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C. S. MARASIGAN

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DISH RACK

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FIG 1

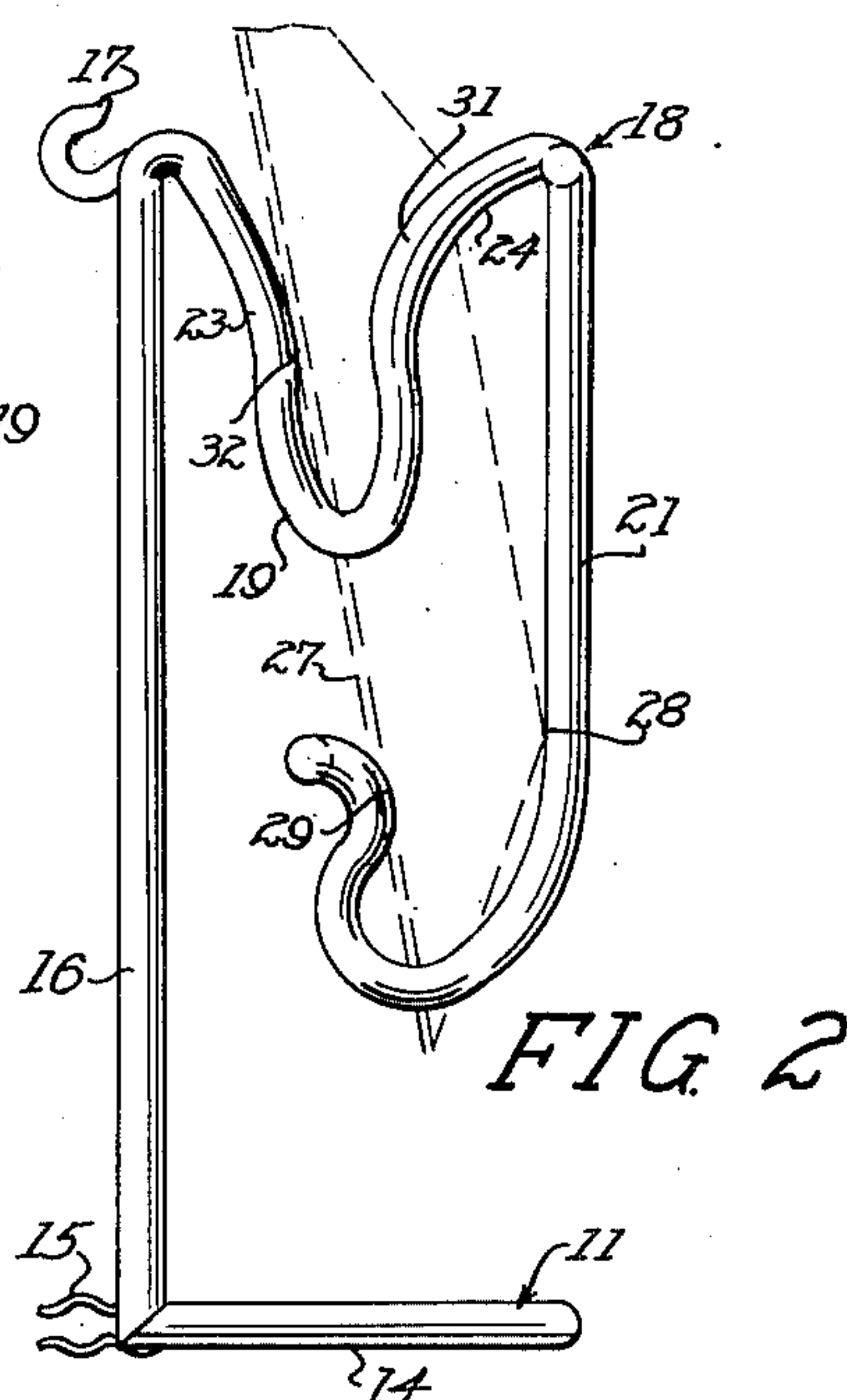
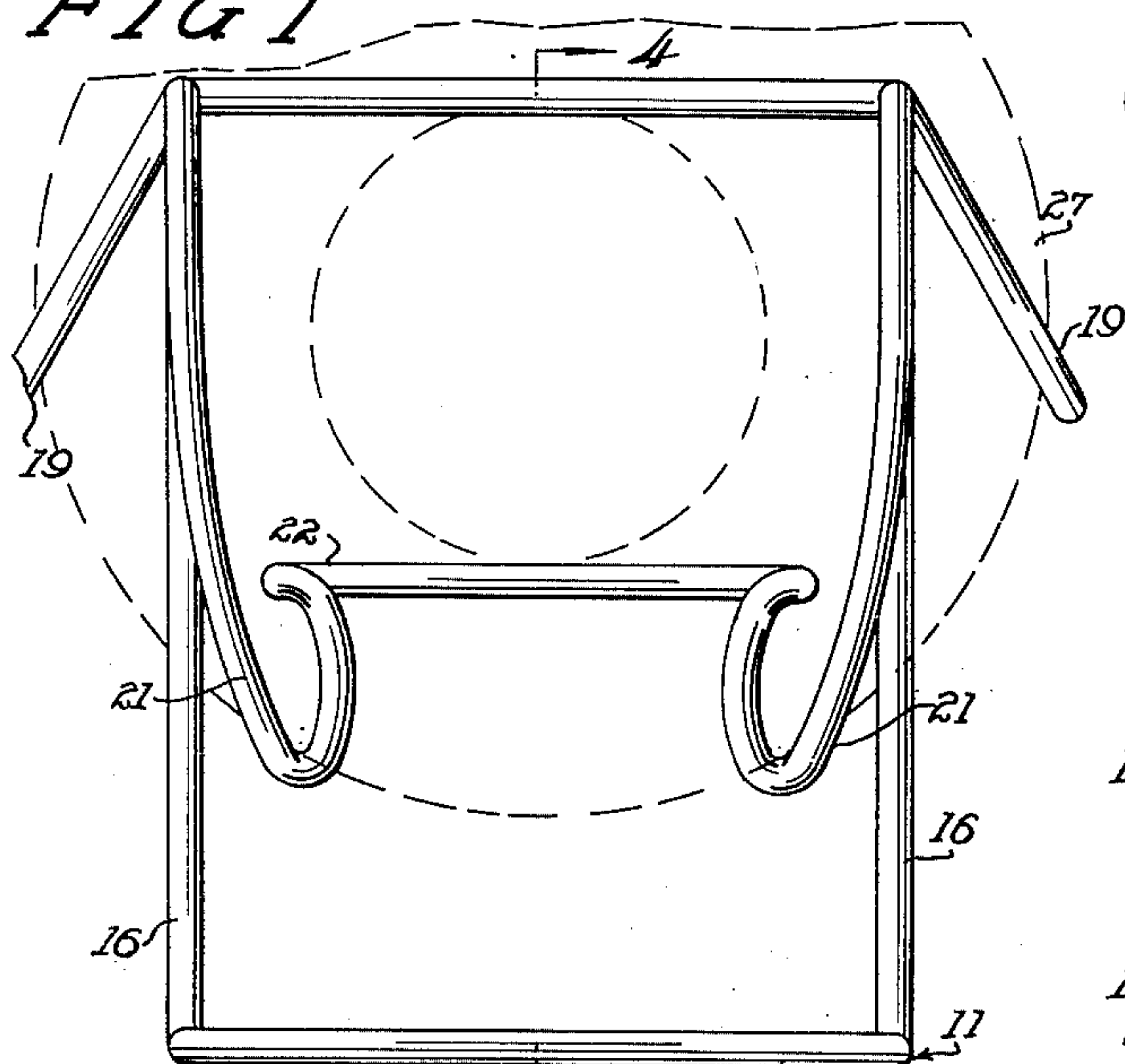


