

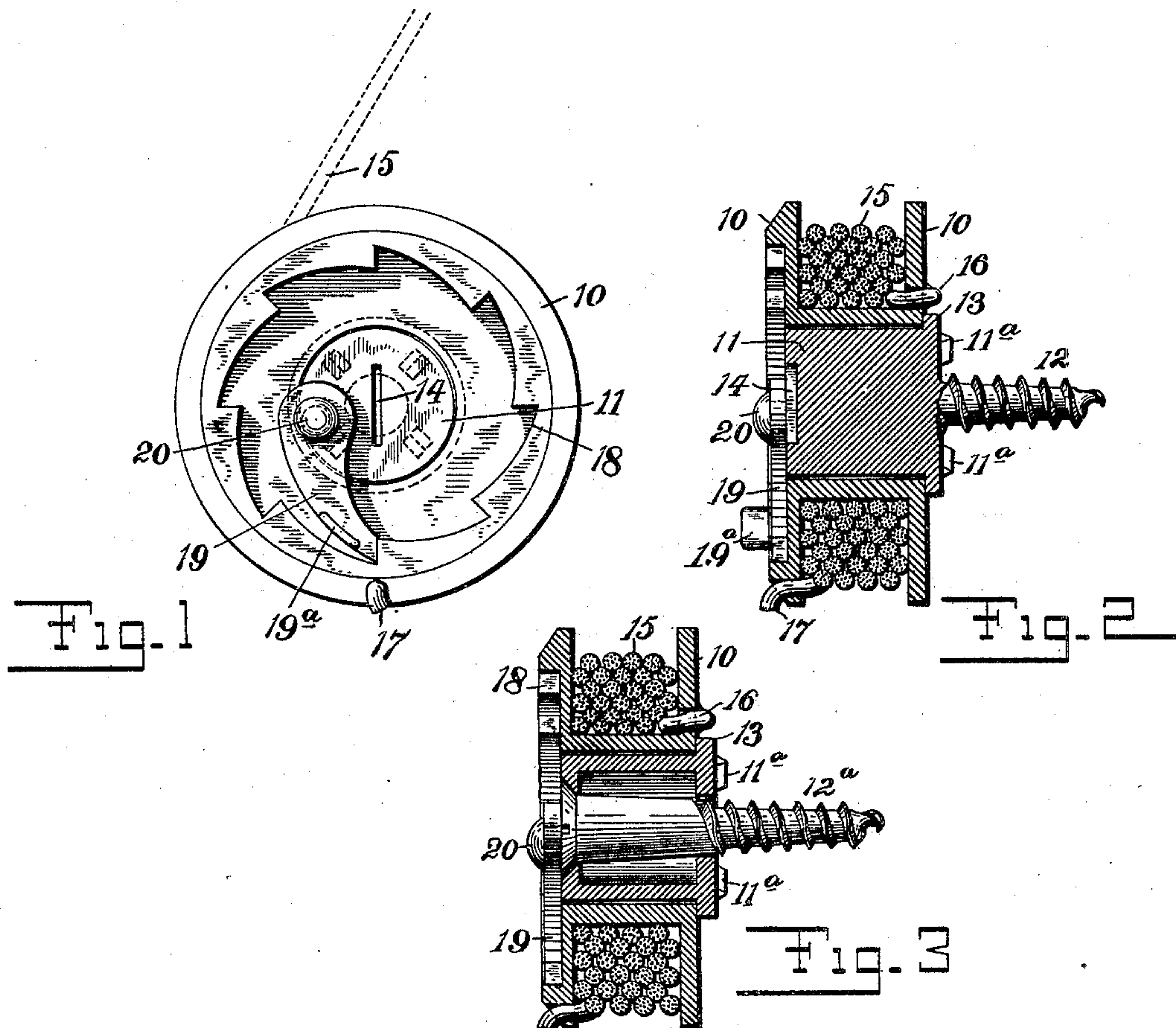
No. 696,510.

Patented Apr. 1, 1902.

C. I. STILL.
PICTURE HANGER.

(Application filed Mar. 27, 1901.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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CHARLES IRVING STILL, OF SING SING, NEW YORK.

PICTURE-HANGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 696,510, dated April 1, 1902.

Application filed March 27, 1901. Serial No. 53,071. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES IRVING STILL, of Sing Sing, Westchester county, New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Picture-Hangers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in that class of devices which are used for hanging pictures and their frames or analogous devices; and the object of my invention is to provide a device of this character which is very cheap and simple, which is adapted to carry sufficient wire to hang any ordinary picture, which can be easily placed in position on the back of a picture-frame, and which can be instantly and easily adjusted, so as to tighten or loosen the wire, and thus regulate the height or lateral inclination of the picture. I am aware that devices of this character have been heretofore employed to take the place of the ordinary screw-eye; but many of them have been complex, expensive, and rather difficult to manipulate, while my device, as will be seen from the description to follow, is very cheap, simple, and easy to use. Moreover, I provide means whereby the journal or support of the device is held rigidly to the frame without the use of mechanism to any extent, so that the rotatable part may be turned smoothly on it.

