No. 639,958. Patented Dec. 26, 1899.

J. BARTEL.

HAT HOLDER FOR MILLINERS' USE.

(Application filed Aug. 14, 1899.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

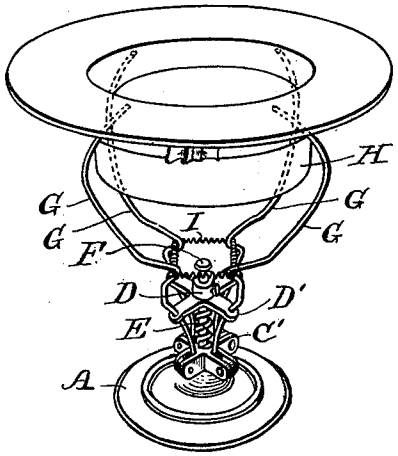


Fig. 1.

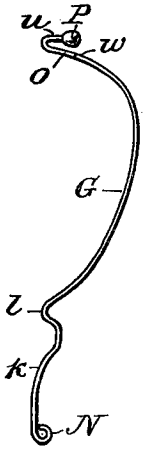


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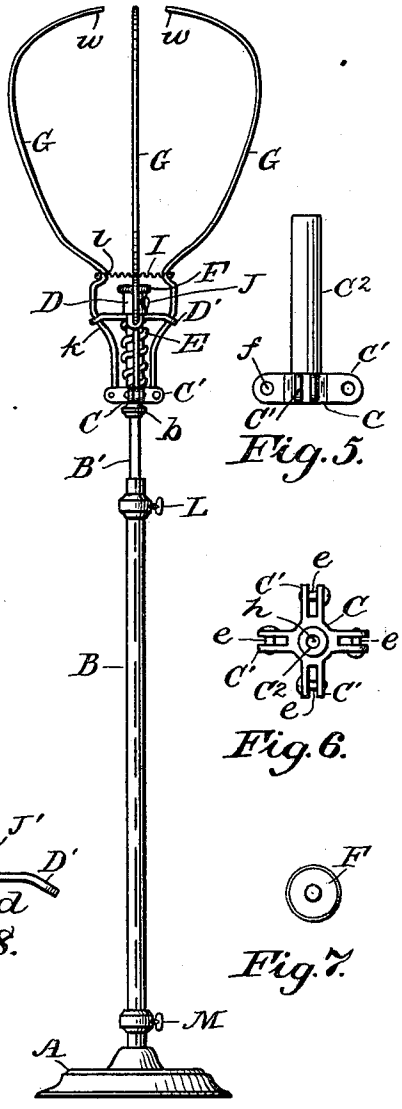


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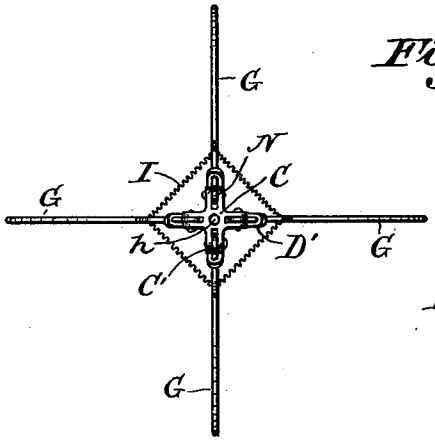


Fig. 2.

Fig. 6.

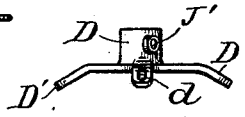


Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

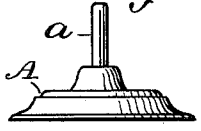


Fig. 10.

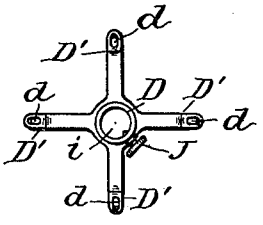


Fig. 9.



Fig. 11.

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No. 639,958. Patented Dec. 26, 1899.

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HAT HOLDER FOR MILLINERS' USE.

