J. C. R. STEIRLY.

CLOTHES LINE HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 2, 1907. RENEWED FEB. 28, 1908.

900,608. Patented Oct. 6, 1908.

Fig. 1.

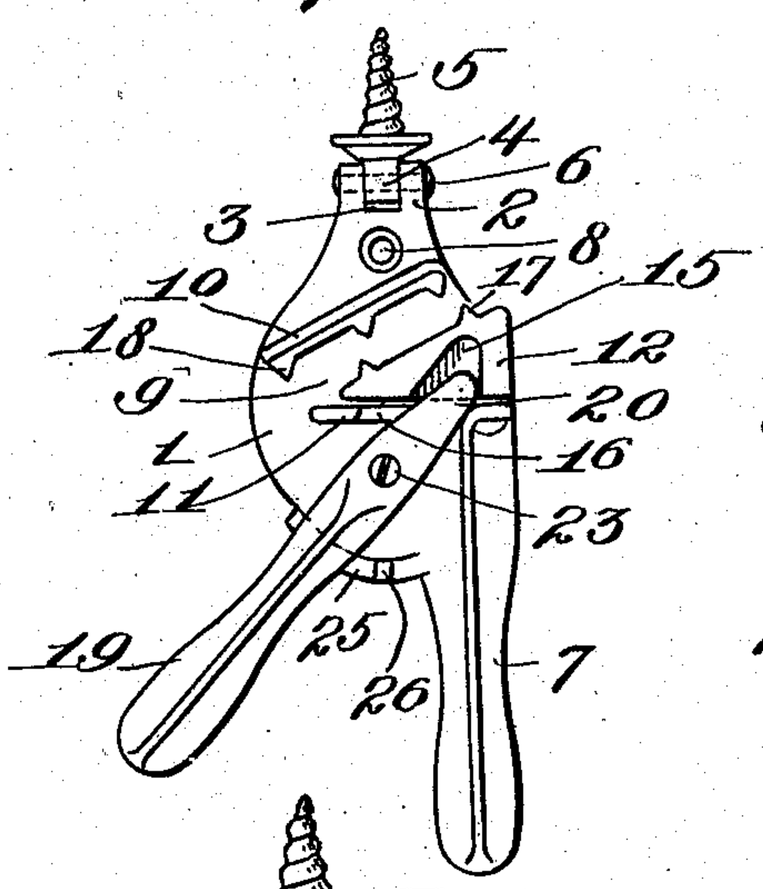


Fig. 2.

