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2,644,210

CLOTHESPIN DEVICE

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Fig. 1

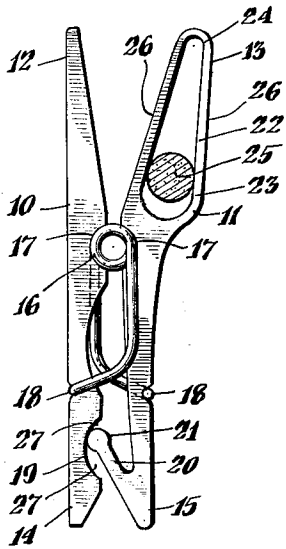


Fig. 2

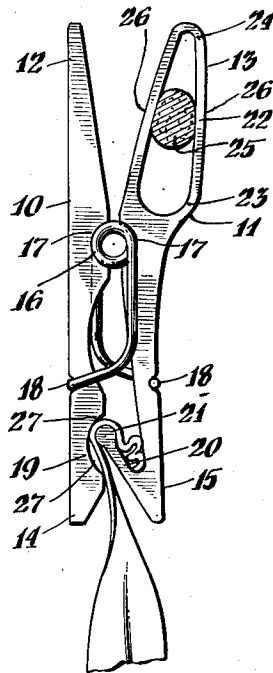


Fig. 4

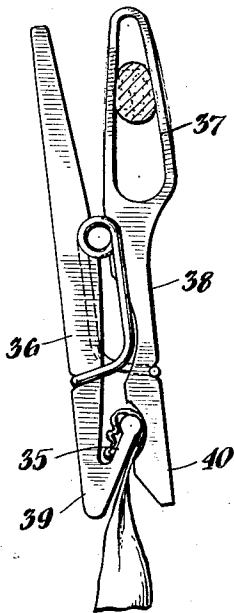
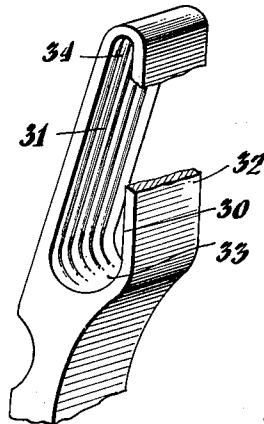


Fig. 3



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CLOTHESPIN DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—137)

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This invention relates to clothespins and more particularly to a clothespin having improved clothes engaging means and means for fixing the pin in position on the clothesline.

An important object of this invention is to provide a device which may be permanently associated with a clothesline, may be moved therealong and may be temporarily fixed in any desired position.

A further object of the device is to provide an improved clothes clamping means in which the clothes are not passed over the clothesline prior to clamping.

Another object of the invention is to provide a simple, economical clothespin device which cannot be mislaid and will provide means for attaching clothes to a clothesline without the necessity for contacting the clothesline itself.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a decorative sanitary clothes fastening device which is substantially impervious to weather conditions.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be brought out hereinafter.

The invention includes two members each provided with a clothes engaging or clamping jaw at one end and a lever arm at the other end. The two members are connected by a spring which provides a pivotal connection for the two members intermediate their ends. The spring means act against the members to urge the jaws of the members into clothes clamping position in the usual manner found in spring clothespins. The invention resides in the improvement of the configuration of the clamping faces of the jaws and the provision of a wedge shaped eyelet in the lever arm end of one of the members. The improved clamping jaws include a concave clamping face on the one jaw adapted to receive a hook-like jaw of the other member. The eyelet provided in the lever arm of one of the members has a wedge shaped configuration which becomes gradually restricted at the end remote from the clamping jaws thus providing a means for fixing the clothespin on the clothesline when it is in use.

Reference is made to the drawings for a more complete description of the invention:

Fig. 1 is a side view of the device when not in use;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the device when in use;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of an alternate form of the eyelet wherein striations are provided on the inner wall; and

Fig. 4 is a side view of an alternate form of the invention.

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Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the device comprises elongated members 10 and 11 having lever arms 12 and 13 respectively and clothes engaging jaws 14 and 15. The members 10 and 11 are maintained in pivotal connection by the coil spring 16, the coil of the spring being received in recesses 17 provided in the members 10 and 11. Extension arms 18 of the spring grip the members 10 and 11 adjacent the clothes engaging jaws of the members and urge said jaws into clothes clamping position. This type of clamping means being well known, further description thereof will not be made.

The clamping jaw 14 on the member 10 is provided with a concave recess 19 on its clothes engaging face and clamping jaw 15 is provided with a hook-like projection 20 which extends outwardly from the jaw member 15 at an acute angle. An enlarged rounded protuberance 21 is formed on the outer end of the hook-like projection 20 and is adapted to seat itself in the recess 19 as shown in Fig. 1. The protuberance 21 is sufficiently small so that it does not occupy the entire concavity 19.

