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### PORTABLE OUTDOOR COOKING DEVICE, SYSTEM, AND ACCESSORY THEREOF

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#### Abstract

A waste bag holder pivotably coupled to an outdoor cooking station. The waste bag holder is a rod structure with multiple bends along its length to define a u-shaped portion and first and second engaging portions. The u-shaped portion is configured to support a waste bag. The first and second engaging portions are sized and configured to couple to coupling structure to facilitate the waste bag holder to be pivotably moveable between a use position and a stowed position.

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## Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/244,237, filed Sep. 9, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/184,535, filed Feb. 24, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,751,723, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/143,837, filed Jan. 7, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,992,155, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/366,991, filed Mar. 27, 2019, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,888,193, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/650,586, filed Mar. 30, 2018, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Further, U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/366,991 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/885,313, filed Jan. 31, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,588,461, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/452,483, filed Jan. 31, 2017, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates generally to portable outdoor cooking stations and, more specifically, the present invention relates to an accessory component that may be employed with portable outdoor cooking stations.

### BACKGROUND

[0003] Barbequing has become a popular and pervasive tradition in much of the world. A barbeque grill is a device for cooking food by applying heat directly below a grill. There are several varieties of grills but most fall into one of two categories, either gas fueled or charcoal. Gas fueled grills typically use propane or natural gas as a fuel source, with the gas flame either cooking the food directly or heating grilling elements which in turn radiate the heat necessary to cook the food. Grilling has become a popular method of cooking food due to the unique flavors and texture imparted to the food during the grilling process.

[0004] A griddle is a cooking device consisting of a broad flat surface that can be heated using a variety of means and is used in both residential and commercial applications for a variety of cooking operations. The griddle is most commonly a flat metal plate composed of cast or wrought iron, aluminum or carbon steel. Griddles are commonly heated directly or indirectly by open flame or electrical elements. Using a griddle placed directly on a barbeque grill or over flame burners has also become popular when cooking foods not as well suited for cooking directly on a grill over an open flame.

[0005] Griddles are often employed for cooking large quantities of food. Managing the food properly, especially in an outdoor setting, often becomes problematic while also maintaining a clean cooking area. Managing the limited space available for the food and waste while cooking is also challenging. As such, it would be advantageous to provide a portable outdoor cooking station and/or accessory components for portable outdoor cooking stations, or the like, that limits the challenges while cooking in an outdoor setting.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Embodiments of the present invention are directed to various devices and systems of a portable outdoor cooking station and/or an accessory component thereof, such as a waste bag holder device. In one embodiment, the waste bag holder device is configured to hold a waste bag adjacent a main body of an outdoor cooking station. The waste bag holder device includes first and second coupling structures, first and second abutment structures, and a waste bag holder. The first and second coupling structures are each configured to be operatively coupled to the main body. Further, the first and second coupling structures are configured to be aligned with each other so as to define a pivot axis. The first and second abutment structures are each configured to be operatively coupled to the main body such that the first and second abutment structures are configured to be positioned adjacent the first and second coupling structures, respectively. The waste bag holder extends with rod structure and is configured to be pivotably coupled to the first and second coupling structures. Further, the waste bag holder includes a u-shaped portion and first and second engaging portions. The u-shaped portion extends to first and second corner portions such that the u-shaped portion and the first and second corner portions are sized and configured to facilitate holding the waste bag thereto. The first and second engaging portions include the rod structure extending from the respective first and second corner portions so that the first and second engaging portions are pivotably coupled to the first and second coupling structures, respectively. With this arrangement, the waste bag holder is pivotably moveable about the pivot axis between a use position and a stowed position.

[0007] In another embodiment, in the use position, the first and second engaging portions abut against the first and second abutment structures, respectively, so that the u-shaped portion is positionable within a generally horizontally oriented plane. In another embodiment, in the stowed position, the u-shaped portion is positionable within a generally vertically oriented plane such that the u-shaped portion extends along a vertically oriented surface of the main body.

[0008] In another embodiment, the rod structure extends to define a length extending between free ends such that the rod structure extends with multiple bends along the length. In still another embodiment, the rod structure is a single piece member extending to define a length between free ends, the rod structure extending with multiple bends along the length so as to define the waste bag holder.

[0009] In another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, the waste bag holder pivotably moveable between the use and stowed positions such that the second radial bend rotates about the pivot axis and the first and second coupling structures. In still another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, the waste bag holder positionable in the use position with the first radial bend of the first and second engaging portions positioned over the first and second coupling structures, respectively, and the first elongate portion of the first and second engaging portions positioned against the first and second abutment structures, respectively. In yet another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, wherein, prior to the waste bag holder being moved to the stowed position, the waste bag holder is moved to a lifted position such that the second radial bend is positioned adjacent the first and second coupling structures so that the waste bag holder is pivotable about the pivot axis to move the waste bag holder to the stowed position.

[0010] In another embodiment, the first and second corner portions are defined by an angled extension, the angled extension extending relative to the u-shaped portion such that the first and second corner portions each extend with an acute angle. In another embodiment, the first and second coupling structures are directly coupled to first and second brackets, respectively, the first and second brackets configured to be directly coupled to the main body of the cooking station.

[0011] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a waste bag holder device

configured to hold a waste bag adjacent a main body of an outdoor cooking station is provided. The waste bag holder device includes first and second brackets and a waste bag holder. The first and second brackets are sized and configured to be coupled to the main body, the first and second brackets each including a coupling structure and an abutment structure. The coupling structure of the first and second brackets are aligned with each other so as to define a pivot axis. The waste bag holder extends with rod structure to define a u-shaped portion and first and second engaging portions, the u-shaped portion being sized and configured to facilitate holding the waste bag thereto. The first and second engaging portions are configured to be pivotably coupled to the coupling structure of the first and second brackets, respectively, such that the waste bag holder is configured to be pivotably moveable about the pivot axis to move the waste bag holder to a use position or a stowed position.

[0012] In another embodiment, wherein, in the use position, the first and second engaging portions abut against the first and second abutment structures, respectively, so that the u-shaped portion is positionable within a generally horizontally oriented plane. In another embodiment, wherein, in the stowed position, the u-shaped portion is positionable within a generally vertically oriented plane such that the u-shaped portion extends along a vertically oriented surface of the main body.

[0013] In another embodiment, the rod structure extends to define a length extending between free ends such that the rod structure extends with multiple bends along the length. In still another embodiment, the rod structure is a single piece member extending to define a length between free ends, the rod structure extending with multiple bends along the length so as to define the waste bag holder.

[0014] In another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, the waste bag holder pivotably moveable between the use and stowed positions such that the second radial bend rotates about the pivot axis and the coupling structure. In yet another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, the waste bag holder positionable in the use position with the first radial bend positioned over the coupling structure, and the first elongate portion positioned against the abutment structure. In still another embodiment, the first and second engaging portions each extend to define a first radial bend and a second radial bend with a first elongate portion extending therebetween, wherein, prior to the waste bag holder being moved to the stowed position, the waste bag holder is moved to a lifted position such that the second radial bend is positioned adjacent the coupling structure so that the waste bag holder is pivotable about the pivot axis to move the waste bag holder to the stowed position.

[0015] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, an outdoor cooking station includes a main body, a side shelf system, and a waste bag holder. The main body includes a frame structure, the main body having a front panel extending between opposite first and second sides of the main body. Further, the main body includes at least two side legs extending downward from the main body and the front panel includes one or more knobs disposed thereon for controlling one or more heating elements within the main body. The at least two side legs include a vertical side panel sized to extend between the at least two legs. The side shelf system includes a side shelf and a cutting board. The side shelf is configured to be coupled to the main body, the side shelf defining an upward facing surface with an opening defined therein. The cutting board is sized and configured to be positioned within the opening defined in the side shelf, the cutting board positioned on a ledge extending from structure of the side shelf. The waste bag holder is sized and configured to be removably positioned over a top edge of the vertical side panel. With this arrangement, the removable waste bag holder, upon being positioned over the top edge of the vertical side panel, is configured to extend horizontally below the side shelf.

[0016] In another embodiment, the waste bag holder includes a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion spaced apart from each other, the first and second engaging portions extending to

a u-shaped structure. In another embodiment, the waste bag holder includes a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion, each of the first and second engaging portions including a single back extension and a front extension. Such single back extension extending linearly along an entire length of the single back extension to a free end, wherein, upon the waste bag holder being positioned over the vertical side panel, the front extension includes a single point contact with a vertically extending front surface of the vertical side panel. In still another embodiment, the waste bag holder includes a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion each spaced apart from each other, the first and second engaging portions each having a single point contact with a vertically extending front surface of the vertical side panel.

[0017] In another embodiment, the waste bag holder includes a single rod type elongated structure with multiple bends therein. In another embodiment, the waste bag holder includes a u-shaped structure extending below the side shelf.

