially the same character as the strips forming the supporting base. The lower ends of the side members 10 are connected as by welding to the inner surface of the longer bars 1 of the base frame or support, the point of union 13 of the side members 10 being adjacent to but somewhat in advance of a vertical line cutting the axle 3 which carries the wheels 4. The braces 6 which carry the axle 3 have their upper ends welded or otherwise secured as at 14 to the outer surface of the side members 10 of the actuator which as shown extends upwardly and is rearwardly inclined with respect to the plane of the base frame or support. Suitable cross braces 15 extend between the side members 10 and cross each other as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 (see also dotted lines in Fig. 2), the ends of which are secured as at 16 by welding or other suitable means to the inner face of the members 10 and are secured to each other at the point of crossing thus forming a rigid truss or brace for the members 10 and serving to maintain their parallelism.

The baskets 17 are preferably made of wire as indicated and are provided with handles 18 pivotally mounted at 19 to the upper edge. Each of the handles is formed in the shape of an angular yoke, as shown in Fig. 1, and will be of such a size that when not in use they will extend from the points 19 and engage the upper edge of the basket between the points 19 and the opposite ends of the upper end thereof, all as shown in Fig. 1. The handles may be covered with a tubing of some yielding material such as rubber.

When the handles 18 are brought to the position shown in Fig. 3, they form means whereby the basket may be removed from the carrier and carried about by hand.

The lower basket, as shown in dotted lines, is supported on the side bars of the base or support, and in order to insure that it shall remain in position thereon, the side members 10 are provided with hooks or equivalent means 20 permanently secured thereto, with which the upper edge of the basket is connected when placed on the base or supporting frame. The upper basket is supported upon brackets 21 which are permanently connected at their rear ends 22 to the side members 10 and at their forward ends have upstanding guards 23 to engage the front of the basket as shown in Fig. 1. The bracket 21 is supported by upwardly and forwardly inclined braces 24 which are likewise secured to the inner face of the side members 10 and to the under face of the brackets 21 by welding or by any other suitable attaching means. Above the bracket 21 the side members 10 carry hooks 25 so positioned with relation to the bracket 21 as to engage the upper edge of the basket supported theron, as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

It will be noted that the arrangement of the respective basket supports is such that the lower one is supported in such a way as to afford free access thereto and that the weight of the lower basket will to some extent assist in maintaining the carrier in an operative position even though a filled basket may be supported on the brackets 21, the center of gravity of both baskets with relation to the axle 3 being such as to insure not only the maintenance of an upright position of the device but to so counter-balance each other that a very slight backward pull on the handle bar 11 will suffice to raise the casters 7 above the floor surface to facilitate movement of the basket carrier in heavy traffic. Under normal conditions, of course, while resting on the wheels 4 and the casters 7, the device is easily steered in any direction, the swiveled casters 7 automatically turning about the axis of the spindles 8 under the slightest pressure.

It is thought that the operation of the device has been sufficiently described in connection with the foregoing description of its construction, and that any further description of its operation will be unnecessary.

I claim:

1. A basket carrier comprising an open base frame member, rotary elements beneath said open frame member for supporting said base frame member parallel with the floor, an actuator connected at its lower end to the base frame member at a point adjacent to but in advance of a vertical line cutting the axes of the rear rotary elements and extending upwardly and rearwardly therefrom, a handle bar at the upper end of said actuator, a bracket or support secured to the front of the actuator at a point above the base frame member and projecting thereover, said bracket having upturned guards to engage one side of a basket supported thereon, and forwardly projecting hooks secured to the actuator above said bracket to engage the rim of the basket supported on said bracket.

2. A basket carrier comprising an open base frame member formed of a metal strip bent to shape, an actuator formed of a metal strip bent to form parallel members united at one end by a crossbar with their free ends connected to the base frame member, braces extending between the parallel members of the actuator and braces at the rear of the base frame member and projecting in an inclined direction below the same, a bracket or basket support mounted at the front of the actuator above the open base frame member a sufficient distance to permit a basket to be supported on said base frame member and projecting forwardly thereover, hooks at the front of the actuator to engage the rims of baskets placed on the bracket and base frame member, all of the aforesaid parts being rigidly and permanently connected forming a single unitary metal structure, and rotary elements beneath the base frame member.

MURRAY B. SHELDON.