Nov. 26, 1957 J. BARBIER 2,814,390

DEVICE FOR EXHIBITING BAGS AND OTHER ARTICLES

Filed June 26, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

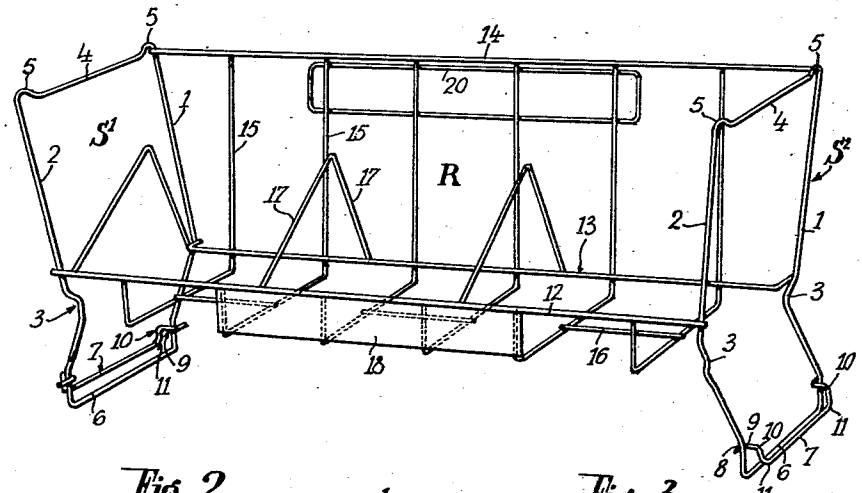


Fig. 2

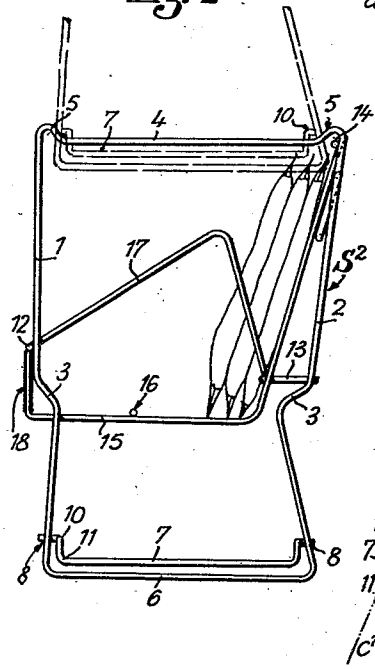
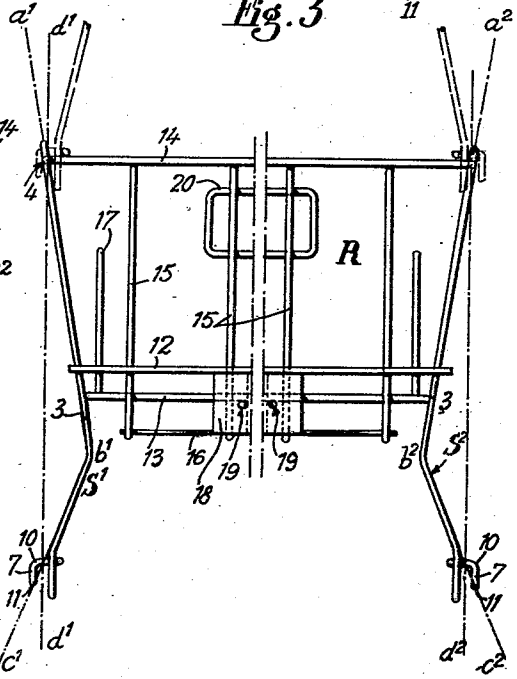


