Jan. 25, 1966 F. W. ROSSLER 3,231,226

TREE STAND

Filed May 14, 1964

Fig. 2

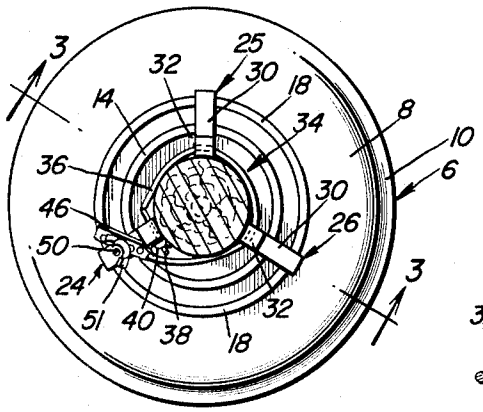


Fig. 3

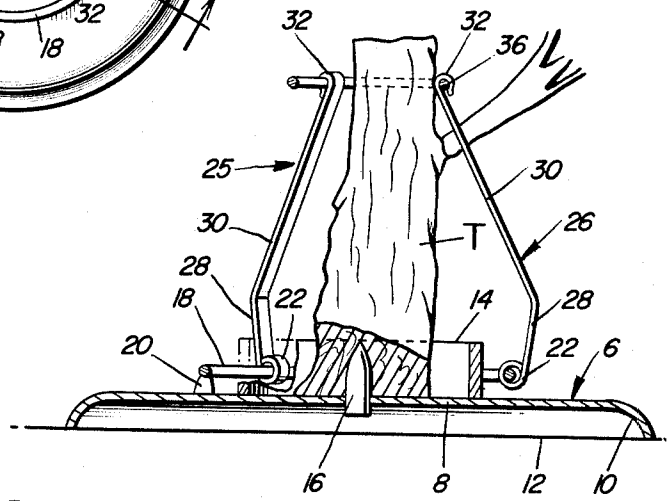


Fig. 1

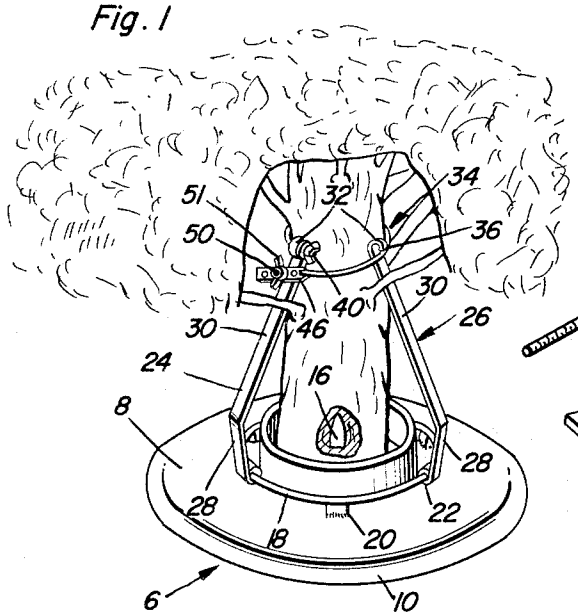
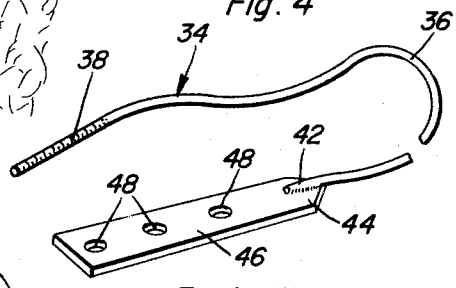


Fig. 4



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TREE STAND

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The present invention relates to a portable stand for a Christmas tree characterized, broadly stated, by a portable base having a receptacle for water, a trunk impaling anchor, and hingedly mounted stays or braces which have their upper ends abutting the tree's trunk at circumferentially spaced points and temporarily connected to said trunk.

Christmas tree erecting and holding stands, such as those commonly known and used, are of many and varied styles and forms. A typical water pan-type base and holder would be the well known Lyman-type disclosed, for example, in Patent No. 1,091,000 of March 24, 1941. Although there are countless stands and holders, patented or not, the one just mentioned will suffice to identify the particular field of endeavor with which the herein disclosed improved stand is associated. It will also be evident that the herein disclosed Christmas tree stand, comparatively speaking, is possessed of certain significant features and advantages which enable it to satisfactorily and well serve the purposes for which it is intended.

