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PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

An Improved Carrying Device

We, REXALL DRUG AND CHEMICAL COMPANY, a Corporation organised and existing under the Laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of 8480 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles 54, State of California, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to carrying devices and provides a carrying device comprising a lower tray having a plate-like base and an upstanding peripheral rim, a plurality of sockets formed in or a plurality of short hollow cylinders fixed to, or integral with, the upper side of the base, the axes of the sockets or cylinders being normal to the base and the sockets or cylinders being adapted to seat beverage glasses, an upstanding post attached to, or integral with, the base of the tray and an upper tray having a plate-like support surface with an upstanding peripheral lip, the upper tray being attached to the upper end of the post.

Preferably the post is at the centre of the lower and/or the upper tray. The lower and/or the upper tray may be circular in shape.

In one form of the invention the post is at the centre of the lower tray and the sockets or cylinders are equally spaced around a ring centered on the post.

It is preferred that the upper tray is attached to the post by a threaded member with a screw-threaded shank and an enlarged head, the shank passing through a hole in the upper tray and making screw-threaded engagement with a corresponding screw-threaded hole in the upper end of the post, the enlarged head clamping the upper tray to the post.

A carrying handle may be attached to, or integral with, the enlarged head or, alternatively, the enlarged head may not extend above the support surface by more than the lip. The device can then be inverted to stand on the lip with the underside of the lower tray forming a stand (e.g. for a cake).

Preferably the post has the shape of a truncated cone, the base of the cone being flared outwardly and being attached to, or integral with, the base of the lower tray.

A specific carrying device according to the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a side view of the device partly in section,

Figure 2 is a plan view of the device partly in section,

Figure 3 is a cross-section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 showing an alternative threaded member,

Figure 5 is a cross-section taken on line 5—5 of Figure 3 with part of the thread removed,

Figure 6 is an exploded perspective view of the device, and

Figure 7 shows the device used as a cake stand.

A carrier tray comprises as a one piece moulding a lower tray having an upstanding peripheral rim; a plurality of radially spaced cups on the upper side of the tray, and a central post extending upwardly from the tray. An upper serving tray is fixed to the top end of the post. A handle is screwed on to the post to maintain the upper tray in position.

Referring to the drawings, the lower tray comprises a substantially plate-like base 10 having an upstanding peripheral rim 11. Six short cylindrical cups 12 are formed on the base 10 of the tray and are sufficiently large in diameter to receive a conventional glass tumbler. A plurality of raised ribs 13 are moulded in the bottom of each cup 12 to prevent condensation collecting on the bottom

[Price 4s. 6d.]

of tumblers placed in the cups. The condensation will flow from the tumblers into the spaces between the ribs 13. The underside of the tray has an integral, annular, downwardly extending leg 14. A hollow post 15 is integral with the centre of the lower tray and extends upwardly from the base 10. The upper end of the post 15 has an internal screw-thread 16. The thread 16 extends substantially once around the entire internal diameter of the post 15 as shown in Figure 5. The ends 17 of the thread are spaced vertically away from each other to establish the pitch of the thread.

The upper tray includes a support surface 18 having an upstanding peripheral lip 19 and a central hole 20. There is a cylindrical flange 21 integral with the underside of the surface 18, and concentric with the hole 20, but of greater diameter than the hole. The hole 20 is aligned with the threaded opening in the post 15 to insert a threaded member 22 to be described hereinafter. The member 22 includes a shank 23 and a handle 24, with screw-threaded shank 25 affixed to its lower end. The threads on the shank 25 mesh with the threads 16 on the inside of the post 15. The shank 25 is inserted through the hole 20 and is screwed down tightly by engagement with the thread 16. The shank 25 has an outwardly extending flange which engages the top of surface 18 and a boss 26 which is positioned in the hole 20 to correctly position and maintain the upper tray tightly in engagement with the post 15.

A modified form of threaded member is shown in Figure 4 and includes a plug 27 having a threaded shank 28 substantially similar to the shank 25 on the member 22. The threads on the shank 28 engages the threads 16 in the post 15 to maintain the upper tray tightly in engagement with the post 15. The top of the plug 27 has finger grips 29 for positioning and turning the plug in the hole 20 and the threads 16 of the post 15.

In use tumblers containing liquid are placed in the cups 12, hors d'oeuvres are placed on the upper tray 18, and the tray is carried by the handle 24.

Alternatively the carrier tray may be used by substituting the plug 28 for the handle 22 and carrying the tray by supporting it beneath the lower tray 10 or by grasping the post 15 immediately below the tray 18.

In Figure 7 the carrier tray is shown in use as a cake stand. In this construction the plug 28 is used in place of the handle 22 for connecting the tray 18 to the upper end of the post 15, and the entire carrier tray is inverted as shown in Figure 7.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been described and illustrated the invention may be otherwise embodied within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A carrying device comprising a lower tray having a plate-like base and an upstanding peripheral rim, a plurality of sockets formed in or a plurality of short hollow cylinders fixed to, or integral with, the upper side of the base, the axes of the sockets or cylinders being normal to the base and the sockets or cylinders being adapted to seat beverage glasses, an upstanding post attached to, or integral with, the base of the tray and an upper tray having a plate-like support surface with an upstanding peripheral lip, the upper tray being attached to the upper end of the post.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the post is at the centre of the lower and/or the upper tray.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2 in which the post is at the centre of the lower tray and the sockets or cylinders are equally spaced around a ring centred on the post.

4. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 in which the lower and/or the upper tray is circular in shape.

5. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 in which the upper tray is attached to the post by a threaded member with a screw-threaded shank and an enlarged head, the shank passing through a hole in the upper tray and making screw-threaded engagement with a corresponding screw-threaded hole in the upper end of the post, the enlarged head clamping the upper tray to the post.

6. A device as claimed in claim 5 in which a carrying handle is attached to, or integral with, the enlarged head.

7. A device as claimed in claim 5 in which the enlarged head does not extend above the support surface by more than the lip and the device can be inverted to stand on the lip with the underside of the lower tray forming a stand (e.g. for a cake).

8. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 in which the post has the shape of a truncated cone, the base of the cone being flared outwardly and being attached to, or integral with, the base of the lower tray.

9. A carrying device substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figures 1 to 3, 5 and 6 modified as shown in Figures 4,6 and 7 of the accompanying drawings.

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2. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the post is at the centre of the lower and/or the upper tray.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2 in which the post is at the centre of the lower tray and the sockets or cylinders are equally spaced around a ring centred on the post.

4. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 in which the lower and/or the upper tray is circular in shape.

5. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 in which the upper tray is attached to the post by a threaded member with a screw-threaded shank and an enlarged head, the shank passing through a hole in the upper tray and making screw-threaded engagement with a corresponding screw-threaded hole in the upper end of the post, the enlarged head clamping the upper tray to the post.

6. A device as claimed in claim 5 in which a carrying handle is attached to, or integral with, the enlarged head.

7. A device as claimed in claim 5 in which the enlarged head does not extend above the support surface by more than the lip and the device can be inverted to stand on the lip with the underside of the lower tray forming a stand (e.g. for a cake).

8. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 in which the post has the shape of a truncated cone, the base of the cone being flared outwardly and being attached to, or integral with, the base of the lower tray.

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