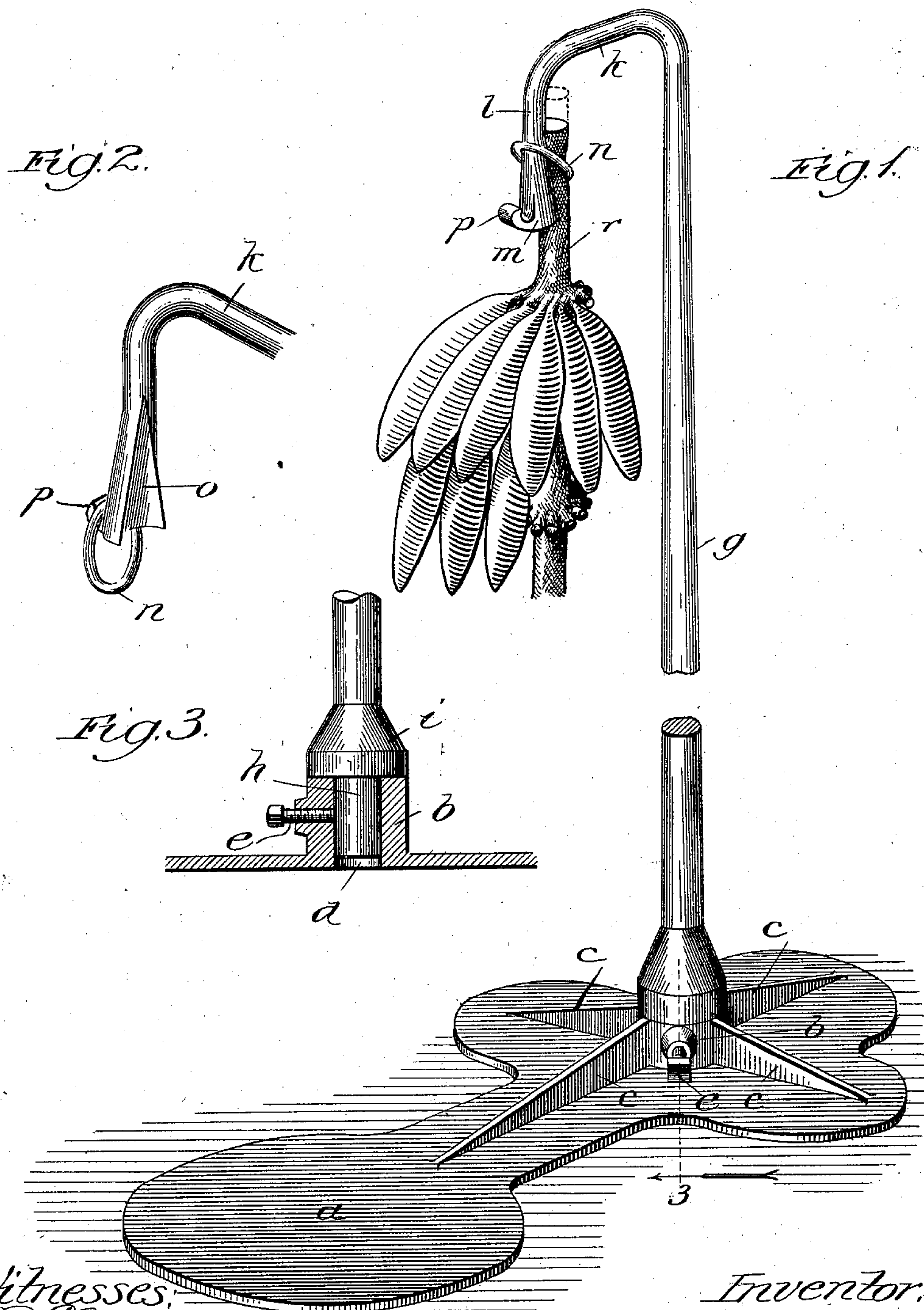


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M. F. LEVY.  
BANANA BUNCH HANGER.  
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 21, 1902.

NO MODEL.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MORRIS F. LEVY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## BANANA-BUNCH HANGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 725,458, dated April 14, 1903.

Application filed November 21, 1902. Serial No. 132,273. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MORRIS F. LEVY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, county of Cook, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Banana-Bunch Hanger, of which the following is a specification in its best form now known to me, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a mechanism for supporting in stores, markets, &c., bunches of bananas in such a way that they are neatly and firmly held in the desired position, can be readily attached and detached from such position, and are convenient for the sale of separate bananas.

The usual practice heretofore in hanging banana-bunches has been to tie a string or cord around the stem and then pass the cord through an ordinary hook attached to a stationary support; but this method is disadvantageous in that a cord of sufficient strength is not always at hand and that the bunch so hung to attaching mechanism is not of a neat appearance and the bunch may swing and turn under the action of wind-pressure, the touch of the hand, or otherwise.

My invention consists in providing a mechanism for detachably securing the stem of the banana-bunch in a neat and ornamental way in substantially a rigid position.