[0018] In another embodiment, the side shelf system further includes a holder device configured to be operatively coupled to the frame structure, the holder device having an elongated portion with a free end such that the elongated portion extends substantially horizontal relative to the upper flat surface of the side shelf and below the side shelf. In yet another embodiment, the side shelf system further includes a food pan having a lip extending along an upper side of the food pan, the food pan sized and configured to be positioned through the opening such that the lip is positionable onto the ledge with the cutting board positionable over the lip of the food pan.

[0019] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a waste bag holder device for removably positioning over a vertical side panel, the waste bag holder device for holding a waste bag therewith, is provided. The waste bag holder device includes a u-shaped structure and first and second engaging portions. The u-shaped structure includes ends extending to a corner portion, the u-shaped structure sized to receive the waste bag therewith. The first and second engaging portions each include a back extension with a free end, the back extension configured to extend vertically and linearly along an entire length of the back extension, the back extension extending to a top extension so as to extend around a top edge of the vertical side panel to then extend downward to define a front extension. The front extension extends at an acute angle relative to the back extension and includes a surface to abut against the vertical side panel, the front extension extending to a lower extension extending away from the front extension to then bend and extend upward to the corner portion.

[0020] In one embodiment, the first and second engaging portions and the u-shaped structure is a single rod structure with multiple bends therein. In another embodiment, the u-shaped structure includes an outer extension extending between a first leg extension and a second leg extension, the first leg extension and the first engaging portion extending within a single first plane and the second leg extension and the second engaging portion extending within a single second plane. In a further embodiment, the single first plane and the single second plane extend substantially parallel relative to each other. In another further embodiment, the outer extension extends substantially perpendicular relative to the single first plane and the single second plane.

[0021] In another embodiment, the lower extension defines a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis extending substantially parallel with one of a first and second leg extension defined by the u-shaped structure. In yet another embodiment, the corner portion includes a junction between a leg extension and a holding extension, the holding extension extending at an acute angle relative to leg extension.

[0022] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a method of collecting waste while cooking a food product is provided. The method steps include: providing an outdoor cooking station having a main body with a frame structure, the main body having a front panel extending between opposite first and second sides of the main body, the main body having at least two side legs extending downward from the main body, the front panel having one or more knobs disposed thereon for controlling one or more heating elements within the main body, the at least

two side legs having a vertical side panel sized to extend between the at least two legs, one of the first and second sides including a side shelf configured to be coupled to the main body, the side shelf defining an upward facing surface with an opening defined therein, the opening sized to receive a cutting board with a through hole defined therein, the cutting board positioned on a ledge extending from structure of the side shelf; and removably positioning a waste bag holder over a top edge of the vertical side panel such that a u-shaped structure of the waste bag holder extends horizontally a distance below the side shelf so that a waste bag removably positioned around the u-shaped structure is positioned directly below the opening of the side shelf.

[0023] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, an outdoor cooking station is provided. The outdoor cooking station includes a main body and a waste bag holder. The main body includes a frame structure and a front panel, the front panel extending between opposite first and second sides of the main body. Further, the front panel includes one or more knobs disposed thereon for controlling one or more heating elements within the main body. The main body includes a vertically extending side panel positioned on at least one of the first and second sides of the main body, the main body including a side shelf coupled to one of the first and second sides of the main body. The waste bag holder is sized and configured to be removably positioned over a top edge of the vertically extending side panel. With this arrangement, the removable waste bag holder, upon being positioned over the top edge of the vertically extending side panel, is configured to extend horizontally below the side shelf.

[0024] In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, an outdoor cooking station is provided. The cooking station includes a main body and a waste bag holder. The main body includes a frame structure and a front panel extending between opposite first and second sides of the main body. The front panel includes one or more knobs disposed thereon for controlling one or more heating elements within the main body. The main body includes a side surface defining a first aperture and a second aperture therein, the first and second apertures defined in the side surface in one of the first and second sides of the main body. The waste bag holder includes a single rod structure with a first free end and a second free end, the first and second free ends of the single rod structure configured to be positioned within the first and second apertures defined in the side surface of the one of the first and second sides of the main body.

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## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The foregoing and other advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings in which:

[0026] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a portable outdoor cooking station with a side shelf system, depicting the cooking station with a griddle positioned thereon, according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0027] FIG. 2 is a top view of the portable outdoor cooking station, depicting the cooking station without the griddle positioned thereon, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0028] FIG. 3 is an exploded view of the portable outdoor cooking station and the side shelf system, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0029] FIG. 3A is a top view of a side shelf, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0030] FIG. 3B is a top view of another embodiment of a side shelf, according to the present invention;

[0031] FIG. 4 is a bottom perspective view of a side shelf, depicting hooks and ledges for the side shelf system, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0032] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the portable outdoor cooking station and a side shelf system,

according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0033] FIG. **6** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a portable outdoor cooking station and a side shelf system, according to the present invention;

[0034] FIG. **7A** is a perspective top view of the side shelf system of FIG. **6**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0035] FIG. **7B** is a perspective bottom view of the side shelf system of FIG. **6**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0036] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a portable outdoor cooking station and a side shelf system, according to the present invention;

[0037] FIG. **9A** is a perspective top view of the side shelf system of FIG. **8**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0038] FIG. **9B** is a perspective bottom view of the side shelf system of FIG. **8**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0039] FIG. **10** is a perspective view of another embodiment of an outdoor cooking station, depicting a waste bag holder positioned over a vertical side panel of the cooking station, according to the present invention;

[0040] FIG. **11** is a perspective view of the outdoor cooking station of FIG. **10**, depicting the waste bag holder removed from the vertical side panel of the cooking station, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0041] FIG. **12** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0042] FIG. **13** is a left side view of the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0043] FIG. **14** is a right side view of the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0044] FIG. **15** is a top side view of the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0045] FIG. **16** is a front side view of the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0046] FIG. **17** is a rear side view of the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0047] FIG. **18** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a waste bag holder coupled to a side surface of a cooking station, depicting a waste bag in outline form coupled to the waste bag holder, according to the present invention;

[0048] FIG. **19** is an exploded perspective view of the waste bag holder and the cooking station, depicting the waste bag holder in a non-engaged position and readily removable relative to the cooking station, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0049] FIG. **20** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a waste bag holder coupled to a cooking station with brackets, depicting the waste bag holder in a use position, according to the present invention;

[0050] FIG. **21** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder and outdoor cooking station of FIG. **20**, depicting the waste bag holder in a stowed position, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0051] FIG. **22** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder in the use position coupled to the brackets, depicting the waste bag holder without the cooking station, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0052] FIG. **22A** is an enlarged view of the waste bag holder taken from region **22A** of FIG. **22**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0053] FIG. **23** is a front view of the waste bag holder and brackets of FIG. **22**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0054] FIG. **23A** is a cross-sectional view of the waste bag holder taken from section line A-A of FIG. **23**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0055] FIG. **23B** is an enlarged view of the waste bag holder taken from region **23B** of FIG. **23A**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0056] FIG. **24** is a top view of the waste bag holder and brackets of FIG. **22**, according to another

embodiment of the present invention;

[0057] FIG. **25** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder, depicting the waste bag holder in a lifted position relative to the brackets, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0058] FIG. **25A** is an enlarged view of the waste bag holder taken from region **25A** of FIG. **25**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0059] FIG. **26** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder, depicting the waste bag holder moved to the stowed position or vertical position relative to the brackets, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0060] FIG. **26A** is an enlarged view of the waste bag holder taken from region **26A** of FIG. **26**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0061] FIG. **26B** is a cross-sectional view of the waste bag holder taken from section line B-B of FIG. **26**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0062] FIG. **27** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a waste bag holder system, depicting the waste bag holder system coupled to an outdoor cooking station with the holder in a use position, according to the present invention;

[0063] FIG. **27A** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder taken from region **27A** of FIG. **27**, according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0064] FIG. **28** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder of FIG. **27**, depicting the waste bag holder positioned in a stowed position, according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

[0065] FIG. **28A** is a perspective view of the waste bag holder taken from region **28A** of FIG. **28**, according to another embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0066] Referring to FIGS. **1** through **3**, a portable outdoor cooking station **10** with a side shelf system **12** is provided. Such cooking station **10** is made for outdoor use and is sized and configured to be readily moveable such that the cooking station **10** is portable. Further, the portable outdoor cooking station may be of the type that is gas heated. In one embodiment, the side shelf system **12** may be sized and configured to maintain cooked or non-cooked food while improving cleanliness of a food preparation surface. The side shelf system **12** may also be sized and configured to maintain disposable cleaning supplies. In addition, the side shelf system **12** may be sized and configured to hold waste in a readily disposable manner as well as improving cleanliness of a food preparation surface. With this arrangement, the side shelf system **12** may be employed with the cooking station **10**.