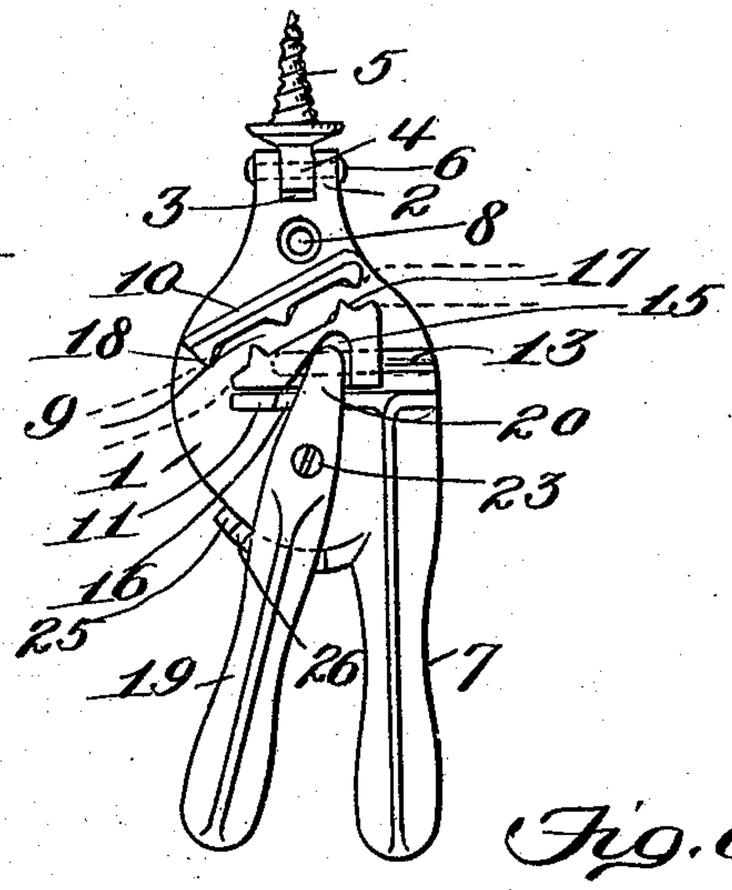


Fig. 6.

