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D. C. SMITH

2,583,020

CLOTHESPIN

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Fig. 1.

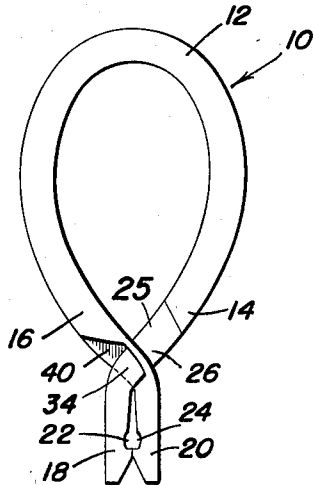


Fig. 2.

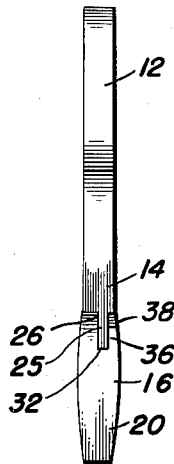


Fig. 3.

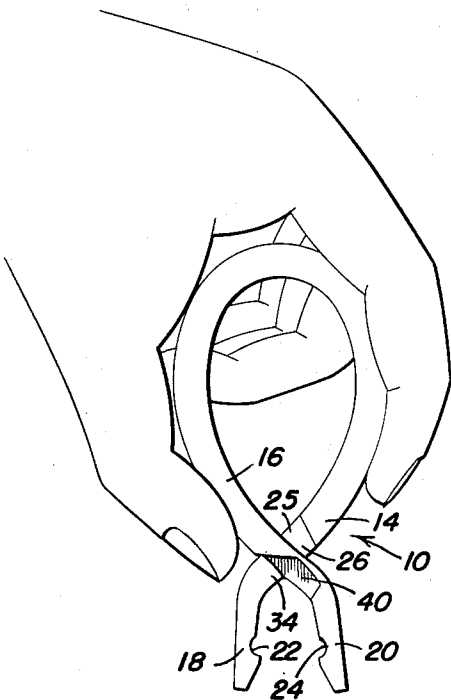
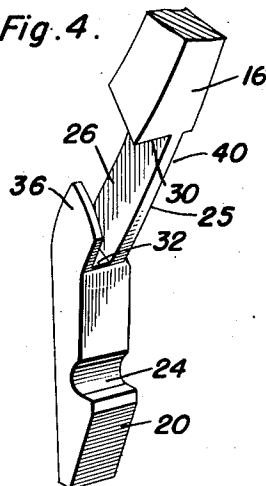


Fig. 4.



Inventor

David C. Smith

By

Alfonse A. O'Brien
and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CLOTHESPIN

David C. Smith, Chicago, Ill.

Application December 5, 1949, Serial No. 131,187

2 Claims. (Cl. 24—137)

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This invention relates to fastening elements and more particularly to a novel and useful clothespin, the present invention constituting an improvement over U. S. Patent No. 2,099,177, issued November 16, 1937.

An object of this invention is to provide a clothespin having a pair of spring pressed jaw members the longitudinal and transverse movement of which is restrained to definite limits.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clothespin which will be constructed from only one piece and yet perform the functions of a spring pressed clothespin.

A yet further object is to provide a novel clothespin having spring pressed jaw members which may by use of one hand be easily secured over clothes and clothesline.

Still further objects of the invention are to provide a clothespin which is efficient and reliable in performance, simple, strong, and durable and practical in construction, easy to manufacture, and capable of being manufactured from a variety of materials though being specially adapted to be made from resin, cellulose and other plastics of the desired characteristics.

These, together with the various ancillary objects of the invention which will become apparent as the following description proceeds are attained by the clothespin, a preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings: wherein;

Figure 1 is a front vertical elevated view of the novel clothespin, showing the invention in a closed position;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the invention;

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the clothespin, showing it in an open position as grasped by the hand of the user; and,

Figure 4 is an enlarged perspective view showing in detail the structure of one of the arms of the clothespin.

With continued references to the accompanying drawings wherein like characters designate similar parts throughout the various views, reference numeral 10 is used to designate the clothespin comprising the present invention. The clothespin comprises a bar or piece of resilient plastic material bent so as to form an arcuate spring portion 12.

A pair of arms 14 and 16 are integral with the arcuate spring portion 12 and are arranged in crossing relation, the ends of which are angularly offset to form opposed jaw members 18 and 20.

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The jaw members have notches 22 and 24 cut therein to provide means for encompassing a clothes line.

The lower portion of the arms 14 and 16 are provided with longitudinal grooves on one side thereof as at 26 to provide pairs of spaced shoulders such as shown at 30 and 32, the latter forming the bottom of the groove defined by the flanges 34 and 36 and the side walls 25, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The flanges 34 and 36 extending upwardly from the shoulders 32 overlie the recesses 26. The sides of the arms 14 and 16 opposite to the recesses 26 are recessed as at 38 and 40 respectively.

In operation, the clothespin is depressed in opposition to the inherent outward urging of the resilient spring portion 12, in the manner shown in Figure 3. As long as the relative movement between the crossing arm portions is of a limited nature, the flanges 34 and 36 will abut the arms 16 and 14 within their recesses 40 and 38 respectively. Of course, the over-all movement of the arm portions will be limited by the shoulders 30 and 32 at opposite ends of the recesses 26. After the clothespin has been opened to the position shown in Figure 3, it may then be placed over the clothes on a clothes line. Upon release of the hand of the person hanging clothes, the grooved jaws will clamp the clothes to the line.

It will be noted that the flanges 34 and 36 on the arms 14 and 16, respectively, when in interlocking engagement within their respective recesses 38 and 40, restrain the arms from transverse movement so that the clothes and clothes line cannot because of their bulk twist the clothespin off of the line. It will be understood that the flanges 34 and 36 will be of sufficient length so that under normal use of the clothespin, as when pinning clothes to a line, they will remain interlocked with their respective side walls 25.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that a device has been provided which will accomplish all of the objects hereinabove set forth.

Inasmuch as certain modifications in construction and design will be evident to one skilled in the art after a consideration of the foregoing specification and accompanying drawing, it is intended to limit the invention only by the scope of the claims hereinafter set forth.

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

1. A clothespin comprising an elongated resilient bar bent backwardly upon itself and crossed forming a pair of crossing arm portions,

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a pair of engaging jaws on the ends of said crossing arm portions and integral therewith, each of said crossing arm portions having an elongated recess for slidably retaining the opposing crossing arm portion so that the longitudinal axis of said resilient bar and jaws lie substantially in the same plane, each of said jaws having a flange portion which overlies the adjacent recess on each crossing arm portion, said flange portion on each of the jaws slidably engaging an opposing crossing arm portion and restraining the same against transverse movement with respect to the longitudinal axis of said jaw when said crossing arm portions are in preselected relation to each other, while permitting relative movement of said jaws to open the same to receive material to be yieldably held therebetween.

2. A clothespin as in claim 1 wherein the entire

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clothespin consists of an integral one-piece structure.

DAVID C. SMITH.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,448,679	Scott	Mar. 13, 1923
2,099,177	Smith	Nov. 16, 1937
2,303,961	Sprague	Dec. 1, 1942

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
237,548	Great Britain	Nov. 19, 1925