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3,102,007

DRYING APPARATUS EMPLOYING RADIANT PANEL HEATERS

Filed May 25, 1960

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

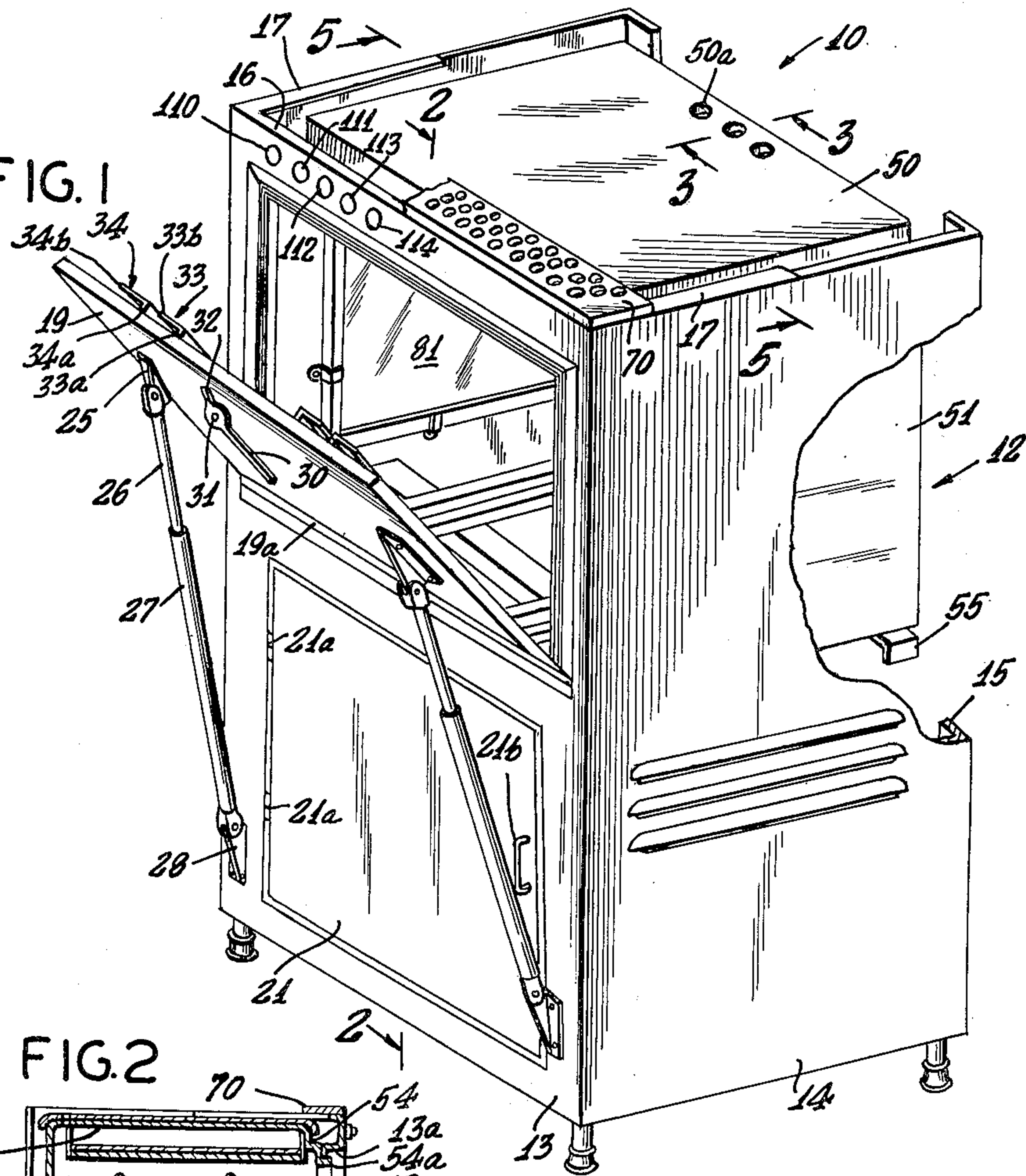


FIG. 2

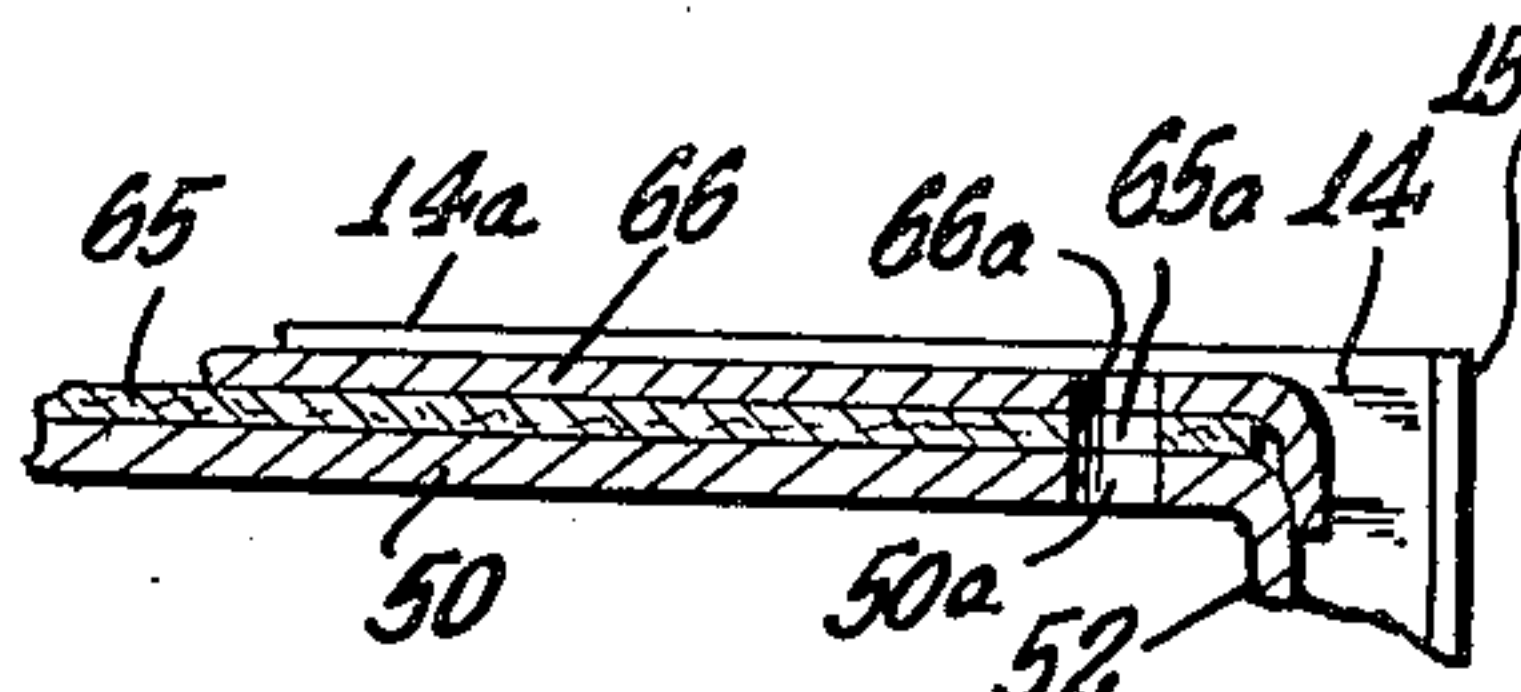
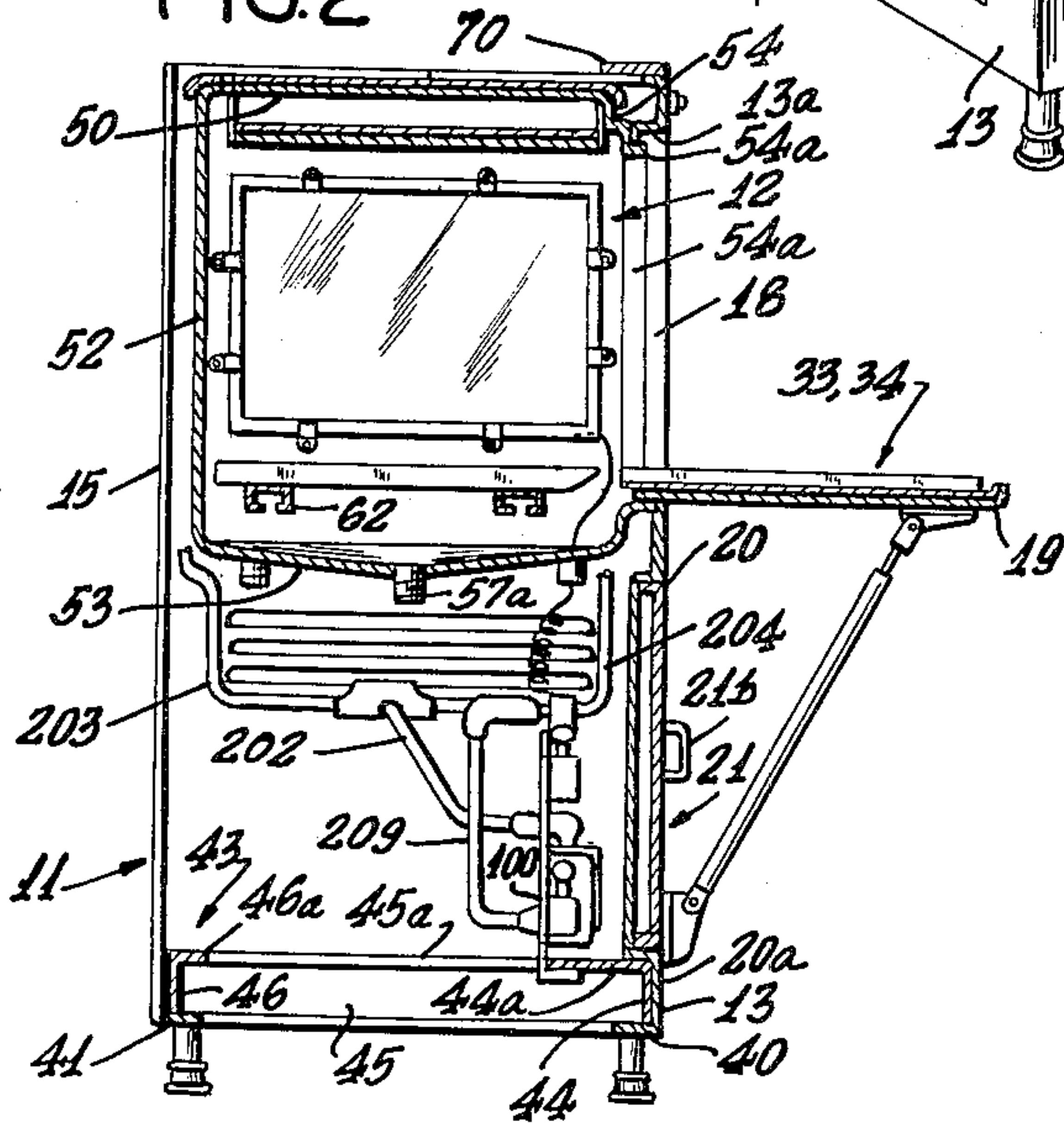


