May 28, 1974 I. N. KLEIMAN 3,813,277

CHRISTMAS TREE

Filed April 25, 1972 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

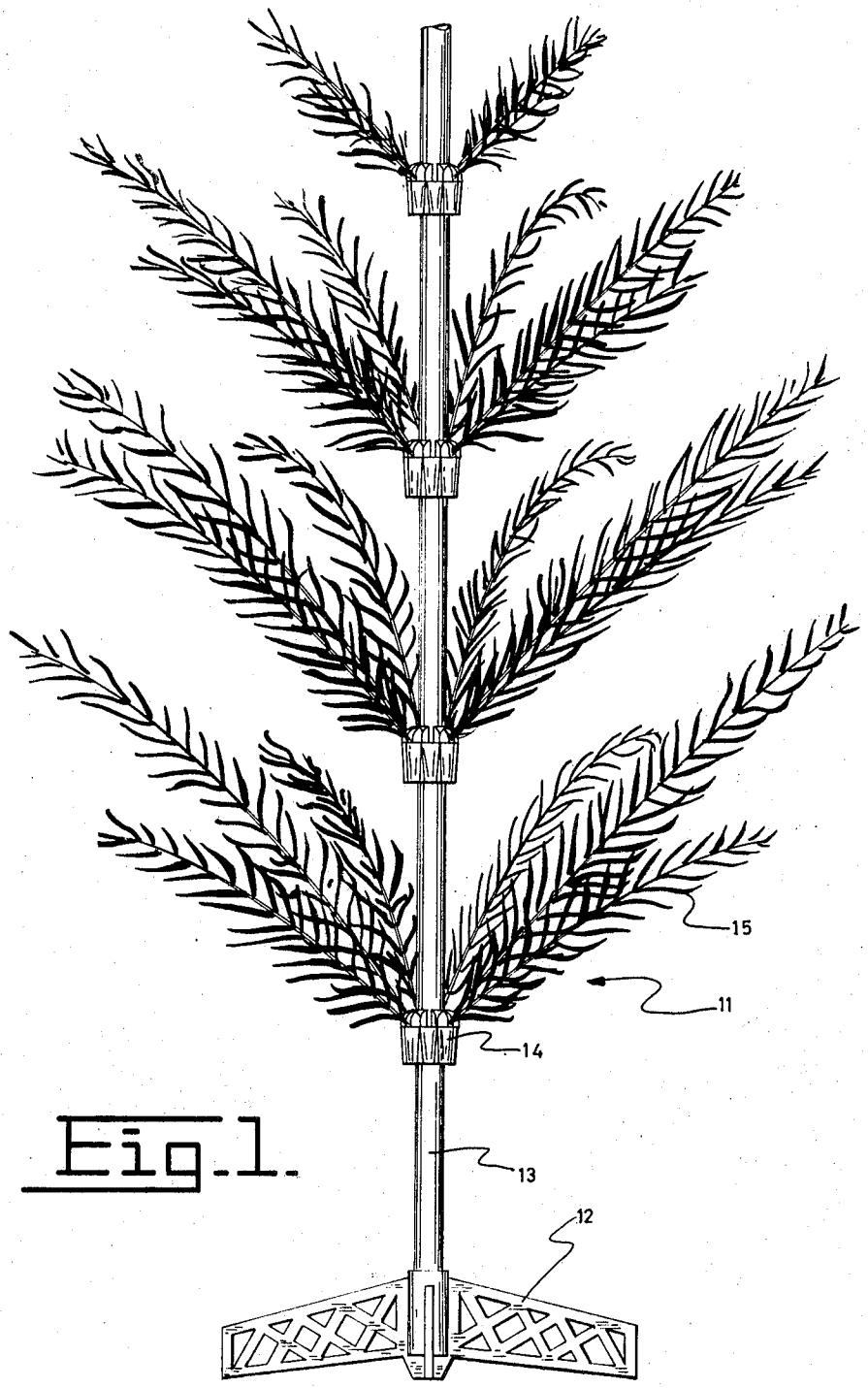


Fig. 1.

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CHRISTMAS TREE

Filed April 25, 1972 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

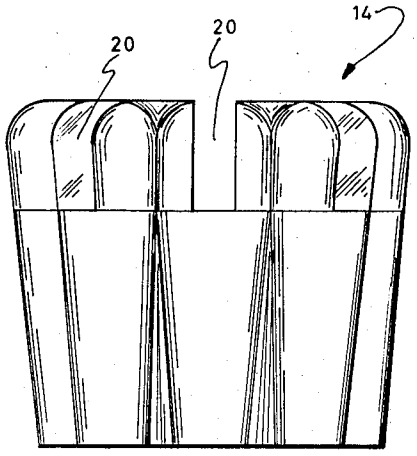


Fig. 2.

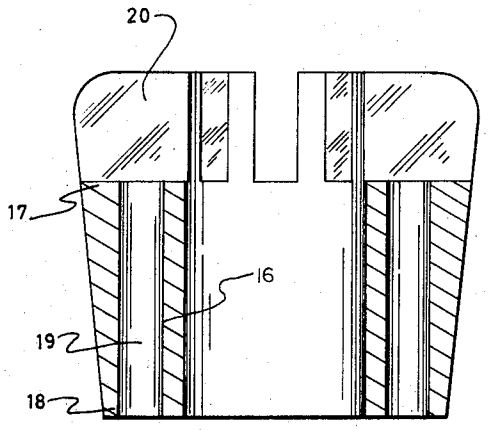


Fig. 3.

