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F. J. BEECH

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GRIPPING DEVICE

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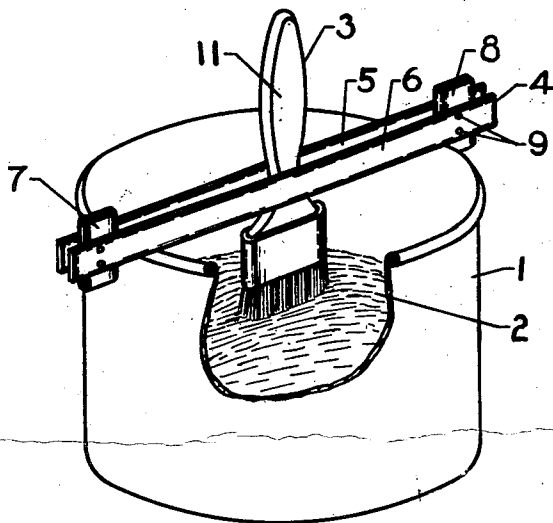


Fig - 1

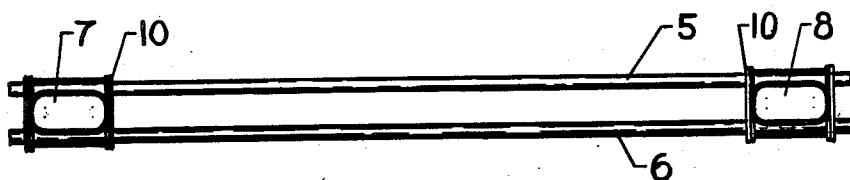


Fig - 2

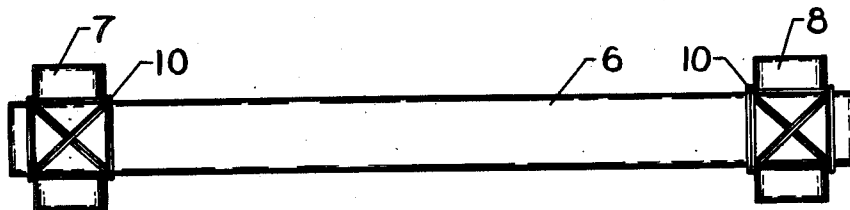


Fig - 3

INVENTOR
Fred J. Beech
BY Roy A. Plant
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GRIPPING DEVICE

Fred J. Beech, Battle Creek, Mich.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 248-110)

The present invention relates broadly to gripping devices, and in its specific phases to a device for gripping the handle of a brush and suspending the latter in manner permitting the bristles of the brush to be immersed in a suitable fluid body.

The common present day practice, which is almost universally carried on in connection with paint brushes during periods between use, is to stand the brushes up in a pail or the like with the bristles immersed in a suitable fluid such as paint, oil, or water. Where the brushes stored in this manner are unsupported, the bristles in a short time assume a permanent sidewise bent position. To avoid this bristle distortion professional painters commonly wrap the bristles and body of the used brush in strong paper and then immerse the bristles in upright position in a suitable fluid which is normally paint or oil. These difficulties and inconveniences have led to a few attempts to provide suspending mechanisms for brushes. Such suspending mechanisms have been very commonly of the "pinch clamp" type which grips one edge of the paint pail and supports a single brush. More complex brush holders have also been devised wherein pivoted toggle joints, et cetera, are involved. Those latter devices, however, normally do not permit adjustment of the gripped brush to different elevations and degrees of immersion. Those shortcomings, difficulties, and inconveniences of the prior art led to the discovery and development of the present invention.

Accordingly, among the objects of the present invention is the provision of a simple and readily constructed, low cost, apparatus for suspending brushes or the like from the upper edge of a paint pail, or other suitable container.

Another object is to provide an apparatus which will grip either flat, oval, or round-handle brushes, and will grip not only one brush but several brushes under suitable conditions.

Another object is to provide a brush holding device which will readily grip brush handles of different sizes.

A further object is to provide a brush holding device of stable construction with a stop at each end for holding the device from slipping into the pail or container with which it is used.

A further object is to provide a brush holding device with elongated resilient side members anchored together adjacent the ends thereof.

A still further object is to provide a brush holding device which rests freely on the top of the container in which the brushes are to be suspended,

is easy to remove, and permits ready brush adjustment in an up and down direction.

