

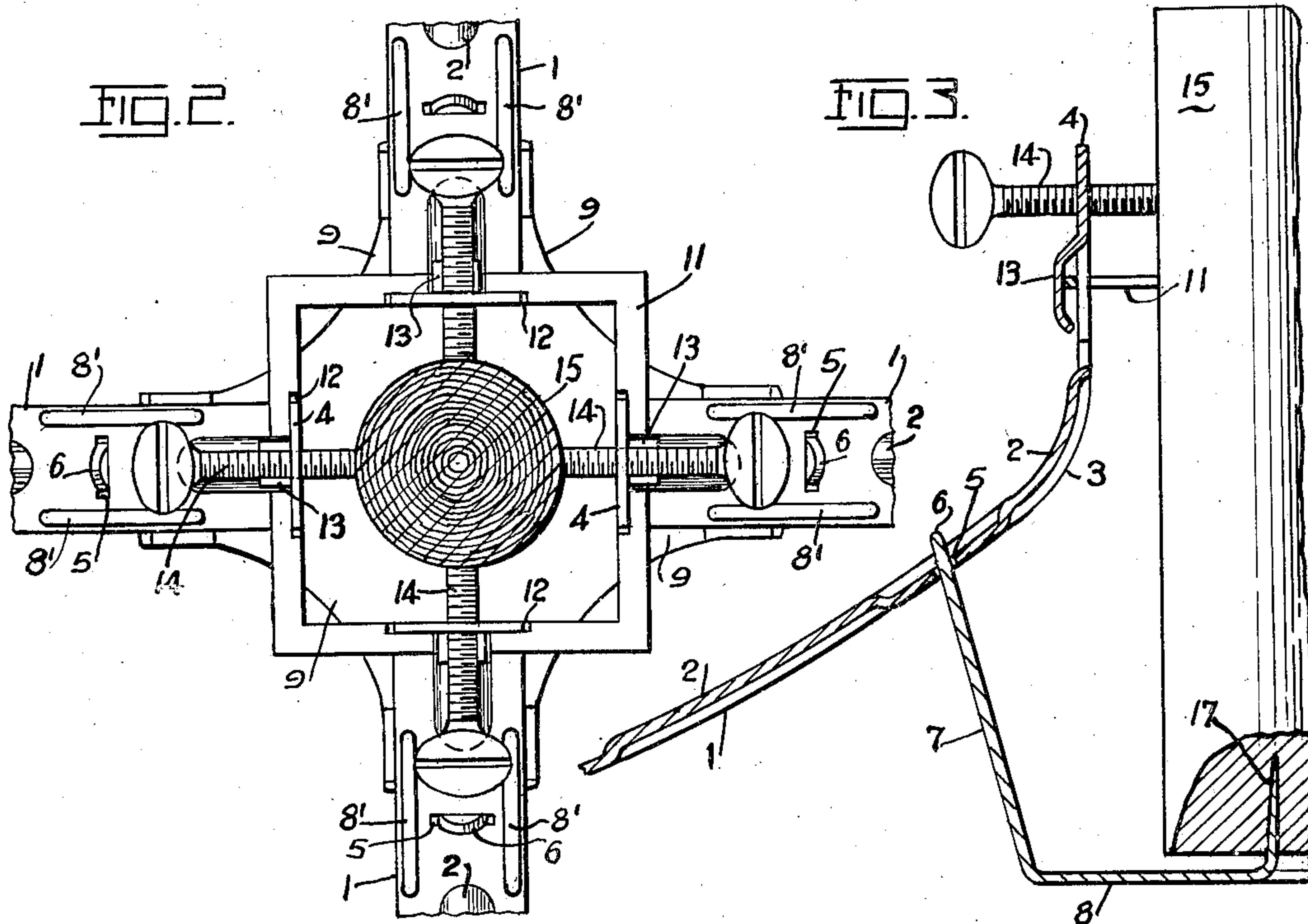
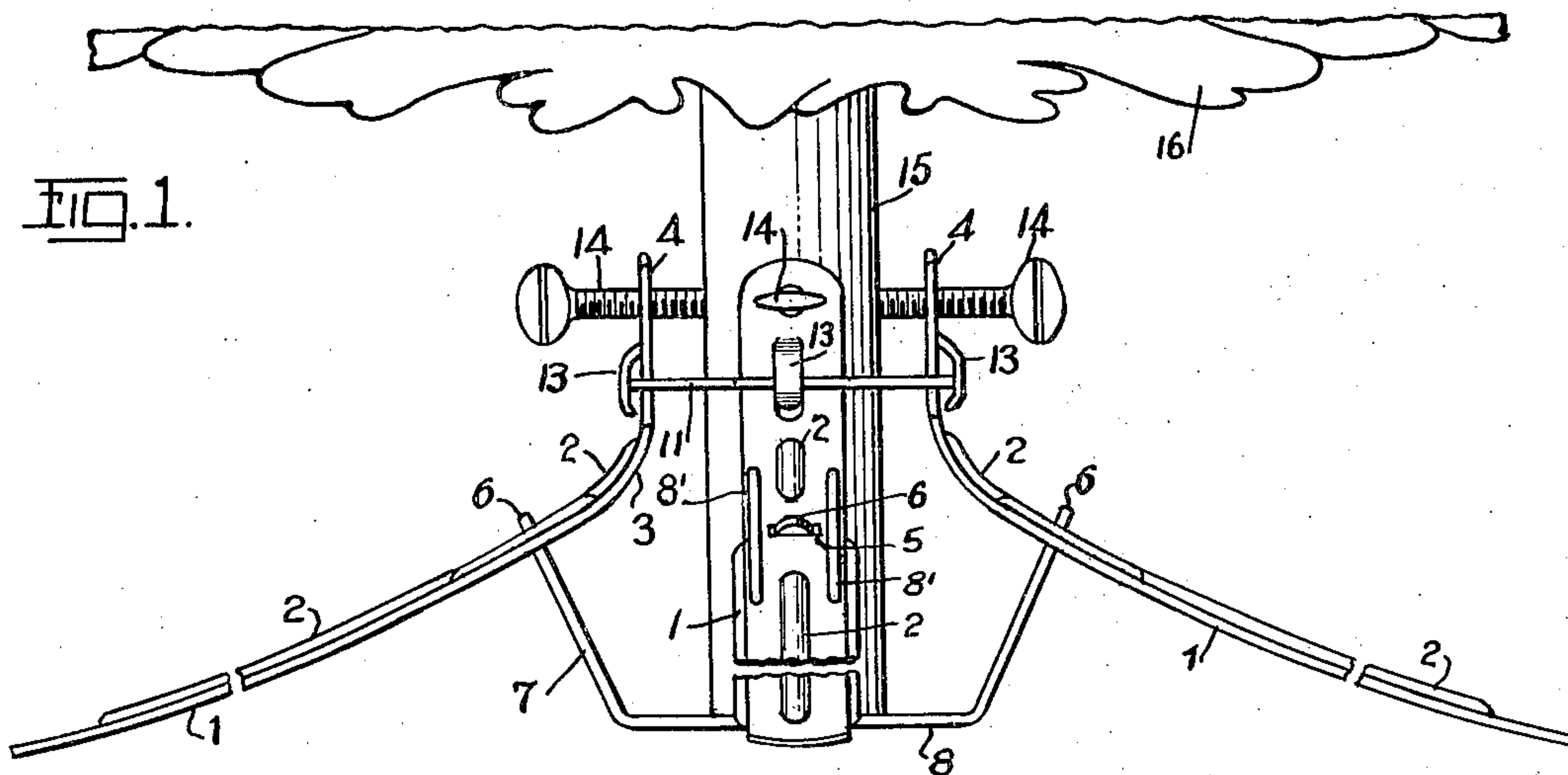
Oct. 25, 1949.