With these ends in view my invention consists of certain features of construction and combinations of parts, which will be herein-
after fully described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters and figures of reference refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved device. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of a slightly-modified form of the device, in which the screw is independent of the core or journal.

As indicated above, this invention is intended to take the place of at least one ordinary screw-eye on a picture-frame, and it has a spool 10, which is held to turn on a central core or journal 11, this journal or core being provided at its inner end with a screw 12, by which it may be fastened to the frame, and

the core has, preferably, at its inner end a collar 13, against which the inner end of the spool 10 bears. This is not essential; but the spool runs smoother where the collar is provided. The inner end of the core is roughened, as shown at 11^a, so that when the screw 12 is turned home the roughened part 11^a will partially embed itself in the wood of the frame, and so the core will be held from turning. The core has also by preference a slot 14 at its outer end, in which an ordinary screw-driver can be inserted; but the device can be turned so as to force in the screw by the thumb and finger when the ratchet is in engagement, as hereinafter described.

The spool 10 carries sufficient wire or picture-cord 15 to hang any ordinary frame, and this wire can be made fast at its inner end by inserting it in a hole in the spool, as at 16, and its outer end can be temporarily secured in a similar way, as shown at 17.

The outer end of the spool is preferably countersunk and provided with ratchet-teeth 18, although of course this may be made on the outer part of the spool; but it is better to have it countersunk, as illustrated. These teeth are adapted to be engaged by a pawl 19, which is preferably provided with a projecting wing or finger-piece 19^a to facilitate its manipulation, and the pawl is pivoted, as shown at 20, to the core or journal 11.

It will be seen that when the core or journal 11 is screwed to place the spool 10 can be turned freely thereon, being prevented from turning in one direction by the pawl 19; but when the pawl is released it can be turned in either direction. Consequently if the device is screwed, say, to the left-hand side of a picture-frame when facing the back of the frame the wire 15 will be held taut by the weight of the frame and the pawl 19 will be held in engagement with the ratchet-teeth 18 on the spool 10. If, now, the wire is to be shortened, one merely turns the spool, as illustrated in Fig. 1, to the left and the pawl prevents the unwinding of the spool, and if the wire is to be lengthened the pawl is released and the spool permitted to unwind to the necessary extent, when the pawl is again dropped into engagement with the ratchet-teeth and the spool is made fast, as above.

Several minor modifications naturally sug-

gest themselves in a device of this character—
for instance, the core or journal 11 can be made
hollow, as in Fig. 3, and a separate screw 12^a
can be used to fasten the core or journal to the
5 frame.

From the foregoing description it will be
seen that this device is of the simplest na-
ture, that it is absolutely positive in opera-
tion, and that it can be very easily manipu-
10 lated.

It will be noticed that the device above de-
scribed is very compact, has no plate to be
screwed or fastened to a picture-frame, and
has its ratchet connection between the core
15 and spool wholly within the circumference of
the spool, so that attachment and adjustment
are therefore particularly easy.

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

1. In a picture-hanger, the combination
with a central core or journal and means for
attaching the core to the frame, of a spool
revolubly mounted on said core and having
25 a ratchet on its face, a pawl pivoted to the
journal or core and adapted to engage the
ratchet to lock the spool against movement in
one direction, and also to lock the spool upon
the core, substantially as described.

30 2. In a picture-hanger, the combination

with a central core provided with a rough-
ened portion adapted to be pressed into the
wood of the frame, means for securing the
core to the frame, a spool revoluble on the
core, a ratchet on the outer face of the spool, 35
a pawl pivoted to the core and adapted to en-
gage the ratchet, whereby the spool is locked
against movement in one direction, and also
locked upon the core, substantially as set
forth. 40

3. In a picture-hanger, the combination
with a core provided with a flange on its in-
ner peripheral edge and having a screw in-
tegral therewith to attach it to the frame, of
means for preventing the core from turning 45
on the frame, a spool revolubly mounted on
the core and seated against the flange, a
ratchet in the outer face of the spool, and a
pawl pivoted to the core and engaging the
ratchet to lock the same against rotation in 50
one direction and also to lock said spool upon
the core, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
name to this specification in the presence of
two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES IRVING STILL.

Witnesses:

EDWIN T. JAMES,
GEO. V. HAUF.