FIG 2

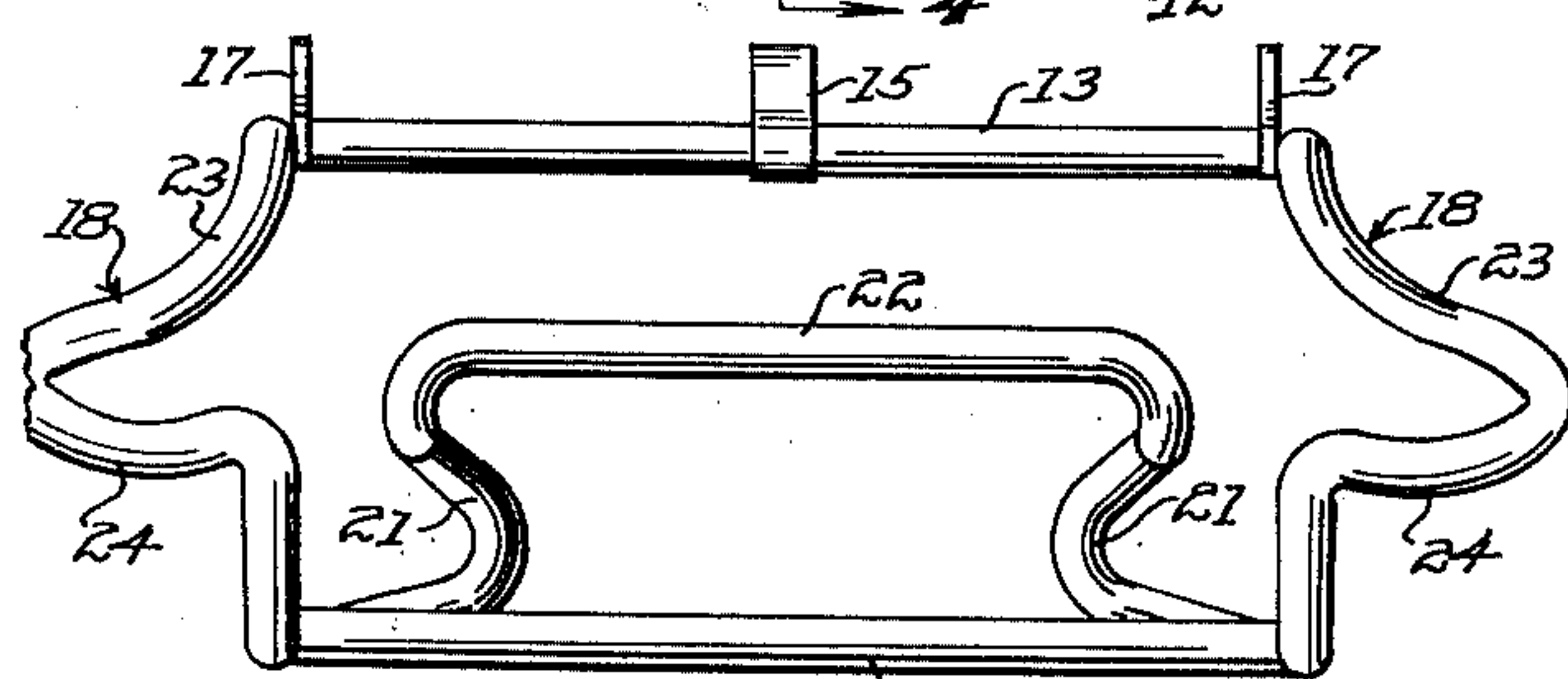


