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(54) **Secure display cabinet**

(57) This invention relates to a secure display cabinet of the type fitted with one or more closable doors, which is designed to contain small and medium-sized articles.

In particular said display cabinet comprises one or more doors (2) constituted by box-shaped elements, in

which the product to be displayed is placed, said doors being designed to move from a closed position in which they form part of the body of the cabinet to an open position in which the products placed in them can be viewed and removed as in a conventional display cabinet.

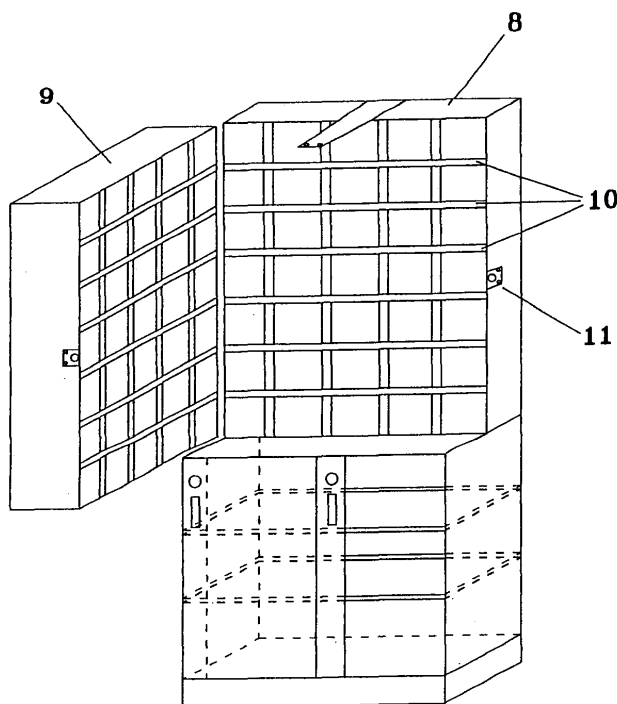


Fig. 3

Description

[0001] This invention relates to a secure display cabinet of the type fitted with one or more closable doors, which is designed to contain small and medium-sized articles.

[0002] In particular said display cabinet comprises one or more doors constituted by box-shaped elements, in which the product to be displayed is placed, said doors being designed to move from a closed position in which they form part of the body of the cabinet to an open position in which the products placed in them can be viewed and removed as in a conventional display cabinet.

[0003] Current display units for shops, designed in accordance with the state of the art, usually consist of shelves of various shapes and sizes adjacent to the wall, on which said shelves the products for sale are displayed.

[0004] The problem presented by said display units in accordance with the prior art is that they offer no protection against theft; if thieves manage to enter the premises they find the goods on open display, and therefore easy to remove.

[0005] In order to prevent theft, shopkeepers are consequently obliged to remove the products from the display units and deposit them in safes or strongrooms, even in the event of short absences from the shop.

[0006] This involves the considerable disadvantage of having to replace the products in the display units every morning or whenever business is resumed.

[0007] The present invention eliminates said problems by offering a secure display cabinet of the type comprising one or more closable doors fitted with a safety lock and suitable steel-reinforced and/or protective means.

[0008] Said door(s), constituted by box-shaped elements inside which the products to be displayed are placed, are designed to move from a closed position in which they constitute part of the body of the cabinet to an open position in which the products can be displayed and removed.

[0009] This invention consequently combines, in a single product, the characteristics of a practical display unit for small and medium-sized articles and the security of a steel-reinforced safe.

[0010] Thus if the shopkeeper needs to leave the premises, for example during the lunch break or overnight, it is no longer necessary to remove the products on display from the display units in order to keep them safe; it is sufficient to close the door(s) of the display cabinet with the safety lock.

[0011] This invention is suitable for use in a variety of shops, such as pharmacies, tobacconists' and jewellers' shops, and the like; the description that follows relates to the application of the present invention to a display cabinet for tobacconist's shops, but the invention is not limited to the case described.

[0012] This invention will now be described in detail, by way of example but not of limitation, by reference to the annexed figures wherein:

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of a two-door display cabinet according to the invention, in the closed position;
- Figure 2 is a perspective view of a two-door display cabinet according to the invention, in the open position;
- Figure 3 is a perspective view of a one-door display cabinet according to the invention, in the open position;
- Figure 4 is a plan view of a shop in which the display cabinet according to the invention shown in figure 3 is positioned.

