United States Patent [19]

Brown et al.

[11] **3,915,419**

[45] **Oct. 28, 1975**

[54] **SLING HANGER FOR POTS**

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[22] Filed: **June 26, 1974**

[21] Appl. No.: **483,534**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/318**

[51] **Int. Cl.²** **F16M 13/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 248/102, 317, 318; 150/1, 150/1.7; 224/49; 47/35, 36

[56] **References Cited**

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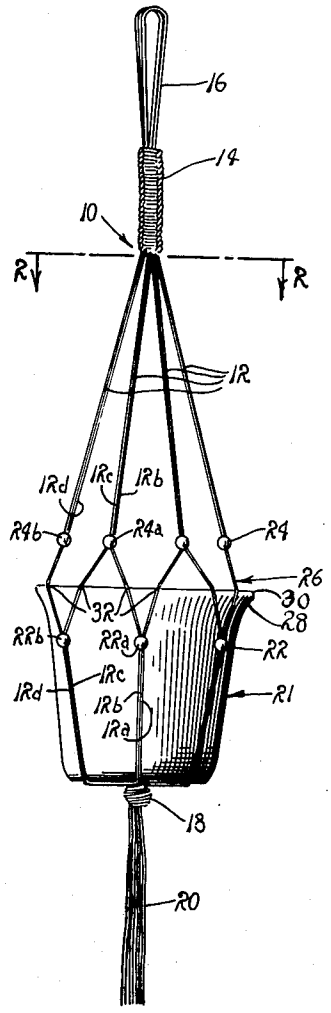
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Primary Examiner—William H. Schultz

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a plurality of rope strands braided at the upper ends to form an attachment loop and knotted at their lower ends to form a pot sling. A plurality of beads are positioned on the ropes so that every other bead is lower than its adjacent beads. Sliding adjustment of the location of the beads on the ropes permits the rope strands to be formed into a net and fitted to pots of different configurations.

6 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures



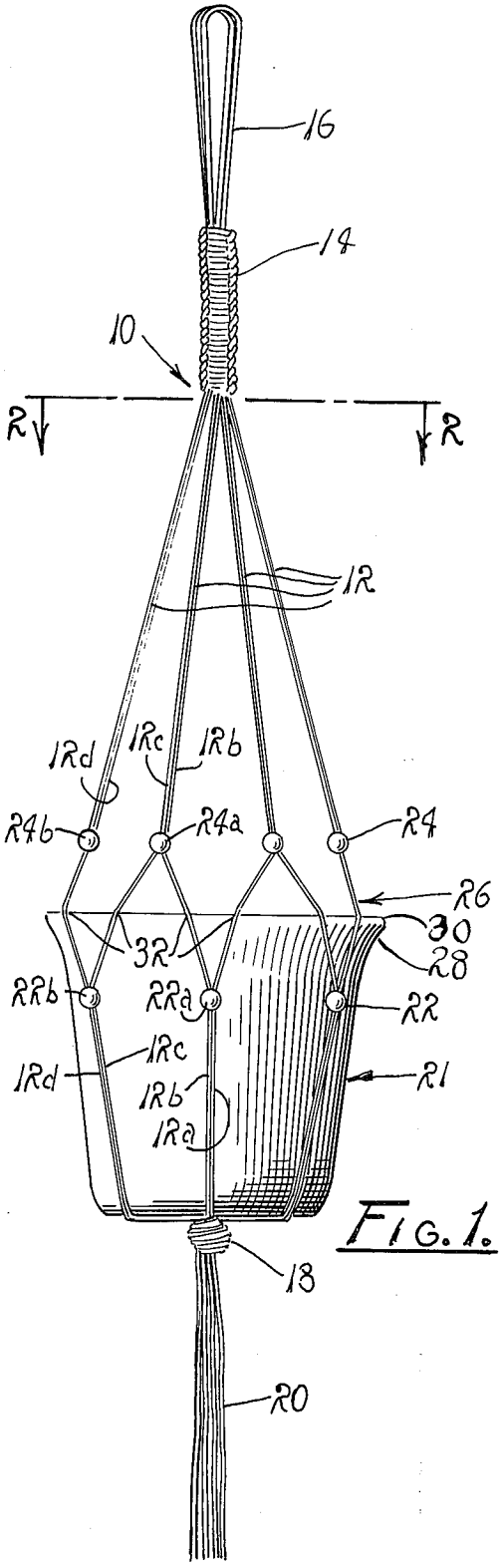


FIG. 1.