An eyelet 22 may be formed in the lever arm 13 of the member 11. The eyelet 22 has a generally wedge shaped form, having a greater width at the end 23 adjacent the pivotal spring connection 16 than at the outer end 24 of the lever arm 13. The opening of the eyelet is of such size that a standard clothesline as indicated in cross-section at 25 in Fig. 1 may be loosely received in the lower, i. e. enlarged part of the eyelet. The upper part of the eyelet has a reduced width such that when the clothesline is pressed upward into that area of the eyelet, it will be squeezed, as shown in Fig. 2. The portions 26 of the lever arm 13 forming the walls of the eyelet 22 are sufficiently thin and resilient to move outwardly as the clothesline is forced into the upper restricted area of the eyelet so that the walls will exert an inward pressure against the clothesline when the latter is in the position shown in Fig. 2.

The clothespin is threaded on the clothesline 25 and when not in use may be freely moved along the clothesline being loosely embraced in the lower part 23 of the eyelet 22, as shown in Fig. 1. In order to attach clothes to the clothespin, the lever arms 12 and 13 are pressed together against the pressure of the spring 16 so as to move the jaws 14 and 15 apart. The clothes are thereafter placed between the jaws 14 and 15 so that they occupy the position shown in Fig. 2, that is, with the upper part of the fabric passing over the protuberance 21 on the hook 20. Thereafter the clothespin is permitted to

close by releasing the lever arms 12 and 13 and the jaws 14 and 15 move together to grip firmly the clothes positioned therebetween. The curved areas 27 adjacent to the rim of the concave clothes engaging face 19 provide recessed spaces on either side of the protuberance 21 to permit the thickness of fabric to be received in the spaces so that a firm gripping contact can be made between the central part of the concave face and the protuberance 21 on the hook 20.

To fix the clothespin in position on the clothesline so that it will not move laterally, i. e., along the clothesline, during the time it is being used as a clothes supporting means, the clothespin is pressed downwardly so that the clothesline is forced into the restricted area of the eyelet as shown in Fig. 2. It will be noted that the weight of the clothes will assist in maintaining the clothespin in this position and the pressure exerted by the wind or other forces against the clothing will tend to further bind the clothespin in position on the clothesline. It will be understood that because the clothespin is permanently fixed upon the clothesline, there is no possibility of its becoming detached when wind blows against the clothes. Also, the hook means 23 will tend to prevent clothes becoming detached from the pin.

It is contemplated that the device of this invention be formed of a sanitary material substantially impervious to weather conditions so that continued exposure to the elements will not cause it to deteriorate or corrode. It has been found that plastic is very satisfactory for use in the device, for it is a decorative and sanitary smooth surfaced material which does not collect dirt and is substantially impervious to ordinary weather conditions. Furthermore, plastics of the type suggested have been found to have sufficient resiliency to permit the walls of the eyelet 22 to assist in the wedging and binding action on the clothesline 25. The spring for the clothespin may be formed of any suitable corrosive resistant metal such as stainless steel.

The walls of the eyelet 22, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, are contemplated as being substantially smooth and forming gradually sloping surfaces from the area of greater width 23 to the area of reduced width 24. Fig. 3 presents an alternate configuration for the walls of the eyelet. As shown, therein, eyelet 30 is provided with striations or ridges 31 disposed lengthwise of the member 32, i. e., extending from the enlarged area 33 to the restricted area 34 of the device. The striations 31 provide a greater frictional surface to prevent the lateral movement of the clothespin when it has been set in the clothesline-binding position, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 illustrates an alternate form of the invention wherein the hook-line projection 35 is provided on the member 36 and the eyelet 37 is provided on the opposing member 38 so that when the clothespin device is in the clothes gripping position, as shown in Fig. 4, the hook-like member 35 will be more nearly in the vertical position than in the form illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 to thereby enhance the hooking qualities of the gripping faces formed on the jaws 39 and 40 in Fig. 4.

It will be appreciated that the invention may be carried out in ways other than those described in the foregoing specification, and that the forms embodying the invention described are merely illustrative, and that various changes in the design and arrangement of the elements may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

In a clothespin having two members each provided with a clothes clamping jaw at one end and a lever arm at the other end and wherein spring means provide a pivotal connection for said members intermediate their ends and urge the jaws of said members into clothes clamping position; a clothesline engaging eyelet element defined in one lever arm, said eyelet being closed and extending from a point adjacent the pivotal connection of said member to a point adjacent the end of said lever arm, the eyelet formed in the member being sufficiently large at the end adjacent the pivotal connection to receive loosely a clothesline and being sufficiently small adjacent the end of the lever arm so as to bind upon the clothesline, the portions of the member defining the walls of the eyelet being adapted for resilient outward deformation when pressure is exerted against the inner faces of said portions, the portions of the lever defining the eyelet being an intergral structure whereby the walls of the eyelet are supported at both ends.

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