May 20, 1952 W. C. MARTINO 2,597,157

PORTABLE KNOCKDOWN ARTICLE SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed March 31, 1950

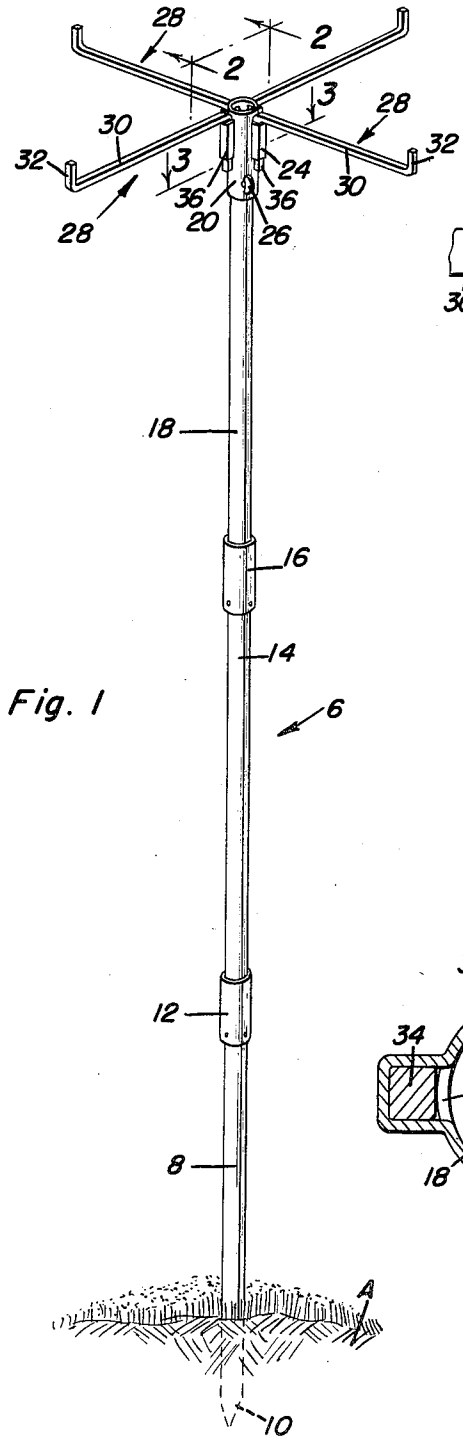
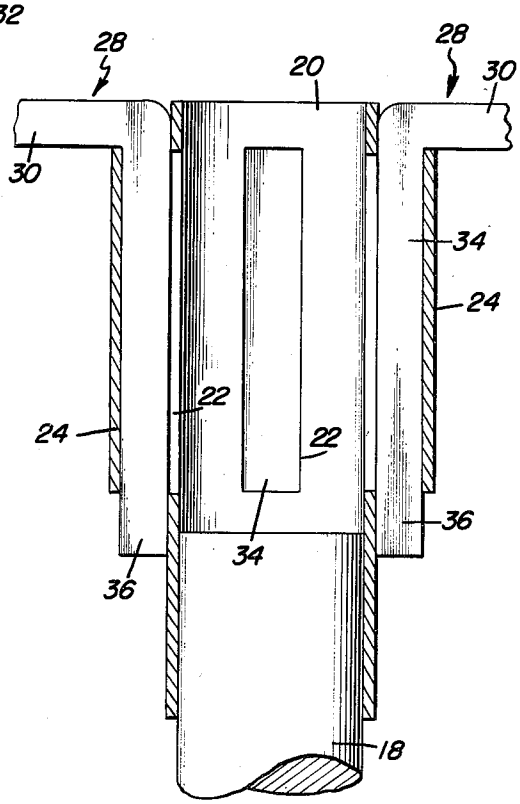


Fig. 1

Fig. 2



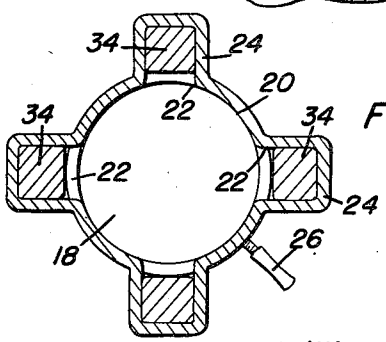


Fig. 3

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PORTABLE KNOCKDOWN ARTICLE SUPPORTING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—150)

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The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in miscellaneous article supporting devices and has more particular reference to a novel clothes-tree which is adapted for use at the seashore, swimming pools, picnic grounds and the like, where it may be handily utilized as a suitable support for miscellaneous articles such as towels, baskets, cameras, portable radios, sneakers and many other articles of clothing.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple, efficient, and suitable multi-purpose tree, in which manufacturers, users and others will find their anticipated needs fully met, contained and conveniently available.

Another object of the invention is to fulfill a long-felt need for a practical portable knockdown article supporting tree which will suspend the stated articles in a position well above the ground and out of reach of crawling insects and animals.