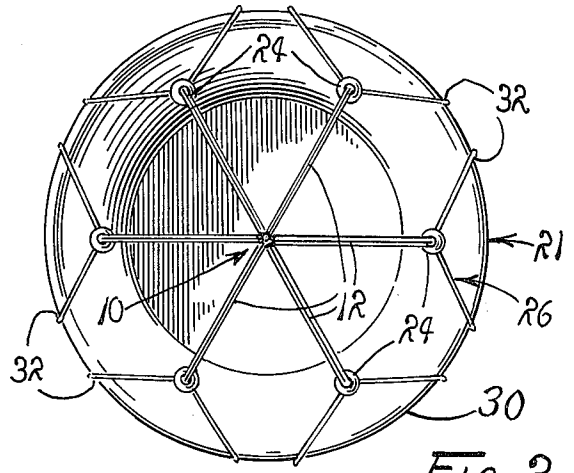


FIG. 2.

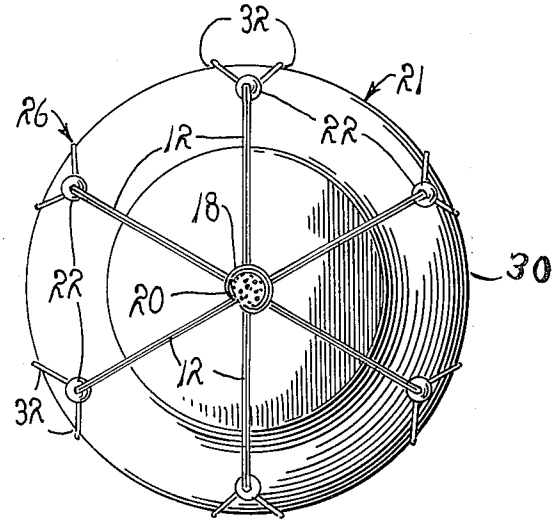


FIG 3.

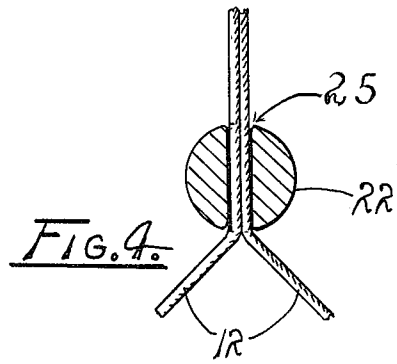


FIG. 4.

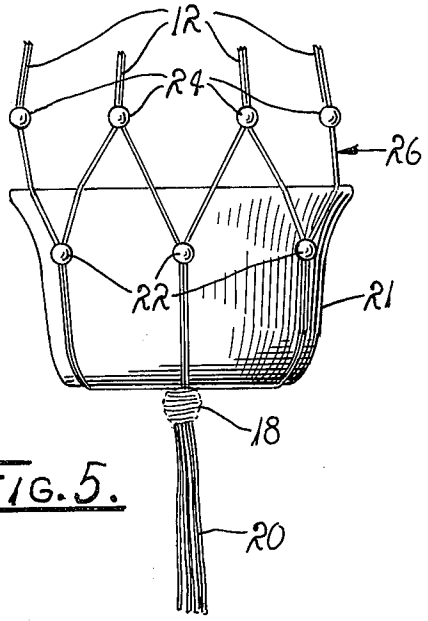


FIG. 5.

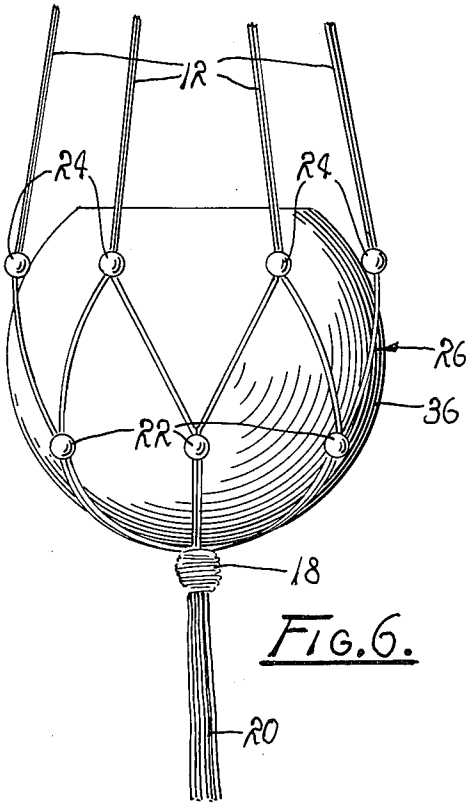


FIG. 6.