[0013] As shown in figures 1 and 2, a first embodiment of the invention is constituted by a secure display cabinet comprising a central element 1 and two doors 2 hinged to said central element 1 with hinges 3.

[0014] Both doors 2 and central element 1 are constituted by box-shaped elements, preferably made of sheet metal or other materials of suitable strength, such as wooden panels with suitable steel reinforcement, and are shaped in such a way that when the two doors are closed they form, together with the central element, the body of a secure display cabinet; when the two doors are open, ie. each rotated outwards by 180°, they form, together with the central element, a large display wall as illustrated in the figure.

[0015] Said doors 2 and central element 1 are fitted internally with shelves 12, the shape and size of which varies according to the products to be displayed, said shelves being designed to form compartments 4 in which the articles to be sold are positioned.

[0016] To ensure the security of the display cabinet, it is fitted with an external safety lock 5 or the like.

[0017] A steel-reinforced storage unit 6, fitted with sliding doors 7, can also be installed in the space beneath the display cabinet.

[0018] Said storage unit, as well as acting as the base for the display cabinet, is useful for safely storing a stock of spare articles to be displayed later in the display cabinet.

[0019] The present invention is used as follows.

[0020] During shop opening hours, the doors of the display cabinet remain open so that it forms a practical large display wall, which the shopkeeper can conveniently access to remove the articles to be sold; when the shop is closed, in order to keep said articles safe, it is sufficient to rotate the two doors inwards and lock the cabinet with the safety lock.

[0021] The main advantage of said invention is that it combines the practicality characteristic of conventional display units with the security of a one-piece steel-reinforced safe.

[0022] A second embodiment of the present invention, which is very similar to the first, is constituted by a one-door secure display cabinet.

[0023] This solution, which is particularly practical when said display unit must be positioned, for example,

in a corner of the shop, will now be described by reference to figures 3 and 4.

[0024] As shown in said figures, the secure display cabinet according to the invention comprises a central element 8 and a door 9 hinged to it.

[0025] As in the case previously described, shelves 10, designed to contain the products on sale, are positioned in door 9 and central element 8, while an external safety lock 11 guarantees the safety of the articles in the cabinet.

[0026] As already stated, said one-door secure display cabinet is particularly suitable to be positioned in a corner of the premises; in this position it takes up limited space and is convenient for the shopkeeper, who thus has part of the display unit beside him and part behind him, as shown in figure 4.

[0027] The operation and advantages of this embodiment of the invention are the same as described in the preceding embodiment.

and central element (1) thereof are fitted internally with a series of shelves (12), the shape and size of which varies according to the products to be displayed, and which said shelves form compartments (4) in which the articles are positioned.

8. Secure display cabinet as claimed in any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** a steel-reinforced storage unit (7) designed to contain a stock of spare products is installed beneath the display cabinet.

Claims

1. Secure display cabinet of the type comprising a central element (1) and one or more doors (2) constituted by box-shaped elements fitted with shelving for the products to be displayed, said doors being designed to move from a closed position in which they form, together with the central body, a steel-reinforced cabinet, to an open position in which they form a large wall-mounted display unit, which allows products to be viewed and removed.
2. Secure display cabinet as claimed in claim 1, **characterised in that** it is fitted with a pair of doors (2) hinged to either side of the central body.
3. Secure display cabinet as claimed in claim 1, **characterised in that** it is fitted with a single door, of the same size as the central body.
4. Secure display cabinet as claimed in any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** said doors (2) and central element (1) are formed by steel-reinforced panels.
5. Secure display cabinet as claimed in any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** said doors (2) and central element (1) are made of sheet metal or other materials of suitable strength.
6. Secure display cabinet as claimed in any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** a safety lock (5) is fitted to the door of the cabinet, to guarantee the safety of the products it contains.
7. Secure display cabinet as claimed in any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the doors (2)

