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C. G. BEVIN, 2ND

2,540,237

CLOTHESPIN

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Fig. 1.

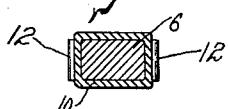


Fig. 2.

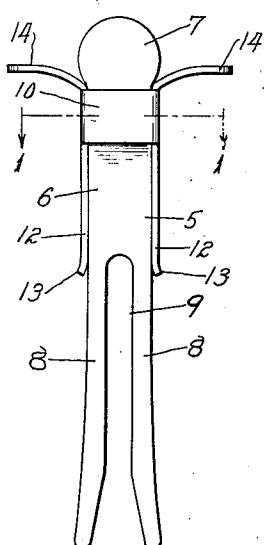


Fig. 3.

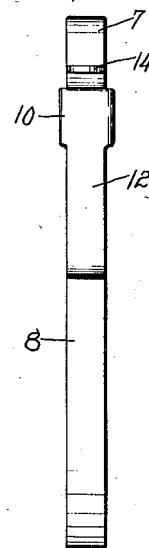
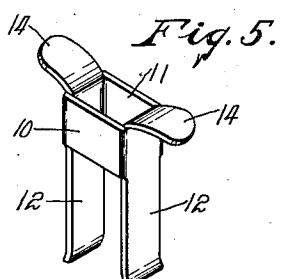
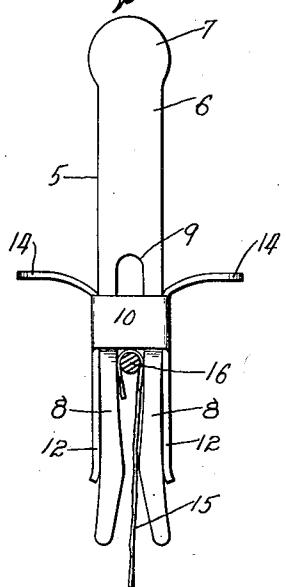


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR.  
CHAUNCEY G. BEVIN II  
BY  
Louis V. Lucia  
ATTORNEY.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CLOTHESPIN

Chauncey G. Bevin, 2nd, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—138)

**1**

This invention relates to clothespins and more particularly to such devices as are provided with locking means to securely retain an article on a clothesline or the like.

An object of the invention is to provide a clothespin which may be locked to a clothesline in such a manner as to securely fasten the article held thereby to the said clothesline so that the said article will not be blown off the clothesline by heavy winds.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clothespin having a re-enforcing device thereon so constructed as to eliminate splitting of the clothespin when it is applied over an article on a clothesline.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will be more clearly understood from the following description and the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view on line 1—1 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is an elevational front view of my novel clothespin, illustrating the locking device in retracted position.

Fig. 3 is an elevational side view thereof.

Fig. 4 is an elevational front view of my novel clothespin in locked position on a clothesline.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the locking device used on my novel clothespin.

In the embodiment of the invention, as shown in the drawings, the numeral 5 denotes a clothespin constructed of wood, or the like, and comprising a shank 6 with an enlarged head 7 at the top thereof. A pair of legs 8—8 extend downwardly from said shank to form a notch 9 therebetween; the said legs being constructed in the conventional manner wherein they diverge outwardly from the said shank as shown.

My improved locking device comprises a rectangularly shaped body portion 10, preferably of sheet metal, having an opening 11 therethrough to slidably receive the clothespin 5. The body portion 10 has, extending from the sides thereof, a pair of legs 12—12 which fit snugly against the sides of the clothespin 5 and are curved outwardly at their end portions, as at 13, to facilitate the movement of the said arms along the sides of the clothespin. The said body portion 10 has extending upwardly and outwardly from the sides thereof a pair of tabs 14—14 which are formed integrally with the said body portion.

In the use of my improved clothespin, it is first placed over an article 15 on a clothesline 16 with the locking member in the retracted position illustrated in Fig. 2, wherein it is prevented from sliding off the shank by the head 7 of the pin 5.

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The clothespin is pressed downwardly over the clothesline and the article thereon until the said article is a suitable distance into the notch 9. The tabs 14—14 on the locking device are then engaged with the user's fingers, and the locking device forced downwardly on the clothespin until the bottom of the body portion 10 rests on, or substantially near the clothesline 16, as illustrated in Fig. 4. In this position, the legs 12—12

10 will have engaged the outwardly diverging surfaces of the legs 8—8 of the clothespin and urged them together in such a manner as to substantially close them under the clothesline 16 and thereby securely lock the article to the clothesline.

15 It will be especially noted that, by extending the legs 12—12 downwardly from the body portion 10 of the locking device, the legs of the clothespin are not only forced against the clothesline, but also caused to substantially encircle the line to provide a positive and secure lock for the clothes.

Also, the said legs 8—8 will prevent the clothespin from splitting when it is applied over the article on the clothesline 5 as the said legs extend downwardly a sufficient distance over the legs 8—8 of the pin to prevent them from spreading too far apart and causing a severe stress at the top of the notch 9.

I claim:

30 1. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank and legs for engaging the outwardly flared ends of the legs for urging the outer ends of the legs towards each other for clamping an article on a clothesline.

35 2. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank

40 3. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank

45 4. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank

50 5. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank

55 6. A clothespin of inherently resilient material comprising a shank, a head on one end of the shank, a pair of legs extending from the other end of the shank, the outer sides of the legs being parallel for their major lengths with the outer ends of the legs flaring outwardly, a locking member slidably positioned on said shank and having a band-like body snugly engaging said shank and a pair of straight legs at opposite sides of said body flatly engaging adjacent sides of the shank and adapted to be slid outwardly on the shank

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and legs for engaging the outwardly flared ends of the legs for urging the outer ends of the legs towards each other for clamping an article on a clothesline, and a pair of finger tabs projecting outwardly of the body at the end opposite the legs.

CHAUNCEY G. BEVIN, 2ND.

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