FIG. 3

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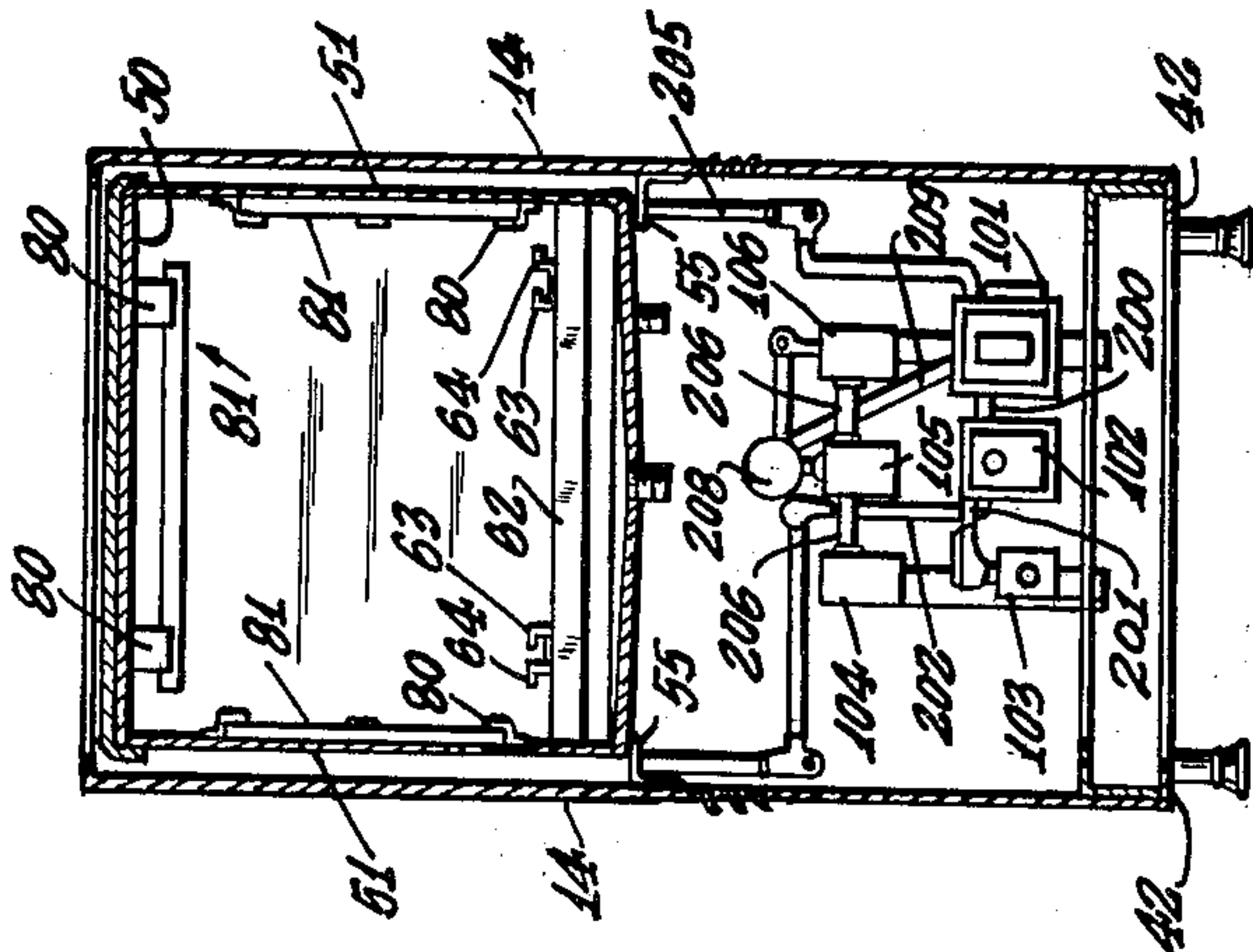