[0067] The cooking station **10** may include a front side **14**, a rear side **16**, a first side **18**, and a second side **20**, the front side **14** being the side a user may stand for cooking food and operating some of the controls of the cooking station **10**. The cooking station **10** may include a main body **22**. The main body **22** may include a frame structure **24** to which various housing or panel structures may be attached. For example, the frame structure **24** may include panel structures, such as a front wall **26**, a rear wall **28**, and first and second walls **30**, **32**. In one embodiment, the main body **22** may not include the rear wall **28**. The first and second walls **30**, **32** may include vents **34** or openings therein. The front wall **26** may include various components and controls positioned and secured therewith. The main body **22** may include one or more heating elements, such as four gas burners **35**, extending between the front wall **26** and the rear wall **28** or rear side **16** of the main body **22**. The gas burners may receive gas by rotating burner knobs **36** from an off-position to an on-position. Such burner knobs **36** may be coupled to the front wall **26** of the main body **22** and may each be aligned with a corresponding gas burner. Each of the burner knobs **36** may include the appropriate valves and components associated therewith configured to control gas being supplied to the gas burners, as known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, the main body **22** may also include an igniter switch **38**. The igniter switch **38** may be positioned on the front wall **26** or panel sized and configured to ignite the particular gas burners corresponding with the burner knobs **36**



rotated to the on-position. The gas burners may be fueled with gas, such as propane gas, with a propane gas tank (not shown) or fueled with natural gas, which may be coupled to the gas burners via a gas line **40** and connection valve **42** or the like. Although only some of the primary components for operating the cooking station **10** are described herein, the remaining components that may be needed for proper functioning of the cooking station may be incorporated herewith and into the cooking station **10** as known by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0068] The cooking station **10** may include four legs. The four legs may extend downward from front and rear corners or sides of the main body **22** to define first and second front legs **44**, **46** and first and second rear legs **48**, **50**. Further, the first front and rear legs **44**, **48** may include one or more first cross-members **52** extending therebetween. Similarly, the second front and rear legs **46**, **50** may include one or more second cross-members **54** extending therebetween. Such one or more first and second cross-members **52**, **54** may stabilize and strengthen the legs and weight of the main body **22**. The one or more second cross-members **54** may include a gas tank holder **56** coupled thereto such that a gas tank (not shown) may be positioned on the gas tank holder **56** and be readily coupled to the gas line **40**. Furthermore, one or more first and second cross-members **52**, **54** may serve to hold and receive a lower shelf **58**. Such lower shelf **58** may be employed for storing or maintaining various cooking items and/or utensils or the like or anything desired by the user. Each of the legs may include wheels, such as two caster wheels **59** and two fixed wheels **61**, positioned at or adjacent to a lower end of each of the legs. For example, the second front and rear legs **46**, **50** may include the caster wheels **59** and the first front and rear legs **44**, **48** may include the fixed wheels **61**. In another embodiment, only one of the first front and rear legs **44**, **48** or second front and rear legs **46**, **50** includes either the caster wheels or fixed wheels. In another embodiment, the cooking station **10** may include at least two wheels **59** coupled to a base of the frame structure **24** of the cooking station **10**. In this manner, the cooking station **10** may be readily moveable to a desired location, thereby, providing portability to the cooking station **10** as well as being readily employable for outdoor use at most any desired suitable location.

[0069] In one embodiment, the cooking station **10** may be of the type that can receive a griddle **60**. The griddle **60** may include a flat cooking surface **62** with upstanding walls **64** that may extend above and along at least a portion of a periphery **66** of the flat cooking surface **62**. In one embodiment, the griddle **60** may include a trough **68** sized and configured to facilitate draining grease or unwanted food by-product from the flat cooking surface **62**. In one embodiment, the trough **68** may extend along a front periphery **70** of the flat cooking surface **62** that may extend to an open end **72** at or adjacent to the front and first sides **14**, **18** of the cooking station **10**. The other end of the trough **68** may be closed or blocked so that grease may only funnel toward the open end **72**. The cooking station **10** may also include a grease catcher **74**. Such great catcher **70** may include a container portion **76** and a latch portion **78** that may be latched over one of the upstanding side walls **64** of the griddle **60** such that the container portion **76** of the grease catcher **74** may be positioned below the open end **72** of the trough **68**. In this manner, grease or food by-product may drain into the container portion **76** of the grease catcher **74** and, later, the grease catcher **74** may be readily removed from the griddle **60** for removing any food by-product therein. In another embodiment, the cooking station **10** may include a griddle of the type disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Non-Provisional patent application Ser. No. 15/582,675, the disclosure of which is incorporated herewith in its entirety. In another embodiment, the side shelf system **12** depicted herein may be incorporated with other types of cooking stations, such as gas heated grills, charcoal heated cooking stations, pellet heated cooking stations or any other suitable outdoor portable cooking stations.

[0070] Now with reference to FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3** and **3A**, in another embodiment, the cooking station **10** may include a first side shelf **80** and a second side shelf **82**. The first and second side shelves **80**, **82** may be removably secured to the respective first and second sides **18**, **20** of the cooking station **10**. In another embodiment, the first and second side shelves **80**, **82** may be removably secured

adjacent a lower end **84** of the first and second walls **30, 32** of the main body **22** such that the first and second side shelves **80, 82** may extend from the cooking station **10** at a level lower than the cooking surface **62** of the cooking station **10** or even at a level lower than the burners **35** (FIG. 2) within the cooking station **10**. For example, in one embodiment, the first side shelf **80** may include one or more frame extensions, such as a first extension **86** and a second extension **88**, each of which may extend from an inner side **90** of the first side shelf **80**. The first and second extensions **86, 88** may be sized and configured to be coupled to the frame structure **24** or a portion of the frame structure **24** of the main body **22**. For example, the frame structure **24** may include a first sleeve **92** and a second sleeve **94** with respective ends positioned adjacent the lower end **84** of the first side wall **80**. Such first and second sleeves **92, 94** may be sized and configured to receive the respective first and second extensions **86, 88**. Upon inserting the first and second extensions **86, 88** into the respective first and second sleeves **92, 94**, a securement device **96** may be, for example, rotated to readily tighten and secure the first side shelf **80** to the frame structure **24**. Similarly, the first side shelf **80** may be readily removed from the frame structure **24** by loosening the securement device **96**. In this manner, the first and second side shelves **80, 82** may be readily removed, replaced and/or upgraded.

[0071] As previously set forth, the cooking station **10** includes the side shelf system **12**. The side shelf system **12** may be incorporated in one or both of the first and second side shelves **80, 82** or, as depicted, in the first side shelf **80**. In one embodiment, the side shelf system **12** may include the first side shelf **80** and at least one of a food pan **100**, a cutting board **102**, a holder device **104**, and hooks **106** (FIG. 4). The first side shelf **80** may include an upper surface **110** defining an opening **112** therein. The upper surface **110** may be a substantially flat surface and may be employed as a work surface for assisting in the preparing of food to be cooked. The opening **112** defined in the upper surface **110** may be sized and configured to receive and hold the food pan **100** and/or the cutting board **102**. The upper surface **110** may extend to a periphery **114** having a rectangular shape with peripheral side walls **116** or panels extending downward from the periphery **114** of the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**.

[0072] With respect to FIGS. 3 and 3A, as set forth, the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80** defines the opening **112** therein. The structure defining such opening **112** may be rectangular in shape or a rectangular periphery. In one embodiment, each side of such rectangular periphery may include an extension **120** that may extend downward from the sides of the rectangular periphery. Further, each extension **120** may include a ledge **122** that extends inward from a lower end **124** of the extension **120** to define a depth **126**. The depth **126** may define a distance or length from the ledge **122** to the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**. Such depth **126** may substantially correspond with a thickness **128** of a lip **130** of the food pan **100** and/or a cutting board thickness **132**. In this manner, upon positioning the food pan **100** and the cutting board **102** into the opening **112**, a first surface or upward facing surface **134** of the cutting board **102** may be generally or substantially flush with the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**.

[0073] In another embodiment, as depicted in FIGS. 3B and 4, the first side shelf **80** may include a variation of the ledges extending from extensions. In this embodiment, two of the extensions **120** extending from the opening **112** defined in the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80** may not include ledges, but only a downward extending extension **120**. Such two extensions may extend from opposite sides of the opening **112** defined in the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**. Further, two of the extensions **120** may include a ledge **123**. The two extensions **120** with the ledge **123** in this embodiment may extend from opposing sides of the rectangular shaped opening **112** defined in the first side shelf **80** such that each ledge **123** may extend toward each other. The extensions **120** without the ledge **123** may extend downward so as to substantially prevent lateral movement of the food pan **100** and/or the cutting board **102** (see FIG. 2) positioned on the opposing extending ledges **123**.