Fig. 3



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DEVICE FOR EXHIBITING BAGS AND OTHER ARTICLES

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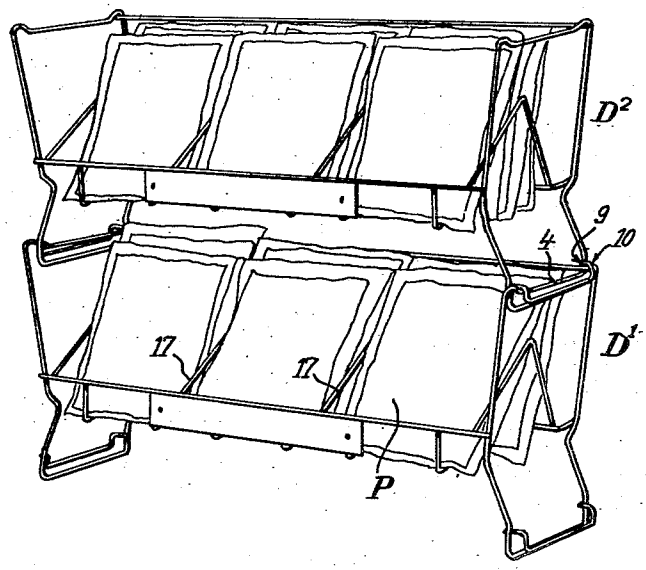

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

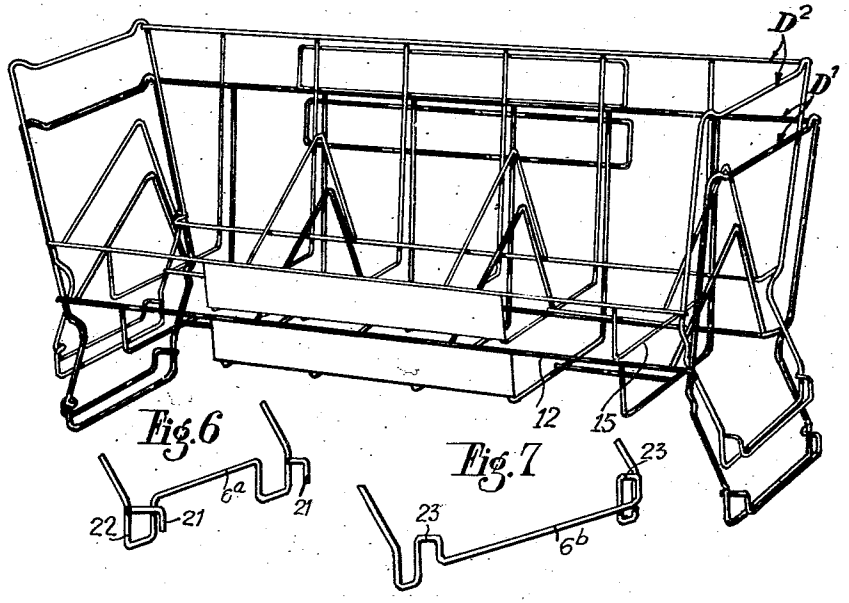

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

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DEVICE FOR EXHIBITING BAGS AND OTHER ARTICLES

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Claims priority, application France January 31, 1953

1 Claim. (Cl. 211—126)

The present invention has for its object to provide a device which is simple in construction, convenient to use, and which allows bags, newspapers, books, or other articles to be exhibited.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a device for the exhibition of bags and other articles comprising a rack or the like supported at its two ends by two support members that are so adapted that identical devices may be superposed either in a first position, i. e. spread apart for exhibition, in which the racks are materially separated and are disposed on top of one another, or in a second position, in which the racks are fitted into one another for storage.

