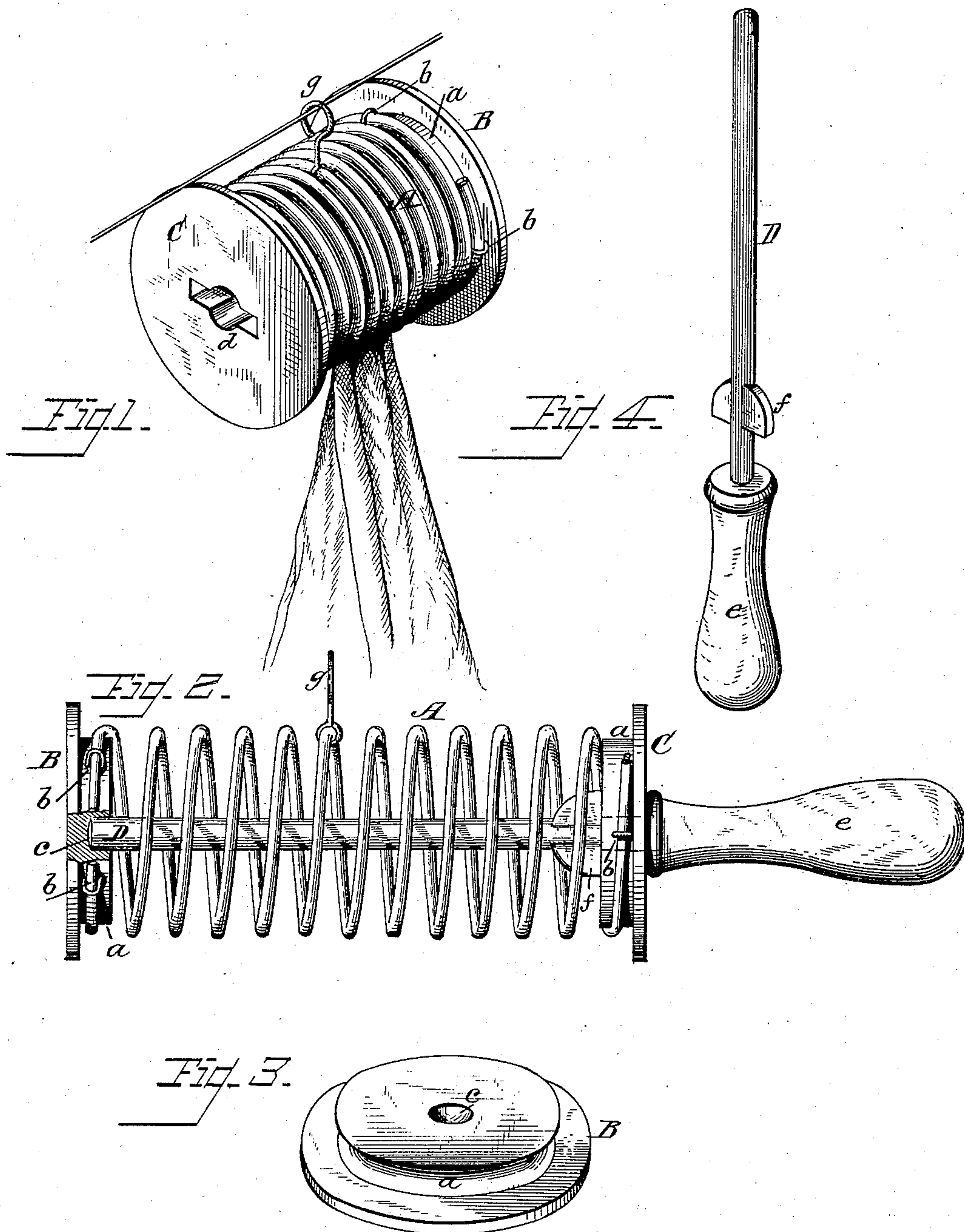


(No Model.)

H. MEINHARDT.
MERCHANDISE HOLDER.

No. 312,742.

Patented Feb. 24, 1885.



WITNESSES
F. L. Ourand.
L. L. Miller.

INVENTOR
Henry Meinhardt,
per Cha. H. Fowler

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY MEINHARDT, OF PERU, INDIANA.

