Dec. 3, 1957 L. F. WOODS 2,815,189

CLOTHESLINE TIGHTENING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 24, 1954

FIG. 1.

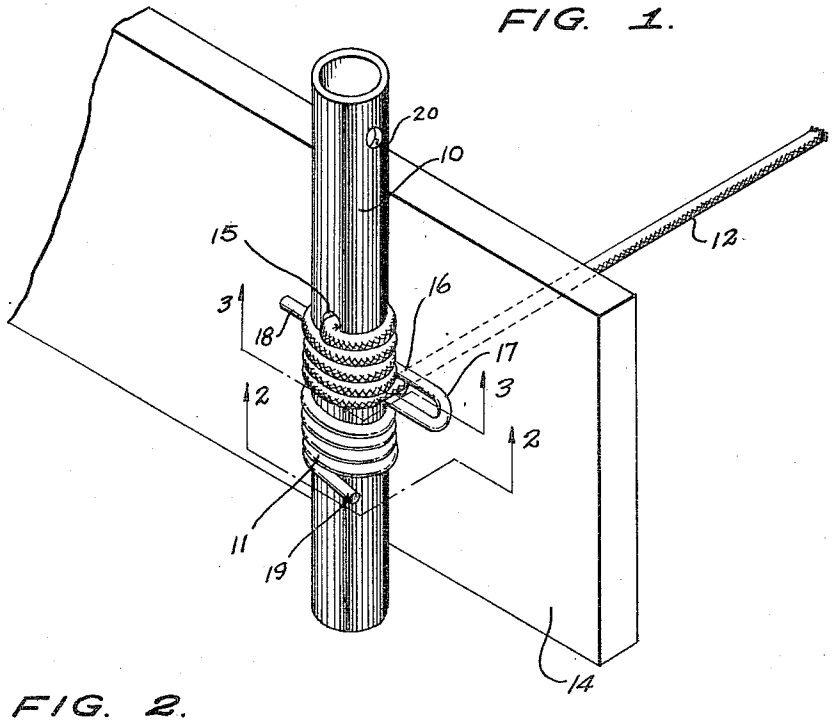


FIG. 2.

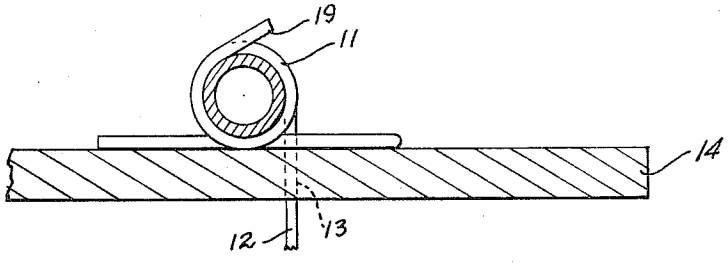
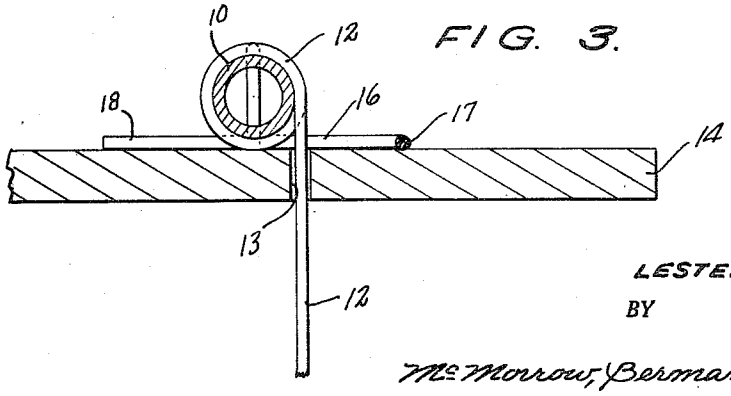


FIG. 3.