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

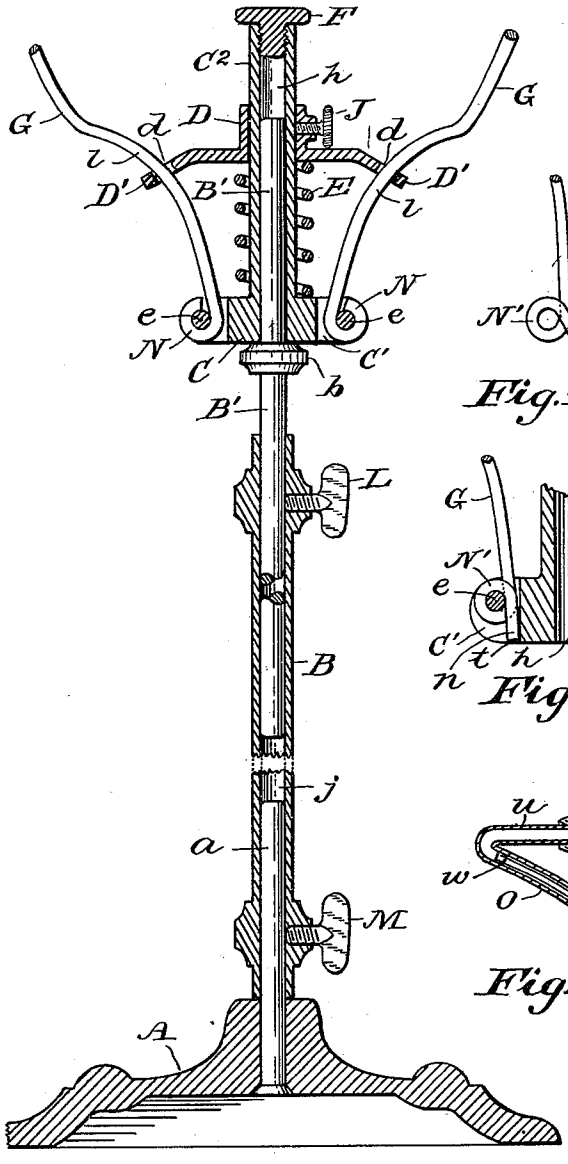


Fig.12.

Fig.13.

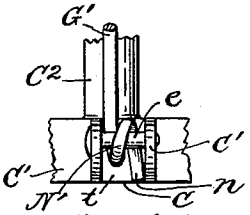


Fig.14.

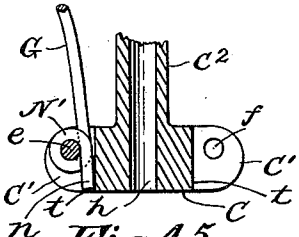


Fig.15.

Fig.16.

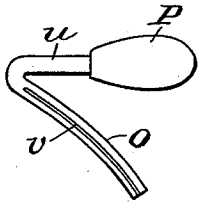


Fig.17.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HAT-HOLDER FOR MILLINERS' USE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 639,958, dated December 26, 1899.

Application filed August 14, 1899. Serial No. 727,139. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BARTEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Hat-Holders for Milliners' Use; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to devices for milliners' use in the operation of trimming hats or bonnets; and it consists in certain improvements in the details of construction of adjustable heads and stands, whereby they are adapted to hold hats and the like while the accessories known as "trimmings" are being applied thereto; and the invention consists also in the parts and combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

My objects are, first, to provide a device or apparatus of this character whereby the operation of trimming hats may be facilitated and the operation performed without liability of damage to the trimming, which may be of a delicate character and become soiled when handled in the usual manner; second, to provide for holding a hat independently of the person working upon it, so that both hands may be employed in the work with better artistic results, and, third, to provide a holder which may be quickly transformed and adapted to set upon the floor at a suitable height for the operator either when standing or sitting and which may be adapted to be set upon a table. These objects are fully attained in my invention, which is cheaply made, durable in use, and may be employed also for other purposes, such as in the display of hats and similar articles.

Referring to the drawings, in which similar letters of reference in the several figures designate similar parts, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my invention as adapted to be set upon a table and showing a common type of hat in position in the holder suitable for inserting the lining; Fig. 2, a bottom plan of the head, the fingers being expanded; Fig. 3, an elevation of the device as adapted for setting upon the floor; Fig. 4, an elevation of a finger detached and having the extremity thereof arranged for grasping a hat internally; Fig. 5 an elevation, and Fig. 6 a top plan, of the base of the head; Fig. 7, a bottom plan of the stop-screw; Fig. 8 an elevation, and Fig. 9 a top plan, of the finger-controller; Fig. 10, an elevation of the stand-base; Fig. 11, an elevation of the stop-screw; Fig. 12, a central vertical sectional view of the device, but having the fingers partly broken away; Figs. 13, 14, and 15 detail views showing modifications in the construction of the arms of the head-base and in the base of the fingers, and Figs. 16 and 17 detail views showing appliances for the extremities of the fingers.