Briefly summarized, the preferred embodiment of the invention has to do with a portable knockdown-type miscellaneous article supporting tree for beach and equivalent out-of-doors use which is characterized by a sectional upright with pointed lower end to be conveniently forced and anchored in the ground and a readily applicable and removable attachment-type head to be mounted on the upper end of the upright, said head being in the form of an especially constructed sleeve constituting a mounting hub for horizontal radial arms, the arms being detachable, when not in use, from said sleeve.

Other objects and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawing.

In the accompanying sheet of drawing wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the view:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a miscellaneous article supporting tree constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention, the same being shown set up for use;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional and elevational view taken on the plane of the line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows; and

Figure 3 is a horizontal section, on an enlarged scale, taken on the plane of the line 3—3 of Figure 1, also looking in the direction of the arrows;

Referring now to the drawings by numerals and accompanying lead lines, the standard or

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upright is denoted, generally, by the numeral 6. It is preferably constructed to facilitate carrying, erecting and dismantling. It is therefore made up of several complemental sections, the lower section 8 being pointed at its lower end as at 10 to be temporarily anchored in the sand, ground or other surface A. This section, which may be of wood, metal or the like, is provided on its upper end with a socket 12 telescopically receiving the lower end of the intermediate section 14. The latter is also provided on its upper end with a socket member 16. The socket member 16 serves to accommodate the lower telescopically connected end of the upper section 18. The latter serves, obviously, to accommodate and support the readily attachable and detachable head structure. The head structure as before mentioned is characterized by a coupling or sleeve 20 which is to be fitted over the end of section 18 in the manner shown in Figures 2 and 3. The sleeve, which may be of sheet metal or any equivalent stock, is die stamped or otherwise made to provide elongated circumferentially spaced clearance slots 22 and complemental outstanding socket members 24. The socket members may be extruded, welded or otherwise incorporated and they are polygonal or otherwise non-circular in cross section. It will be noted that the socket members and slots correspond in lengths and that they terminate inwardly of the upper and lower end portions of the sleeve proper. A set screw 26 is provided for fastening the sleeve on the upright means 6. The arms, which serve as article hangers and racks are denoted by the numerals 28. Each arm is preferably made from a bar of metal which is also polygonal in cross section. The body or main portion of the arm is denoted at 30 and the outer end is upturned at 32 and serves as a retaining hook. This will prevent articles from slipping endwise off of the arm in an obvious manner. The inner end of each arm is also laterally bent to provide a second hook 34. It will be noted that this hook is of a length so that its lower end portion 36 extends downwardly beyond the corresponding slot and socket and rests firmly against the body portion of the sleeve. By having the slot 22 present, it is obvious that the principal friction surfaces contacted by the hook 34 are the three walls of the socket member. By thus providing "clearance" the step of inserting and removing the hook 34 is, obviously, expedited and there is less chance of hanging and binding. Then too, just in case the hook 34 for some reason was slightly

jammed, the lower protruding end **36** is available to be struck with a hammer or other instrument to dislodge and assist in extracting the hook from the socket member. It is of course obvious that the cross section of the hook **34** corresponds to the cross section of the socket member so that the hook is thus removably "keyed" in place.

As before stated, the standard or upright means **6** is easy to pack, transport from place to place and is likewise easy to erect and dismantle. The head structure is novel in that the coupling sleeve **20** is especially slotted and provided with companion socket members, these features coacting in expediting the step of assembling and disassembling the arms and applying the head structure to the upright means for practical utility.

A careful consideration of the foregoing description in conjunction with the invention as illustrated in the drawings will enable the reader to obtain a clear understanding and impression of the alleged features of merit and novelty sufficient to clarify the construction of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials and rearrangement of parts may be resorted to in actual practice so long as no departure is made from the invention as claimed.

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

1. In a portable knockdown-type article hanging tree for use at the beach, a cylindrical open ended sleeve having circumferentially extruded portions defining duplicate socket members, the latter being polygonal in cross-section with their upper and lower ends spaced inwardly from corresponding ends of said sleeve, and a plurality of duplicate interchangeable arms, the latter being likewise polygonal in cross-section and having upturned hooks on their outer ends and downturned hooks on their inner ends, the latter being removably keyed in said socket members and being of lengths greater than the lengths of said socket members.

2. As a new article of manufacture, an elongated open ended sleeve having circumferentially spaced longitudinally extending clearance slots terminating at their opposite ends short of the corresponding ends of said sleeve and having, in addition, outstanding socket members commensurate in lengths with the lengths of said slots, said socket members being rectangular in cross-section and aligned with their respective slots, and a plurality of article supporting arms having right angularly directed inner end portions, the latter being rectangular in cross-section, removably keyed in their respective socket members, spanning said slots with their lower terminal ends projecting below the slots and socket members and resting in contact with the sleeve proper, whereby to facilitate the step of inserting and removing said end portions.

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