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CLOTHESLINE TIGHTENING DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 254—161)

The present invention relates to a clothesline tightening device.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a device for tightening clotheslines which are supported at least one end in a hole in a cross bar or the like.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device of simple and inexpensive construction for tightening clotheslines or ropes which have a free end projecting through a hole in a support and one which is held on the outer side face of the support by the clothesline itself.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a device of simple and inexpensive construction which is easily installed on the clothesline or rope and cross bar and may be readily removed for storage, or for installation on another rope and cross bar.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a device having an easily released lock for preventing the loosening of the rope and one which does not require further tensioning of the rope in order to release the device.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent upon consideration of the following description when taken in connection with the annexed drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present invention in place upon the outer side face of a cross bar;

Figure 2 is a vertical view in cross section on line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a further view in cross section on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings in greater detail, the present invention will be seen to consist of an anchor member **10** of cylindrical or tubular form and a coil spring **11**, fitting snugly on the anchor member **10**.

As seen most clearly in Figure 1, a clothesline or rope **12** extends at one end from a remote point of attachment through a hole **13** in a cross bar **14**, or other suitable support which has its outer side face exposed. The rope **12** has one end secured in a hole **15** in the anchor member **10** and is wound on the anchor member **10** for at least several turns.

The coil spring **11** is rotatable on the anchor member **10** and has one end **16** projecting transversely to the longitudinal axis of the anchor member. The end **16** of the coil spring is bent back upon itself to form a U-shaped member having the bight portion **17** and an end portion **18** projecting tangentially one each from each side of said anchor member **10** and in face to face relation with respect to said cross bar **14**.

The bight portion **17**, where it projects from the one side of the anchor member, receives the rope where it extends through the hole in the cross bar and the rope **12** restrains the longitudinal movement of the coil spring on the anchor member.

The other end **19** of the coil spring **11** projects outwardly and provides a means by which the coil spring can be easily released from the anchor member so that the rope can be loosened.

In operation, a nail or other long instrument is inserted in the hole **20** in the end of the anchor member **10** and the anchor member is rotated within the coil spring until the rope **12** is tight. The tension of the rope **12** tends to tighten the coil spring on the anchor member. Pressure of a finger to unwrap the coils, or in the same direction as the rope is wound, on the other end **19** of the anchor member will release the tension of the coils and the anchor member and loosen the rope.

While only a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been here illustrated and described, other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the appended claims and many changes and modifications in the present invention may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a rope attaching device including a cross bar and an anchor member positioned on the outer side face of said cross bar, the improvement consisting in a tightening device operatively connected to said anchor member and to said cross bar comprising a coil spring wound on said anchor member and having one end projecting transversely to the longitudinal axis thereof and being bent back upon itself to form a U-shaped member having its bight portion and its end portion projecting tangentially one each from each side of said anchor member and in face to face relation with respect to said cross bar, means on said anchor member for receiving a tool to rotate said anchor member with respect to said coil member in a rope-tightening direction, said coil spring being operative to releasably restrain rotation of said anchor member in a rope-loosening direction, and means on said coil spring operable to release said anchor member for rotation in a rope-loosening direction.

2. In a rope attaching device including a cross bar and an anchor member positioned on the outer side face of said cross bar, the improvement consisting in a tightening device operatively connected to said anchor member and to said cross bar comprising a coil spring wound on said anchor member and having one end projecting transversely to the longitudinal axis thereof and being bent back upon itself to form a U-shaped member having its bight portion and its end portion projecting tangentially one each from each side of said anchor member and in face to face relation with respect to said cross bar, means on said anchor member for receiving a tool to rotate said anchor member with respect to said coil member in a rope-tightening direction, said coil spring being operative to releasably restrain rotation of said anchor member in a rope-loosening direction, and means on said coil spring operable to release said anchor member for rotation in a rope-loosening direction.

3. In a rope attaching device including a cross bar and an anchor member positioned on the outer side face of said cross bar, the improvement consisting in a tightening device operatively connected to said anchor member into said cross bar comprising a coil spring wound on said anchor member and having one end projecting transversely to the longitudinal axis thereof and being bent back upon itself to form a U-shaped member having its bight portion and its end portion projecting tangentially one each from each side of said anchor member and in face to face relation with respect to said cross bar, means on said anchor member for receiving a tool to rotate said anchor member with respect to said coil member in a rope-tightening direction, said coil spring being operative to releasably restrain rotation of said anchor member in a rope-loosening direction, said coil spring being formed at its other end with an outwardly projecting portion forming a means operable to release said anchor member for rotation in a rope-loosening direction.

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