FIG 3

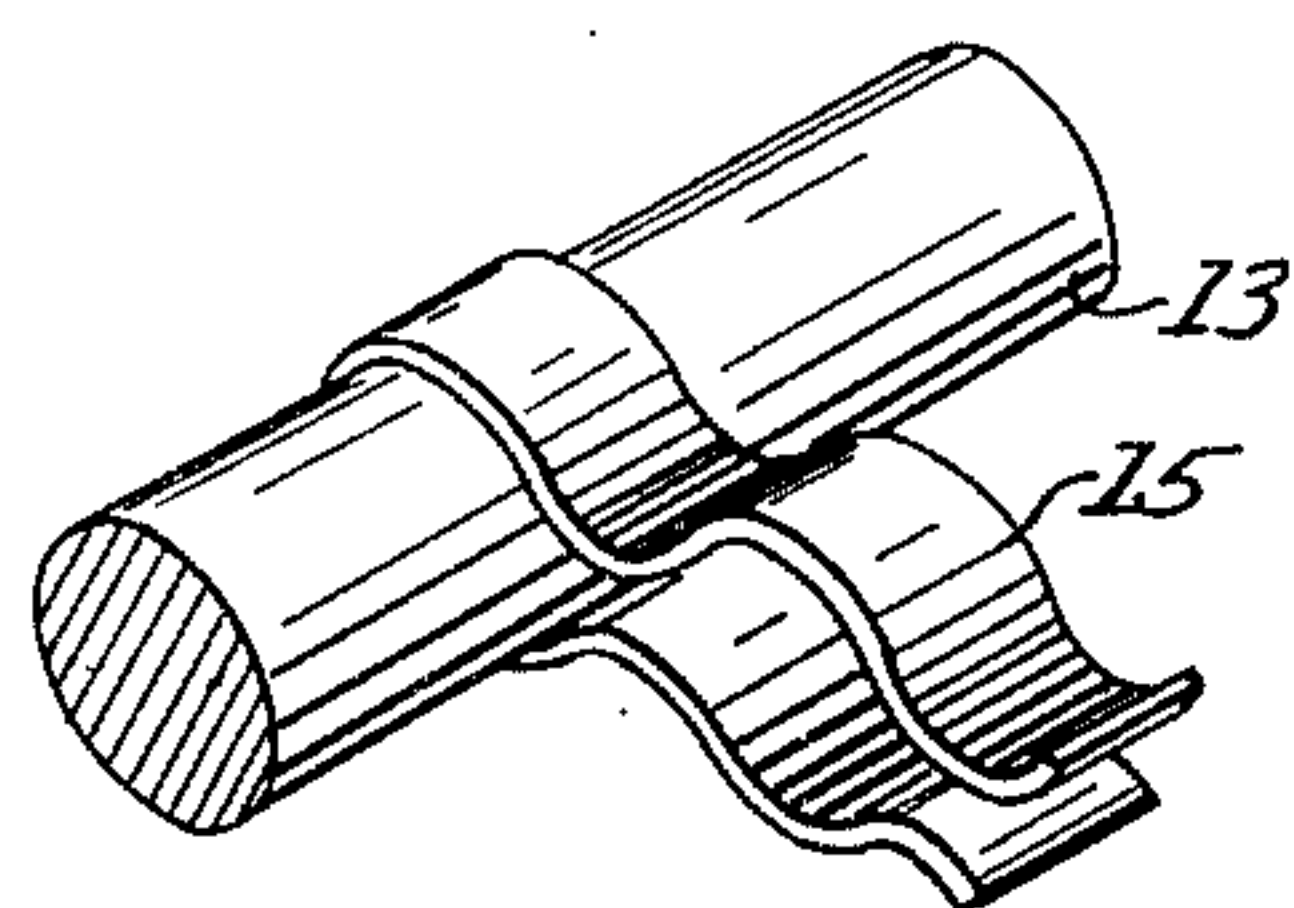
