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R. L. SWARTWOUT

2,310,326

STRUCTURAL UNIT

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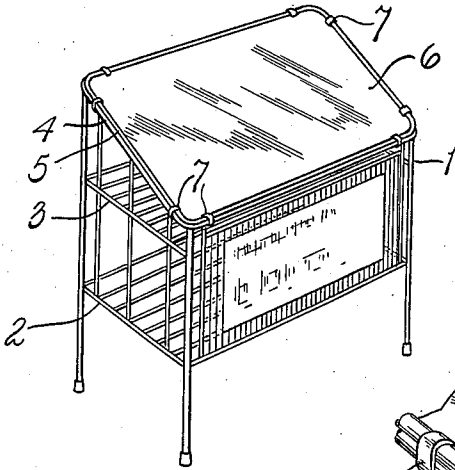


Fig. 1

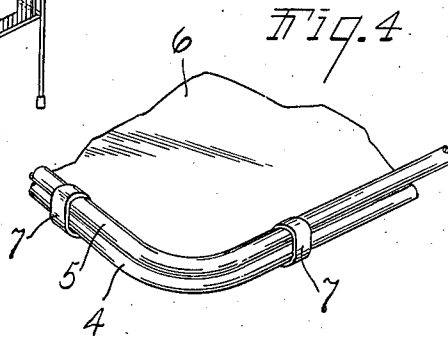


Fig. 4

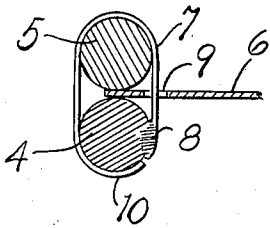


Fig. 2

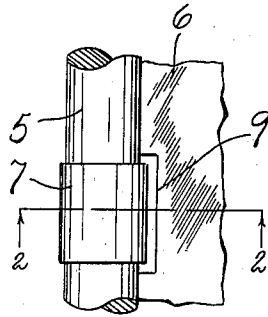


Fig. 3

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,310,326

## STRUCTURAL UNIT

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Application May 12, 1941, Serial No. 393,017

4 Claims. (Cl. 189—34)

This invention relates to improvements in structural units.

The main object of this invention is to provide a structural unit which is well adapted as a cover or shield for racks for displaying merchandise.

A further object is to provide a structure having these advantages which is very economical and at the same time attractive in appearance and permits the use of thin bendable material such as is now produced from certain plastics.

Objects relating to details and economies of the invention will appear from the description to follow. The invention is defined and pointed out in the claims.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a display rack embodying my improvements or in which my improvements are incorporated.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary section on a line corresponding to line 2—2 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of my improved structural unit.

In the embodiment of my invention illustrated, 1 generally designates a display rack formed of wire or light rod stock and having shelves 2 and 3.

Merchants experience considerable loss through customers or prospective customers handling certain merchandise, the merchandise thereby becoming soiled or displaced to destroy its effective display, and there is considerable loss as a result of shoplifting. At the same time, it is of course desired to attractively display the merchandise and many forms of display racks have been devised.

The structural details of the rack 1 so far as general structure is concerned form no part of my present invention which relates to a structural unit or closure for display racks and other purposes.

This structural unit comprises the frame members 4 and 5 which are preferably formed of heavy wire or light rod stock and are endless and of the same size and shape. These are disposed in side by side superimposed relation with the edges of the panel 6 between them. This panel 6 is, in the preferred embodiment, formed of transparent plastic material and is quite flexible. In order to effectively secure it and support it and to secure the frame members together, the strap-like clips or fastener members 7 are welded at one end, as at 8, to the inner side of the bot-

tom frame member 4, then passed through the slots 9 in the panel and wrapped around the top frame member and clamped on the under side of the under frame member at 10. While the members 7 are of bendable stock, they possess sufficient stiffness or rigidity so that when bent or clamped around the frame members they retain their position.

I have not shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 other rack members secured thereto.

My improved structural units are desirable for use as shelves and shelving where transparent panels are desired or where an economical structure is desired.

In the accompanying drawing, I have not illustrated the panel as bearing advertising or display material but I desire to point out, particularly when the panel is of transparent plastic, that representations of the article advertised or other desired matter may be readily printed upon the panel.

I have illustrated and described my improvements in an embodiment which I have found very practical. I have not attempted to illustrate or describe certain embodiments or adaptations which I contemplate as it is believed that this disclosure will enable those skilled in the art to embody or adapt my improvements as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A structural unit comprising a pair of endless frame members formed of rod stock and being of substantially the same size and shape disposed in side by side relation, a transparent panel of plastic material having its edges disposed between said frame members and having spaced slots adjacent its edges, and bendable fastener straps welded at one end to the inner side of one of the said frame members and passed through said slots in said panel and around the other frame member and clamped upon the outer side of the frame member to which it is welded.

2. A structural unit comprising a pair of endless frame members formed of rod stock and being of substantially the same size and shape disposed in side by side relation, a panel having its edges disposed between said frame members and having spaced holes adjacent its edges, and bendable fastener members welded at one end to one of the said frame members and passed through said slots in said panel and around the other frame member.

3. A structural unit comprising endless frame

members of substantially the same size and shape, a panel disposed with its edges between said frame members, said panel having openings adjacent the edges thereof, and bendable fastener members welded to the inner side of one of said frame members and passed through said openings in said panel around the other frame member and clamped upon the frame member to which the fastener is welded.

4. A structural unit comprising a pair 10 of frame members including side members

disposed side by side and in substantial parallelism, a panel disposed between said side members, said panel having openings therein spaced from the edge, and bendable fasteners welded at one end to one of said side members, passing through said openings, retainingly engaging the other side member to hold the same in operative relation to the panel, said fasteners being secured at the opposite end to said first named side member.

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