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2,485,819

TREE HOLDER

Filed Jan. 9, 1946



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,485,819

TREE HOLDER

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Application January 9, 1946, Serial No. 640,012

2 Claims. (Cl. 248—44)

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The present invention relates to tree supports and more particularly to Christmas tree holders.

The design and manufacture of Christmas tree holders present difficult problems on account of conditions under which they are used and the absolute necessity for being made inexpensively but with considerable strength. The holders are employed alike for light and heavy trees, some of which are misshapen and are therefore top-heavy. They are sometimes applied on the tree by the seller but more often by the householder who may have only crude working tools at hand so that the greatest facility for applying the holder must be supplied by the manufacturer. Again, in many cases, the holder is left attached to the tree when the latter is discarded and, consequently, the holder must be made inexpensively, calling for only the simplest manufacturing processes and the smallest amount of metal consistent with sturdiness.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a Christmas tree holder which has the necessary strength and size to accommodate all shapes and sizes of trees and yet require the minimum metal which can be worked inexpensively to shape.

Another object is to provide a Christmas tree holder which can be readily taken apart and shipped in a knocked-down condition so that large numbers of holders can be contained in a relatively small package for delivery to retailers.

Still another object is to provide a tree holder formed of a plurality of parts which are detachably secured together and which parts are substantial duplicates of one another so that any one part can be readily replaced by the manufacturer or retailer.

Another object is to provide a holder of the character described in which the parts can be made by inexpensive pressing and stamping operations, out of sheet metal which is eventually bent to proper shape.

The invention will be better understood when reference is made to the following description and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 represents an elevational view of improved holder.

Figure 2 is a plan view while Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken through one of the legs of the holder.

As shown in Figure 2, the base of the holder is comprised of four equidistantly spaced arms 1 formed of sheet metal and provided preferably with longitudinally extending beads 2 down the

middle of each strip. The strips are of considerable length in order to give stability to the holder and are provided for the greater part of the length with a bend of relatively small curvature, but at the position indicated at 3, the curvature is relatively sharp to cause the end portions 4 to extend substantially vertical. The upper bead 2 running along each strip is positioned preferably at the sharp bend 3 in order to provide additional strength at this point.

