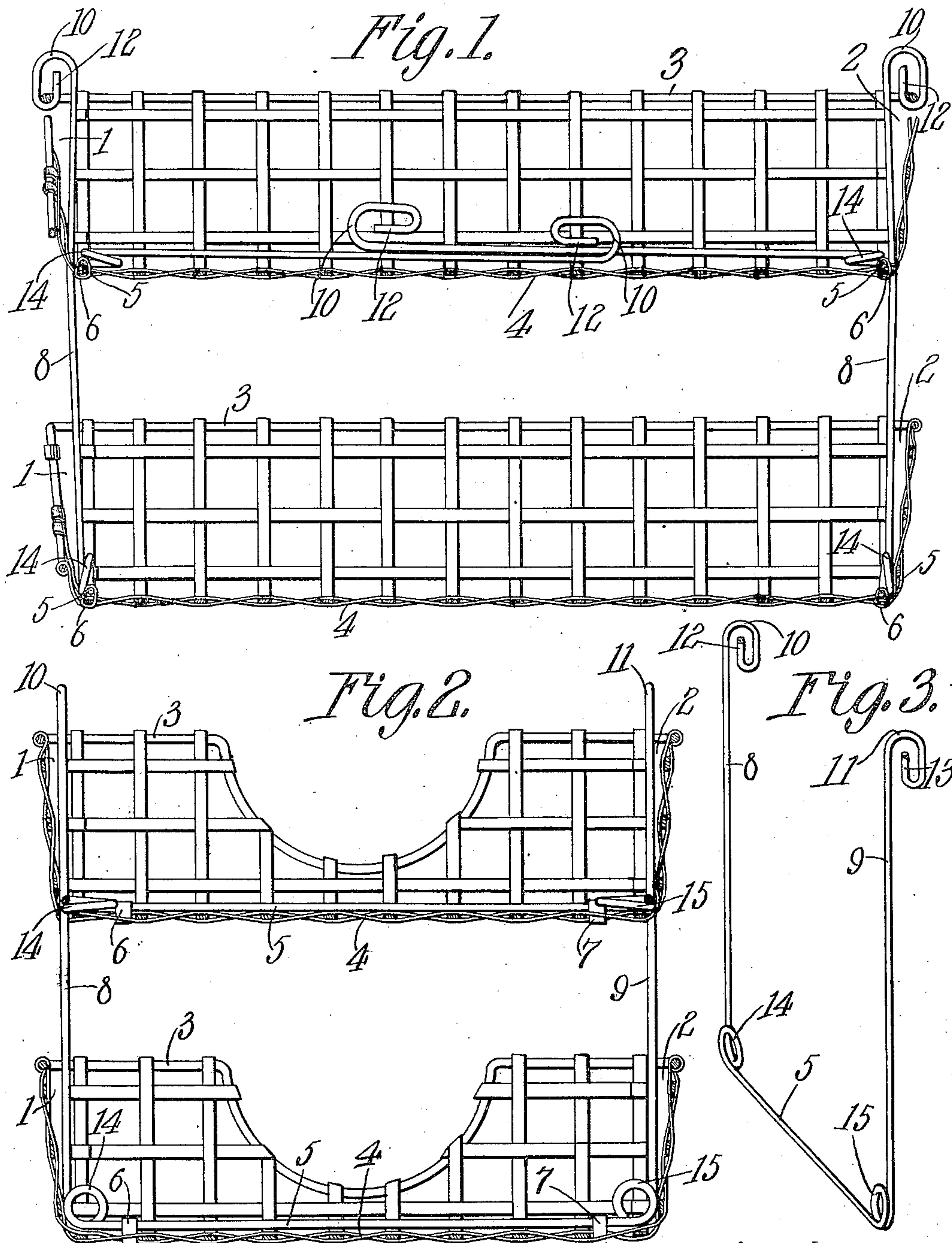


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PATENTED APR. 28, 1908.