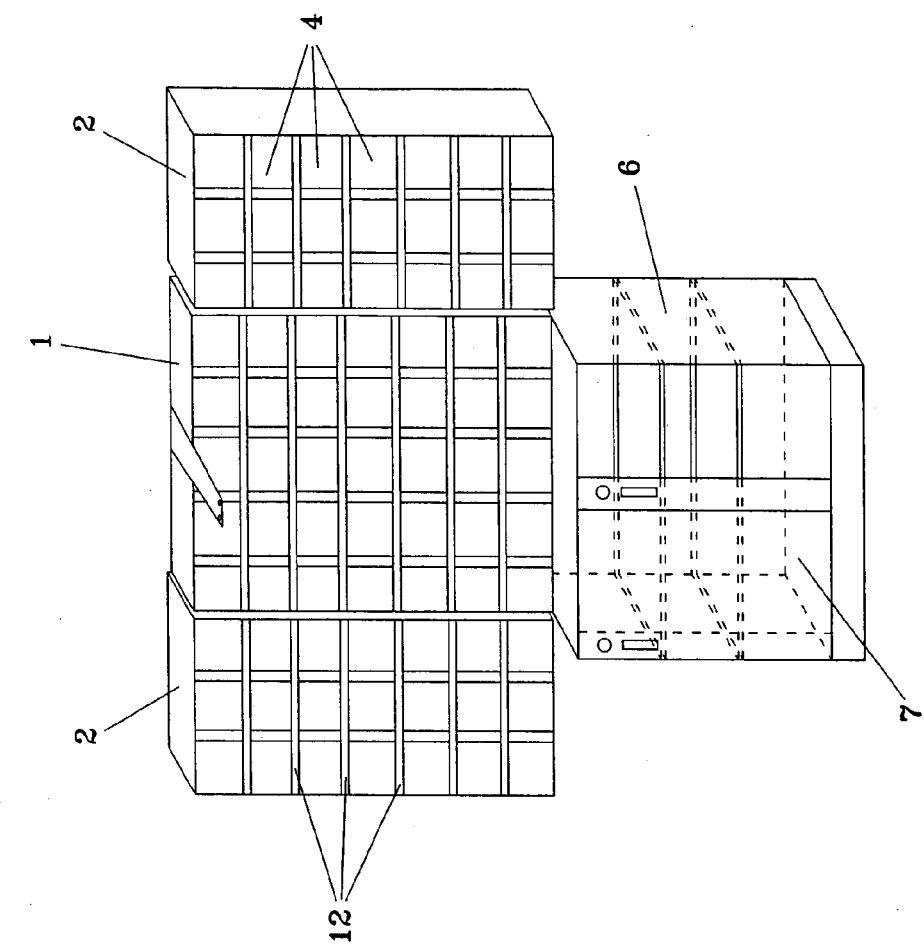


Fig. 2

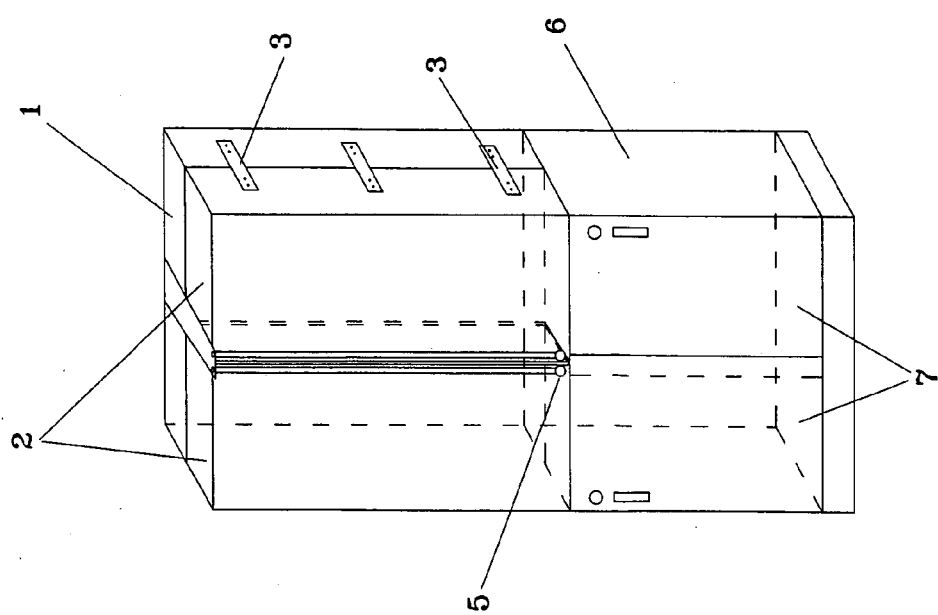


Fig. 1

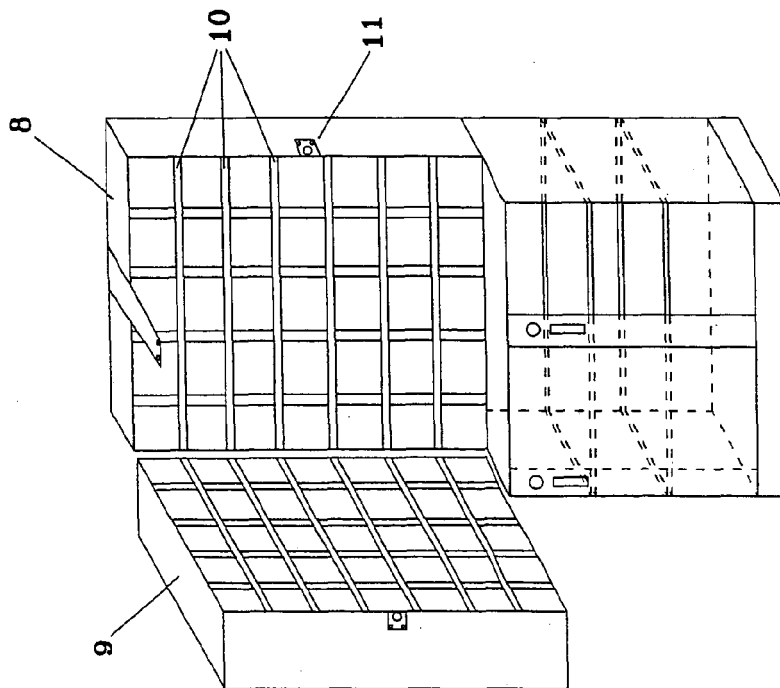


Fig. 3

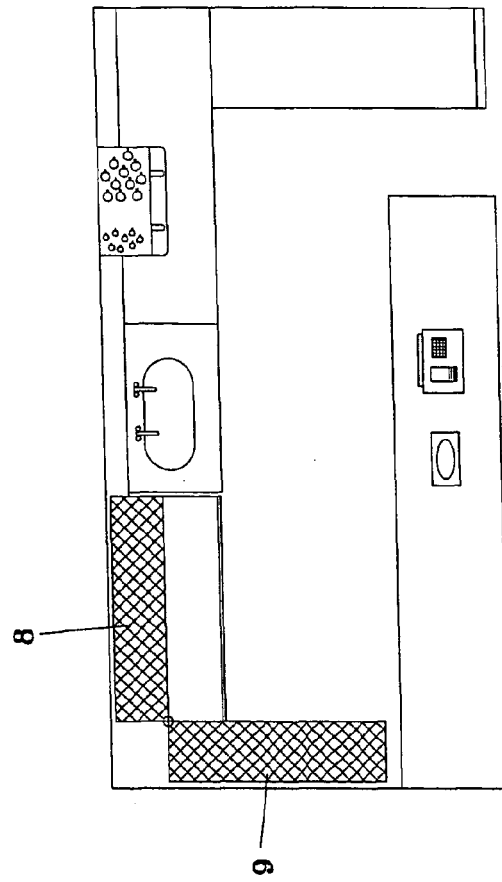


Fig. 4



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 3667

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 230 177 A (FISHER SIMON PETER) 17 October 1990 (1990-10-17) * page 3, paragraph 1 - paragraph 4 * * claims 1,4; figures 1-5 *	1,2,5,6	INV. A47B46/00
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X	DE 299 14 778 U1 (HELFRICH STEFAN [DE]) 23 December 1999 (1999-12-23) * the whole document *	1-3,5,7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47B B25H A47F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 2 January 2008	Examiner Jones, Clive
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 01 3667

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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02-01-2008

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