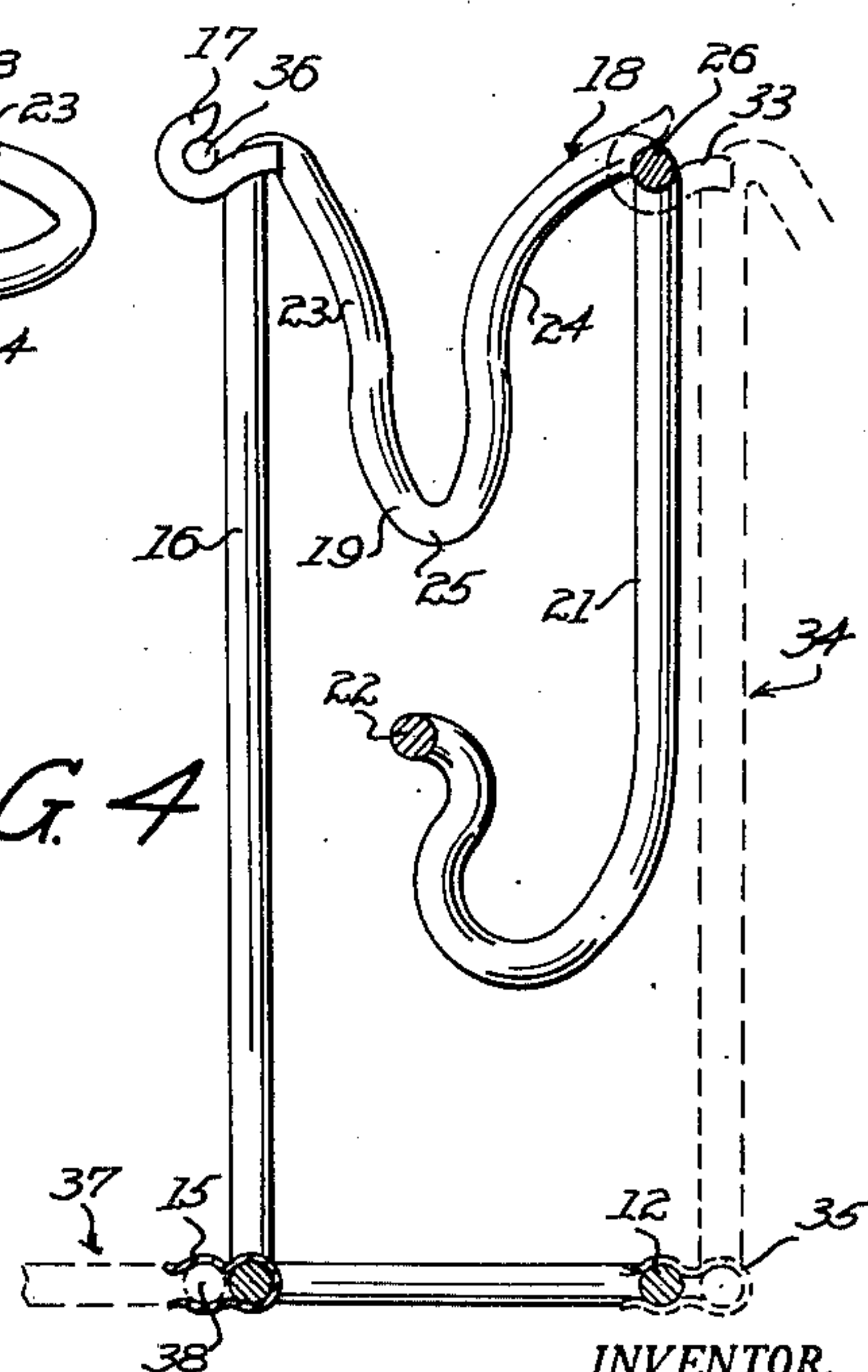


