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TOBACCO CURING STICK MOUNTING MEANS

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Fig. 1.

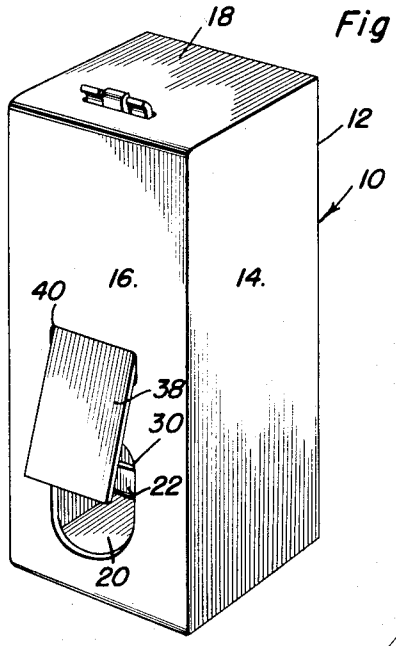
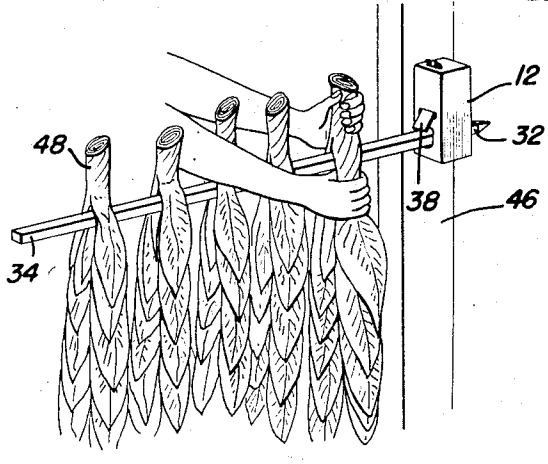


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Lucian E.V. Stickler

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson

Attorneys

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TOBACCO CURING STICK MOUNTING MEANS

Lucian E. V. Stickler, Miami, Fla.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 248—309)

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This invention relates to a device for supporting tobacco curing sticks, and has for its primary object to retain a curing stick in a locked position so that the impaled stalks of tobacco can be easily stripped therefrom.

Another important object of this invention is to support a curing stick in a rigid position against the weight of the impaled stalks of tobacco, so that the tobacco can be properly held by the stick while curing.

Another object of this invention is to obviate injury to the stalks of tobacco and to an operator stripping the tobacco from the curing stick, during the stripping operation.

These and ancillary objects are attained by this invention, the preferred embodiment of which is set forth in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a mounting device for the tobacco curing stick, as constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof; and

Figure 3 is a view in perspective of the device in use.

In curing tobacco, the method most commonly employed is to impale a number of green stalks of tobacco on a stick, referred to as a curing stick. The stick is forced through the green stalk and the stalk is evenly spaced thereon and suspended therefrom. The stick is then secured in a horizontal position to a vertical support and the stalk is cured after a period of time.

After curing, it requires considerable effort to remove tobacco stalks from the stick. It is usually accomplished by having one operator hold the stick, while another operator pulls the stalks therefrom. However, during the stripping operation, the leaves are frequently damaged, since there is a tugging force on each end of the stick and the hands of the strippers are frequently cut and splintered.

Therefore, it is the primary aim of the instant invention to provide a device for supporting a curing stick during the curing operations, and for retaining the same in a secured or locked position, so that only one person may be employed in stripping the stalks from the stick.

As seen in the accompanying drawings, the mounting device 10 for a curing stick includes a box 12. The box is formed with a pair of parallel opposing side walls 14 and a front wall 16, having its upper end bent rearwardly and laterally

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to form a top wall 18. The lower end of the front wall is bent rearwardly and laterally to form a bottom wall 20, which terminates at its rear edge in an upstanding flange 22, defining a fixed jaw or locking member.

A transverse slot 24 is formed in the top wall, adjacent the front edge thereof, and the upper edge of a movable jaw or locking plate 26 is inserted therethrough. The upper end of the plate 26 is slotted to form a plurality of tongues 28, the tongues being offset from the plate and bent angularly with respect thereto to pivotally journal the plate in the top wall. Of course any other means may be utilized for hinging or pivoting the upper end of the plate to the top wall, so that the plate is swingably mounted in the box.

An elongated opening or slot 30 is formed vertically in the front wall, adjacent to the bottom wall 20, and the lower portion of the opening lies in the same horizontal plane at the upper edge of the flange 22. One end 32 of a conventional curing stick 34 may thus be passed through the opening 30 in the front wall and through the back wall to rest on the flange 22. As the stick moves through the box, it can be seen that the lower edge 36 of the plate 26 will contact the upper portion of the stick. Thus, it can be seen that the stick will be held against withdrawal through the opening 30 in a rectilinear path, since the lower edge 36 of the plate 26 will grip against the stick. Thus, the lower end or edge of the stick is preferably concave so as to grip the entire upper surface of the stick.

Means is provided for releasing the locking contact of the plate 26 and includes a releasing plate 38, which extends diagonally through a transverse slot 40 in the front wall, the slot being formed above the opening 30. A slot 42 is formed transversely in the plate 26 and the upper end of the plate 38 is inserted therethrough, the upper end being formed with a plurality of angular tongues 44 to hingedly mount the plate 38 in the plate 26. As seen in Figure 2, an upward swinging movement or tilting movement of the stick relative to the releasing plate 38 will swing the same to the dotted line position and effect an upward swinging movement of the plate 26 relative to the dotted line position, thereupon the stick can be easily withdrawn from the box.

In use, the box would be secured on a vertical support, such as a post 46, as illustrated in Figure 3. Any conventional means may be provided for attaching the box to the post or similar support. The stalks 48 of tobacco are impaled on the curing stick 34 by forcing the stick

therethrough and the ends 32 of the stick then pass through the opening 30 in the box, as seen in Figures 2 and 3.

The stick will then be locked in the box and, during the stripping operation the stalks can be stripped from the horizontally mounted stick which is held securely in the box. A tilting movement of the stick, after removal of the stock, upwardly relative to the release plate or member 38 will move the plate upwardly in the box to swing the plate or movable jaw 26 rearwardly and bring the lower end 36 thereof out of engagement with the stick. The stick can then be pulled out of the box.

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

1. A tobacco stick holder comprising a box having an opening for the reception of the stick, a jaw pivotally mounted for swinging movement in said box and cooperable therewith for frictionally anchoring the stick therein, and means on the jaw engageable and operable by the stick for disengaging said jaw from said stick for releasing same for withdrawal from the box.

2. A tobacco stick holder comprising a box having an opening for the reception of an end portion of the stick, a stationary jaw in the box engageable with the stick, a swinging jaw pivotally suspended in the box and engageable by gravity with the stick for frictionally anchoring

same in the housing in cooperation with the stationary jaw, and means on the swinging jaw engageable and operable by the stick for disengaging said swinging jaw from said stick for releasing said stick for withdrawal from the box.

3. A tobacco stick holder comprising a box for the reception of an end portion of the stick, a stationary jaw in the box engageable with the stick, a swinging jaw pivotally suspended in the box and engageable by gravity with the stick for frictionally anchoring same in the housing in cooperation with the stationary jaw, and means engageable and operable by the stick for disengaging the swinging jaw for releasing said stick, said box including a wall having an opening therein, said means comprising a member pivotally mounted on the swinging jaw and extending through the opening for engagement and actuation by the stick.

LUCIAN E. V. STICKLER.

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