CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A refrigerator comprising:

an outer shell having a storage compartment of which a front face is open to form an opening;

a shelf rail being provided on an inner wall face of the storage compartment and extending in a front-and-back direction; and

a shelf divided into a front shelf and a rear shelf supported by the shelf rail, the front shelf being positioned on a part of the storage compartment, the part being closer to the opening than to a back portion of the storage compartment, the rear shelf being positioned on a part of the storage compartment, the part being closer to the back portion than to the opening, wherein

the front shelf includes a claw part engaging with the shelf rail in a lateral edge part of the front shelf, and a projecting part projecting downward from a bottom face of the front shelf,

the rear shelf has

a cut-out part formed in a region corresponding, when the front shelf removed from the shelf rail is placed on a top face of the rear shelf, to a position of the claw part provided to the front shelf, and

a step part against which the projecting part abuts in a front-and-back direction when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf, and

the step part has such a height that the front shelf is level when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf.

[Claim 2]

A refrigerator comprising:

an outer shell having a storage compartment of which a front face is open to form an opening;

a shelf rail being provided on an inner wall face of the storage compartment and extending in a front-and-back direction; and

a shelf divided into a front shelf and a rear shelf and being supported by the

shelf rail, the front shelf being positioned on a part of the storage compartment, the part being closer to the opening than to a back portion of the storage compartment, the rear shelf positioned on a part of the storage compartment, the part being closer to the back portion than to the opening, wherein

the front shelf includes a claw part engaging with the shelf rail in a lateral edge part of the front shelf, a projecting part projecting downward from a bottom face of the front shelf, a protrusion part provided at a rearward edge part of the front shelf and protruding toward the rear shelf and abutting against a bottom face of the rear shelf,

the rear shelf has

a cut-out part formed in a region corresponding, when the front shelf removed from the shelf rail is placed on a top face of the rear shelf, to a position of the claw part provided to the front shelf, and

a step part against which the projecting part abuts in a front-and-back direction when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf, and

the step part has such a height that the front shelf is level when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf.

[Claim 3]

The refrigerator of claim 1 or 2, wherein

the claw part is provided on a forward portion of the front shelf,

the cut-out part is formed on a forward portion of the rear shelf, and

a rear portion of the front shelf has a protruding part that can be fitted to a shape of the cut-out part of the rear shelf.

[Claim 4]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

the front shelf has such a dimension that, when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf, a forward edge of the front shelf is either in a same position as that of a forward edge of the rear shelf or positioned farther back than the forward edge of the rear shelf.

[Claim 5]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising

on the inner wall face of the storage compartment, a rise prevention rail is provided to be positioned, when the front shelf is placed on the top face of the rear shelf, above the front shelf and to protrude toward an inside of the storage compartment.

[Claim 6]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein

the rear shelf includes a glass plate having a cut-out part and a frame attached along an outer perimeter of the glass plate, and

the glass plate is inserted, with the cut-out part side thereof facing the cut-out part of the frame.

[Claim 7]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein

the shelf rail is provided on each of multiple levels formed in an up-and-down direction of the storage compartment, and

at least one of the shelf rails provided on the multiple levels has a length equal to that of the front shelf in the front-and-back direction.

[Claim 8]

The refrigerator of claim 7, further comprising

on the inner wall face of the storage compartment, a rise prevention rail is provided to, when the front shelf is placed on the shelf rail having the length equal to that of the front shelf in the front-and-back direction, be positioned above the front shelf and to protrude toward an inside of the storage compartment.