FIG. 5

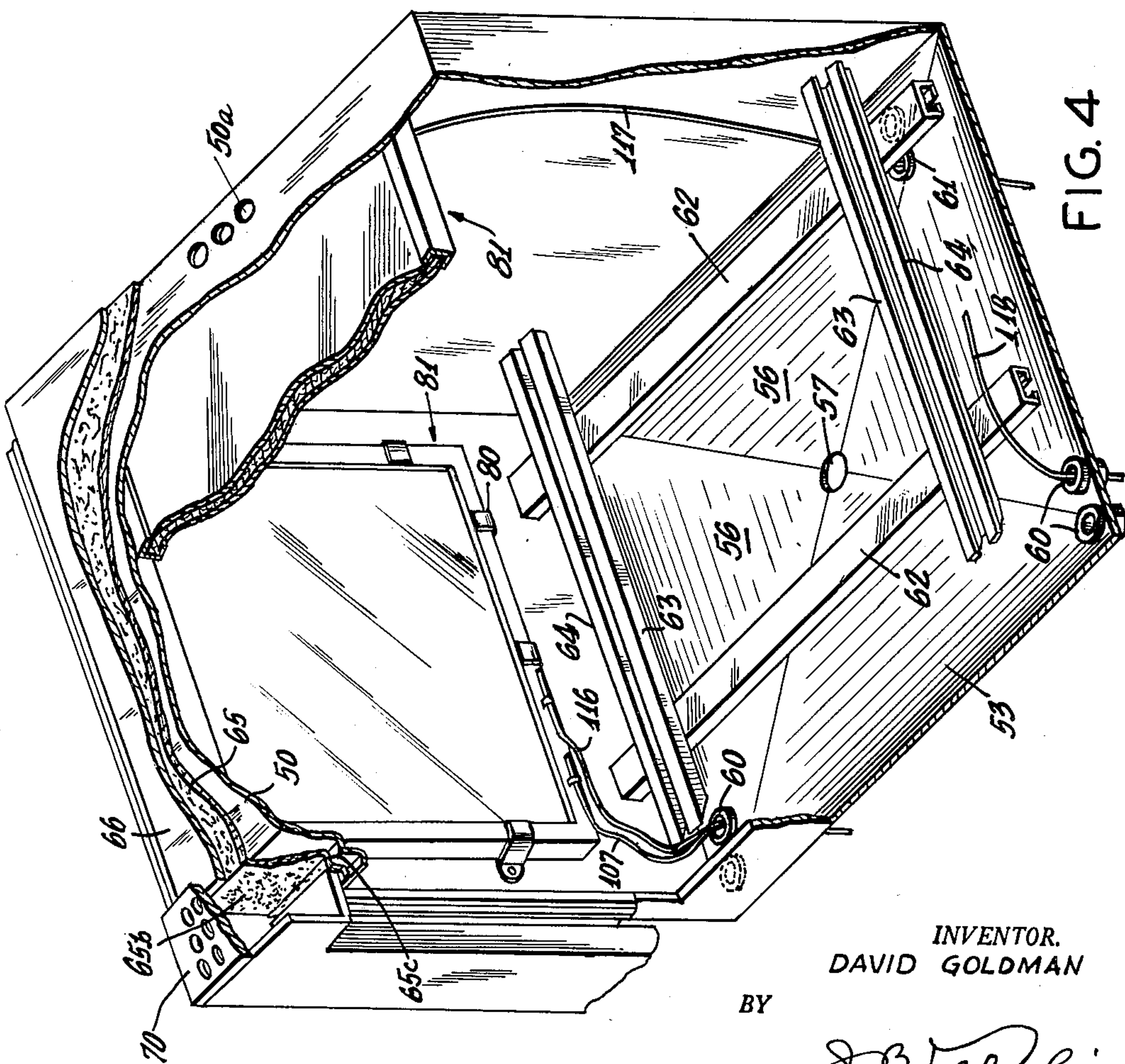


FIG. 4

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