Owing to the foregoing features, when the devices are in the first spread apart position a relatively large number of articles may be exhibited, whereas when the support members are fitted into one another these devices take up very little room.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an embodiment of the device for exhibiting bags and other articles in which the rack is fixed to two transverse frames constituting the support members and forming two inwardly directed dihedrals the apexes of which are situated substantially on a level with the bottom of the rack. The bottom side of each frame is so adapted as to form a grooved ledge or the like open towards the base and disposed vertically below the top side of the frame in question. The portion of the frame corresponding to the upper face of the dihedral is wider than the portion corresponding to the lower face of this dihedral. When several devices are in the spread apart position, each device is adapted to bear by means of the lower grooved ledges of its two support frames, on the top sides of the device placed immediately below, whereas when several devices are fitted into one another or stacked, the lower narrow portions of each support frame of a given device are capable of engaging in the wider upper portions of the devices placed therebelow.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the ensuing description. In the accompanying drawings, given merely by way of example:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a device according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is an end elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a partial front elevational view thereof;

Fig. 4 represents in perspective two superposed devices in the spread apart position,

Fig. 5 is a similar view showing two devices fitted one inside the other, and

Figs. 6 and 7 are partial views in perspective of modifications of the bottom side of one of the support frames of the device.

In the illustrated embodiment, the device is composed of a rack R rigidly secured to two end support frames S^1 and S^2 each one of which constitutes a foot and support member for an identical support placed on top of the support in question in the spread apart position of the

devices. This rack R and the support frames S^1 and S^2 are made up from metal tubes or rods welded together so as to form a rigid unit. Each transverse frame S^1 and S^2 is substantially vertical, but each of the longitudinally extending sides **1** and **2** are bent at **3**, so that it forms an inwardly directed dihedral a^1, b^1, c^1 or a^2, b^2, c^2 (Fig. 3). The two dihedrals have their apexes b^1 and b^2 directed towards each other.

The top side **4** of each support frame is cranked or bent downwards at **5** adjacent each of its ends and between the two bends is a rectilinear part. The bottom side **6** of each support frame is combined with an auxiliary rod **7** which is welded thereto at its ends at **8** and is bent at three points **9**, **10** and **11** adjacent each of these ends; in this way the rod **7** forms with the side **6**, when the latter is viewed from the end (Fig. 3), a grooved ledge facing downwards. The median plane of this grooved ledge lies in the vertical plane d^1d^1 or d^2d^2 intersecting the top side **4** of the frame pertaining to the grooved ledge in question. The distance between the two portions between bends **9** and **10** of each rod **7** is slightly less than the distance between the two bends **5** of the top side **4** of the support frame. In each support frame the portion corresponding to the bottom side of the dihedral is narrower than the portion corresponding to the top side.

The rack R, which connects the two support frames, comprises three longitudinal rods, a first or front rod **12**, a second or rear rod **13** situated at a slightly lower level than the front rod, and a third or upper rear rod **14**. These three rods are connected together in parallel transverse planes (which are also vertical if the device is placed in a horizontal position on a horizontal surface) by rods or bars **15** that are bent into the shape of a J. The bottom sides of these J-shaped rods are parallel to the sides **6** of the support frames, and are situated at a slightly lower level than the rear rod **13**. They are connected together in pairs at points intermediate of their bottom sides by longitudinally extending struts **16** fixed thereto.

In addition, there are provided partition members transversely disposed in such manner to suit the size of the articles to exhibit. Each partition member comprises a bent rod **17** having its bend directed upwards relative to its two ends which are fixed to the rods **12** and **13**. On the front of the device is provided, fixed to the rods **15** under the rod **12**, a small panel **18** which may carry an advertisement or any other information. The ends of this panel, which may be of metal or any other suitable material, are bent round the front vertical portion of two of the J-shaped rods **15** and are secured by eyelets **19**. At the rear of the rack R is fixed, at the upper part of some rods **15**, a small frame **20**.

Referring now to Fig. 4 which represents two devices D^1 and D^2 in the superposed position, the device D^2 rests by means of the lower parts of its two support frames, or more particularly by means of the portions of the two rods **7** comprised between the bends **9** and **10** (see also Figs. 2 and 3), on the top sides **4** of the support frames of the bottom device D^1. Each device is in this position capable of receiving between the partitioning members **17** one or several objects, for example bags or small packets P, newspapers, or other articles for exhibition or sale. It will be observed that the longitudinal struts **16** not only hold the rods **15** but also constitute abutments that prevent the bags P from slipping and lying flat when the device is nearly empty. The number of struts **16** is not limited to one per division or compartment.