MERCHANDISE-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 312,742, dated February 24, 1885.

Application filed January 17, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY MEINHARDT, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Peru, in the county of Miami and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Merchandise-Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of my improved holder, showing it suspended and an article held between the coils. Fig. 2 is a side elevation, partly in section, with the device in position to retain the coils expanded or separated from each other for introducing between them the articles to be exhibited; Fig. 3, a detail view in perspective of one of the heads to which the end of the coiled wire is secured, and Fig. 4 a similar view of the device for retaining the coils expanded or separated from each other.

The present invention has for its object to provide a simple and effective device for exhibiting merchandise—such as handkerchiefs, stockings, suspenders, and the like—whereby they can be suspended and readily examined and removed, as the purchaser may desire, without injury or wear to the goods. These objects I attain by a device constructed substantially as shown in the drawings and hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a spirally and closely coiled wire of any suitable length and the coils of any suitable diameter. This spirally-coiled wire constitutes the holder, and has its ends preferably connected to suitable heads, B C, which may be provided with annular shoulders *a*, for securing thereto the ends of the wire by staples *b* or other convenient fastenings. Any suitable heads, however, may be substituted for those shown, and of any desirable shape; or they may be dispensed with altogether, and the extremities of the wire bent to form a loop, or in any shape so as to answer the purpose of heads; but I prefer the construction as shown in the drawings as being more practical for the purpose intended.

In Fig. 3 I have shown the annular shoulder

formed with a circumferential groove, into which is pressed or sprung the end of the wire coil, thus dispensing with the use of staples or other like fastenings, this as an illustration being one of the various means that may be employed for attaching the ends of the wire coil to the heads. The head B is formed upon its inner side with a socket, *c*, and the head C with a key-hole, *d*, for the introduction of a suitable device for holding expanded or separated the coils of the holder, as shown in Fig. 2. The most convenient device that I have found for the purpose is the rod D, provided with a suitable handle, *e*, and key *f*.

When it is desired to supply the holder with articles of merchandise, the rod D is passed through the hole *d* in such position as to allow the key *f* to register with and pass through said hole when the coiled wire is sufficiently expanded, the end of the rod entering the socket *c*, to hold the rod in a perfectly-straight line and prevent it from slipping. After the coiled wire is distended, as shown in Fig. 2, the rod is turned to bring the key in a position at right angles to the key-hole, thus holding the coils of the wire separated sufficiently to enable the articles to be displayed, inserted one between each of the coils. This being done, the rod is turned so as to bring the key thereon in line with the key-hole, after which it is withdrawn, when the contractive qualities of the coils will cause them to come together, as shown in Fig. 1, thus firmly holding between them the articles, while at the same time they can be readily removed without danger of tearing or otherwise injuring the goods and be conveniently examined by the customer.

If desired, the holder may be provided with means for suspending it from a nail, cord, or wire, such as a hook, *g*, or other like device—one at each end or at the center or any point along the holder.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A merchandise-holder consisting of a spiral closely-coiled wire, in combination with a device for holding distended the coiled wire, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A merchandise-holder consisting of a closely-coiled wire having suitable heads connected thereto, in combination with means,

substantially as described, for holding distended the wire coil, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A merchandise-holder consisting of a
5 closely-coiled wire provided at its ends with suitable heads, in combination with a device for holding the wire coil distended, consisting of a rod and key, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

10 4. A merchandise-holder consisting of a closely-coiled wire having connected to its ends suitable heads, one of which is provided with a key-hole, in combination with a suitable device for holding the coiled wire distended, substantially as and for the purpose
15 described.

5. A merchandise-holder consisting of a closely-coiled wire having connected to its ends suitable heads, one of which has a key-

hole, in combination with a device for distending said wire coil, consisting of a rod provided with a key, substantially as and for the purpose set forth. 20

6. A merchandise-holder consisting of a closely-coiled wire connected at its ends with
25 shouldered heads, one of which has a key-hole, in combination with a device for distending the coiled wire, consisting of a rod provided with a key, substantially as and for the purpose specified. 30

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

HENRY MEINHARDT.

Witnesses:

NOTT N. ANTRIM,
JAMES M. BROWN.