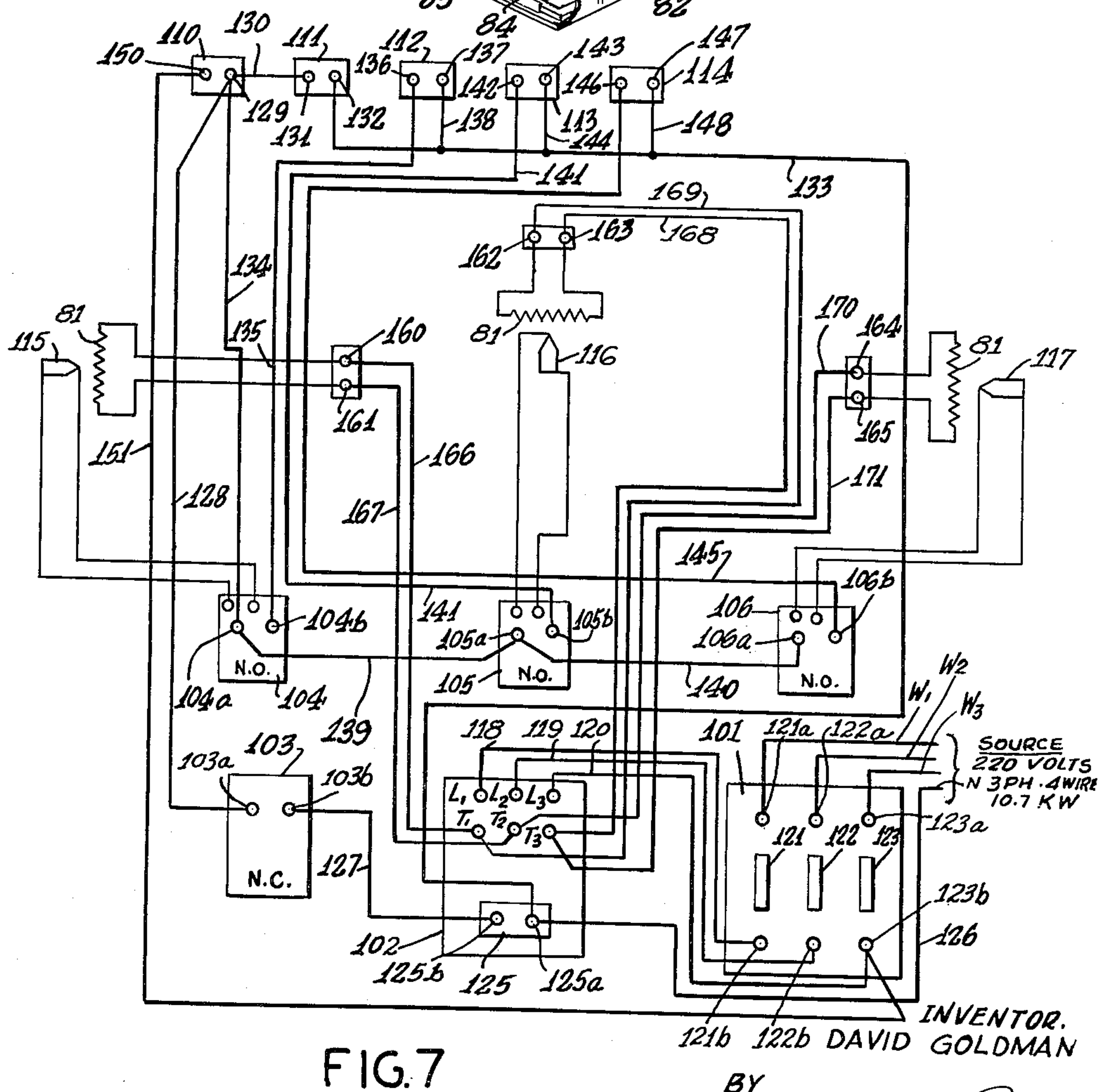
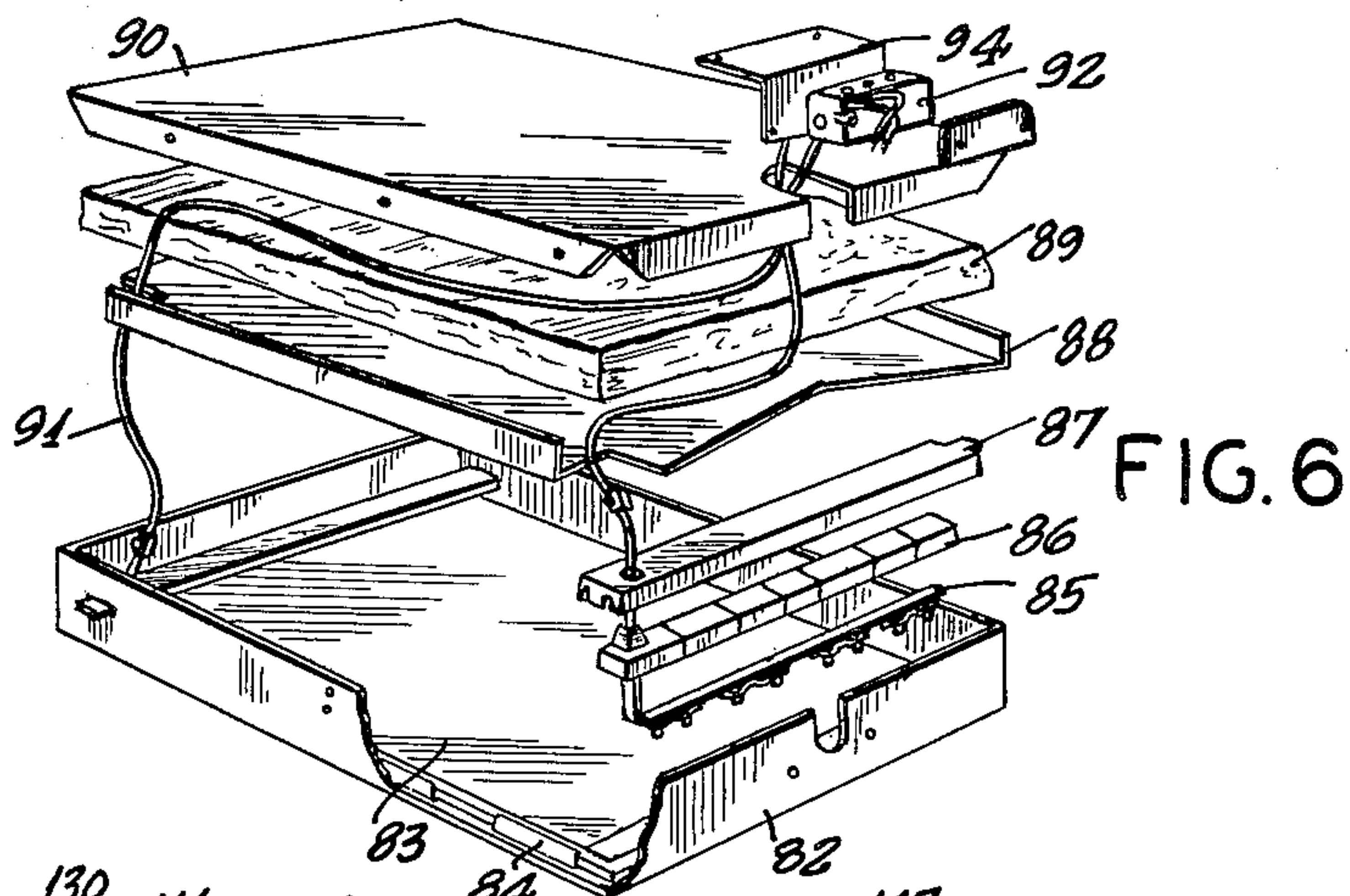