Briefly the improved stand is characterized by a base having impaling means for positioning and temporarily anchoring the tree's trunk thereon, a plurality of circumferentially spaced arms having lower ends hingedly mounted on said base, said arms providing inclined prop-like stays and having free upper ends capable of residing in contact with said trunk at circumferentially spaced places, and means for positioning and retaining said arms in their trunk propping and bracing positions, said means being adapted to encircle said trunk, being connected to upper free ends of said arms, and when fastened, serving to retain said arms in their given positions.

In addition to the above and, as will be hereinafter more clearly understood, the lower ends of said arms (legs or braces) are not only hingedly mounted atop the base, they are loosely hinged on a holddown ring or the like and are capable of being bodily shifted in a horizontal plane to the left or right so as to vary the inclined positions of the upper trunk contacting ends and so that the latter can be bound against the trunk surface out of the way of small limbs, whereby to obviate the need of chopping, sawing or otherwise removing the same as is often the case before a stand-supported tree can be set up for use.

A further improvement resides in the adoption and use of a cable or suitable plastic or equivalent rope and wherein the same can be bound or lashed around the tree trunk, properly connected with the cooperating upper ends of the hinged adjustable braces or arms and with the ends thereof adjustably connectible in order to properly tension and tighten said binding element to assume and maintain its fastened state.

More explicitly, novelty is predicated on a tree trunk encircling arm positioning and fastening element having a cleat or plate at one end for adjustable and detachable mounting on a brace arm and having its other end screw-threaded to accommodate an assembling and retaining nut, preferably a wing nut.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a view in perspective showing a fragmentary portion of the trunk of a Christmas tree and how it is set up and held in position by the herein disclosed improved stand;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view with parts appearing in section and elevation;

FIGURE 3 is a section on the plane of the section line 3—3 of FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a view in perspective of the bodily attachable and detachable binding and fastening element or cable.

The improved stand comprises a base **6**. This comprises a circular plate of suitable diameter and material having a flat disk-like body portion **8** and provided with a marginal downturned rim or flange **10** which resides on the floor or other support surface **12**. At the center of the top there is an upstanding endless ring or band **14** which is properly sealed in place and cooperates in defining a receiver and also a water pan for the trunk T of the Christmas tree. The lower end of the trunk has been sawed off square and anchored on the impaling prong or pin **16** fixedly provided at the center of the portion **8** of the base. A holddown ring **18** encircles the rim of the pan, that is, the part **14**, and is spaced concentrically therefrom and at circumferentially spaced points it is secured to welded or equivalent anchoring lugs **20**. This ring **18** is in a plane above the base and below the upper edge of the rim **14** of the pan. It serves to accommodate the hinging and adjusting eyes **22** at the lower ends of the several prop-like braces or arms. There are three such arms and they are differentiated by the numerals **24**, **25** and **26**. Basically the arms are all the same. Each arm includes a suitable rigid strap member having a generally straight lower end portion **28** which terminates in the hinging and adjusting eye **22** and which is connected to an upper elongated inclined portion **30** whose upper end is provided with a hook **32**, which may be substantially closed or partly opened depending on the decision of the manufacturer and changing needs of purchasers and users. It will be evident that the eye-equipped ends **22** can be bodily shifted to the left or right so that the upper end portions can clear small limbs on the tree trunk as brought out in FIG. 1. In addition to the adjustable pivoted trunk-propping arms, fastening and binding means is provided. This means is denoted generally by the numeral **34** and comprises a suitable length of cable, a rope or the like **36** having one end screw-threaded at **38** to accommodate an assembling and retaining thumb nut in the manner shown at **40**, the other end being welded or otherwise connected at **42** to an end portion **44** of a rectangular rigid cleat **46** having selectively usable stud holes **48** for an anchoring stud **50** which is fixedly mounted on the upper end portion of the arm **24** in the manner illustrated, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2, and provided with a thumb nut **51**.

It will be noted that the upper ends of the stabilizing or bracing arms **24**, **25** and **26** are not positively screwed or nailed to the tree trunk as is often required with stands of the type under consideration. Instead the free ends **32** of the arms are tied or bound in place. The means **34** constitutes an ideal lashing or tying and fastening element for this purpose. In practice the attaching cleat **46** is fastened to the stud **50** on the arm **24** as shown in FIG. 1. It will be noted that the stud holes can be selectively used to achieve the desired adjustment if required. The cable or flexible element **36** is looped around the trunk of the tree and connected with the hooked upper ends **32** of the two arms or braces **25** and **26**. The connection can be separable as suggested in FIG. 1 or the hooks can be closed and formed into eyes and the cable can be slid therethrough to achieve the desired encircling result. In any event, the threaded end **38** is passed through the eye **32** at the upper end of the arm **24** and the thumb

nut **40** is applied and tightened to tension the binding action of said element **36**.