[0074] With reference back to FIGS. 1 and 3, as previously set forth, the opening **112** defined in the

first side shelf **80** may be sized and configured to receive the food pan **100**. The food pan **100** may include a basin portion **136** with four upstanding side walls **138** that extend from a bottom wall **140**. The upstanding side walls **138** extend upward to the before-described lip **130**. The lip **130** may extend outward and/or transverse relative to the upstanding side walls such that the lip **130** may extend continuously along an upper periphery **142** of the food pan **100**. In one embodiment, the lip **130** may extend outward or orthogonal relative to the upstanding side walls **138** of the food pan **100**. The lip **130** may extend outward so that an underside surface of the lip **130** may be positioned on an upper surface **144** of the ledge **122** extending from the extensions **120** of the first side shelf **80** and so that the basin portion **136** of the food pan **100** may be suspended below the ledge **122**.

[0075] In one embodiment, the food pan **100** may be made of a stainless steel material, or any other suitable metallic material. In another embodiment, the food pan **100** may be made of a polymeric material. In another embodiment, the food pan **100** may include a height **146** or depth of about 70 millimeters or about 2.8 inches or in the range of about 2.5 inches to 3 inches. In another embodiment, the height **146** of the food pan **100** may be in the range of about 2 inches to 6 inches. In another embodiment, the food pan **100** may include a length **148** of about 320 millimeters or about 12.6 inches or in the range of about 10 inches to 14 inches or larger. In another embodiment, the food pan **100** may include a width **150** of about 220 millimeters or about 8.6 inches or in the range of about 6 inches to 10 inches.

[0076] Further, upon the food pan **100** being positioned over the ledge **122**, the cutting board **102** may be positioned within the opening **112** defined in the first side shelf **80** such that the upward facing surface **134** is substantially flush with the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**, as previously set forth. In one embodiment, the cutting board **102** may be made of a wood material, such as bamboo or any other suitable cutting board wood material. In another embodiment, the cutting board **102** may be made of a suitable polymeric material, such as plastic. The cutting board **102** may include substantially similar sizing as the length and width dimensions of the food pan **100**. The cutting board **102** may include the upward facing surface **134** and a downward facing surface **152**, both of which may be interchangeable, depending upon how the user positions the cutting board **102** into the opening **112** of the first side shelf **80**. Further, the cutting board **102** may include a peripheral side **154** defining a depth or cutting board thickness **132** of the cutting board **102**. As previously set forth, the depth may be sized so that the upward facing surface **134** sits flush relative to the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**.

[0077] The cutting board **102** may include a cutting board opening **156** defined therein. Such cutting board opening **156** may be positioned adjacent the periphery or one side of the cutting board **102** and extend completely through the cutting board **102** as a through hole. The cutting board opening **156** may be elongated and sized so that a user can readily grasp the cutting board **102** to remove or slightly lift the cutting board **102** from the opening **112** of the first side shelf **80** to access the food pan **100** or to readily remove the cutting board **102** for, for example, cleaning purposes. In this manner, a user may utilize the upward facing surface **134** of the cutting board **102** for preparing food or for any purpose desired by the user and the food pan **100** may be employed for placing cooked food or non-cooked food. Further, the cutting board opening **156** may be sized so that food or waste may be pushed or slid through the cutting board opening **156**.

[0078] With respect to FIGS. 3 and 5, as previously set forth, the first side shelf **80** may also include a holder device **104**. The holder device **104** may be sized and configured to receive, for example, a single paper towel roll **162** or for hanging cloth towels or the like over a portion of the holder device **104**. In one embodiment, the holder device **104** may be coupled to an underside of the first side shelf **80** and along or adjacent a front side **14** of the first side shelf **80** of the cooking station **10**. The holder device **104** may be L-shaped with a first extension **164** and a second extension **166** each of which may be elongated portions and a single piece structure. The first extension **164** may include a length that is shorter than the second extension **166**. The first extension **164** may include coupling structure (not shown) for coupling to the underside of the first

side shelf **80** such that the first extension **164** may extend downward from the first side shelf **80**. The second extension **166** may extend from an end of the first extension **164** and may extend substantially perpendicular or transverse relative to the first extension **164** such that the second extension **166** may extend substantially horizontal or parallel relative to the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**. The second extension **166** may include a first bend **168** adjacent to a free end **172** of the second extension **166** such that the first bend **168** extends upward. The first and second extensions **164**, **166** may be a single piece structure with a second bend **170** defining the juncture between the first and second extensions **164**, **166**. In this manner, the holder device **104** may extend under the first side shelf **80** so that the holder device **104** does not take away space from the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80** while also being at a convenient location as the user is cooking or cleaning the cooking station **10** or other articles. In another embodiment, the holder device **104** may be coupled to the frame structure **24** of the cooking station **10**. In another embodiment, the holder device **104** may be operatively coupled to the frame structure **24** of the cooking station **10**. In another embodiment, the holder device **104** may be fixedly coupled (meaning coupled to the first side shelf **80** or the frame structure **24** of the cooking station **10**) so as to extend below the first side shelf **80** in a generally horizontal manner relative to the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80**. In another embodiment, the holder device **104** may be in the form of, for example, a cable with latches on ends of the cable to couple at two separate positions on the first side shelf such that the cable is sized to hold, for example, a paper towel roll.

[0079] With reference to FIGS. **4** and **5**, in another embodiment, the cooking station **10** may include multiple hooks **106**, FIG. **4** not showing the holder device **104** for simplistic purposes. The first side shelf **80** may include the multiple hooks **106**, such as a first hook **174**, a second hook **176**, a third hook **178**, and a fourth hook **180**. The multiple hooks **106** may be coupled to a portion of the first and second extensions **86**, **88** of the first side shelf **80**. The hooks **106** may be sized and configured to be attached to, latch, or hang a garbage bag **163**, such as a plastic garbage bag. The hooks **106** may be coupled, for example, adjacent to and below corners of the opening **112** defined in the upper surface **110** of the first side shelf **80** or adjacent to the ledge **122**, **123**. The hooks **106** may include various structures for clipping, latching, grasping or hanging an article, such as a waste or garbage bag **163**. For example, the hooks **106** may be in the form of a J-hook so as to exhibit a J-shaped configuration. In one embodiment, the hooks **106** may define a downward extension **182**, a base **184**, and an upward extension **186**, the downward extension **182** being longer than the upward extension **186**. The downward extension **182** of each of the hooks **106** may be coupled to the framework or a portion of one of the first and second extensions **86**, **88** of the first side shelf **80**. The base **184** may extend inward from the downward extension **182** and the upward extension **186** extends upward from one end of the base **184** to a free end **188**.

[0080] Each of the hooks **106** having the J-shaped configuration may be mounted to an underside of the first side shelf **80** so as to be positionably arranged to hold, for example, a waste bag directly under the cutting board **102** such that each one of the hooks **106** may face or extend outward relative to an oppositely positioned hook **106**. For example, the first hook **174** may extend outward and face toward the front side and the third hook **178** may extend outward and face toward the rear side of the first side shelf **80** such that oppositely positioned hooks **106** face opposite directions. Similarly, the second hook **180** may extend outward and face toward the front side of the first side shelf **80** and the fourth hook **180** may extend outward and face toward the rear side of the first side shelf **80**. In another embodiment, oppositely positioned hooks **106** having the J-shaped configuration may face or extend toward each other. Upon positioning and attaching, for example, a plastic garbage bag **163** on the hooks **106**, a user may readily lift or remove the cutting board **102** and drop waste into the garbage bag **163** or the user may slide or push waste through the cutting board opening **156** to drop waste into the garbage bag **163**. In this embodiment, the user may not position the food pan **100** onto the ledges **123** of the first side shelf **80**.

[0081] With reference to FIGS. **1**, **4**, and **5**, in another embodiment, the user may include the food

pan **100** onto the ledges **122**, **123** (see FIG. 3) with the cutting board **102** positioned over the food pan **100**, and utilize only two of the hooks **106** of the first side shelf **80**. For example, with the food pan **100** and cutting board **102** positioned within the first side shelf **80**, the user may utilize the first hook **174** and the second hook **176** to hang a garbage bag so that the bag may be easily accessible along the front side **14** of the cooking station **10**. Similarly, the user may also effectively utilize the first hook **174** and the third hook **178** so that the bag may be accessible along the first side **18** of the cooking station **10**. In this manner, the hooks **106** may be utilized while also maintaining the benefits of the food pan **100** and the cutting board **102** of the side shelf system **12**.

[0082] In another embodiment, the side shelf system **12** may include a bottle opener device **190**. The bottle opener device **190** may be coupled to the first side shelf **80**. In one embodiment, the bottle opener device **190** may be fixed to the peripheral side wall **116**, such as a front peripheral side wall, of the first side shelf **80**. In another embodiment, the bottle opener device **190** may be operatively coupled to the first side shelf **80** so as to be coupled to a line that may hang from the first side shelf **80**.