FIG. 7

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3,102,007

## DRYING APPARATUS EMPLOYING RADIANT PANEL HEATERS

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7 Claims. (Cl. 34-48)

This invention relates to drying apparatus. It is particularly directed to drying apparatus employing radiant panel heaters for drying glassware, plastic articles or other thin or transparent objects.

An object of this invention is to provide drying apparatus of the character described comprising a cabinet provided with a front door which swings downwardly to open, at its upper end, and a chamber within the upper end of the cabinet, which chamber is open at the front, adjacent the door, and having radiant panel heaters at the inside of the side and top walls thereof, with track means on the door and on the bottom wall of the chamber to facilitate loading articles into the chamber for drying by said heaters.

Another object of this invention is to provide in a drier of the character described, separate signal means to indicate which of the individual heaters are operating and also an "on and off" switch and signal means to indicate when said switch has been actuated.

Yet a further object of this invention is to provide in a drier of the character described, an adjustable thermostatic safety switch to de-energize the heaters, automatically when the temperature in the chamber reaches a predetermined point.

Still another object of this invention is to provide in a machine of the character described, a thermal switch for each of the panels, which is normally open and which closes when its associated panel heats up, and electric signals controlled by said switches whereby to indicate, individually, which of the panels are operating and in heated condition.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a drier of the character described in which said chamber has openings at the bottom for passage of thermocouples from the panels to the thermal switches and the safety thermostatic switch and also for passage of air, and said chamber having heat insulation material on its top wall, and also openings to permit circulation of air through said chamber.

Still another object of this invention is to provide in a machine of the character described a space between the chamber and the front wall of the cabinet for passage of wires and location of signal lamps, and the upper end of said space being covered by a perforated cover plate, the side walls of the cabinet being spaced from the side walls of the chamber, and said cabinet being open at the rear, and the insulated top of the chamber constituting the upper end of the drier.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a drier of the character described in which the cabinet is mounted on vertically adjustable legs and said cabinet has space below said chamber to house the electric controls for the drier, and said cabinet having a door at its front side, below the downwardly swinging door to give access to the electric control, and said cabinet being furthermore open at its lower end to enhance the circulation of air to and through the drying apparatus.

The radiant heaters employed in the present drier are preferably of the type in which a glass panel has an electro-conductive film that serves as a resistance element and heats the glass panel. Such heaters are manufactured by Corning Glass Works of Corning, New York, and are called by them "Pyrex Panel Heaters." In these heaters the radiant energy source is a tempered boro-

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silicate glass panel. One surface of the glass has an electro-conductive film that serves as a resistance element and heats the glass. When an electric current is applied to the film, the entire glass panel heats and emits long wave radiation. The glass is a highly effective emitter. The conducting film is a very poor emitter, so it serves as a reflector to direct most of the energy down to the work area. The radiation that leaves the film surfaces is directed back by an aluminized deflector forming part of the heater. The result is that a great part of the radiant energy is directed onto the work area.

Practically all the energy emitted by the panel is of the long wave variety that is absorbed by practically all materials.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a strong, rugged, durable and space saving drier of the character described which shall be relatively inexpensive to manufacture and maintain, which shall dry with a uniform heat, and which shall yet be practical and efficient to a high degree in use.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangement of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope of invention will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown an illustrative embodiment of this invention,

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a drier embodying the invention, with parts broken away and in cross section;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 2-2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a partial cross-sectional view taken on line 3-3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a partial perspective view of the upper end of the drier with parts broken away and in cross section;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 5-5 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is an exploded view of one of the radiant panel heaters; and

FIG. 7 is a wiring diagram of the electric circuit for the driers.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, 10 designates a drier embodying the invention. Said drier comprises a cabinet 11, with a heat chamber 12 therein.

Said cabinet 11 may be made of sheet metal and has a front wall 13 and side walls 14. Extending from the rear ends of the side walls 14, toward each other are flanges 15. At the upper end of the front wall 13 is a rearwardly extending horizontal flange 16. The upper ends of the side walls 14 have at their forward portion, inwardly extending horizontal flanges 17 in the plane of flange 16.

The front wall 13 of the cabinet has an upper rectangular opening 18 for an insulated door 19, and a lower rectangular opening 20 for a lower door 21. The door 19 is hinged at its lower end 19a to the lower edge of the door opening 18. The front wall of the cabinet is provided with an inwardly extending channel 13a at the sides and top to receive flanges 19a in the door 19.

On the upper end of the outer side of the door 19 are brackets 25 to which are hinged rods 26 telescoped within tubes 27 hinged to brackets 28 at the lower end of the front wall. When the door is swung down to open position, it will be maintained in horizontal position by the tubes 27.

