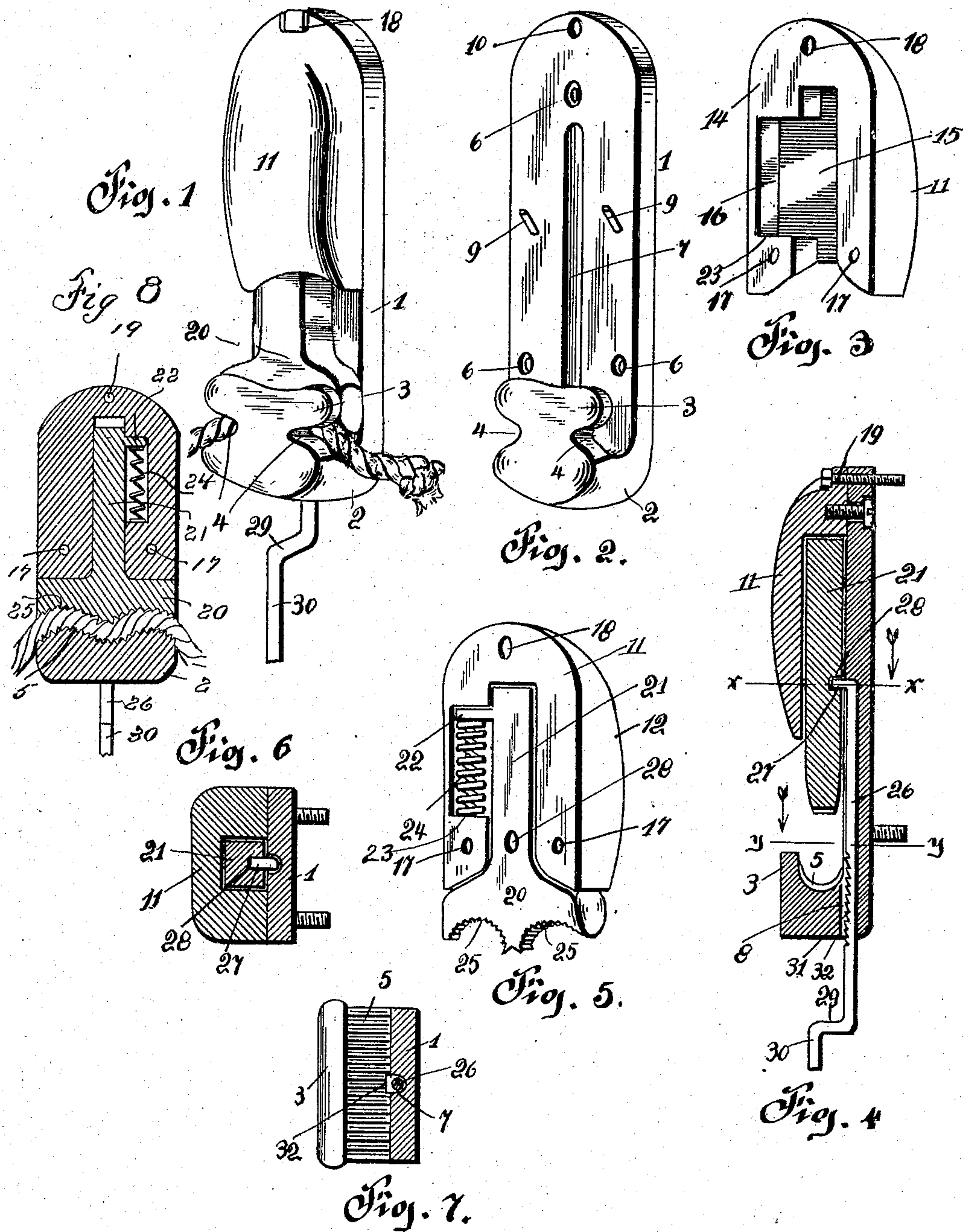


W. McCLAY.
CLOTHES LINE HOLDER.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM McCLAY, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

CLOTHES-LINE HOLDER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM McCLAY, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Line Holders, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in clothes-line holders; and the invention has for its object the provision of novel means for temporarily holding a clothes-line whereby it may be stretched from different points to support clothes.

My invention aims to provide a new article of manufacture which will be extremely simple in construction, strong and durable, comparatively inexpensive to manufacture, and highly efficient for temporarily holding lines.

A further object of the invention is this provision of novel means for temporarily holding a line whereby it will be unnecessary to tie any portion of the line or disfigure the same. To this end I have devised a holder which can be easily and quickly secured to a suitable support and a line secured therein, whereby it cannot become detached by a weight in proportion to its tensile strength suspended upon the same.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter more fully described and then specifically pointed out in the claim, and referring to the drawings accompanying this application like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved clothes-line holder. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the base-plate of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the rear face of the detachable member of my improved line-holder. Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of the line-holder. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the detachable member of the line-holder, illustrating a gripping-plunger mounted therein. Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view on the line *xx* of Fig. 4, and Fig. 7 is a sectional view on the line *yy* of Fig. 4. Fig. 8 is a sectional view of the line-holder on the line 8 8 of Fig. 4.