It consists also in many details of construction of such mechanism, which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed as this specification proceeds.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of mechanism embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail view of the mechanism for locking the stem of the bunch of bananas to the holder. Fig. 3 is a detail view taken on line 3 of Fig. 1, illustrating a method of attaching the upright support to the base.

In using my invention I provide the base *a*, preferably of cast-iron or steel of such shape and dimensions as to make it firm and steady enough to support a bunch of bananas at a desired height without there being any danger of the whole thing tipping over. Integral with this base-plate *a* I provide a socket-casting *b*, braced by webs *c*. Through the center of the socket *b* and base-plate *a* is bored a hole *d*, and through the side of the socket *b* is a set-screw *e*. I now provide an

upright member *g*, preferably of wrought-iron or steel, having its lower end *h* adapted to fit inside the hole *d* in the socket-casting *b* and having on it a collar *i* adapted to bear upon the top of said socket-casting *b*. When these parts are arranged as shown in Fig. 3, the set-screw *e* may be tightened and the whole locked in position.

The upright *g* should be of sufficient height so that when the bunch of bananas is suspended from it in the manner to be hereinafter described the bunch will hang a sufficient height from the floor, so that individual bananas may be inspected and sold in the usual manner. Subject to this provision the upper portion of the upright *g* is bent over in the approximately horizontal portion *k* and then bent downward in the substantially vertical portion *l*. The length of the horizontal portion *k* should be slightly greater than the radius of an ordinary bunch of bananas, so that when a bunch is suspended, as hereinafter described, it will clear the upright *g* without unnecessary waste of space between the bunch and the upright *g*. The depending portion *l* is made wedge-shaped, with its enlarged portion *m* at the bottom, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Over this wedged portion *l* is placed an annular member, preferably a ring *n*, and in one side of the depending piece *l* is cut a slight recess *o*, as shown in Fig. 2, the same being adapted to receive and fit around the stem of the bunch of bananas. On the side of the depending portion *l* is provided a hook *p*, on which ring *n* is adapted to rest, as shown in Fig. 2, when the same is not in use, as hereinafter described. Manifestly the lower end *m* might be made so large that the ring *n* would not pass down over it without departing from the principle of my invention.

In the operation of my invention I first place the ring *n* on the hook *p*, as shown in Fig. 2. I then swing it up over the depending portion *l* until it reaches the top of the portion *l* or is even up on the horizontal portion *k*. I now take the bunch of bananas and hold it so that the upper end of the stem is in approximately the dotted-line position shown in Fig. 1, the side of stem *r* bearing in the recess *o*, heretofore described. I now move the ring *n* down over the wedge-shaped



portion *l* until it bears tightly against the stem *r*. I now release my hold upon the bunch of bananas, and as the bunch tends to fall it manifestly pulls the stem downward. This  
 5 action in view of the wedge shape of the portion *l* simply causes the ring *n* to bear more closely against the stem and secure it tightly in approximately the position as shown in full lines in Fig. 1. When now the  
 10 bananas have all been sold at retail or it is otherwise desired to remove the stem, the simple lifting of the stem *r* causes the hold of the ring *n* to be loosened, and it may be either moved upward or held stationary by  
 15 hand in a horizontal position and the stem removed and the ring *n* dropped onto the hook *p*, as shown in Fig. 2, where the mechanism is ready to be operated as just described for the suspension of the second bunch of  
 20 bananas.

The interior of the recess *o* and the interior of the ring *n* may be roughened, if desired, to afford a better grip upon the stem *r*; but this, as the stem is usually soft and quite  
 25 crushable and is always somewhat irregular in cross-section, is not necessary usually for the successful operation of my invention. When it is desired to move the holder from one locality to another, to ship it by freight  
 30 or express I can by loosening the set-screw *e* remove the upright *g* from the base *a* and pack the whole in a convenient form for such shipment.

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

1. In mechanism of the class described, the combination of a depending wedge-shaped support larger at the bottom than at the top  
 40 and an annular member slidably mounted on

said depending wedge-shaped support to clamp the stem of a bunch of bananas to the depending support in the manner heretofore described.

2. In mechanism of the class described, the combination of a depending wedge-shaped support larger at the bottom than at the top having a vertical depression therein adapted to receive the side of the stem of the bunch of bananas and an annular member slidably  
 50 mounted on said wedge-shaped support to clamp the stem of a bunch of bananas to the depending support in the manner heretofore described.

3. In mechanism of the class described, the combination of a depending wedge-shaped support larger at the bottom than at the top, an annular member slidably mounted on said depending portion adapted to clamp the stem of a bunch of bananas to the depending sup-  
 60 port in the manner heretofore described, and a hook attached to the depending portion adapted to support the annular member when not in use.

4. In mechanism of the class described, the combination of a base, an upright support *g* detachably secured thereto, the upper portion of the upright support being bent in the horizontal portion *k* and in the depending portion  
 70 *l*, a wedge-shaped enlargement on the bottom of said depending portion *l*, an annular member *n* adapted to slide up and down upon said depending portion *l* and clamp the stem of a bunch of bananas thereto, substantially as described.

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