Still further objects and advantages of the present invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the invention, then, consists of the means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the annexed drawing and the following description setting forth in detail certain means for carrying out the invention, such disclosed means illustrating, however, but one of various ways in which the principle of the invention may be used.

In said annexed drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a paint pail or the like with a portion of same broken away to show a brush suspended therein by means of a preferred form of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top view of one form of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a side view of the brush holding device shown in Figure 2.

Referring more particularly to Figure 1 of the drawing, a paint pail 1 containing paint 2 has been illustrated with a paint brush 3 suspended therein with the bristles of the brush extending into the paint. The means for suspending the paint brush is a gripping device 4 which has resilient side members 5 and 6. These side members may be made of relatively thin resilient strips of wood, spring steel, or other suitable material spaced apart by means of stop members 7 and 8. The edges of these side members are preferably rounded to facilitate the insertion of a brush therebetween. Stop members 7 and 8 are normally a little thinner than the thickness of a brush handle and preferably extend both above and below side members 5 and 6. Thicker stop members may be used where the side members bow inward to provide the gripping action, and the drawing is intended to diagrammatically illustrate these various types of equivalent construction. The extending ends of these members 7 and 8 act as stops which permit the assembly to be used either side up, and at the same time prevent the assembly from readily sliding across and into the paint pail 1 under conditions of use. Side members 5 and 6 may be fastened to stop members 7 and 8 by means of rivets 9, Figure 1, or by any other suitable means such as cording 10, Figures 2 and 3. By making stop members 7 and 8 thinner than the paint brush handle 11, a gripping force is exerted on the brush handle by members 5 and 6 so as to hold the brush 3 at

various elevations, depending upon how far the brush handle 11 is forced through between side members 5 and 6.

The holding of a single brush has been illustrated in Figure 1, but it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to a device for holding a single brush, but rather to one for holding one or more brushes within limitations of the brush handle thicknesses and resiliency of side members 5 and 6. It is intended that the showing of the suspended brush shall be diagrammatic of one or more brushes suspended between side members 5 and 6 in like manner.

In actual use, the brush holding device has the handle 11 of a brush forced upward therebetween, following which the assembly is placed on the top of a paint pail, as shown in Figure 1, and the handle of the brush forced down until the bristles are suitably immersed in the liquid contained by the pail. With the brush suspended in this manner, it is no longer necessary for the bristles of the brush to rest on the bottom of the pail, and accordingly, the bending over difficulties encountered with present-day practice are avoided. When it comes time to use the brush again, it is only necessary to lift the whole assembly from the pail and slide the brush downward from between side members 5 and 6, which thus leaves the brush free for use and places the gripping device in condition for laying aside until use of same is once more required.

Other modes of applying the principle of my invention may be employed instead of the one disclosed, change being made as regards the article therein disclosed, provided the means stated by any of the following claims or the equivalent of such stated means be employed.

I therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:

1. In an apparatus of the character described, a pair of elongated and resilient side members, a pair of stop members, one at each end of said side members and between same, means for anchoring said side members to said stop members,

said stop members extending sidewise from between said side members at least on one side thereof.

2. A gripping device which comprises a pair of substantially flat elongated and resilient side members, at least the inner top and bottom edges of said side members being rounded, a pair of stop members, one adjacent each end of said side members and between same, means for anchoring said side members to said stop members, said stop members extending sidewise from between said side members on both sides thereof.

3. A brush holding apparatus which consists of a pair of substantially flat elongated and resilient side members, two stop members, one adjacent each end of said side members and between same, rivets for fastening said side members to said stop members, said stop members extending sidewise from between said side members on both sides thereof.

4. A brush holding apparatus which consists of a pair of substantially flat elongated and resilient side members, two stop members, one adjacent each end of said side members and between same, cords for binding said side members to said stop members, said stop members extending sidewise from between said side members on both sides thereof.

5. A brush holding apparatus which consists of a pair of resilient, elongated, substantially flat and straight wooden side members having rounded inner edges, two stop members, said stop members having rounded edges, and means for fastening said stop members to said side members between and adjacent the ends thereof, said stop members being longer than the width of the side members and extending substantially an equal distance beyond the opposite edges thereof, whereby the rounded edges and projecting ends of said stop members facilitate the use of the assembly on the top of various sizes of containers within the limits of the length of the assembly.

FRED J. BEECH.