[0083] Now with reference to FIGS. 6, 7A, and 7B, another embodiment of side shelf system **210** secured to a cooking station **212** is provided. This embodiment of the side shelf system **210** may include similar structural features as that described and depicted relative to the side shelf system **12** of FIGS. 1 and 3, except in this embodiment the side shelf system **210** of the cooking station **212** may not include a food pan employed therewith. Similar to previous embodiments, the side shelf system **210** of this embodiment may include a side shelf **214** with an upper surface **216**, the upper surface **216** defining an opening **218** therein. Such opening **218** may be sized and configured to receive a cutting board **220**, the cutting board **220** being readily removable from the opening **218**. Further, the side shelf system **210** may include a holder device **222** sized and configured to hold, for example, a paper towel roll, or for hanging cloth towels or for hanging cooking utensils or the like thereon. In another embodiment, the side shelf system may include various hooks **224** positioned and mounted to an underside **226** of the side shelf **214**. Such hooks **224** may be sized and configured for hanging a waste bag, for example, such that the waste bag may be positioned directly under the cutting board **220**. Further, as in previous embodiments, the side shelf may be removably coupled to frame components of the cooking station **212**. For example, sleeve extensions **228** may extend from one side of the side shelf to couple to the frame components of the cooking station **212**.

[0084] Now with reference to FIGS. 8, 9A, and 9B, another embodiment of a side shelf system **230** sized and configured to be coupled to a portable outdoor cooking station **232** is provided. This embodiment of the side shelf system **230** may include similar structural features of previous embodiments of the side shelf system (see FIGS. 1 and 3). For example, similar to previous embodiments, the side shelf system **230** may include a side shelf **234** with an upper surface **236** extending to define a periphery **238**. The upper surface **236** of the side shelf **234** may define an opening **240** therein sized and configured to removably receive a cutting board **242**. Such cutting board **242** may sit over ledges **244** extending laterally inward from the opening **240** such that an upper surface of the cutting board **242** may be somewhat flush or level with the upper surface **236** of the side shelf **234**. Further, the side shelf system **230** may include a holder device **246** sized and configured to hold a paper towel roll or any other suitable utensil or cleaning device.

[0085] In this embodiment, the side shelf system **230** may be coupled to the cooking station **232** such that the upper surface **236** of the side shelf **234** may be positioned somewhat level with burner structure **248** of the cooking station **232** or level with an upper end of a front panel **250** of the cooking station **232**. The side shelf system **230** may include a first coupling extension **252** and a second coupling extension **254**, each of which may be sized and configured to couple to frame structure of the cooking station **232**. For example, the first and second coupling extensions **252**, **254** of this embodiment may extend downward from an underside **256** of the side shelf **234** and adjacent one side of the side shelf **234** in a direction perpendicular relative to the upper surface **236**

of the side shelf **234**. Such first and second coupling extensions **252, 254** may be coupled to corresponding frame structure of the cooking station **232** and may be in the form of sleeve structure, for example. Further, in this embodiment, the upper surface **236** may define venting structure **258** in the form of slots or narrow openings extending along one side of the upper surface **236** adjacent the burner structure **248** of the cooking station **232**.

[0086] With reference to FIGS. **10** and **11**, in another embodiment, an outdoor cooking station **272** similar to FIG. **8**, may include another version of a waste bag holder **270**. For example, the cooking station **272** may include a vertical side panel **274** that may be positioned between two side legs **276** of the cooking station **272**. The waste bag holder **270** may be sized and configured to be suspended over a top portion **278** and top edge **279** of the vertical side panel **274**. Further, such waste bag holder **270** may be positioned over the vertical side panel **274** so that the waste bag holder **270** extends outward and below a side shelf **280** coupled to the outdoor cooking station **272**. The side shelf **280** with a cutting board **286** disposed therein, as previously set forth in previous embodiments, may be positioned a distance **282** above the waste bag holder **270**. Upon positioning a waste bag (not shown) over a portion of the waste bag holder **270**, food product waste or other waste may be dropped through a throughhole **284** defined in the cutting board **286** or through an opening **288** defined in the side shelf **280** (upon removing the cutting board). Further, with the waste bag holder **270** positioned the distance **282** below the side shelf **280**, the distance **282** between an underside of the side shelf **280** and the waste bag and waste bag holder **270** facilitates ready access to drop waste from one of the sides surrounding the waste bag and waste bag holder **270**. In this manner, waste may readily be disposed of while cooking with the side shelf system while substantially blocking viewability of the waste at the cooking station **272**. Further, as depicted in FIG. **10**, the waste bag holder **270** may be employed with the side shelf system, described in previous embodiments, or the waste bag holder **270** may be employed with any suitable vertically oriented panel, without the side shelf system previously described.

[0087] With reference to FIGS. **10** and **12**, the waste bag holder **270** may be sized and configured to be vertically aligned with the side shelf **280** such that, upon positioning a waste bag over the waste bag holder **270**, the waste bag holder **270** may hold the waste bag in an opened spread-out state to be disposed directly below the side shelf **280** with the distance **282** therebetween. In one embodiment, the waste bag holder **270** may be sized and configured to be manually positioned over the vertical side panel **274**. In another embodiment, the waste bag holder **270** may be sized and configured to be readily removable so as to be manually lifted up and removed from the vertical side panel **274**.

[0088] In one embodiment, the waste bag holder **270** may extend with a single rod structure. The single structure may be made from an elongated rod-like structure with multiple bends along an elongated length of the rod-like structure. In another embodiment, the single rod structure may be a unitary, seamless, and monolithic structure. In another embodiment, the single rod structure may be employed without any other additional components attached thereto, except for a waste bag.

[0089] The waste bag holder **270** may include first and second engaging portions **290, 292** each extending to a holding portion **294**, the first and second engaging portions **290, 292** being spaced apart from each other. Such spaced distance between the first and second engaging portions **290, 292** may be less than a distance between the legs **276** of the cooking station **272** so as to readily be positioned over the vertical side panel **274**. The holding portion **294** may extend with a u-shaped structure **296** with ends defining and extending to first and second corner portions **298, 300**, each of the first and second corner portions **298, 300** interconnected to and extending from the respective first and second engaging portions **290, 292**. Such first and second engaging portions **290, 292** may each extend with a hook like configuration sized and configured to be positioned over the vertical side panel **274**.

[0090] For example, with reference to FIGS. **12-14**, the first and second engaging portions **290, 292** of the rod structure may each include a single back extension **302** with a free end **304**, the back

extension **302** configured to extend along a back side of the vertical side panel **274** (FIG. **10**). In other words, the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** each only exhibits one portion, the back extension **302**, extending linearly (without bends) along the back side of the vertical side panel **274**. The back extension **302** may extend from the free end **304** to a first bend **306** to then extend and define a top extension **308**, the top extension **308** extending substantially orthogonal relative to the back extension **302**. The top extension **308** may be configured to extend along the top edge **279** of the vertical side panel **274** (see FIG. **10**). The top extension **308** may extend to a second bend **310** to then extend downward and inward (away from the u-shaped structure **296**) to define a front extension **312**. The front extension **312** may extend downwardly inward with a first angle **314** such that the front extension **312** may extend adjacently along a front side **316** of the top portion **278** of the vertical side panel **274**. The first angle **314** may be an acute angle relative to the vertically extending back extension **302**. The front extension **312** may extend to a third bend **318** such that a backside **320** of the front extension **312** may engage the front side **316** (FIG. **10**) of the vertical side panel **274**. In another embodiment, due to the first angle **314** of the front extension **312**, the backside **320** of the front extension **312** that engages the vertical side panel **274** may be adjacent to or along a portion of the third bend **318** at an engagement point **322** or engagement portion. Such engagement point **322** of the front extension **312** of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may stabilize the waste bag holder **270** with the back and top extensions **302**, **308** positioned over the vertical side panel **274**. The third bend **318** defined in the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may extend to define a lower extension **324**, the lower extension **324** extending to a fourth bend **326**. The lower extension **324** for each of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may be a transition member between first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** and the holding portion **294**.

[0091] As previously set forth, the holding portion **294** may include the first and second corner portions **298**, **300** corresponding with the respective first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** and ends of the u-shaped structure **296**. For example, the lower extension **324** extends to the fourth bend **326**, which extends to define a holding extension **328**. The holding extension **328** may extend between the fourth bend **326** and a fifth bend **330** such that the holding extension **328** may extend upward and inward at a second angle **332** to the fifth bend **330**. The second angle **332** may extend at an acute angle relative to the vertical, such as the vertically extending back extension **302**. At the fifth bend **330**, the holding extension **328** extends to one of the ends of the u-shaped structure **296**. Further, the fifth bend **330** and holding extension **328** of the holding portion **294** defines each of the first and second corner portions **298**, **300**. In this manner, the first and second corner portions **298**, **300** extend to the respective ends of the u-shaped structure **296**.