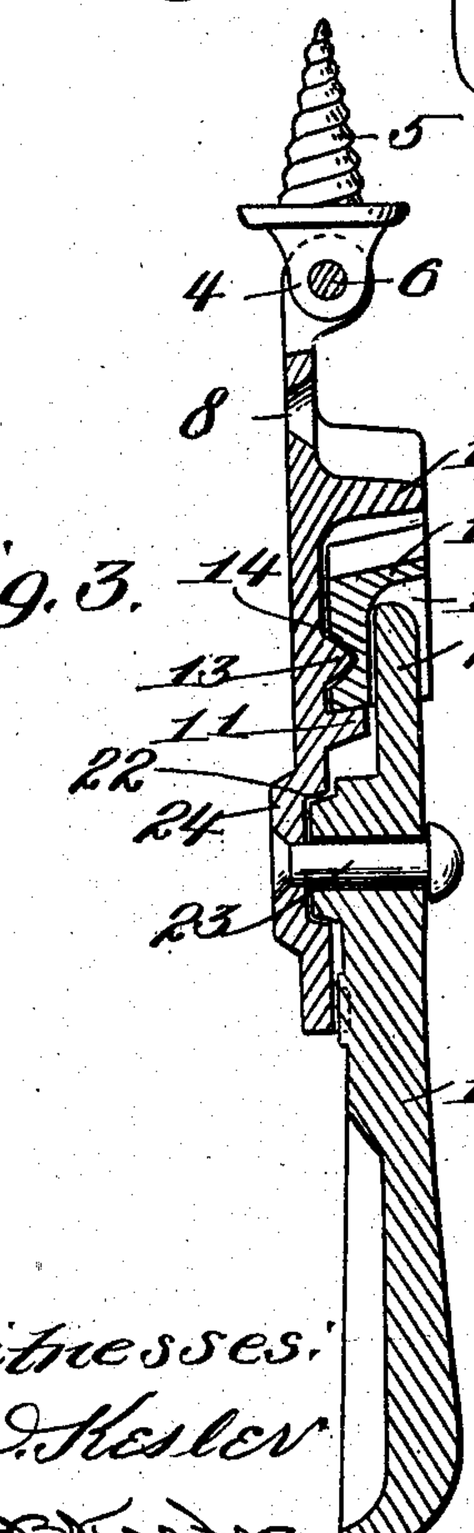


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

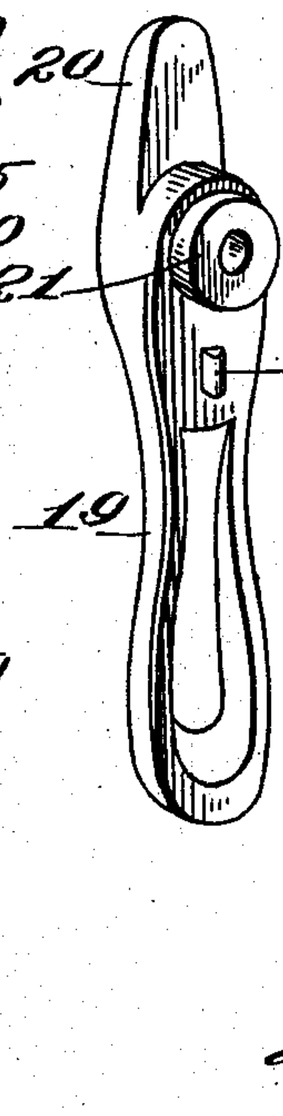
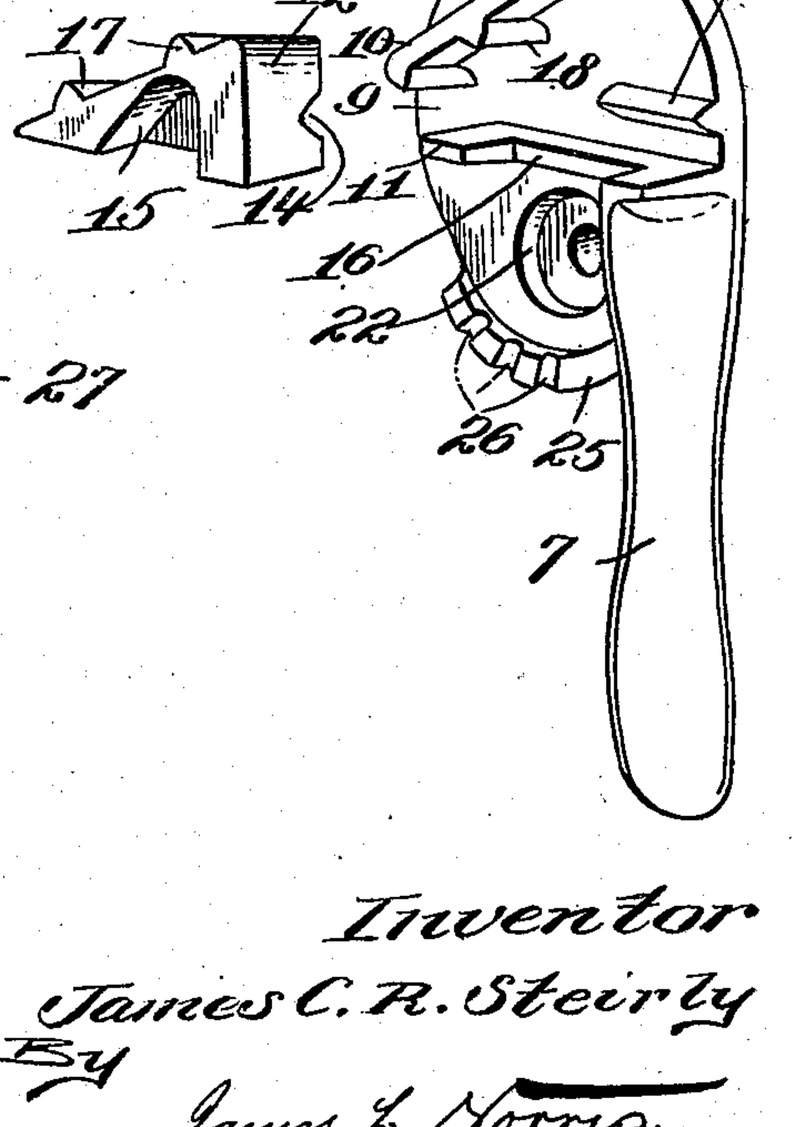


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CLOTHES-LINE HOLDER.

No. 900,608. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 6, 1908.

Application filed March 2, 1907, Serial No. 360,181. Renewed February 28, 1908. Serial No. 418,289.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES CHRISTIAN RIST STEIRLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oil City, in the county of Venango and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Line Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a clothes line holder, but is also adapted for use in securing awning or other ropes; and the primary object of the same is to provide a device of this class for positively engaging opposite portions of a rope to maintain a desired tension on the rope, the holder being applicable either to a fence post, a side wall or other support and also to overhead devices.

The holder comprises an open rope seat defined by upper and lower walls, the one wall being transversely straight and the other inclined, a wedge member or block slidable in the seat and having one edge thereof adjacent to one of the walls provided with teeth to bite into the rope, and also having a recess and a manually operative lever fulcrumed at an intermediate point to the body of the holder and having a straight free extremity loosely engaging the recess of the member or block, means being provided for locking the lever against movement after the desired adjustment of the wedge member or block has been obtained.