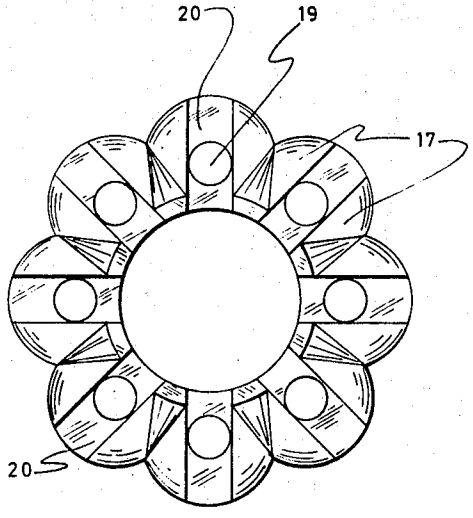


Fig. 4.

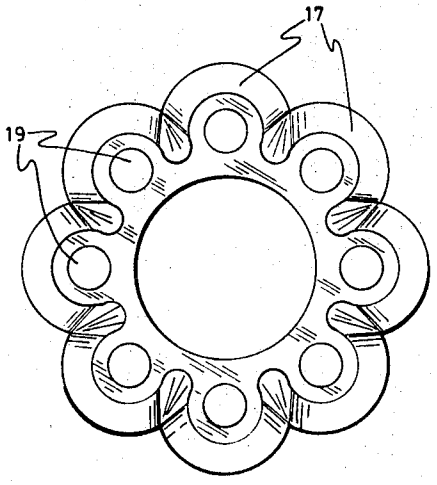


Fig. 5.

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CHRISTMAS TREE

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U.S. Cl. 161—24 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A Christmas tree that includes a stem or trunk supported in a conventional base, and a plurality of one-piece branch supports coupled to the trunk at different levels thereof, the supports being constituted by sleeves of a thermoplastic material or the like, wherein the outside parts of the supports have a plurality of symmetrically distributed cylindrical perforations with longitudinal axes parallel to that of the sleeve, tree branches being inserted in the perforations; the upper portions of the perforations terminate in radial slots of substantially rectangular cross section, that permit the folding and unfolding of the branches in relation with the stem.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention refers to ornamental articles and, more particularly to an ornamental Christmas tree.

The great demand of this sort of decorative articles has resulted in numerous improvements in its various parts. However, until today, the coupling of the tree branches to the stem or trunk of the same, has lacked a simple and economical device, that may be produced on a large scale and at a low cost, and that permits the coupling of several branches at the same level around the trunk or stem, with the possibility of folding and unfolding them in relation with the trunk.

Then the object of this invention is to provide a Christmas tree, comprising a simple and economical support for the branches, that permits the coupling of several branches at the same level around the stem or trunk and the folding and unfolding of the branches in relation to the trunk.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The above, and other advantages of the invention will become apparent from the description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of a preferred embodiment thereof.

FIG. 1 is a vertical elevational view illustrating a tree with branch supports installed on the same according to the invention.

FIG. 2 is a vertical elevational view of a branch support of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of the support shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the support shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

FIG. 5 is a bottom plan view of the support shown in FIGS. 2 to 4.

The Christmas tree **11** of this invention includes a supporting base **12** that may be triangular shaped or of any other configuration, a cylindrical stem or trunk **13** resting in the base, and supports **14** for the branches **15**;

the supports are concentrically coupled to the stem **13** by fastening means at different levels, the supports being inserted over the stem one by one. The supports may be manufactured from a thermoplastic material, or the like, and include a sleeve portion **16** with an inner diameter substantially equal to that of the stem **13**. The sleeve portion includes in its periphery a plurality of protuberances **17** which extend through the length of the sleeve portion **16**, the protuberances being tapered at the lower ends of the same, with said sleeve portion forming an integral unity. The protuberances **17** cross one to each other and to the inner tubular portion **16** and they have longitudinal holes or perforations **19** which are symmetrically distributed in a circle concentric to the stem, with their longitudinal axes parallel to that of the sleeve portion **16**. In these perforations, the ends of the branches **15** are inserted; said perforations terminates in the upper part of the support **14** at slots **20** radially distributed from the central section to the periphery of the support, permitting the folding and unfolding of the branches and maintaining them at the same time fastened in a predetermined portion radial to the stem or trunk.

While the invention has been described in conjunction with a preferred specific embodiment, it will be understood that this description is intended to illustrate and not to unduly limit the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. In a Christmas tree comprising in combination, a base supporting a stem and removable tree branches, said stem having mounted there along a plurality of support means for carrying insertable and removable tree branches, said support means being fixed at different levels of said stem, wherein the improvement comprises a single piece support means that includes a sleeve portion with a plurality of protuberances peripherally and symmetrically distributed over the length of said sleeve portion, said protuberances crossing one to each other and being tapered at the lower ends thereof, said protuberances having longitudinal, substantially cylindrical perforations with their longitudinal axes parallel to that of said sleeve portions, the upper portion of each perforation ending in a perpendicular slot of substantially rectangular cross section, said slot extending radially from the inside of each support means to the periphery thereof, permitting the folding and unfolding of said branches in relation with said stem.

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161—13