It is clear that the cleat **46** can be detached from the arm **24**. Likewise the screw-threaded end **38** can be detached. The arms **24**, **25** and **26** can be swung outwardly and away from the tree trunk to assume down positions in order to place the trunk of the tree in position in the manner shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. Then the arms can be swung inwardly and upwardly and propped in place against the tree trunk after which the cable means can be applied and fastened in place.

Then, too, these arms can be and are intended to swing inwardly and down and thus folded together when the stand is not to be used. This collapsible feature promotes compactness and convenience when the stand is to be stored away.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A portable Christmas tree stand comprising a base embodying a plate having a marginal downturned flange adapted to reside on the floor or other support, said plate having a generally flat central portion provided with an upstanding endless rim sealingly joined with said plate and providing a tree receiving water pan, said plate being centrally provided with a fixed upstanding impaling prong to facilitate placement and anchorage of the trunk of the tree, an endless ring spaced in parallelism above the top of said plate and concentrically encircling and spaced from the outer periphery of said rim, a plurality of circumferentially spaced brace arms having lower ends thereof hingedly and adjustably mounted on said ring, lower end portions of said arms adjacent to said ring being at approximate perpendicular relationship thereto when the arms are in use, the major median and upper end portions of said arms converging and the upper ends thereof being provided with hook eyes adapted to contact the tree trunk, said arms when not in use being foldable toward the base to assume compact and convenient relationship, and an arm positioning and retaining binding element, said element comprising a flexible cable having one end screw-threaded and provided with a nut cooperable with the selected one of said hook eyes in a manner to connect said one end to one of said arms, the opposite end of said cable having means thereon detachably and adjustably connected to said one arm.

2. The structure defined in claim 1 and wherein the means at the last-named end of said cable comprises a rigid cleat having a plurality of selectively usable stud accommodating holes, said one arm being provided below the adjacent hook eye with an outstanding stud and said stud being screw-threaded and adapted to be passed through a selected one of said stud holes so as to permit a nut to be attached to said stud and to thus adjustably join the treated end of the cable to said one arm.

3. A portable Christmas tree stand comprising a self-standing base embodying a plate provided centrally with a receiver serving as a water pan and being further provided with an upstanding fixed impaling prong at the center of said receiver, an endless ring concentrically encircling said rim and fixedly anchored on said plate, and a plurality of arms constituting braces, said arms having lower ends formed with eyes hingedly as well as slidingly attached to said ring, the upper ends of said arms being provided with hook eyes adapted to contact at circumferentially spaced points the tree trunk, and a flexible binding and tying element disposed in said hook eyes and provided at one end with screwthreads carrying a nut to retain said tying element connected to said arms and provided at an opposite end with a cleat, said cleat being detachably and adjustably mounted on a nut-equipped stud provided therefor on one of said arms.

4. A portable Christmas tree stand comprising a base having impaling means for positioning and temporarily anchoring a tree trunk thereon, a plurality of circumferentially spaced arms having lower ends hingedly mounted on said base, said arms providing inclined prop-like stays and having free upper ends adapted to contact said trunk at circumferentially spaced places, the lower ends of said arms being also shiftably mounted on said base and being circumferentially and bodily adjustable either clockwise or counterclockwise so that said arms, particularly, the upper ends thereof, can be adjustably located relative to the trunk to clear small limbs and to obviate the need of removing the same, and means for positioning and retaining said arms in their trunk propping and bracing positions and relationship, said means comprising a flexible linking cord, said cord being detachably and adjustably connected to the respective upper ends of said arms and when in position being adapted to encompass the trunk of the tree and in this manner to adjustably connect said upper ends to each other, the upper ends of said arms being provided with hook-like eyes, portions of said cord adjacent to said eyes being adjustably connected thereto, said cord having free ends, one end being screw-threaded and carrying a nut to retain said cord connected to a coacting eye at the upper end of one of said arms, said one arm being provided with an outstanding stud, and a cleat having one end thereof connected to a cooperating free end of said cord, said cleat having selectively usable holes adapted to be detachably connected with said stud.

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