

(No Model.)

G. R. CHEESMAN.
TRAY FOR FRUIT DRIERS.

No. 261,307.

Patented July 18, 1882.

Fig. 1.

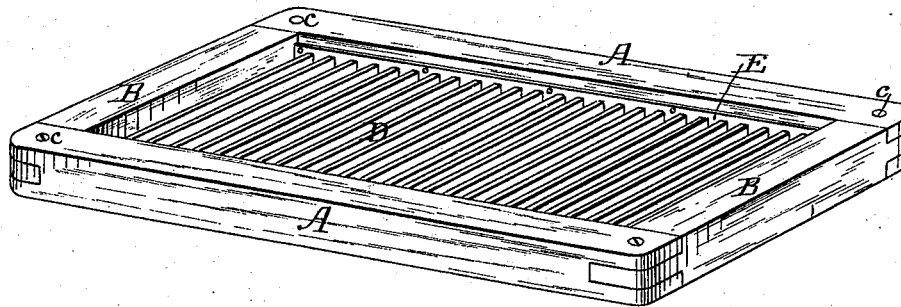


Fig. 2.

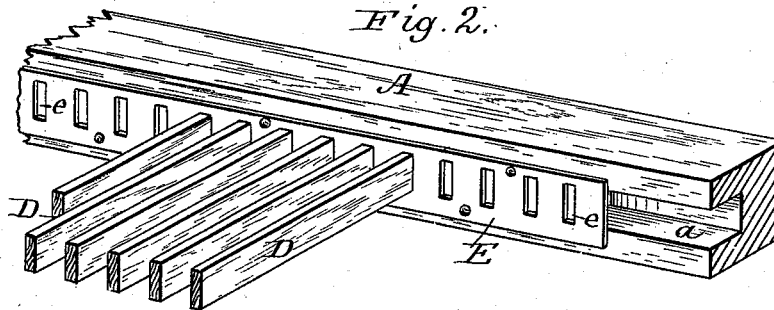


Fig. 3.

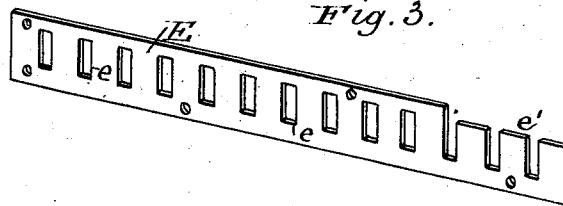
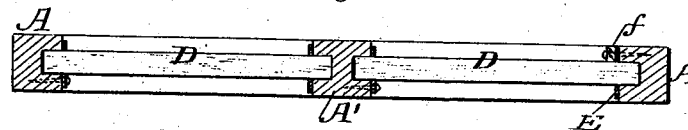


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRAY FOR FRUIT-DRIERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 261,307, dated July 18, 1882.

Application filed April 15, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE R. CHEESMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Atwater, in the county of Cayuga and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trays for Drying Fruit, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in trays for drying fruit, vegetables, and other substances, in which the fruit is supported by wooden slats set up edgewise and secured in a frame at both ends; and the objects of my improvement are first to provide a frame having each side composed of one piece of solid lumber simply grooved lengthwise; second, to provide rectangular slats of uniform width and thickness the whole length thereof; and, third, to retain these slats in proper position by means of strips of sheet metal permanently secured in the sides of the frame and provided with rectangular openings adapted to receive the ends of said slats. I attain these objects by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the tray. Fig. 2 represents in perspective a portion of the tray upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 represents in perspective a portion of one of the sheet-metal strips used to retain the slats edgewise at uniform distances apart. Fig. 4 represents a transverse vertical section of a double tray constructed in accordance with my invention.

Heretofore the sides of fruit-drier trays of this class have been made of two pieces of lumber secured together with pins driven vertically through them, each piece having a large number of transverse grooves cut across its face to receive the slats, and these slats had to be provided with tenons and shoulders to keep them from slipping endwise. This cutting of transverse grooves in the side and tenons in the slats, although requiring much labor in their production, weakened these parts considerably. My object is to dispense with this labor and produce a substantial tray that will not fall to pieces after having been subjected to the high temperature found in fruit-drying apparatus.

In the accompanying drawings, the side pieces of the frame of the tray are represented at A and the end pieces at B. Each one of

these pieces is made of solid lumber, (in one piece,) and the two are united together at their ends by means of tenons in the end pieces, B, fitting in mortises in the sides A. A wooden pin or a screw, *c*, being inserted at each corner of the frame, securely unites these parts together. Plain rectangular grooves *a* are made in the side pieces, A. They extend the whole length thereof, and are of such size as to receive the ends of the slats D. These slats are narrow rectangular strips of lumber having the form of an ordinary lath, being of uniform width and thickness from one end to the other. To retain these slats edgewise at uniform distances apart, there is secured to the inner side of the pieces A sheet-metal strips E, having a series of rectangular perforations, *e*, of suitable size to receive the ends of the slats D. The upper edge of these metal strips projects but little above the upper surface of the slats, so that the fruit placed upon the latter seldom comes in contact therewith; but if an absolute prevention of contact of the fruit with metal is requisite the height of the metal strips may be made still less by cutting off the upper edge, as shown at *e'*, Fig. 3; but I prefer to make the metal strips E as shown in the other figures, as they are stronger and can be secured at the top and bottom to the sides A. When thus constructed an absolute prevention of contact of the fruit with the metal strips can also be obtained by means of narrow strips of wood extending the length of the tray and having plain edges, as shown at *f*, Fig. 4, secured to the sides A in front of said metal strips.

To construct a "double tray" according to my invention, the center piece, A', of the frame is, as shown in Fig. 4, provided with grooves on both sides to receive the ends of the slats, and said sides have secured thereto the perforated sheet-metal strips E, to retain the slats D in proper position. The side pieces, A, of the frame supporting the ends of the slats, being made of one piece of solid lumber simply grooved lengthwise, will last much longer than if made of pieces pinned or nailed together when subjected to high temperatures, and can be produced at less cost, particularly when the latter have to be provided with a large number of transverse grooves to receive the ends of the slats.

Having now fully described my invention, I claim—

1. A tray for drying fruit and other substances, consisting of a frame composed of end
5 pieces, B, side pieces, A, having longitudinal grooves *a*, sheet-metal strips permanently attached to the sides A, and provided with rectangular perforations, and wooden slats D,
10 with their ends entering the perforations in the metal strips, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In a fruit-drying tray, the combination of the longitudinally-grooved side pieces, A, and sheet-metal strips E, secured thereto, and provided with rectangular perforations, with slats
15 D, of uniform size throughout their length, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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