A handle 30 pivoted to the door, as at 31, has a latch 32 to engage a slot or keeper on the front wall to keep the door up and in closed position. On the inside of the door are a pair of inner parallel tracks 33 and outer tracks 34. When the door is down, wheeled trays or



baskets of articles to be dried, may be slidably moved on the inner or outer tracks rearwardly into the drier. Said inner tracks 33 have walls 33a perpendicular to the door, from which extend outwardly, flanges 33b parallel to the door.

The outer tracks 34 also have walls 34a perpendicular to the door, from which extend outwardly, flanges 34b parallel to the door.

Said cabinet 11 has a flange 40 extending rearwardly from the lower end of front wall 13. The lower rear ends of the side walls 14 are connected by a rear horizontal transverse bar 41. Flanges 42 extend inwardly from the lower ends of the side walls 14. Thus, the lower end of the cabinet is open. Mounted on flanges 40, 41, 42 is a support frame 43 comprising a front flange 44, a rear flange 46, side flanges 46 and top horizontal flanges 44a, 46a and 46a extending from said front side and rear flanges, respectively.

The front door 21 is hinged to wall 13, as at 21a and is provided with a handle 21b and is removable. The front wall has inwardly extending flanges 20a at the four sides of opening 20 to receive said door.

The chamber 12 may be made of sheet metal and comprises a top wall 50, side walls 51, a rear wall 52, a bottom wall 53. At its front wall 54, said chamber has flanges 54a contacting the door opening 18 at all four sides. The chamber 50 is supported on angle shaped brackets 55 fixed to the inner sides of the side walls 14 of the cabinet. Side walls 51 of the chamber 12 are spaced inwardly from the side walls 14 of the cabinet. Front wall 54 is spaced from front wall 13 of the cabinet. Rear wall 52 of the chamber is spaced from rear flanges 15 of the cabinet.

Bottom wall 53 of the chamber has four sloping triangular sections 56 inclined downwardly to a central apex which is formed with a drain opening 57. The sides of bottom wall 53 rest on the brackets 55. At its front end, bottom wall 53 has two open sleeves 60 at each side, passing through openings in the wall, vertically. At its rear end, said bottom wall has a pair of vertical sleeves 61 passing vertically up therethrough one side of the chamber only.

In the chamber 12 and near the bottom wall 53 are a pair of transverse horizontal channels or other supporting bars 62. These are welded or otherwise secured to the side walls 51 in spaced relation. The flanges of the channels project downwardly as shown in FIG. 4 of the drawing.

Welded to the top of bars 62 are inner tracks 63 and outer tracks 64. These are horizontal and run from front to rear and are in alignment with the tracks 33, 34 on door 19. When the door is down, trays having wheels engaging tracks 33, 34 will roll onto tracks 63, 64, respectively, into the chamber 12.

Top wall 50 of chamber 12 is formed adjacent the rear end thereof with a plurality of vent openings 50a. On top of wall 50 is a layer 65 of asbestos having openings 65a registering with openings 50a. On top of asbestos layers 65 is a steel plate 66 having openings 66a registering with openings 65a, 50a. The top surface of steel plate 66 is just below the upper edges 14a of side walls 14. The asbestos layer 65 covers the upper end of front wall 54 of chamber 12 as at 65b (above the door opening 18) and extends, as at 65c, between flange 54a of the chamber and channel 13a of the front wall, at the upper end of the door opening. A perforated cover plate 70 attached to the upper end of the cabinet covers the space between the top of the chamber 12 and the front wall 13 of the cabinet.

At the central opening 57 of bottom wall 53 of chamber 12 is a drain nipple 57a. Air may circulate through opening or sleeves 60, 61 upwardly through openings 50a, 65a, 66a.

Attached to the inside of side walls 51 of chamber 12 by spring clips 80 are side industrial radiant heaters 81,

and attached to the underside of top wall 50 by such clips is an industrial radiant heater 81. The clips are preferably welded to the chamber.

The radiant heaters may be of the type manufactured by Corning Glass Works, Corning, N.Y., and are called by them "Pyrex Panel Heaters."

One of such panels is shown in FIG. 6 in exploded view. The same comprises a frame 82 supporting a tempered borosilicate glass panel 83. The rear surface of the glass has an electroconductive film that serves as a resistance element and heats the glass panel. The panel rests on cushions 84 disposed between it and the frame 82.

Contacting the rear of the panel are bus bar assemblies 85, each contacted by an insulator 86 held by a contact holder channel 87. Back of channels and panel 83 is an aluminized reflector 88 which is backed by insulation 89 held in place by a cover 90 which fits over the frame 82. No claim is made to the heater per se. Asbestos covered wires 91 extend to an electric box 92 covered by a box cover 93. The box 92 may be attached to the chamber 12 by an attachment plate 94. The bus bars 85 contact the film on the glass panels. The wires 91 may pass through the chamber walls, for the purpose hereinafter appearing.

Attached to the lower frame 43 and below the chamber 12 there are vertical brackets 100 supporting a main line switch box 101 with fuses therein, an electro-magnetic starting box 102, an adjustable thermostatic switch 103 and three thermal switches 104, 105, 106. Switch 103 has terminals 103a, 103b; switch 104 has terminals 104a, 104b; switch 105 has terminals 105a, 105b, and switch 106 has terminals 106a, 106b.

The thermostatic switch 103 is normally closed and is adjustable to open when heated to a predetermined temperature by a thermocouple 107, which extends therefrom and passes through a sleeve 60 at the left of the chamber 12 for connection to the frame of panel heater 81 on the left side wall.

Said switch box 101, starting box 102, and switch boxes 103, 104, 105, 106 are connected by conduits, to be described herebelow, for the required wiring which will be explained hereinafter.

On the front wall 13 of the cabinet 10, above the door 19, is an "On" and "Off" switch 110, an "On" and "Off" signal light 111, a signal light 112 to indicate that the left heater 81 is operating, a signal light 113 to indicate that the top heater 81 is operating, and a signal light 114 to indicate that the right heater 81 is operating. The switch 110 and the signal lights (or other electric signals) 111, 112, 113, 114 are ranged in a row, as shown in the drawing.