FIG 4

FIG 5



INVENTOR.
CONRADO S. MARASIGAN
BY

McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISH RACK

Conrado S. Marasigan, Fort Monmouth, N. J.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 211-41)

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This invention relates to improvements in racks, and more particularly to a novel sectional rack composed of a plurality of separable sections, each section being capable of serving individually as a rack.

An object of this invention is the provision of a rack of the character described which is particularly suitable for such articles as dishes, and which is readily portable and easily packaged and stored.

Another object is to provide a rack composed of a plurality of individual sections, each a complete rack in itself and provided with means for attaching it to other sections so that any number of sections can be combined.

A further object is the provision of a rack which supports the article in a convenient manner but from which the article is readily removable.

Still another object is to provide a rack which supports an article at a plurality of spaced points on each side thereof without excessively gripping the same.

A still further object is to provide a rack or holder of the character described which is simple and inexpensive of construction.

The exact nature of this invention as well as other objects and advantages thereof will be readily apparent from consideration of the following specification and to the annexed drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a rack section or holder according to this invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the rack section of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the rack section of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of Figure 1, illustrating the mode of attachment of one rack section to another to form a rack assembly; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the clamp means of Figure 4.

Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, there is shown in Figure 1 a rack section according to this invention which comprises a base member 11. Base member 11 is preferably of open rectangular construction and comprises a front bar 12, a back bar 13, and side bars 14.

A spring clamp 15 is mounted on back bar 13 intermediate the ends thereof, as shown in Figures 3 and 5. As shown in Figure 5, clamp 15 involves a loop embracing the back bar 13 and

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opposed spring arms engageable with the front bar 12 of another rack section in the manner described below.

Upright side bars 16 are mounted on the back corners of the base member 11. Secured to the upper ends of the upright side bars are upturned, rearwardly projecting hooks 17 for engaging another rack section, as set forth below.

Article engaging means, generally designated 18, are mounted on the upper ends of upright side bars 16, respectively, means 18 being arranged to engage the article at a plurality of spaced points. As shown in Figures 2 and 4, means 18 comprises a pair of multiple curved members 19, 21, the free ends of members 21 being connected together by a bar 22.

Curved members 19, which constitute the load balancing member of means 18, are secured to the upper ends of upright side bars 16 in any suitable manner. Each curved member 19 extends forwardly and downwardly in the direction of base member 11 and diverges laterally outwardly thereof, as shown in Figure 1.

As shown in Figures 2 and 4, the members 19 are generally U-shaped, the legs 23 and 24 of the U being of opposite curvature. The bight portions 25 of members 19 are preferably semi-elliptical, while legs 23 and 24 are reversely curved with respect to each other. In this manner, points of projection 31 and 32 are formed on each member 19, for a purpose to be described below.

Curved members 21, which constitute the load supporting members of means 18, are secured on the upper ends of legs 24. Members 21 extend downwardly in the direction of base member 11 and curve rearwardly at their lower ends. As shown in Figure 2, each member 21 comprises a downwardly extending straight portion and a rearwardly and upwardly curved lower end portion. An article, such as a dish 27, is adapted to be supported upon its lower edge in the cradles provided by the lower end portions of the members 21, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

The members 21 further comprise upwardly and rearwardly curved terminals. It is to be noted that the bight portions 25 of the members 19 are spaced above the terminals of the members 21. Connected to and extending between the upper ends of the upright side bars 16 is a bar 26.

In operation, dish 27, or any other similar article is supported in the cradle of the lowermost portions of members 21. The pressure exerted upon members 19 by dish 27 forces mem-

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bers 19 laterally outwardly of base member 11 to keep a tight grip on dish 27. As shown in Figure 2, each member 21 engages dish 27 at a plurality of spaced points, one point 28 being at the lower end of the straight portion of member 21 and engaging the back of the dish. The other point or terminal 29 on the free end portion of member 21 engages the inner surface of dish 27.

Similarly, member 19 engages dish 27 at a plurality of spaced points. One point, corresponding to projection point 31, engages the dish 27 at its outer side surface. The other point, corresponding to projection point 32 engages dish 27 along the rim thereof.

