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(54) Title: A CABINET, PARTS THEREOF AND ASSOCIATED METHODS

(57) Abstract

A cabinet for a refrigerator is formed from a twin sheet thermoformed panel (1) divided into a plurality of wall sections (8, 9, 10) by seams (6) where the twin sheets (2, 3) contact. The panel is folded to form the rear (10) and two side walls (8, 9) of a refrigerator cabinet, and top end cap and a base plinth are fitted to retain the walls in position. Refrigeration system components are carried on the base plinth. The walls (8, 9) and back (10) are secured by having their upper and lower edges (25, 30) fitted within peripheral channels (28, 29) on the top end cap (20) and the base plinth (21). Additionally they may be further secured by fusing contacting portions (65, 76) of the inner sheet of the panel in the region adjacent folded seams (6). The panel is preferably filled with rigid insulating foam while still supported on the thermoforming mould. The seams (6) are preferably provided on the back face (61) of the cabinet, spaced from the corners between side and rear faces, providing improved aesthetics with the fold lines hidden. An improved heater for softening seams between wall sections is disclosed.

