Jan. 22, 1957 C. A. THOMPSON 2,778,552

GUN REST

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FIG_1

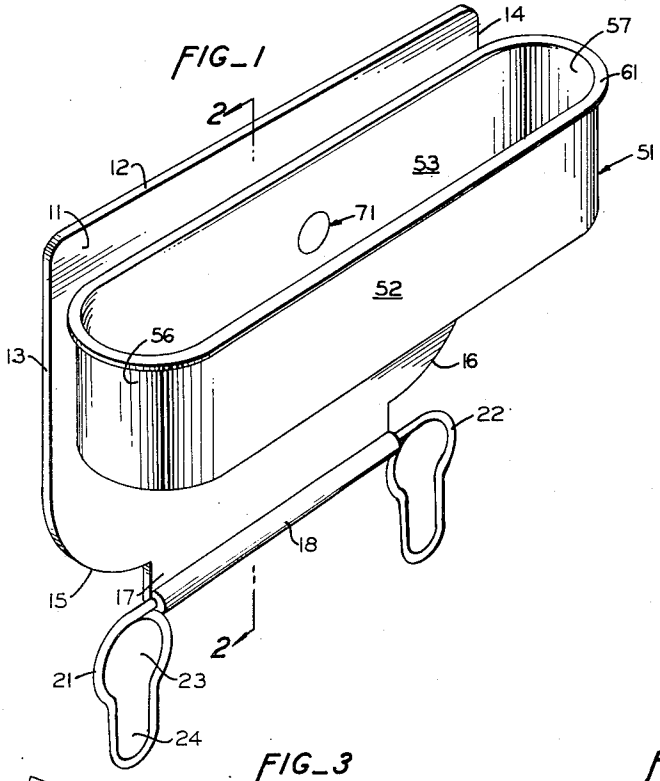


FIG_2

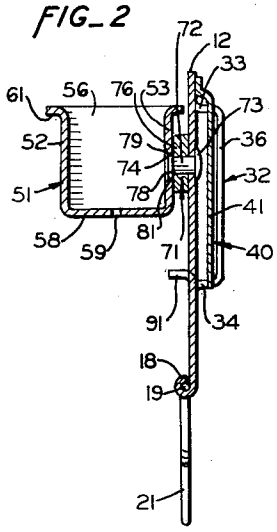


FIG_3

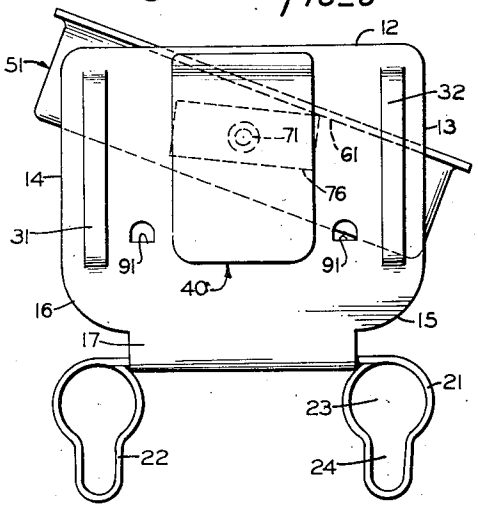
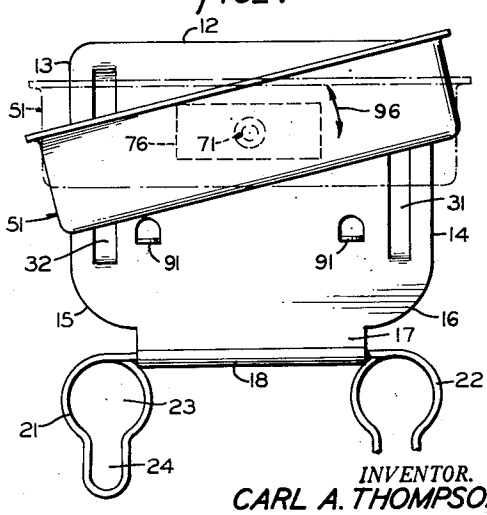


FIG_4



INVENTOR.
CARL A. THOMPSON
BY Marcus Lothrop
ATTORNEY

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GUN REST

Carl A. Thompson, Yuba City, Calif.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 224—1)

The invention relates to improvements in gun supporting devices of the kind used by hunters and armed forces personnel.