To put my invention into practice, I construct my improved line-holder of a base-plate 1, which, together with the other parts of my

improved line-holder, are preferably constructed of light and durable metal, which is cast to conform to the various shapes necessary to a compact and complete line-holder. 60 The lower end of the base-plate 1 is provided with an outwardly-extending protuberance 2, the front end of which is provided with an upwardly-extending lug 3, and the sides of this lug are provided with indentations or cut-away portions 4 4. The top face of the protuberance 2 lying between the lug 3 and the base-plate 1 is serrated or roughened, as indicated at 5, the object of which will be presently described. The base-plate 1 is provided 65 with a plurality of apertures 6, whereby screws, nails, or the like fastening means can be employed for securing the base-plate to a suitable support. Centrally of the base-plate I provide a vertically-disposed groove 7, the lower end of which terminates in a vertically-disposed opening 8. Upon each side of the groove 7 I provide angularly-disposed pins or studs 9 9, and the top edge of the plate 1 is provided with a screw-threaded aperture 10, 80 said aperture and pins 9 being employed to retain a detachable member 11 in engagement with the plate 1. This detachable member 11 is clearly illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, the member consisting of a block 85 having an oval front side 12 and a rear flat face 14. This face is provided with a vertically-disposed slot 15 and with a recess 16, said recess lying at right angles or to one side of the vertically-disposed slot 15 and intercepting the same. The face 14 of the member or block is also provided with angularly-disposed openings 17 17, these openings being adapted to receive the pins or studs 9 9 of the plate 1 when the member or block is mounted 95 upon the plate. In order to retain the top edge of the block or member in engagement with the plate 1, I provide the member with a screw-threaded opening 18 to accommodate a set-screw or bolt 19, adapted to engage in 100 the screw-threaded aperture or opening 10 of the plate 1. As the pins or studs 9 are inclined, it is necessary when placing the member or block upon the plate 1 to move the same downwardly over the pins until it engages the plate, and when the set-screw or bolt 19 is placed in the apertures 18 and 10 it will be impossible for the block or member to become detached until said screw or bolt is removed. 105

Prior to mounting the member or block 11 upon the plate 1 I place a gripping-plunger

within the member 11. This gripping-plunger consists of a cross-head 20, having a central vertically-disposed shank 21, which is adapted to lie within the vertically-disposed slot 15 of the member 11. The upper end of the shank 21 is provided with an angular extension 22, extending into the recess 16 of the member 11. Interposed between the extension 22 and the bottom edge 23 of the recess 16 is a coiled spring 24, adapted to normally retain the gripping-plunger in an elevated position. The bottom face of the cross-head 20 is provided with two serrated concavities or grooves 25 25.

Extending upwardly through the opening 8 of the protuberance 2 into the groove 7 of the plate 1 is a rod 26, the upper end of which is bent, as at 27, to engage in a notch or recess 28, formed in the gripping-plunger. The lower end of the rod 26 is bent outwardly, as at 29, and then downwardly, as indicated at 30. Intermediate the ends of this rod I provide notches or teeth 31, which are adapted to engage at predetermined times the lower sharp edge 32 of the opening 8.

In operation when it is desired to secure the end of a line or any portion of the line within my improved holder it is placed upon the serrated or roughened surface of the protuberance 2, and the rod 26 is gripped and pulled downwardly until the gripping-plunger engages that portion of the rope lying upon the protuberance 2. The lower end of the rod 26 is then moved outwardly until one of the notches or teeth 31 engage the lower sharp edge 32 of the opening 8, and said rod will be held in engagement with the protuberance 2 by the tension of the spring 24, which normally tends to elevate the gripping-plunger. The rope at two points will be held between the teeth 5 and the serrated or roughened grooves 25 25 of the cross-head 20, and a portion of the rope will lie in one of the indentations or cut-away portions 4 of the lug 3, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings. When it is desired to remove a rope clamped by my improved holder, it is only necessary to push inwardly upon the lower end of the rod 26, and upon the teeth or notches 31 be-

coming disengaged from the protuberance 2 the spring 24 will return the gripping-plunger to its normal position, releasing the line. I have constructed the lower end of the rod 26 whereby when the holder is secured to a support the hand of a person can be readily placed behind the rod to actuate the same.

It will be observed by providing the detachable member or block in connection with the plate 1 that this member can be readily removed at any time it is desired to renew any of the parts within the holder or to remove the plate 1 from its support, this last operation being essential both when securing the plate to a support and removing it, access not being had to the screw-openings 6 until said block is removed.

I claim—

A clothes-line holder, comprising a base-plate provided on its front face at the lower end thereof with a projection, a notched lug rising from said projection and spaced away from the base-plate, the upper face of said projection being serrated, upwardly-inclined pins carried on the outer face of said base-plate, said base-plate having a groove in its outer face communicating with an opening which extends through the projection, and a housing hung on the pins carried by said base-plate and having a slot and a recess communicating with said slot, a gripping-plunger having a shank extending into the slot of said housing and having an angular extension near its upper end extending into the recess in said housing, a spring arranged between said extension and the base of the recess, and a rod arranged in the groove in said base-plate with its upper end engaged with the shank of the plunger, said rod projecting through the opening at the lower end of the base-plate, and provided intermediate its ends with teeth adapted to engage with the wall of said opening, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM McCLAY.

Witnesses:

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