My hat-holder is preferably composed of metal throughout. The base A may suitably be cast and is provided with a vertical cylindrical stem *a*, to which is fitted the lower end of a tubular staff B and secured by a thumb-screw M, the bore *j* being of uniform diameter throughout, and in the upper end thereof is fitted a sliding stem B′, which may be secured at any desired position by means of a thumb-screw L. Near the upper end is a collar *b*, and above the collar the stem B′ is of the same diameter as the stem *a*.

The head comprises a base C, fingers G, and a finger-controller D, and, when required, a spring E and stop-screw F.

The base C of the head has a suitable number of radial arms C′, the extremities of which are bifurcated and provided with pivot-pin holes *f*, adapted to receive pins *e*, which are preferably in the form of removable screw-bolts. Extending from the base is a stem C^2, having a bore *h*, which extends also through the base, and the top of the stem is provided with a stop-screw F, having a top of greater diameter than the exterior of the stem. Instead of a removable stop, however, this may be suitably attached permanently, if desired, and other provision made for inserting the stem in the bore *i* of the controller D. The bore *h* is fitted revolubly upon the stem B′, as well as upon the stem *a*, the bottom of the base C bearing upon the collar *b* or upon the top of the base A.

A suitable number of fingers G are made,

preferably of spring-wire, substantially in the form shown in Figs. 3 and 4, each having the lower or base end provided with a hinge part N, formed by turning the end over as a ring, which receives a pin *e*, above described, so that each finger is hinged to the base-arms C, while the upper or opposite end is suitably curved and adapted to engage the exterior of the crown of a hat H near the brim, those arranged for engaging the interior of the hat while putting the trimming on having a turned or reverse end *u*, preferably having the point covered with a rubber cap P, which may be removed and transferred to the end *w* of the finger proper. This turned or reverse end *u* has a sleeve O, having a slit *v*, and is fitted removably upon the end *w* of the finger G. After completing the trimming the hat is grasped at the exterior, either with the plain ends *w* or with the rubber cap P attached, and, if desired, by the bend of the reverse end *u*, as may be most convenient, and the lining is then put in.

The controller D is of suitable height and has a bore *i*, fitting so as to slide over the stem C^2, and has a suitable number of arms D′, each provided with an aperture *d*, preferably oblong, to receive the finger G, the outwardly-curved portion *k* of which is engaged and guided by the arm as it is raised and depressed, a spring E serving to raise the controller until engaged by the stop-screw F. This spring may, however, be dispensed with in some cases when the spring I is made sufficiently strong to perform the same function or when the finger is modified, as will be explained hereinafter. A set-screw J is preferably applied in a threaded hole J′, by which the controller may be fixed temporarily to the stem C^2 when the fingers are engaging the interior of a hat, or other equivalent means may be employed whereby the controller, and consequently the fingers, may be set at intermediate positions between their extremes of movement.

The tension-spring I is coiled and preferably continuous, extending around the set of fingers, which have each a bend *l* to retain the spring, the function of which is more particularly to take up the slack of the fingers in the apertures *d*, but, as stated, may be made strong enough to perform the same function as the spring E. It is obvious, however, that a rubber band may be substituted for the spring I.

In some cases I may dispense with both the springs E and I and attain the same result by providing a spring at the lower end of each of the fingers, as by lapping the wire in forming the ring N′ as a coiled spring, the end *n* extending somewhat below and bearing against the side *l* of the body of the base C, which in this case is somewhat extended below the pins *e*.

In practical use the hat is engaged as above explained and may be rotated, so as to have all parts accessible. Normally the controller is at its upward position and the fingers closed, as shown in Fig. 3. To set a hat in the holder, the controller is pressed down, which is most conveniently done when the head is detached from the stand by placing the thumb below the head-base and two fingers of the hand above the controller-arms, and thus spreading the fingers G as much as may be necessary, the springs drawing the fingers against the crown of the hat when engaging the exterior. When engaging the interior, the fingers are forced against the hat with sufficient tension and the screw J then set, and this may also be used when the spring tension may be too great at the outside of a frail hat. It will be observed that the arms D′, of fixed length, traveling over the bent angular portions *k* of the fingers cause their radial movement, and hence the contracting and expanding thereof as a whole.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A hat-holder consisting of a head comprising a base and a series of elastic extenuated or slender fingers connected thereto, each of which is adapted to be inserted among the exterior hat-trimming and also suitably curved so as to collectively encompass such trimming and elastically engage the exterior of a hat-crown while the lining is being inserted; a controller sliding over the base and slidingly engaging the fingers; and a spring whereby the fingers are caused to normally approach one another.