[0092] With reference to FIGS. **12-15**, the u-shaped structure **296** of the holding portion **294** may include an outer extension **334** extending between first and second leg extensions **336**, **338**. Each of the first and second leg extensions **336**, **338** extending directly from the respective first and second corner portions **298**, **300** or the fifth bend **330**. Further, the first and second leg extensions **336**, **338** may extend substantially orthogonal relative to the outer extension **334**. With this arrangement, the holding portion **294** defining the u-shaped structure **296** and the first and second corner portions **298**, **300** may readily facilitate spreading and wrapping a waste bag (not shown) along an opening defined in an end portion of the waste bag (not shown) over the holding portion **294** of the waste bag holder **270**.

[0093] As depicted in FIGS. **12-17**, in one embodiment, portions of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may be aligned with portions of the holding portion **294**. For example, the first engaging portion **290**, in its entirety, may be aligned with the first leg extension **336** such that the first engaging portion **290** (with its various bends and extensions, such as the back extension **302**, front extension **312**, lower extension **324**, and holding extension **328**) and the first leg extension **336** extend within a first plane **340**. Similarly, the second engaging portion **292**, in its entirety, may be aligned with the second leg extension **338** such that the second engaging portion **292** and the

second leg extension **338** extend within a second plane **342**. Such first and second planes **340**, **342**, as previously defined, may extend substantially parallel relative to each other. Further, in another embodiment, the top extension **308** of both the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** and the u-shaped structure **296** of the holding portion **294** may extend within a third plane **344**. The third plane **344** may extend substantially orthogonal relative to the first and second planes **340**, **342**. In this manner, the u-shaped structure **296** may be aligned level with the top extension **308** of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292**.

[0094] Further, the lower extension **324** may define a longitudinal lower axis **346** along its length. The top extension **308** of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may extend longitudinally to define a top axis **348**. The first and second leg extensions **336**, **338** may each extend longitudinally to define first and second leg axes **350**, **352**. The lower axis **346** defined by the lower extension **324** may extend substantially parallel relative to the top axis **348** defined by the top extension **308** and the first and second leg axes **350**, **352** defined by respective first and second leg extensions **336**, **338**. Further, the top axis **348** defined by the top extension may extend substantially coaxially relative to the first and second leg axes **350**, **352** defined by the first and second leg extensions **336**, **338**. In another embodiment, the lower extension **324**, the front extension **312** and the holding extension **328**, may extend so as to exhibit a bottom half of a triangular configuration. In another embodiment, the first and second leg extensions **336**, **338** may extend substantially parallel relative to each other. In another embodiment, the outer extension **334** of the u-shaped structure **296** may extend substantially orthogonal relative to the first and second leg extensions **336**, **338**. With this arrangement, portions of the first and second engaging portions **290**, **292** may be aligned with portions of the holding portion **294**. Further, such alignment and symmetrical characteristics of the waste bag holder **270** provides a low profile device with a minimized footprint. Such low profile and minimized footprint is advantageous as an accessory to an outdoor cooking station, especially when managing the cleanliness of the area in which the user is cooking with the outdoor cooking station.

[0095] Now with reference to FIGS. **18** and **19**, another embodiment of a waste bag holder **360** is provided. The waste bag holder **360** may be sized and configured to be removably coupled to a cooking station **362** and is configured to hold a waste bag **364** (the waste bag shown in dashed lines in FIG. **18**). This embodiment of the waste bag holder **360** includes similar structural characteristics as the previous embodiment, except a back extension **366** of this embodiment of the waste bag holder **360** may extend upward above a top extension **368** instead of downward, as in the previous embodiment. For example, the waste bag holder **360** of this embodiment may include a holding portion **370** extending with a u-shaped structure having first and second leg extensions **372**, **374** and an outer extension **376** extending between ends of the first and second leg extensions **372**, **374**. Further, the waste bag holder **360** may include first and second engagement portions **378**, **380** and first and second corner portions **382**, **384**. The first and second corner portions **382**, **384** may be sized and configured to cooperate with the holding portion **370** for wrapping a peripheral opening of the waste bag **364** thereto. The first and second engagement portions **378**, **380** may be sized and configured to couple to a side surface **386** of the cooking station **362**, such as an upper portion **388** of legs **390** of a framework **392** of the cooking station **362** or within a portion of the framework **392** supporting the heating elements and, for example, a griddle **394** of the cooking station **362**. The side surface **386** may define first and second apertures **396**, **398** therein, the first and second apertures **396**, **398** sized and configured to receive a free end **400** of the back extension **366** of the respective first and second engagement portions **378**, **380**. With this arrangement, the free ends **400** of the back extensions **366** may be inserted into respective first and second apertures **396**, **398** so that the back extensions **366** may be positioned within a hollow portion of the framework **392** of the cooking station **362**. As in the previous embodiment, the first and second engagement portions **378**, **380** may each include structure for an engagement point **402**. Such engagement point **402** of each of the first and second engagement portions **378**, **380** may contact the side surface **386** of the



cooking station **362** adjacently below the first and second apertures **396, 398**. In this manner, cooperation of the back extensions **366** within the corresponding first and second apertures **396, 398** and the engagement point **402** of each of the first and second engagement portions **378, 380** of the waste bag holder **360** may facilitate suspending the waste bag holder **360** along one side of the cooking station **362** so that a waste bag **364** may be positioned around or over the holding portion **370** of the waste bag holder **360**, similar to that described in the previous embodiments.

[0096] With reference to FIGS. **20** and **21**, another embodiment of a waste bag holder **410** that may be employed with an outdoor cooking station **412** is provided. In this embodiment, the waste bag holder **410** may be one part of a waste bag holder system **411**. As in previous embodiments, the outdoor cooking station **412** may be a gas fueled type cooking station, or any other type of cooking station, fueled with wood, lump charcoal, charcoal briquettes, wood pellets, or any other type of fuel. Further, as in previous embodiments, the outdoor cooking station **412** may include a main body **414** with first and second side shelves **416, 418** on opposite first and second sides **420, 422**, respectively, of the main body **414**. Further, one or both of the first and second side shelves **416, 418** may include a cutting board **424** positioned within or associated with the first and second side shelves **416, 418**, similar to that set forth in previous embodiments herein.

[0097] Further, as in the previous embodiments, the waste bag holder **410** may be sized and configured for holding a waste bag (similar to the waste bag **364** shown in FIG. **18**). However, in this embodiment, the waste bag holder **410** is not readily removable from the cooking station **412**. Further, in this embodiment, the waste bag holder **410** may be pivotably coupled to the outdoor cooking station **412**. In one embodiment, the waste bag holder **410** may be operatively coupled to the outdoor cooking station **412** with first and second brackets **426, 428**. For example, the waste bag holder **410** may be pivotably coupled to structure associated with the first and second brackets **426, 428** so as to be moveable between a use position and a stowed position (or folded or pivoted position). The use position may be a first position or primary position in which the holder **410** may generally extend in a horizontal orientation, the holder **410** sized and configured to hold a waste bag thereon, similar to that previously set forth. The stowed position may be a storage position such that the holder **410** may generally extend in a vertical orientation, the holder **410** pivotably moveable relative to the main body **414** of the cooking station **412** or the first and second brackets **426, 428**. In this manner, the holder **410** may be in the use position and, if desired by the user of the cooking station **412**, the holder **410** may be manually moved to a different orientation or position so as to extend alongside a vertically extending surface **430** of the main body **414** of the cooking station **412**. Such vertical orientation or position of the holder **410** may be advantageous for purposes of minimizing a footprint for the region proximate the coupling of the holder **410** to the cooking station **412**, for example.

[0098] Now reference to FIGS. **22-28**, the waste bag holder **410** and its functionality will now be described without the cooking station shown in the drawings, for simplification purposes. With respect to FIGS. **22, 22A, 23A, 23B, and 24**, the waste bag holder **410** is shown in the use position with the first and second brackets **426, 428**. The waste bag holder **410** may include similar structural features as previous embodiments of the waste bag holder. For example, the waste bag holder **410** may extend with rod structure **432** having various bends along its length, the length extending between free ends **438**. The waste bag holder **410** may extend with a u-shaped profile or u-shaped portion **435** having an outer extension **434** that may extend between first and second extensions **436, 438**. The first and second extensions **436, 438** may each extend from opposite end portions **439** of the outer extension **434** so as to extend inward toward the respective first and second brackets **426, 428** and/or to respective first and second corner portions **440, 442** or bends in the rod structure **432**. The first and second corner portions **440, 442** may at least partially be defined by ends or end portions **443** of the first and second extensions **436, 438** and u-shaped portion **435**. The first and second corner portions **440, 442**, in conjunction with the first and second extensions **436, 438** and outer extension **434** may act to support a waste bag (similar to waste bag

**364** of FIG. **18**), as set forth in previous embodiments.

[0099] The rod structure **432** from each of the first and second corner portions **440**, **442** may extend downward and away from the corresponding first and second brackets **426**, **428** so as to extend with an angle **444**, as in previous embodiments. The rod structure **432** may extend at the angle **444** with an angled extension **446** relative to the respective first and second extensions **436**, **438** such that the angled extension **446** may then extend with multiple bends to define first and second u-shape structures **448**, **450**. In another embodiment, the rod structure **432** may extend with the angled extension **446** to then extend with one or more bends so as to define respective first and second diverging portions **452**, **454**. Such first and second diverging portions **452**, **454** may diverge outward from the respective first and second u-shaped structures **448**, **450** of the holder **410**. The first and second diverging portions **452**, **454** may diverge outward to extend toward the corresponding first and second brackets **426**, **428**. Such first and second diverging portions **452**, **454** may facilitate the first and second extensions **436**, **438** of the u-shaped portion **435** from interfering with the first and second brackets **426**, **428** upon the holder **410** being pivoted between the use and stowed positions.

