

(No Model.)

J. A. COOPER.

STORE COUNTER.

No. 346,896.

Patented Aug. 10, 1886.

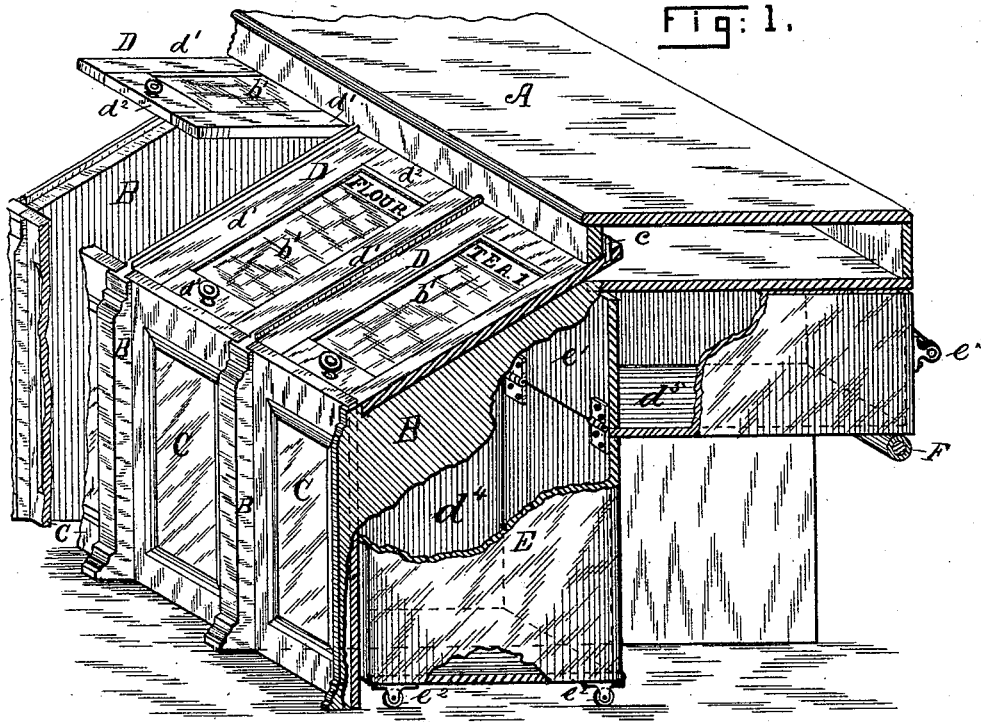


Fig: 2.

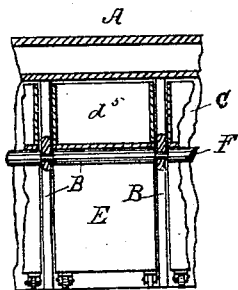
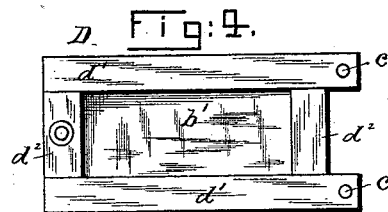
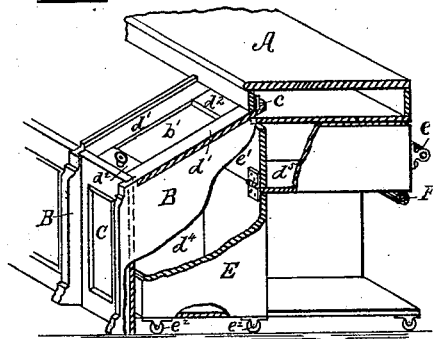


Fig: 3.



Witnesses:

E. E. Spencer,
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by W. E. Whitney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES A. COOPER, OF LIMA, OHIO.

STORE-COUNTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,896, dated August 10, 1886.

Application filed November 23, 1885. Serial No. 183,619. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES A. COOPER, of the city of Lima, county of Allen, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Store-Counters, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to store-counters, and has special reference to the class of counters used in grocery and commission stores, the ob-
10 ject of the invention being, primarily, to provide a counter adapted to receive, store, and display a large amount of goods or merchandise—such as tea, coffee, spices, and other ar-
15 ticles—to thereby utilize counter-space and obviate the necessity of having extra room for storage, which is a matter of great desideratum, especially in large cities, where floor-space is scarce and very expensive.