A thermocouple 115 extends from the thermal switch 104 to the left heater 81, also passing through the sleeve 60 at the left side of the chamber 12. A thermocouple 116 extends from the thermal switch 105 to the top heater 81 and a thermocouple 117 extends from the thermal switch 106 to the right heater 81. These thermocouples pass through the sleeve 60 and a sleeve 61.

Referring now to the wiring diagram of FIG. 7, there is shown an A.C. source 220 volts, 3 phase, 4 wire power system comprising conductors W1, W2, W3 and neutral conductor N.

The conductors W1, W2, W3 are connected to input terminals 121a, 122a, and 123a, respectively, of the main line switch box 101; corresponding outlet terminals 121b, 122b, and 123b are connected by conductors 118, 119 and 120, respectively, to input contacts L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub> and L<sub>3</sub> of the starting box 102. Fuses 121, 122 and 123 are inserted, respectively, between the input and outlet terminals 121a and 121b, 122a and 122b, and 123a and 123b. The starting box 102 has output contacts T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub>. When the electro-magnetic coil 125 is energized, in a manner to be later described, a triple blade movable contactor (not shown) completes the circuit connections



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from the input contacts  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  to the output contacts  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ , respectively. Switch  $L_1T_1$ ,  $L_2T_2$  and  $L_3T_3$  controlled by the operating coil 125 constitute an electro-magnetic switch. One terminal 125a of the electro-magnetic coil 125 is connected by conductor 126 to the neutral conductor N of the power source. The other terminal 125b of said coil is connected by a conductor 127 to one side of the thermostatic switch 103. The other side of said switch 103 is connected by a conductor 128 to one terminal 129 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110. Said terminal is connected by a conductor 130 to one terminal 131 of the signal light 111. The other terminal 132 of the signal light 111 is connected by a common return conductor 133 to the first terminal 125a of the electro-magnetic coil 125.

Said terminal 129 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 is connected by a conductor 134 to terminal 104a of thermal switch 104. The other terminal 104b of switch 104 is connected by a conductor 135 to terminal 136 of the signal light 112. The other terminal 137 of said signal light 112 is connected by a conductor 138 to the common return conductor 133. Terminals 104a and 105a of the thermal switches 104 and 105 are interconnected by a conductor 139 and terminals 105a and 106a of thermal switches 105 and 106 are interconnected by a conductor 140. Terminal 105b of thermal switch 105 is connected by a conductor 141 to terminal 142 of signal light 113. The other terminal 143 of said signal light 113 is connected by conductor 144 to the common return conductor 133. The other terminal 106b of thermal switch 106 is connected by a conductor 145 to terminal 146 of the signal light 114. The other terminal 147 of signal light 114 is connected by a conductor 148 to the common return conductor 133. The other terminal 150 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 is connected by a conductor 151 to conductor 120, which extends from the fuse 123.

The left panel heater 81 has terminals 160, 161 (in box 92 thereof); the top panel heater 81 has terminals 162, 163 and the right panel heater 81 has terminals 164, 165.

Terminal 160 of the left heater 81 is connected by conductor 166 to output contact  $T_1$  and a conductor 167 to output contact  $T_2$  of the starting box 102. Terminal 162 of the top heater 81 is connected by a conductor 169 to output contact  $T_1$  and terminal 163 thereof is connected by a conductor 168 to output contact  $T_3$  of the starting box. Terminal 164 of the right heater is connected by a conductor 170 to output contact  $T_2$  and terminal 165 of said heater is connected by a conductor 171 to output contact  $T_3$  of the starting box.

The power conductors enter the main line switch and fuse box 101. Conductors W1, W2, and W3 pass from the fuse box to the starting box through conduit 200 which connects the boxes 101 and 102. Conductor 127 may pass through conduit 201 which connects box 101 with the thermostatic switch 103. The conductors for the three panel heaters 81 pass through conduits 202, 203 and 204 to spaces between the heating chamber 12 and the cabinet 10. Conductors to the signal lights and the "On" and "Off" switch 110 may pass upwardly through conduit 205 which leads to the space between the chamber 12 and front wall 13 of the cabinet. The boxes of thermal switches 104 and 106 are connected by conduits 206 to the box of thermal switch 105. The box of said switch 105 is connected to a junction box 208, which is connected by conduit 209 to the main line switch and fuse box 101.

The operation of the electrical equipment will now be described. When the "On" and "Off" switch 110 is closed, a single phase circuit is completed through the electro-magnetic starting coil 125 and through the normally closed adjustable thermostatic switch 103. This circuit is from one output terminal 123b of the main line switch and fuse box 101 over a conductor 151 to one terminal 150 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110; the other side of this circuit is from the other terminal 129

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of the "On" and "Off" switch over a conductor 128 to one terminal 103a of the thermostatic switch 103, from the other terminal 103b over a conductor 127 to one terminal 125b of the electro-magnetic coil 125 in the starting box 102, from the other terminal 128a of this coil over a conductor 126 to the neutral conductor N of the power supply. Energization of the electro-magnetic coil 125 causes the movable contactor (not shown) in the starting box 102 to bridge the respective pairs of inlet and outlet contacts  $L_1$  and  $T_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $T_2$ , and  $L_3$  and  $T_3$ . This completes the circuits for the right, left and top panel heaters 81.

The circuit for the signal light 111 is also completed. This circuit is on one side from the terminal 129 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 over a conductor 130 to one terminal of this signal light; the other side of this circuit is from the other terminal 132 of the signal light over the common return conductor 133 to the terminal 125a of the electro-magnetic starting coil 125 and over the conductor 126 to the neutral conductor N of the electrical power supply.

The circuit for the left panel heater 81 is from the power conductor W1, to input terminal 121a of the main line switch and fuse box 101, from the outlet terminal 121b of the latter over the conductor 118 to the input contact  $L_1$  of the starting box 102, and from the outlet contact  $T_1$  of the latter over the conductor 166 to the terminal 160 of the heater; the other side of this circuit is from the terminal 161 of the heater over the conductor 167 to the outlet contact  $T_2$  of the starting box, from the inlet contact  $L_2$  of the latter over the conductor 119 to the outlet terminal 122b of the main line switch and fuse box 101, and from the inlet terminal of the latter to the power conductor W2.