The invention also consists in the details of construction and arrangement of the several parts which will be hereinafter more fully specified.

In the drawing: Figure 1 is a side elevation of a holder embodying the features of the invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing a rope in dotted lines in the rope seat and the wedge block in a clamping position with respect to the rope. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section of the holder on an enlarged scale. Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are detail perspective views of portions of the holder shown separated.

Similar characters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

The numeral 1 designates the body of the holder having an upper reduced extremity 2 which is vertically slotted as at 3 to movably receive a coupling member 4 of a securing screw 5, the member 4 being pivoted in the upper reduced extremity 2 and held connected thereto by a copper rivet 6. The rivet 6 is formed of copper in view of the non-corrosive character of this metal and to maintain a freedom of movement for the screw 5. By securing the screw 5 to the body 1 as just set forth, the holder may be applied either to a side wall, post or analogous device, or to a support overhead.

The holder is capable of use either in a vertical or horizontal position, and to properly dispose the same to receive a rope the body 1 has a grip or handle 7 extending therefrom at one side of the center. The upper part of the body 1 of the holder also has an opening 8 therethrough to receive a fastening to secure the holder in fixed position if desired. A rope seat 9 is formed on one side of the body 1 by an upper inclined wall or flange 10 and a lower transversely straight wall 11, the seat 9 thus having a converged contour towards one extremity thereof. Within the seat 9 a wedge block 12 is slidably mounted and is guided in its movements in opposite directions by an angular rib 13 located within the seat and engaging a corresponding groove 14 in the back of the block. This rib 13 and groove 14 obstruct any tendency of the block to irregularly shift or move towards the wall or flange 10, or, in other words, to have lateral movement. In its opposite side the block 12 is formed with a recess 15 which opens out through the edge adjacent to the wall 11, the latter being slotted as at 16 for a purpose which will be presently explained. The edge of the block or member 12 opposite that through which the recess 15 opens is formed with transversely extending teeth or biting projections 17, and the inner portion of the wall or flange 10 has corresponding teeth 18, the block preferably carrying two teeth and the wall or flange three teeth; and when the block is shifted towards the reduced extremity of the seat 9 the teeth thereof will be located opposite the spaces between the teeth 18 of the said wall or flange 10.

On the body 1 below the wall or flange 11, an operating lever 19 for the block or member 12 is fulcrumed, and has a projecting extremity or finger 20 movable in the slot 16 of the wall or flange 11 and also in the recess 15 of the said block. The lever 19 is fulcrumed at a point intermediate of its length and is provided on one side with a boss 21 movably fitting in a socket 22 formed in the body 1; and through the center of said boss

and socket a rivet or pivot pin 23 is passed and secured at opposite extremities with respect to the lever and the said body, as clearly shown by Fig. 3. To strengthen the body 1 or provide for the formation of the socket 22, an offset 24 is formed in the body around the socket. The lower edge of the body has an arcuate flange or segmental projection 25 formed at intervals with notches or recesses 26 to receive a locking tooth 27 on the lever 19 close to the fulcrum, the boss 21 and tooth 27 being on the same side of the said lever. The object of the recesses 26 and the tooth 27 is to lock the lever and the block or member 12 in adjusted position.

It is preferred that all the parts of the holder be constructed of non-corrosive metal, and to accommodate various uses changes in the proportions and dimensions may be adopted.

It will be seen that the number of parts of the holder requiring individual construction is minimized, and independent of the coupling member 4 there are but three main elements; namely, the body 1, the member or block 12, and the lever 19. The block or member 12 and the lever 19 are separately constructed and in the assemblage of the block or member with relation to the body 1 it is inserted longitudinally into the rope space 9 and the lever 19 then applied and secured.