The principal object of my invention is to
20 secure for stores the maximum amount of storage capacity with the minimum amount of floor-space, to so store the goods that they may be seen and sampled, and to provide a system which will permit the clerk or store-keeper to
25 wait upon a large number of customers in the shortest possible time.

Another object of my invention is to so construct the counter or counters that the goods stored will be displayed to the customers in
30 front of the counter, and will be accessible to the clerk behind the counter, and may be served by him without leaving his position behind the counter, thus saving much time in waiting upon customers, and enabling them at
35 the same time to see and select or sample the goods they desire to purchase.

My invention consists in a store-counter having a series of compartments or bins extending out a short distance in front of the top
40 of the counter, each bin or compartment being provided with a movable glass or other cover, substantially as hereinafter described.

It also consists in a store-counter having a series of bins or compartments separate from
45 the main portion of the counter, and made movable with relation to and in the direction of the width of the counter, substantially as hereinafter described.

It also consists in certain details of construction of the said counter, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents in perspective, partially in vertical cross-section, a counter as constructed in accordance with my invention, this figure showing the counter as
55 having partitions extending the entire width and supporting the top. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation, partially in section, of a portion of the counter, showing the removable bin and its supporting-roller. Fig. 3 is a perspective
60 view of another form of bin, the said bin being shown partially in section; and Fig. 4 is a plan view of the glass-holding frame which covers the compartments.

The main portion of the counter may be of
65 various designs and constructions, and will depend upon public demand. Therefore I do not desire to confine myself to the special construction shown in the drawings of this application, in which I have illustrated one form of
70 counter which is practicable and convenient, and which will now be described.

The counter will consist, chiefly, of wood, and embodies the top A, (which top, as shown in the drawings, consists of the usual top
75 board, the front and rear sills, a bottom, and the usual end sills,) the partitions B, which support the top, the front panel-boards, C, the movable covers D, the bins E, and the supporting-roller F. The top A, which is of usual
80 construction, is supported by the partitions B, they extending beneath the top and out a short distance in front of said top, the upper edge of the partitions in front of the top being
85 beveled or inclined from their forward end up to their junction with the counter-top.

The counter from end to end is provided with a series of these partitions B, which are more or less separated from one another, to leave a sufficient space to receive a bin, E,
90 between adjacent sides, thus dividing the counter into a number of compartments. The front of the counter will preferably be constructed in panels C, which panels will be let
95 into grooves in the faces of the partitions B, as shown in Fig. 1, thus allowing them to be removed at will. Covering the spaces between partitions are a number of frames or covers, D, which covers will be constructed,
100 preferably, in four pieces, as shown in Fig. 4—*i. e.*, the two side pieces, *d'*, and the two cross-pieces *d''*, the pieces *d'* being projected at the

end nearest the top A a short distance beyond the piece d^2 —a glass, b' , being secured in the frame thus formed, which glass will have painted upon it the name of the article and the number or quality of the articles beneath it, or the articles contained in the bin E, which is in the space between the partitions which the cover or glass-holding frame covers. This glass-holding frame or cover will be of a width sufficient to partially overlap the upper edge of two partitions, and will in its normal position, or when covering the space, extend from the front of the counter to and under the top, where it is projected a short distance between the top and bottom boards of the top of the counter, as shown in Fig. 1, it being held in place by means of the vertical pins c , secured in the upper face of the side pieces of the frame D, which pins bear against the front board of the counter when the cover or frame is drawn out, thus preventing its displacement. The cover D is made movable with relation to the counter, its operation being as follows: When it is desired to uncover the compartment to which it belongs, the cover is raised to a horizontal position and slid backward under the top of the counter or between its top and bottom boards.

I do not desire to limit myself to this exact construction, as there are many ways in which the cover may be movably connected to the counter—as, for instance, it might be hinged and be raised and lowered up and down. However, the construction herein shown is preferable.