Similarly, the circuit for the right panel heater 81 is from the power conductor W2 to the input terminal 122a of the main line switch and fuse box 101, from the outlet terminal 122b of the latter over the conductor 119 to the input contact  $L_2$  of the starting box, and from the outlet contact  $T_2$  of the latter over the conductor 170 to the terminal 164 of the heater; and other side of this circuit is from the terminal 165 of the heater over the conductor 171 to the outlet contact  $T_3$  of the starting box, from the inlet contact  $L_3$  of the latter over the conductor 120 to the outlet terminal 123b of the main line switch and fuse box and from the input terminal 123c of the latter to the conductor W3.

Likewise, the circuit for the top panel heater 81 is from the power conductor W3 to the input terminal 123a of the main line switch and fuse box 101, from the outlet terminal 123b of the latter over the conductor 120 to the input contact  $L_3$  of the starting box 102, and from the outlet contact  $T_3$  of the latter over the conductor 168 to the terminal 163 of the heater; the other side of this circuit is from the terminal 162 of the heater over the conductor 169 to the outlet contact  $T_1$  of the starting box, from the inlet contact  $L_1$  of the latter over the conductor 118 to the outlet terminal 121b of the main line switch and fuse box 101 and from the inlet terminal 121a of the latter to the power conductor W1.

When any one of the panel heaters 81 reaches a predetermined temperature, the corresponding thermo-couple 115, 116, will energize the respective normally open thermostatic switch 104, 105 or 106 to close the circuit for the respective signal light 112, 113 or 114. Closure of the thermostatic switch 104 will complete the circuit for the signal light 112. This circuit is on one side from the terminal 129 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 over the conductor 134 to one terminal 104a of the thermostatic switch 104 and from the other terminal of the switch over a conductor 135 to one terminal 136 of the signal light; the other side of this circuit is from the other terminal 137 of the signal light over a conductor 138 to the common return conductor 133.

Similarly, closure of the thermostatic switch 105 will



complete the circuit for the corresponding signal light 113. This circuit is on one side from the terminal 129 of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 over the conductor 134 to one terminal 104a of the thermostatic switch 104, from the other terminal 104b of this switch over the conductor 139 to one terminal 105a of the thermal switch 105, from the other terminal 105b of the latter switch over a conductor 141 to one terminal 142 of the signal light 113; the other side of this circuit is from the other terminal 143 of the signal light over a conductor 144 to the common return conductor 133.

Likewise, closure of the thermostatic switch 106 will complete the circuit for the signal light 114. This circuit is from the terminal of the "On" and "Off" switch 110 over the conductor 134 to one terminal 104a of the thermostatic switch 104, over the conductor 139 to one terminal 105a of the thermostatic switch 105, over the conductor 140 to one terminal 106a of the thermostatic switch 106, and from the other terminal 106b of the latter thermostatic switch over a conductor 145 to one terminal 146 of the signal light 114; the other side of this circuit is from the other terminal 147 of the signal light over a conductor 148 to the common return conductor 133.

If any heater goes off, due to circuit failure, the corresponding thermostatic switch 104, 105 or 106 will open again, as the temperature goes down below a predetermined degree, and the corresponding signal light 112, 113, or 114 will be deenergized, to indicate which heater, or heaters, are not operating.

If the temperature in the chamber 12 goes up beyond a predetermined degree, the thermostatic switch 103 will open to de-energize the electro-magnetic starting coil 125 to disconnect the input contacts, L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub> from the outlet contacts T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, respectively, and thus to open the heater circuits. This is a safety feature of the apparatus.

It will thus be seen that there is provided an apparatus in which the several objects of this invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings, is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a drier, in combination, a cabinet having a front wall and side walls, and upper, lower and rear ends, a front door on said front wall, a heating chamber in the cabinet having walls spaced parallel to and inwardly from said walls and ends of the cabinet, and including a bottom wall formed with a drainage opening, and a front wall having a door opening closed by the front door of the cabinet, radiant heating elements in at least two walls of said heating chamber, said elements each including a frame and a cushioned, tempered glass panel having an electro-conductive film serving as a heating element on its rear surface in said frame, an electro-magnetic switch mounted within said cabinet, a circuit for each heating element through the electro-magnetic switch to one phase of the electrical power supply line, an "On" and "Off" switch mounted within the cabinet, and an energizing circuit for the electro-magnetic switch from the electrical

power supply line through the operating coil of the electro-magnetic switch and the "On" and "Off" switch.

2. The combination according to claim 1 in which the energizing circuit for the electro-magnetic switch includes a thermo-sensitive switch and means in the chamber and responsive to the internal temperature of the chamber to control said thermo-sensitive switch.

3. The combination according to claim 1 in which a signal light is provided for indicating the open or closed condition of the "Off" and "On" switch and one side of the circuit for the signal light is common to one side of the circuit of the "Off" and "On" switch and the other side of the circuit for the signal light is comprised by a return conductor to the electrical power supply line.

4. The combination according to claim 1 in which a signal light is provided for each heating element to indicate the on or off condition of the heating element and the circuit for each signal light is comprised in part on one side by a conductor from one terminal of the "Off" and "On" switch to the respective signal light and is comprised on the other side by a return conductor from the signal light to the electrical power supply line.

5. The combination according to claim 1 in which a signal light is provided for each heating element to indicate the on or off condition of the heating element, a thermo-sensitive switch for each heating element and means responsive to the temperature of the associated heating element and controlling said switch, is provided, and the circuit for each signal light is comprised in part on one side by a conductor from one terminal of the "On" and "Off" switch to the respective thermo-sensitive switch and a conductor from the latter to the respective signal light and is comprised on the other side by a return conductor from the signal light to the electrical power supply line.

6. The combination according to claim 1 in which a signal light is provided for each heating element to indicate the on or off condition of the heating element, a thermo-sensitive switch is provided for each signal light, a thermo-couple is positioned in close proximity to each heating element and connected by an electrical circuit to the respective thermo-sensitive switch, and the circuit for each signal light is comprised in part on one side by a conductor from one terminal of the "On" and "Off" switch to the respective thermo-sensitive switch and a conductor from the latter to the respective signal light and is comprised on the other side by a return conductor from the signal light to the electrical power supply line.

7. The combination of claim 5, in which the energizing circuit for the electro-magnetic switch includes another thermo-sensitive switch, and means in the chamber and responsive to the internal temperature of the chamber, to control said other thermo-sensitive switch.

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