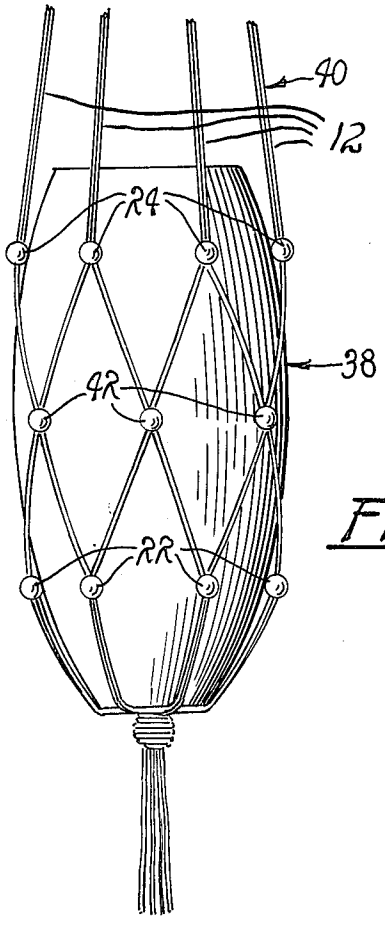


FIG. 7.

SLING HANGER FOR POTS

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

This invention relates generally to slings for supporting hanging pots and more particularly to slings formed from hanging strands and interconnected at their lower ends to provide a pot holding net.

In the art of macramé it has long been known to form artistic sling pot hangers from rope strands. These slings have been made in a variety of ways to give different esthetic effects. Such slings have been used to support baskets, metal containers and pottery vases or pots.

Recently, such slings have enjoyed an increased popularity and commercial manufacture is now quite prevelant. Particularly where pots are to be supported by the slings, structure must be incorporated in the lower portion of the sling for a net that will keep the pot in the sling. In the past this has generally been done by knotting adjacent rope strands together to achieve a net-like configuration. This technique has the advantage of tailoring each sling to a pot of a particular configuration, or at least a limited number of related configurations, since shorter, larger pots require a different net configuration for proper support than do tall, narrower pots.

Moreover, macrame slings, being limited to strands of rope or other material which can be easily knotted, are not capable of effectively utilizing other forms of flexible strands such as wire and chain.

In commercial manufacture, this requirement of tailoring the net to a particular pot, or related group of pots, is a serious limitation because it requires many different sling models to be made, stored and marketed.

A need, therefore, exists for an improved pot hanging sling in which the pot holding net can be adapted by the user to the configuration of any of a large variety of pots.

It is, therefore, a major object of our invention to provide a pot hanging sling in which the net is formed by interconnecting adjacent flexible strands with alternately positioned beads or rings which are slidable on the strands to vary the configuration of the net.

Another object of our invention is to provide a pot hanging sling of the type described in which every other bead is positioned below its adjacent beads and passes one of the two strands passed by each of its adjacent beads.

A further object of our invention is to provide a pot hanging sling of the type described which is esthetically pleasing and yet easily manipulable by a user to adapt it to the configuration of a particular pot.

Still another object of our invention is to provide a pot hanging sling of the type described which assures satisfactory usage by reason of its ability to be fitted to the particular pot to be supported and thereby provide the maximum support in combination with the most artistic appearance possible.

Yet another object of our invention is to provide such a pot hanging sling which is economical to manufacture and highly durable, and is adaptable to use with nearly any flexible strand material.

These and other objects and advantages of our invention will be readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment, and the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a preferred embodiment of our invention showing it in use for supporting a relatively slender pot;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a bottom plan view of the preferred embodiment at FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged sectional view of a single bead with the rope strands passing through it;

FIG. 5 is a partial elevational view showing our invention supporting a more bulbous pot;

FIG. 6 is a side elevational view of our preferred embodiment applied to hold a pot of still another shape; and

FIG. 7 is a side elevational view of a modified form of our invention in which three rows rather than two are utilized.