J. E. NORRIS.
SECTIONAL TRAY.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 11, 1907.



WITNESSES:

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JOHN E. NORRIS, OF NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE STANDARD WIRE CO.,
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SECTIONAL TRAY.

No. 886,324.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed July 11, 1907. Serial No. 383,313.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. NORRIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Castle, in the county of Lawrence and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Sectional Tray, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention has for its object to provide a simple and efficient attachment for letter trays, baskets, and various other devices of a similar nature whereby devices of such character may be built up in sets having capacities varying according to circumstances, each tray or other device constituting a unit that may be added or removed, as may be desired, the invention having in view attachments of this character that may be readily manipulated to lock or release them relatively to an adjacent tray or section, although when the attachments are properly locked, accidental disengagement thereof relatively to a cooperating tray is impossible.

Another object of the invention is to provide such an attachment that is capable of being adjusted to a position that will render it invisible and will not form an obstruction to the tray or receptacle when its respective supporting devices are not being used to support another tray above it.

To these and other ends, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and combination and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out particularly in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing:—Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of two trays superposed one above the other and provided with supporting attachments constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 represents a transverse section of the device shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the supporting attachments removed from its tray.

Corresponding parts in the several figures are indicated throughout by similar characters of reference.

Supporting attachments constructed in accordance with the present invention are capable of being applied generally to letter trays for desks and receptacles of various kinds, and in those cases where it is desirable to employ a plurality of trays that are capable of being added to or reduced in number

according to circumstances; and in the present embodiment of the invention the supporting attachments are shown applied to ordinary letter trays which may be of woven wire or other suitable construction, it being merely necessary to provide openings in the corners of the trays to receive the upper ends of the supporting attachments and to provide suitable parts to interlock with the supporting attachment to support the tray and prevent accidental disengagement of one tray relatively to another.

In the present instance, openings 1 and 2 are formed in the corners of the tray by interrupting the woven wires or strips at these points, and the upper edge of the tray is surrounded by a wire 3 which is preferably offset outwardly beyond the periphery of the bottom 4.

The supporting attachments shown in the present instance are arranged transversely across the opposite ends of the tray, and are preferably composed of wire having an intermediate portion 5 extending parallel to and in close proximity to the bottom of the tray, clips or other suitable attaching devices 6 and 7 serving to pivotally connect the supporting devices to the tray. The ends of the wire are bent to extend in parallelism and at right angles to the intermediate portion to form uprights 8 and 9, the upper ends of the uprights being formed into catches to cooperate with the wire surrounding the upper edge of another tray, the catches shown being formed by bending over the ends of the wire to form loops 10 and 11, the ends of the loops being upturned, as at 12 and 13, to form supporting hooks, the space between the upturned ends of the loops and the vertical portions of the uprights forming passages through which the cooperating portion of the upper tray enter the respective hooks. The hooks on the attachment, at opposite ends of the tray are reversed, although each pair of hooks on each attachment are turned in the same direction. In order to facilitate the introduction of the hooked ends of the attachments into the respective openings at the corners of the tray, it is preferable to provide convolutions or coils 14 and 15 at the points where the uprights join the intermediate portion of the attachment, the coils affording sufficient resilience to enable the uprights to be easily directed into the re-

spective openings, and the hooks may be easily engaged upon the wire 3.

In practice, the supporting attachments are normally folded upon the bottom of the tray, as shown in the upper portion of Fig. 1, the attachments when so adjusted being practically invisible, and they lie so close to the sides and bottom of the tray that they will not obstruct the tray nor interfere with the introduction or removal of the letters or other papers. When it is desirable to superpose another tray above one already in use, the supporting attachments of the latter are swung into vertical position, turning about the intermediate portions thereof as axes, and the hooks on the upper ends of the attachments are inserted into the openings at the corners of the tray that is to be added. The wire tray is then caused to enter the passage leading to the respective hooks, the weight of the tray serving to retain the wire in coöperative relation to the hook.