It is thus seen that the rack according to this invention engages the dish at a plurality of spaced points and grips the same tightly enough to prevent inadvertent dislodgment. Furthermore, dish 27 is held in such a position that any water thereon may readily drain off. Finally, if a plurality of racks are utilized, none of the dishes may contact each other and thereby cause accidental breakage. Since the center of gravity of the rack is intermediate base member 11, the rack is always in stable condition.

In order to assemble a plurality of racks together to accommodate a plurality of articles, hook members 33 of rack 34 are hooked over bar 26, while spring clamp 35 of rack 34 engages front leg 12 of base member 11. Similarly, hook members 17 are hooked over the bar 36 of rack 37, while spring clamp 15 engages the front leg 38 of the base member of rack 37. In this manner any number of racks may be assembled together to accommodate any number of articles.

It is thus seen that this invention provides a rack from a plurality of individual members, each a composite rack in itself, and that the article is supported in a convenient manner, yet is readily removable. By making the rack of wire, or other light material, the rack is readily portable and easily packaged.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of this invention are possible in the light of the above teachings. Thus, each of means 18 may be made of a single piece or a plurality of pieces welded or otherwise secured together. Similarly, if desired, the entire rack may be made of unitary construction. It is therefore to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed is:

1. In a rack for a dish, a base member adapted to rest upon a supporting surface, said base member comprising a front bar, a rear bar, side bars extending between and connected to said front and rear bars, upright side bars rising from said rear bar at points adjacent to the points at which the side bars intersect the rear bar, U-shaped members positioned forwardly of said upright bars, said U-shaped members having bight portions and rearward legs secured at their upper ends to the upper ends of the upright side bars and forward legs, the upper ends of the forward legs connected to depending straight bar portions, said straight bar portions terminating at their lower ends in rearwardly and upwardly curved lower end portions spaced forwardly from the upright side bars, said lower end portions terminating in upwardly and rearwardly directed terminals, said terminals being

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spaced below the bight portions of said U-shaped members, and a lower bar extending between and connected to said terminals.

2. In a rack for a dish, a base member adapted to rest upon a supporting surface, said base member comprising a front bar, a rear bar, side bars extending between and connected to said front and rear bars, upright side bars rising from said rear bar at points adjacent to the points at which the side bars intersect the rear bar, U-shaped members positioned forwardly of said upright bars, said U-shaped members having bight portions and rearward legs secured at their upper ends to the upper ends of the upright side bars and forward legs, the upper ends of the forward legs connected to depending straight bar portions, said straight bar portions terminating at their lower ends in rearwardly and upwardly curved lower end portions spaced forwardly from the upright side bars, said lower end portions terminating in upwardly and rearwardly directed terminals, said terminals being spaced below the bight portions of said U-shaped members, and a lower bar extending between and connected to said terminals, said U-shaped members extending laterally outwardly with respect to the adjacent upright side bars and diverging downwardly with respect thereto.

3. In a rack for a dish, a base member adapted to rest upon a supporting surface, said base member comprising a front bar, a rear bar, side bars extending between and connected to said front and rear bars, upright side bars rising from said rear bar at points adjacent to the points at which the side bars intersect the rear bar, U-shaped members positioned forwardly of said upright bars, said U-shaped members having bight portions and rearward legs secured at their upper ends to the upright side bars and forward legs, the upper ends of the forward legs connected to depending straight bar portions, said straight bar portions terminating at their lower ends in rearwardly and upwardly curved lower end portions spaced forwardly from the upright side bars, said lower end portions terminating in upwardly and rearwardly directed terminals, said terminals being spaced below the bight portions of said U-shaped members, and a lower bar extending between and connected to said terminals, said U-shaped members extending laterally outwardly with respect to the adjacent upright side bars and diverging downwardly with respect thereto, said depending straight bar portions being aligned with said upright side bars across said base, the said lower end portions of said straight bar portions being deflected laterally inwardly with respect to said upright side bars.

CONRADO S. MARASIGAN.

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