Referring now to the drawings and particularly to FIG. 1 thereof, the numeral **10** designates generally a preferred embodiment of our sling hanger. The sling is formed of rope strands **12**, the upper ends of which are braided back up themselves at **14** to form an attachment loop **16**.

At the lower ends of the rope strands **12**, a knot **18** is formed to hold the strands together, and the distal lower ends hang downward as a tassle **20**.

To provide structure for holding a pot **21** in the lower portion of the sling, beads are mounted on the rope strands. By positioning, these beads consist of lower beads **22** and upper beads **24**. Each of the beads has a passage **25** which passes two rope strands and is slidable on these strands.

The lower beads **22** are alternated around the periphery of the sling with upper beads **24**, and each bead joins two adjacent rope strands. For example, lower bead **22*a*** (see FIG. 1) joins rope strands **12*a*** and **12*b***, and is located lower on strand **12*b*** than the next adjacent bead (moving leftward in the Figure), upper bead **24*a***. Upper bead **24*a*** joins strands **12*b*** and **12*c***. The next bead, lower bead **22*b***, joins strands **12*c*** and **12*d***, and is lower on the rope strands **12** than upper bead **24*a***, and horizontally aligned with lower bead **22*a***. Finally, upper bead **24*b*** joins strands **12*d*** and **12*e*** (not shown) and is disposed above lower beads **22*a*** and **22*b*** and is horizontally aligned with upper bead **24*a***. Thus, proceeding around the pot **21**, adjacent beads alternate as upper beads **24** and lower beads **22**, each bead joins two adjacent strands, and each rope strand is passed through two beads, an upper bead and a lower bead.

As a result of the interconnection of the rope strands by the beads, a net structure **26** is formed. By adjusting the positions of the upper beads **24** and lower beads **22**, the net structure **26** can be located about the lip **28** of the pot **21** and expanded or contracted in vertical coverage to provide the best possible stability. By illustration, the lower beads **22** in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 are arranged at the base of the lip **28** of the pot and the upper beads **24** are located about as far above the upper rim **30** of the pot as the lower beads are below it. As best shown in FIG. 3, this provides a network of inverted "V's" in the strands as they pass over the rim **30** and causes equally spaced support points **32** from each strand about the pot rim.

With our sling hanger thus formed and arranged about a pot **21**, it will be seen that the knot **18** at the lower ends of the rope strands **12** centers itself under the pot bottom and supports the weight of the pot and

its contents. The function of the net structure **26** is to contain the upper portion of the pot by keeping it centered on the knot **18** and preventing it from tipping out of the sling between the rope strands. Control of the upper portion of the pot is achieved not only by the multiple support points **32** which the strands provide on the rim **30**, but also by the ring of lower beads **22** which provide somewhat of a band about the pot throat just below the lip **28**. Actually, for the pot **21** to escape from the sling, the full diameter of the rim **30** must be passed between the legs of the alternately upright and inverted "V's" formed by the net structure **26**. As best seen in FIG. **3**, this is possible when the net structure is properly adjusted.

A comparison of FIGS. **1** and **2** will illustrate the facility of our sling to provide the equally sure support for pots of different configurations. Where the net structure **26** is formed by knots instead of beads, this would not be possible and stable support could be provided for only one pot configuration per sling. The commercial implications of our variable net structure sling can, therefore, be readily appreciated.

In FIG. **6** we show our sling **10** applied to support of a substantially spherical pot **36**. Since the major diameter of the pot **36** is at its midpoint rather than at its rim, as in the pots of FIGS. **1** and **2**, the upper beads **24** are positioned somewhat above the midpoint of pot **36** and the lower beads **22** somewhat below the midpoint. The net structure **26** is thus arranged to span the center portion of pot **36** where the best stability against tipping is achieved.

In FIG. **7** we show a modified form of our sling applied to the support of a tear-shaped pot **38**. The modified sling **40** has a third row of beads which are disposed between the upper beads **24** and lower beads **22** and constitute middle beads **42**. In this form, as in the first embodiment, the middle beads **42** each pass a pair of the strands **12**, one from each of two upper beads **24** on each side of the particular middle bead.