At approximately one-third the distance down from the top edge of each arm or leg 1 there is a slot 5 extending transversely of the strip, this slot being adapted loosely to receive a tab 6 which terminates the angularly extending arms 7 of a flat plate 8. This plate may be provided with scalloped edges as indicated at 9 (Figure 2) so as to give an ornamental effect as well as to provide a relatively large area to the bottom surface. If desired, a pair of short outwardly extending beads 8' can be provided on the arm 1 running longitudinally of the arm and positioned at each end of the slot 5 so as to provide reinforcement to this narrow width of metal.

It is apparent that the arms 1 of the extended base member and also the arms 7 of the bottom plate 8 can readily be produced by a stamping and bending operation. The reinforcing beads 2 formed on the arms 1 may also be provided at the time that the arms are being bent to shape.

The upper end portions 4 of the arms 1 are constrained to positions conforming generally to a rectangle by means of a rectangular frame member 11. This frame member is made preferably of sheet metal stamped to shape and has a flat configuration. There are a number of cut-away portions 12 along the inner edge of the member which loosely receive the portions 4 of the arms 1. The latter are provided with an offset hook portion 13 which is adapted to be extended over and to clamp around the outer edge of the frame member 11. This hook member 13 can obviously be formed at practically the same time that the arms 1 are being bent to shape.

Thumb screws 14 are threaded through the end portions 4 of the arms 1, these screws being adapted to contact the trunk 15 of the tree 16. In order to hold the base of the tree trunk centrally of the base 8 an upstanding pointed member 17 may be formed out of the metal of the base 8 by the well-known cutting and bending operation.

Due to the manner in which the various parts are fitted into one another and the extended portions at which the various detachable joints be

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tween parts are located, the latter tend to strengthen one another when the tree trunk 15 has been placed in position and the thumb screws 14 tightened so that a rigid structure as a whole is obtained. Yet, by simply loosening the thumb screws 14 and removing the tree trunk all of the parts can be readily disassembled from one another by unhooking the members 13 from the frame member 11 and pressing the tabs 6 downwardly out of the slots formed in the arms. The parts in their disassembled condition take up very little shipping space and can readily be sold disassembled and put into operative use by a householder without requiring any tools whatsoever. In other words, the holder parts are complete within themselves.

It is also apparent that there is sufficient springiness or yielding effect to the lower portions of the arms 1 as to permit all of these arms to evenly contact with a foundation surface and the weight of the tree 16 will assure that the bottom plate 8 will also contact the same surface. It is further evident that the weight of the tree acting in part at the thumb screws 14 serve to press the end portions 4 of the arms downwardly and thus to assure a downward pressure on the arms at the tabs 6. The arms will then rest quite firmly on the shoulders formed by the tabs. Inasmuch as the holder parts with the exception of the thumb screws 14 are made entirely out of sheet metal the weight of the assembled holder is relatively small. However, great stability is accorded the tree by reason of the considerable length of the arms which would make it almost impossible to overturn even in the case of a top-heavy tree.

It is further apparent that due to the separate entity between the base member 8 and the arms 1 before assembly these separate parts can be readily painted in different colors, usually red and green to give a pleasing effect to the holder when in place.

It will be understood that various modifications and arrangements in structure could be made without departing from the spirit of my invention and, accordingly, I desire to comprehend such modifications and substitutions of equivalents as may be considered to come within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. A tree holder comprising a plurality of main arms equidistantly spaced from one another and of curvilinear shape, said arms being bent up-

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wardly and inwardly in a vertical direction to define an enclosure, a base for receiving the lower surface of a trunk of a tree, said base having auxiliary arms extending angularly upward, slot means in said main arms for detachably receiving said auxiliary arms, a frame surrounding the upper portions of said main arms, said main arms having hook-like portions for detachably engaging said frame whereby said main arms are held in position transversely, and means for adjustably clamping the upper portions of said main arms about said trunk whereby said main arms are urged downwardly on a foundation surface to prevent disengagement of said auxiliary arms from said main arms.

2. A tree holder comprising a plurality of main arms spaced from one another and of curvilinear shape to form a secondary base, said arms being bent upwardly and inwardly in a vertical direction to define an enclosure, a primary base for receiving the lower surface of a trunk of a tree, said primary base having auxiliary arms extending angularly upward and terminating in tabs, slot means in said main arms for detachably receiving said tabs, a frame having cutaway portions that receive the upper portion of said main arms, said main arms having hook-like portions for detachably engaging said frame whereby said frame surrounds the upper portion of the main arms to hold them in position transversely and means for adjustably clamping the upper portions of said main arms about said trunk whereby said main arms are urged downwardly on a foundation surface to prevent disengagement of said tabs from said main arms.

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