[0100] Further, with respect to FIGS. **22A**, **23** and **23B**, from the first and second diverging portions **452**, **454**, the rod structure **432** may extend with first and second engaging portions **456**, **458**. Each of the first and second engaging portions **456**, **458** may include a first bend **460** and a second bend **462** with a first elongate portion **464** between the first and second bends **460**, **462**. From the second bend **462**, a second elongate portion **466** may extend toward a free end **468**. Such first and second elongate portions **464**, **466** may extend generally parallel relative to each other. In one embodiment, the first and second elongate portions **464**, **466** and second bend **462** may exhibit a j-shaped structure. In another embodiment, at least one of the first and second bends **460**, **462** may extend with a radial component **463** such that at least one of the first and second bends may also be referenced as first and second radial bends. Such first and second bends may also be referenced as first and second radial bends.

[0101] Now with reference to FIGS. **22**, **22A** and **23B**, the first and second brackets **426**, **428** will be described. Each of the first and second brackets **426**, **428** may be L-shaped brackets with a base **470** and an outward extension **472**, the outward extension **472** extending orthogonal relative to the base **470**. The base **470** may be secured, for example, to the main body **414** of the outdoor cooking station **412** (see FIG. **20**) with bolts such that the first and second brackets **426**, **428** may be spaced to pivotably couple the holder **410** to the first and second brackets **426**, **428**. The outward extension **472** of the first and second brackets **426**, **428** may include a coupling structure **474** and an abutment structure **476**. The coupling structure **474** and the abutment structure **476** may be in the form of bolts or any other suitable structure to facilitate pivotably coupling the holder **410** thereto as well as to facilitate supporting or abutting the holder **410** at the use position, discussed further herein. Such coupling structure **474** and abutment structure **476** may be sized and configured to cooperate with the first and second engaging portions **456**, **458** of the holder **410** to facilitate the holder **410** to be supported and moved between the use and stowed positions. In one embodiment, the coupling structure **474** for each of the first and second brackets **426**, **428** may be axially aligned relative to each other. In another embodiment, the coupling structure **474** of each of the first and second brackets may define a pivot axis **482**, the pivot axis **482** extending axially through the coupling structure **474** of each of the first and second brackets **426**, **428**. In another embodiment, the coupling structure **474** may define a radial structure that may correspond with the radial component **463** of the first or second bends **460**, **462** of each of the first and second engaging members **456**, **458** to facilitate pivoting or rotating the holder **410** about the aligned coupling structures **474**. In another embodiment, at least one of the first and second bends **460**, **462** of each of the first and second engaging portions **456**, **458** of the holder **410** may include the radial component **463** so that the holder **410** may more readily pivot about the coupling structure **474**. For example, in another embodiment, the second bend **462** of each of the first and second engaging

portions **456, 458** may include an inner surface that extends with the radial component **463** to facilitate pivoting the holder **410** about the coupling structure **474**. In another embodiment, the first and second bends **460, 462** may include the radial component **463** so that the first and second bends **460, 462** may nest and correspond with surface structure of the coupling structure **474** of the first and second engaging portions **456, 458**. In this manner, the first and second bends **460, 462** having structure, such as the radial component **463**, that corresponds with the structure of the coupling structure **474** may assist the holder **410** to remain stationary upon being in the use or stowed positions, as well as assist in the ease of pivoting the holder **410** between the use or stowed positions.

[0102] Upon the waste bag holder **410** being in the use position, the u-shaped portion **435** of the rod structure **432** may be supported in a generally horizontal orientation such that the u-shaped portion **435** may extend generally within a horizontally extending plane. Such horizontal orientation may be held or maintained with the first and second engaging portions **456, 458** of the holder **410** engaging the first and second brackets **426, 428**, respectively. For example, in one embodiment, the first bend **460** of each of the first and second engaging portions **456, 458** may extend at least partially around the coupling structure **474** of the respective first and second brackets **426, 428**. Further, the first elongate portion **464** extending from the first bend **460** of the first and second engaging portions **456, 458** may engage or abut the abutment structure **476** of the first and second brackets **426, 428**. In this manner, the U-shaped portion **435** of the holder **410** may be suspended in the generally horizontal orientation, upon the holder **410** being in the use position.

[0103] With reference to FIGS. 22, 25 and 25A, in order to proceed in moving the holder **410** from the use position or suspended horizontal position to the stowed position, the holder **410** may first be moved to a lifted position, as shown by arrow **478**. For example, the first and second engaging members **456, 458** may be moved upward relative to the coupling structure **474** of the first and second brackets **426, 428** so that the coupling structure **474** may be moved between the first and second elongate portions **464, 466** toward the second bend **462**. Upon the coupling structure **474** being positioned adjacent the second bend **462**, the first elongate portion **464** may be moved away from the abutment structure **476** so that the first elongate portion **464** may be moved above the abutment structure **476** for bypassing the abutment structure **476** when moving the holder **410** to the stowed position. In the lifted position, the holder **410** may remain in the generally horizontal orientation.

[0104] With reference to FIGS. 25, 26, 26A, and 26B, upon the holder **410** being moved to the lifted position, the holder **410** may pivot or rotate about the pivot axis **482** and the coupling structure **474**, as depicted by rotational arrow **480**, so that the holder **410** may be moved to the stowed position. Such pivoting of the holder **410** may be implemented such that the second bend **462** of the first and second engaging portions **456, 458** of the holder **410** may move around the pivot axis **482** and the coupling structure **474** of the first and second brackets **426, 428**, respectively. In the stowed position, the holder **410** may be positioned so as to extend in a generally vertical orientation. Upon the holder **410** being moved to the pivoted position or stowed position, the u-shaped portion **435** of the holder **410** may extend generally within a vertical plane or in the vertical orientation alongside the vertically extending surface **430** of the main body **414** of the outdoor cooking station **412**, as depicted in FIG. 21.

[0105] As desired by the user, the holder **410** may be readily moved from the stowed position to the use position by pivoting the holder **410** upward from the stowed vertical position so that the u-shaped portion extends generally horizontally and then the holder **410** may be moved downward (opposite direction of arrow **478** in FIG. 25) so that the coupling structure **474** sits within the first bend **460** and the first elongate portion **464** abuts against the abutment structure **476**, as depicted in FIGS. 22 and 22A. In this manner, the holder **410** may be readily pivoted and re-oriented from the vertical stowed position (FIG. 21) to the horizontal use position (FIG. 20). As depicted in FIGS. 20 and 21, such stowed position of the holder **410** may be advantageous for reasons of minimizing the

footprint of the holder **410** so that the holder sits vertically alongside the main body **414** of the cooking station **412**. Further, the horizontal use position of the holder **410** is advantageous to users to readily facilitate holding and supporting a trash bag in an open position around the u-shaped portion **435** of the holder **410** so that a user can better keep the area clean around the cooking station **412** while cooking food, similar to that discussed in previous embodiments herein.