With this modified form the net structure **26** is expanded to provide a full diamond configuration rather than the peripheral series of alternated upright and inverted V's.

To assure the best stability of the pot **38**, the net structure **26** in this form is arranged about the center of the pot where its diameter is maximum and extends over a greater area above and below the center. The upper beads **24** are below, but near, the pot rim, the middle beads **42** band about the center, and the lower beads **22** are quite near the bottom. By properly placing the rows of beads, they can be made to cinch up on the individual strands **12** which form the net structure **26** and draw the net structure into close conformity with the periphery of the pot **38**. This illustrates another advantageous feature of our invention which is available in the first form of our preferred embodiments as well, albeit to a lesser extent.

From this description of the two forms of our invention, it should be understood that it is also possible to add additional rows of beads where it is anticipated that the pot or object to be supported may require them for adequate stability. The two or three rows of beads will suffice, however, for a great variety of pot shapes.

From this description it should also be understood that the placement of the bead rows on the pot contour and cinching up or spreading the beads as the net structure **26** is formed, provide additional benefit and versatility to our sling.

It is also possible to satisfactorily contain a pot within our sling by locating all the beads, upper, lower and middle (if used), above the pot and cinching up on the strands above the pot. This necks down the sling above the pot and draws the lower strands passing along the pot snuggly against the pot walls.

It should also be understood that our sling provides great versatility not present in previously known slings. In addition to the features described above, it is possible, by reason of the mobility of the beads, to reverse the sling and hang it with the bottom knot **18** at the top, and the top braid **14** and loop **16** at the bottom. Furthermore, it is possible to position a pot on a slant to vertical as well as in vertical alignment, and still support it securing the sling. Also, by utilizing appropriate beads or rings, it is possible to accommodate flexible strands which cannot be readily knotted such as wire or chain.

From this detailed description of a preferred embodiment of our invention, it should be understood that it is fully capable of providing the advantages and achieving the objects heretofore attributed to it.

I claim:

1. A pot hanging sling comprising:

a plurality of pairs of strands suspended from their upper ends and interconnected at their lower ends to form a pot support; and

strand connection means interconnected with said strands intermediate their ends and disposed to join pairs of adjacent strands, said strand connection means being movable lengthwise on said strands, and said strand connection means includes a plurality of upper strand junction members each disposed to join a pair of strands, and lower strand junction members each positioned lower on said strands than said upper strand junction members and each disposed to join strands each of which is joined to a different strand by each of two different upper strand junction members.

2. A pot hanging sling as described in claim **1**, in which:

said upper strand junction members are beads each mounted on a different pair of adjacent strands, and said lower strand junction members are beads each mounted on a different pair of adjacent strands, said pairs of strands upon which said lower beads are mounted containing one strand from each of two different pairs of strands upon which each of two different upper beads are mounted.

3. A pot hanging sling as described in claim **2**, in which:

each of said lower beads is mounted on a pair of adjacent strands one of which has an upper bead on one side of said lower bead mounted thereon, and the other of which has an upper bead on the other side of said lower bead mounted thereon.

4. A pot hanging sling as described in claim **1**, in which:

said strand junction members are so disposed as to form a net structure from said strands adapted to cinch up upon the periphery of a pot to hold said pot in said sling.

5. A pot hanging sling comprising:

six flexible strands disposed to be suspended from their upper ends and interconnected at their lower ends to form a pot support;

three first row beads each mounted on a separate pair of said strands intermediate the ends thereof and slidable manually thereon;

three second row beads each mounted on a separate pair of said strands intermediate the ends thereof and nearer the lower ends thereof than said first row beads and slidable manually thereon, said pairs of strands upon which each of said second row beads are mounted consisting of one strand from a first row bead disposed peripherally on one side of a particular one of said second row beads and one strand from another first row bead disposed peripherally on the other side of said particular second row bead.

6. A pot hanging sling as described in claim **5** which further includes:

three third row beads each mounted on a separate pair of said strands intermediate the ends thereof and nearer the lower ends thereof than said second row beads and slidable manually thereon, said pairs of strands upon which each of said third row beads are mounted consisting of one strand from a second row bead disposed peripherally on one side of a particular one of said third row beads and one strand from another second row bead disposed peripherally on the other side of said particular third row bead.

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