2. A hat-holder consisting of a head comprising a base having a tubular stem thereon, a series of slender extenuated fingers connected to the base and adapted to engage the exterior of the crown of a trimmed hat without disarranging the exterior trimming thereof, a controller sliding over the tubular stem and slidingly engaging the fingers, and a spring whereby the fingers are held elastically in contact with the hat.

3. A hat-holder comprising a head having a tubular stem, a series of slender extenuated fingers connected to the base and adapted to engage the exterior of a trimmed hat without disarranging the exterior trimming thereof, a frictional sleeve removably attached to the extremity of each of such fingers and having reversed ends whereby such fingers are transformed so as to engage the interior of a hat, a controller sliding upon the tubular stem and slidingly engaging the fingers, a spring operating to cause the fingers to approach one another, and a binder for the controller.

4. A hat-holder consisting of a head comprising a tubular base having radial bifurcated arms, a support for the base, a stop at the top of the tubular base, a series of fingers hinged at one end to the bifurcated arms and bent outward above their hinged ends and curved inward at their opposite ends, a controller sliding upon the tubular base and having arms engaging the outwardly-curved por-

tions of the fingers, and a spring encircling the tubular base above the arms thereof and normally pressing the controller against the stop at the top of the tubular base.

5. A hat-holder comprising a base provided with a vertical stem, a tubular staff upon the stem of the base, a stem sliding in the staff and provided with a collar near the upper end thereof and a portion above the collar of the same diameter as the stem of the base, a tubular head-base having radial arms and fitted revolubly upon the portion of the stem above the collar, fingers hinged to the radial arms and curved outward and inward whereby a trimmed inverted hat may be engaged at the exterior of its crown without interfering with its exterior trimming, a controller working over the tubular head-base and having arms engaging the fingers where they are curved outward, and a spring for the controller whereby the same shall cause the fingers to normally approach one another.

6. In a hat-holder, the combination with a stand having a stem, of a head comprising a base having a tubular portion fitted upon the stem of the stand and having radial arms provided with pivot-pins, fingers connected with the pivot-pins and curved outward above the pivot-pins and curved inward at their upper ends whereby an inverted trimmed hat may be engaged at the exterior of its crown without interfering with the trimming thereon, a controller working over the tubular portion of the head-base and engaging the outwardly-curved portions of the fingers, a spring for normally pressing the controller upward to contract the fingers, and a stop for the controller.

7. In a hat-holder, the combination of the stand-base having the vertical stem, a head revoluble upon the stem and consisting of a tubular base having radial arms provided with fingers hinged to the radial arms and curved outwardly near their lower portions and inwardly at their upper ends whereby an inverted trimmed hat may be engaged at the exterior of its crown and retained while being lined, a controller working over such tubular base and engaging the outwardly-curved portions of the fingers, and a spring whereby the fingers are caused to normally contract or close at their upper ends.

8. In a hat-holder, the combination of the stand having the stem thereon, the head-base consisting of a tubular stem and radiating bifurcated arms having pivot-pins therein, the fingers attached to said pivot-pins, the controller working over said tubular stem and having arms engaging the fingers, and a spring coiled about said tubular stem and pressing against the bottom of said controller, substantially as set forth.

9. In a hat-holder, the combination of the stand having the vertical stem, the head-base having the tubular stem and mounted revolubly on the vertical stem, the fingers connected to the head-base and composed of spring metal curved outwardly approximately to the top of the tubular stem and bent inwardly at the upper ends thereof so as to be capable of engaging a trimmed hat at the exterior of its crown without interfering with the exterior trimming thereon, and the controller engaging the fingers and the tubular stem.

10. In a hat-holder, the combination of the head-base having the tubular stem, the fingers connected to such head-base and having the curved portions *k* and *l* and also curved inwardly at their upper ends and bent outwardly between their upper ends and the curved portions *l*, the controller engaging such curved portions *l* and also such tubular stem, and means whereby such controller may be adjustably secured to such tubular stem.

11. In a hat-holder, the combination of the stand, the head-base comprising the stem C^2 and the arms C′ and revolubly mounted upon the stand, the stop F attached to the top of the stem C^2, the fingers G hinged to said arms C′, the controller D having the set-screw in the body thereof and working over said stem C^2 and provided with the arms D′ engaging the fingers G, the detachable portion O at the free end of each of said fingers G and having the return-bend and reversed end *u*, the spring E seated between said base-arms and said controller, and the spring I engaging said fingers, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN BARTEL.

Witnesses:
WM. C. THOMPSON,
E. T. SILVIUS.