[0106] With reference to FIGS. **27**, **27A**, **28** and **28A**, another embodiment of a waste bag holder system **500** sized and configured to couple to an outdoor cooking station **502** is provided. In this embodiment, the waste bag holder system **500** may function in a similar manner as in the previous embodiment, except in this embodiment, the first and second brackets of the previous embodiment may not be employed with the system. For example, in this embodiment, the waste bag holder system **500** may include a waste bag holder **504** sized and configured to pivot about coupling structure **506** such that the waste bag holder **504** may be pivotably moveable between a use position and a stowed position. Further, the waste bag holder **504** may cooperate with an abutment structure **508**, upon the waste bag holder **504** being in the use position. Further, in this embodiment, the coupling structure **506** and the abutment structure **508** may be fixed directly to a **503** main body of the cooking station **502**. In one embodiment, the coupling structure **506** and the abutment structure **508** may be fixed directly to an inside surface **510** of a front vertically extending frame component **512** and a rear vertically extending frame component **514**. In some embodiments, the coupling and abutment structures **506**, **508** may be directly fixed to vertically extending frame components that may be legs. In another embodiment, the coupling structure **506** and/or the abutment structure **508** may be in the form of one or more bolts or the like. Similar to the previous embodiment, the coupling structures **506** fixed to each of the front and rear vertically extending frame components **512**, **514** may be aligned so as to define a pivot axis **516** so that the waste bag holder **504** may be pivotably moved to the use and stowed positions. Further, the abutment structures **508** may be coupled to the main body, adjacent corresponding ones of the coupling structures **506**, such that the abutment structures **508** may be aligned relative to each other. Further, the waste bag holder **504** of this embodiment may include similar structural and functional characteristics as in the previous embodiment. For example, the waste bag holder **504** may extend with a single piece rod structure with multiple bends along the length thereof to define a u-shaped portion **518** and first and second engaging portions **520**, **522**. Such first and second engaging portions **520**, **522** may be sized and configured to cooperate with the coupling and abutment structures **506**, **508**, as described in the previous embodiment. Further, as in the previous embodiment, upon the waste bag holder **504** being positioned in the use position, the u-shaped portion **518** may extend with its components to sit substantially or generally within a horizontal plane, meaning that the u-shaped portion **518** may be oriented within the horizontal plane or may be oriented, as a whole, in a horizontal orientation. Upon the waste bag holder **504** being positioned in a stowed position, the u-shaped portion **518** may extend with its u-shaped components to sit substantially or generally within a vertical plane, meaning that the u-shaped portion may be oriented within the vertical plane or may be oriented, as a whole, in a vertical orientation or a substantially vertical orientation. In this manner, the waste bag holder **504** with its first and second engaging portions **520**, **522** may be employed to abut or be supported in the use position as well as be manually lifted and pivoted to manually move the waste bag holder **504** between the use and stowed positions.

[0107] The various structural components of the various embodiments of the cooking station and the side shelf system and any other structural components thereof, such as the waste bag holder or other components, may be formed of various metallic materials, such as steel, stainless steel, copper, aluminum or any other suitable material with high temperature ratings, such as various suitable polymeric materials, and be formed from known structural components, such as sheet metal at various gauges/thicknesses or other known metallic structures, such as tubing and rod structure or the like, and may be formed and manufactured through various known processes in the

art, such as casting, welding, rolling, bending, pressing, fastening, etc., as known by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0108] While the invention may be susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and have been described in detail herein. Further, the structural features of any one embodiment disclosed herein may be combined or replaced by any one of the structural features of another embodiment set forth herein. However, it should be understood that the invention is not intended to be limited to the particular forms disclosed. Rather, the invention includes all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the following appended claims.

## Claims

1. An outdoor station configured to support a waste bag therewith, the outdoor station comprising: a main body with frame components and panels coupled together to form the main body; a first coupling structure and a second coupling structure each configured to be operatively coupled to the main body, the first and second coupling structures being aligned with each other so as to define a pivot axis; a first abutment structure and a second abutment structure each configured to be operatively coupled to the main body, the first and second abutment structures configured to be positioned adjacent the first and second coupling structures, respectively; and a waste bag holder extending with rod structure and configured to be pivotably coupled to the first and second coupling structures, the waste bag holder including: a bag supporting portion extending to first and second corner portions, the bag supporting portion and the first and second corner portions sized and configured to facilitate holding the waste bag thereto; and a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion, the first and second engaging portions including the rod structure extending from the respective first and second corner portions, the first and second engaging portions being pivotably coupled to the first and second coupling structures, respectively; wherein the waste bag holder is pivotably moveable about the pivot axis to at least one of a use position and a stowed position.
2. The outdoor station of claim 1, wherein, in the use position, the first and second engaging portions abut against the first and second abutment structures, respectively, so that the bag supporting portion is positionable within a generally horizontally oriented plane.
3. The outdoor station of claim 1, wherein, in the stowed position, the bag supporting portion is positionable within a generally vertically oriented plane such that the bag supporting portion extends along a vertically oriented surface of the main body.
4. The outdoor station of claim 1, wherein the rod structure extends to define a length extending between free ends such that the rod structure extends with multiple bends along the length.
5. The outdoor station of claim 1, wherein the bag supporting portion extends with a u-shaped structure.
6. The outdoor station of claim 1, wherein the main body is configured to support one or more heating elements in the main body, the main body including a cooking surface associated therewith, the cooking surface configured to be heated by the one or more heating elements.
7. An outdoor station configured to support a waste bag therewith, the outdoor station comprising: a main body with frame components and panels coupled together to form the main body; first and second brackets sized and configured to be coupled to the main body, the first and second brackets each including a coupling structure and an abutment structure, the coupling structure of the first and second brackets being aligned with each other so as to define a pivot axis; and a waste bag holder extending with rod structure to define a bag supporting portion and first and second engaging portions, the bag supporting portion sized and configured to facilitate holding the waste bag thereto, the first and second engaging portions being pivotably coupled to the coupling

structure of the first and second brackets, respectively, such that the waste bag holder is configured to be pivotably moveable about the pivot axis to move the waste bag holder to at least one of a use position and a stowed position.

**8.** The outdoor station of claim 7, wherein, in the use position, the first and second engaging portions abut against the first and second abutment structures, respectively, so that the bag supporting portion is positionable within a generally horizontally oriented plane.

**9.** The outdoor station of claim 7, wherein, in the stowed position, the bag supporting portion is positionable within a generally vertically oriented plane such that the u-shaped portion extends along a vertically oriented surface of the main body.

**10.** The outdoor station of claim 7, wherein the rod structure extends to define a length extending between free ends such that the rod structure extends with multiple bends along the length.

**11.** The outdoor station of claim 7, wherein the bag supporting portion extends with a u-shaped structure.

**12.** The outdoor station of claim 7, wherein the main body is configured to support one or more heating elements in the main body, the main body including a cooking surface associated therewith, the cooking surface configured to be heated by the one or more heating elements.

**13.** An outdoor station configured to support a waste bag therewith, the outdoor station comprising: a main body with frame components and panels coupled together to form the main body, one of the frame components or panels defining a vertically extending wall, the main body configured to support a waste bag holder to the vertically extending wall, the waste bag holder including: a bag supporting portion with ends extending to a corner portion, the bag supporting portion sized to receive the waste bag therewith; and a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion, the first and second engaging portions each including a back extension with a free end, the back extension configured to extend vertically and linearly along a length of the back extension, the length of the back extension configured to extend along an inner side of the vertically extending wall of the main body, the back extension extending to an upper extension such that the upper extension is configured to extend through an opening defined in the vertically extending wall to then extend downward to define a front extension, the front extension extending at an angle relative to the back extension and having a surface to abut against an outer surface of the vertically extending wall of the main body, the front extension extending to a lower extension extending away from the front extension to then bend and extend upward to the corner portion.

**14.** The outdoor station of claim 13, wherein the first and second engaging portions and the bag supporting portion is a single rod structure with multiple bends therein.

**15.** The outdoor station of claim 13, wherein the bag supporting portion extends with a u-shaped structure.

**16.** The outdoor station of claim 13, wherein, upon the front extension being positioned against the outer surface of the vertically extending wall, the bag supporting portion extends generally horizontal relative to the vertically extending wall.

**17.** The outdoor station of claim 13, wherein, upon the front extension being positioned against the outer surface of the vertically extending wall, the back extension extends upward to the free end along the inner side of the vertically extending wall.

**18.** The outdoor station of claim 13, wherein the main body is configured to support one or more heating elements in the main body, the main body including a cooking surface associated therewith, the cooking surface configured to be heated by the one or more heating elements.

**19.** A waste bag holder device configured to hold a waste bag and configured to be removably coupled to a vertically extending wall of a main body of an outdoor station, the waste bag holder device comprising: a bag supporting portion with ends extending to a corner portion, the bag supporting portion sized to receive the waste bag therewith; and a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion, the first and second engaging portions each including a back extension with a free end, the back extension configured to extend vertically and linearly along a length of the

back extension, the length of the back extension configured to extend along an inner side of the vertically extending wall of the main body, the back extension extending to an upper extension such that the upper extension is configured to extend through an opening defined in the vertically extending wall to then extend downward to define a front extension, the front extension extending at an angle relative to the back extension and having a surface to abut against an outer surface of the vertically extending wall of the main body, the front extension extending to a lower extension extending away from the front extension to then bend and extend upward to the corner portion.

**20.** The waste bag holder device of claim 19, wherein the first and second engaging portions and the bag supporting portion is a single rod structure with multiple bends therein.

**21.** The waste bag holder device of claim 19, wherein the bag supporting portion extends with a u-shaped structure.

**22.** The waste bag holder device of claim 19, wherein, upon the front extension being positioned against the outer surface of the vertically extending wall, the bag supporting portion extends generally horizontal relative to the vertically extending wall.

**23.** The waste bag holder device of claim 19, wherein, upon the front extension being positioned against the outer surface of the vertically extending wall, the back extension extends upward to the free end along the inner side of the vertically extending wall.

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