The devices D^1 and D^2 are perfectly maintained or held together in the vertical direction, due to the fact that the portions between the bends **9** and **10** of the rods **7** of the top device bear upon the sides **4** of the support

frames of the bottom device, and, in the longitudinal direction, due to the fact that each of the sides **4** of the bottom device D^1 is imprisoned between the bottom side **6** of the support frame of the top device D^2 and the rod **7** of this frame, and, lastly, in the rearward direction, due to the fact that the portions between the bends **9** and **10** of the rods **7** of the device D^2 are lodged between the two bends **5** of the sides **4** of the frames of the device D^1, the distance between these bends being greater than the distance between the portions comprised between the bends **9** and **10** of the rods **7**.

Fig. 5 represents the two devices D^1 and D^2 in the stored position in which they are fitted one inside the other. In order to fit the two devices together or stack them, it is sufficient to hold the device D^2 obliquely relative to the device D^1 so as to engage first the bottom portion of one of its support frames in the top portion of the adjacent frame of device D^1 and then to bring the device D^2 back to the horizontal position. Thus each bottom portion of each support frame of the device D^2 is engaged in the top portion of the conjugate frame of the bottom device D^1 and, owing to the dihedral shape of the support frames, the bottom portion of these frames fit perfectly together, as do their top portions. The extent to which these devices fit together is limited by the abutment of the panel **18** on the base composed of the transverse partition members **17**. It will be observed that the struts **16** are disposed between only every other pair of rods **15** so as to allow the passage of the transverse partition members **17** when the devices are stacked or fitted together in their stored position.

Although only two devices, D^1 and D^2, have been represented in Figs. 4 and 5, it is obvious that there is no limit to the number of devices that may be spread apart for exhibition or fitted together for storage.

The devices according to the invention constitute, when they are spread apart, particularly useful displays that exhibit very well the products placed therein, and when they are fitted together or stacked, these devices take up very little space and thereby facilitate their storage. These are particularly desirable features when they are used in the relatively confined areas of shops and windows, or form part of the display equipment of travelling stores, hawkers, etc. The rear frame **20** is intended for positioning and holding an information or publicity panel of cardboard, metal or any other material, this panel being held clipped between the frame **20** and the top part of the rods **15**.

The rods **7** may be dispensed with and replaced by simple hooks **21** (Fig. 6) forming a U-shape in a longitudinal plane relative to the rack in combination with suitably bent portions **22** provided on the bottom side 6^a.

Alternatively, the side 6^b (Fig. 7) of the support frame itself may be bent at each end in such manner as to form two U-shaped portions transversely disposed relative to this side 6^b, the open part of the U facing downwards.

The invention is not limited to the details of construction described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which have been given merely by way of example. It is obvious that the size and relative dimensions of the device may vary considerably; for instance, the device may have any length so as to support side by side any number of articles. The arrangement in height of the device may be as desired and the rods **12**, **13** and **15** may have any height relative to the support frames D^1 and D^2. The device has been shown as open between the various rods, but it is obvious that it may comprise solid or partially solid walls, at least in respect of the rack. The lower portions of the support frames may also be panelled in the upper portions of these support frames being left open so as to allow the support frames to engage when the devices are in their fitted together or stacked position for storage.

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

A device for exhibiting bags and other articles comprising a horizontal rack, and a pair of transversely extending support frames each affixed to one end of said rack, said frames each having a top edge and a bottom edge, said frames each having an outline of two intersecting planes at an angle to one another with the intersection angle inwardly directed and the apex disposed transversely of and substantially level with the bottom of the rack and parallel to the bottom and top edges of said frame, said bottom edge having dependent hook means, said top edges of said frame being spaced from one another a greater distance than the distance between said bottom edges, said hook means being selectively engageable with the top and the bottom edges of an identical device, whereby a plurality of devices may be selectively stacked or nested.

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