Each compartment between partitions B has a bin, E, for the reception of articles—such as groceries, teas, coffees, &c.—the upper and front sides of the bin corresponding to the internal shape of the main portion of the counter, the said bin being preferably constructed so as to form two compartments—*i. e.*, the vertical compartment d^1 , which will extend from a point in close proximity to the floor to a point close to the under face of the cover D, and the horizontal oblong compartment d^2 , which extends from a point near the bottom of the counter-top to a point approximately midway between the upper and lower ends of compartment d^1 , and backward from compartment d^1 to a point nearly flush with the back of the counter-top, at which rear end it is supported by a roller, F, mounted in bearings in the partitions B, as shown in Fig. 2. These compartments form an inverted-L-shaped bin, each compartment being open at the top and constructed with sides, ends, and bottoms, and are separated from each other by a door, e' , hinged to the back of compartment d^1 , as shown in Fig. 1. These bins E will preferably be of a width sufficient to fill the space between the partitions, and will be mounted upon casters e^2 , as shown in Fig. 1, handles e^3 being provided at the rear ends by which to roll them backward or forward, as desired.

I do not desire to limit myself to the exact

construction of bin herein shown, as, for instance, the bin might be constructed in four pieces—*i. e.*, two sides and two ends—thus forming one compartment and filling the entire space between partitions; or they might be constructed, as shown in Fig. 3, with a projected bottom board for the reception of articles, such as baskets, hardware, &c.

The bins B will be of any desired capacity, holding one or more barrels of goods.

By this construction of counter the convenience will be readily appreciated. A customer desiring to select a certain brand of goods can see the kind of goods contained in the bins through the glass covers D, and by raising and sliding the covers back under the counter they can sample the goods contained in the bin; and, both compartments of the bin containing the same goods, it is simply necessary for the clerk to draw the bin backward on its rollers and serve the goods to the customer without leaving his position behind the counter. When the supply of the compartment d^2 of the bin becomes exhausted, it may be replenished from compartment d^1 , it simply being necessary to lower the door e' , which divides the compartments, which give access to compartment d^2 . Should both bins become exhausted and it is not desirable to fill them at the counter, the panel-boards may be removed and the bins wheeled out from under the counter in front and into a store-room, where they may be refilled and returned to their places under the counter, thus obviating the accumulation of dirt in the main store-room, which would accrue from refilling the bins while in place under the counter.

By this construction of counter I am enabled to store many barrels of goods under a counter, and at the same time display the goods to my patrons.

The door e' , which divides the compartments of the bin, will be provided with a catch to hold it in place when closed or when in a vertical position.

I claim—

1. A store-counter having a front projected a distance from the main top of the counter, said front being inclined, as described, and provided with a series of glass-holding frames, which frames are projected between the top and bottom boards of the counter-top, and are adapted to be raised and slid under said top, the ends of the frame being provided with upwardly-projecting pins to bear against the front board of the counter-top to hold the frame or cover in place when drawn out, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In a counter, the bins E, preferably L-shaped, as shown, and having two compartments, d^1 d^2 , separated by the door e' , hinged to the end board of the compartment d^1 , preferably, the said bin being mounted on casters or equivalents, and being adapted to be moved under the counter, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. A store-counter consisting of the top A,

the partitions B, which support the top and which extend out a distance in front of the top, said partitions being more or less separated and being inclined at the top, the removable front panels, C, let into the partitions, 5 the movable cover D, provided with glass center b' , which covers the space between partitions B, and the bins E, located under the counter, said bins being open at their top, exposed to view through the glass of covers D, 10 and being mounted upon casters, whereby they may be moved backward or forward with relation to the counter, for the purpose and substantially as described.

15 4. In a counter having an inclined front projected beyond the face of the top, inclined as described, and provided with movable glass

covers, the said counter being divided up into compartments by the partitions B, the bins E, mounted upon the casters e^2 , and divided into 20 compartments d^4 d^5 , and provided with the handle e^3 , the bin at its rear end being mounted upon the roller F, having its bearings in the partitions B, and being adapted to be moved backward and forward with relation to the 25 counter, all arranged and constructed substantially as shown and described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Springfield, Ohio, this 19th day of August, A. D. 1885.

JAMES A. COOPER. [L. S.]

In presence of—

SETH S. WHEELER,
W. E. HACKEDOM.