From the foregoing explanation the operation will be readily understood. When it is desired to secure a rope within the holder, the body is disposed in the most convenient position through the medium of the handle 7, and after the rope has been inserted between the toothed wall or flange 10 and the block or member 12 the lever 19 is drawn towards the handle 7 and the block or member 12 is forced towards the reduced extremity of the rope seat 9, thus causing the teeth 17 and 18 to firmly bite into opposite portions of the rope and secure the latter to the holder, the block or member 12 being locked in its adjusted position by the tooth 27 on the lever 19 engaging one of the notches 26. Various sizes of ropes may be introduced into and secured by the holder, and in releasing the rope the lever 19 is moved away from the handle 7. The lever 19 is permitted to have sufficient play to release the tooth 27 from either of the notches 26.

The strain brought to bear on the wedge block or member 12 is materially relieved from the wall or flange 11 by the rib 13 engaging the groove 14 in the said block, and, furthermore, this rib and groove insure a uniformity of engagement of the teeth 17 of the said block with the adjacent portion of the rope disposed between the said block and the wall or flange 10. It will also be noted that the rope seat 9 is transversely disposed with respect to the body 1 of the holder. This particular arrangement of the rope seat is advantageous in that a rope can be more readily inserted in and removed from the said seat. Furthermore, by having the lever 19 within easy reaching distance of the grip or handle 7 the operator may use one hand in maintaining the body 1 at a proper angle and also shift the lever in opposite directions to correspondingly move the wedge block or member 12.

Many other advantages will become apparent to those using the holder, and the cost of manufacture of the latter will be materially reduced in view of the special structure hereinbefore set forth.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:

1. In a holder of the class specified, a body having a rope seat with a fully open front side, the walls of said seat converging towards one extremity, a wedge member slidably mounted in said seat, and an operating lever loosely fulcrumed at an intermediate point of the body and having a straight free extremity loosely extending into the rope seat and the adjacent side portion of the wedge member, the said free extremity of the lever operating also to hold the said wedge member in place in the seat.

2. In a holder of the class specified, a body having a transversely straight wall and an inclined wall to provide a rope seat which is fully open at the front side, a guide rib extending longitudinally into the seat and parallel with the transversely straight wall, a wedge-shaped slidable clamping member loosely and separably mounted in the seat and having a bottom groove to engage the said rib, and an operating means having a free extremity loosely extending into the side portion of the member and also operating to hold the latter in place in the seat, the one side edge of the clamping member and the inclined wall serving to directly engage the rope placed therebetween.

3. A holder of the class set forth having a body with a handle or grip extending therefrom, a securing device movably attached to the extremity of the body opposite that from which the handle projects, a rope seat being formed at an intermediate point on the body by a transversely straight wall and a converging wall, the seat being fully open at the front side, a wedge member slidably and separably disposed in the said rope seat between the walls, and an operating lever loosely pivoted at an intermediate point on the body and having a longitudinally straight free end loosely projecting into the side portion of the wedge member, the handle extremity of the lever being adjacent to the handle or grip of the body.

4. In a holder of the class set forth, a body having a rope seat and a segmental projection provided with notches the rope seat be-

ing fully open at the front, a wedge member slidably mounted in the seat, and a lever loosely fulcrumed at an intermediate point to the body and having a straight free extremity loosely projecting into the side portion of the wedge member and also provided with a projection adjacent to the body to engage the notches of the segmental projection of the said body, the fulcrum of the lever being between the projection and the end that engages the wedge member.

5. A holder of the class set forth comprising essentially three main elements, consisting respectively of a body having a handle projecting from one extremity, a rope seat formed by a transversely straight and an inclined wall and having a rib extending longitudinally thereinto, all of the parts of the body being formed integral, a slidable wedge block having a recess opening outwardly through one side and a back groove to engage the rib of the rope seat, and a lever pivoted at an intermediate point to the body and having a straight free extremity projecting into the recess of the wedge block, the handle of the lever being adjacent to the handle of the body.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES CHRISTIAN RIST STEIRLY.

Witnesses:

O. H. ROWLEY,

W. A. RUSS.