In order to permit the trays to be handled considerably without liability of disengagement, it is preferable to arrange the upturned portions of the hooks in close proximity to the adjacent portions of the uprights, so that some pressure will be required to force the wire through the passage leading to the hook, the loops affording sufficient resilience to enable these upturned ends to yield as the wire is inserted, the upturned ends thus serving as catches to prevent accidental disengagement of the wire relatively to the hooks.

In order to permit relative movement between the trays while in locked relation, the uprights are preferably so arranged as to bear against the periphery of the bottom of the tray to prevent tilting of the supporting attachments.

What is claimed is:—

1. An attachment for trays and similar articles, having means for mounting it on a tray, and hooked portions projecting above the tray and adapted to coöperate with another tray for removably upholding the second tray over and spaced from the first-named tray.

2. An attachment for trays and the like, having means for supporting it to move into and out of operative relation to a tray, and devices on the attachment projecting above said tray and adapted to be brought into operative relation with another tray to uphold the last-named tray above and in spaced relation to the first-named tray and to detachably lock the second-named tray in such upheld position.

3. The combination with a tray or similar article, of a pair of attachments for upholding another tray above and in spaced relation to the first-named tray, said attachments having hooks thereon to coöperate with portions of the upper tray.

4. Devices for supporting trays and similar articles in superposed spaced relation embodying a pair of upholding devices pivotally attached to a lower tray and having locking devices thereon adapted to coöperate with an upper tray and to support it above the first-named tray.

5. Devices for supporting trays and similar articles in superposed relation embodying a pair of supporting devices pivotally attached to one of the trays and having locking devices thereon adapted to coöperate with another tray, and catches for retaining the locking devices in engagement with the co-operating tray.

6. Tray attachments for supporting trays in superposed relation embodying a pair of attachments pivotally connected to the opposite ends of one tray and having hooks thereon adapted to coöperate with corresponding portions of an adjacent tray.

7. The combination with a tray or similar device, of means for supporting another tray above that first mentioned embodying a pair of supporting attachments having intermediate portions pivotally attached to the opposite ends of the lower tray, each attachment having a pair of uprights arranged in alinement with the corners of the two trays and provided with hooks at their upper ends to coöperate with portions of the upper tray.

8. The combination with a tray or similar device, of means for supporting another tray above that first mentioned embodying a pair of supporting attachments having intermediate portions pivotally attached to the opposite ends of the lower tray, each attachment having a pair of uprights arranged in alinement with the corners of the two trays and provided with hooks at their upper ends to coöperate with portions of the upper tray, and catches for retaining the hooks in engagement with the coöperating tray.

9. The combination with upper and lower trays, the upper tray having openings in the corners thereof and provided with a circumferential wire, of a pair of supporting attachments pivotally connected to the lower tray and having uprights adapted to enter the openings in the corners of the upper tray, and hooks on the upper ends of the uprights to detachably engage the circumferential wire on the upper tray.

10. A supporting attachment of the character described embodying an intermediate journal portion, a pair of uprights connected to the intermediate portion, and supporting hooks upon the free ends of the uprights, said hooks having upturned terminal portions.

11. A supporting attachment of the character described composed of a strip of wire having an intermediate journal portion, uprights extending substantially in parallelism and at right angles to the intermediate portion, and hooks formed upon the free ends of

the uprights and having their closed sides toward the intermediate portion of the attachment.

12. A supporting attachment of the character described composed of resilient material having an intermediate portion, and a pair of uprights having their upper ends doubled to form loops and the ends of the latter being upturned adjacent to the body portions of their respective uprights to form hooks opening upwardly into the loops and having pas-

sages leading to the openings in the hooks, the upturned ends of the hooks serving as catches for the latter.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN E. NORRIS.

Witnesses:

LEONARD M. UBER,
JONAS KAUFMAN.