It is an object of the invention to provide a gun rest which largely removes the weight of a shotgun or rifle from the arms of a hunter, thereby relieving him of fatigue and enabling him to remain alert for a longer period of time, and making it possible for the hunter to smoke or to reach for objects with both hands while still being ready to fire at an instant's notice.

It is another object of the invention to provide a gun rest which enables the hunter easily to position his gun in the device and quickly to remove the gun from the device and place it in shooting position as the occasion for shooting arises.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a gun rest which is relatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture and which has but few moving parts to get out of order.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a gun rest which can be quickly and easily yet firmly mounted on the belt of a hunter, and which can be as quickly and easily disengaged therefrom as required.

It is a yet further object of the invention to provide a gun rest which does not require the use of supplementary supporting straps or other impedimenta customarily found in devices of this nature.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a gun rest which is securely engageable to a belt and which effectively resists dislodgment from the belt even when subjected to considerable movement of the hunter's body.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a gun rest having game-holding links enabling a hunter to hang his game therefrom and obviating the necessity for the customary game belts or game pockets.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a generally improved gun rest.

Other objects, together with the foregoing, are obtained in the embodiment described below and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the gun rest.

Figure 2 is a vertical median section taken on the plane indicated by the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a rear elevation showing the gun supporting cup in a position of maximum tilt in one direction.

Figure 4 is a front elevation, showing, in outline, the cup in a horizontal attitude and, in full line, the cup as it commences to engage the tilt warning block.

The gun rest of my invention is susceptible of numerous physical embodiments depending upon the particular environmental situation to be met, but substantial numbers of the embodiment illustrated have been made and used and have performed in the field in an eminently satisfactory manner.

The gun rest is customarily worn on the belt of a hunter and is usually worn displaced either to the right or to the left of the buckle of the hunter's belt, depending upon whether the hunter is right or left handed. The gun rest is self-contained; that is to say, the device is constructed to engage securely the belt customarily worn by a hunter and does not require nor depend in any way upon co-operation or use with supplementary fastenings, such as straps, bindings, belts and other impedimenta usually encountered in devices of this nature.

The principal frame or supporting member of the device is a plate **11** having a vertical dimension considerably in excess of the vertical dimension of the ordinary belt worn by hunters and is preferably of stiff material, at least over its uppermost portion. The plate, which is customarily worn in a vertical attitude on the belt, comprises an upper substantially horizontal edge **12** and a pair of spaced vertical edges **13** and **14**, which curve inwardly adjacent their lower ends to form arcuate portions **15** and **16**, respectively. The plate terminates in a lower depending portion **17** recurved outwardly and upwardly adjacent its lower edge to form a sleeve **18**. The smooth rounded surface of the sleeve **18** serves to prevent chafing or gouging by the lower end of the plate into the body of the wearer. The sleeve also serves to confine a shank **19** of strong, stiff wire terminating at its opposite ends in a substantially identical pair of game holding links **21** and **22**, respectively, the wire being curved or formed to define an upper large loop **23** and a lower smaller loop **24**. As a bird, for example, a pheasant, is shot and captured, the head of the pheasant is inserted through the large loop **23** and the neck of the bird pushed downwardly into the smaller loop **24**, the head being thereby effectively and securely confined.

While an equal number of birds in each of the loops will serve substantially to balance or equalize the gun rest on its belt support, an uneven weight of birds on one or the other of the game holding links tends to tilt the gun rest on the belt. Provision is therefore made to overcome this unbalance and to mount the gun rest on the belt in such fashion as to hold securely the gun rest in a horizontal attitude. Substantially vertically above the center of each of the game holding links there is provided a corresponding pair of belt engaging loops **31** and **32**. For ease and economy of manufacture, the belt loops **31** and **32** may conveniently be pressed or formed out of the material of the plate itself, the loops being formed into a continuous strip of metal integral with the plate. The loops each comprise an upper leg **33** and a lower leg **34**, projecting rearwardly from the plate, the legs being joined by a central linear vertical portion **36**. Preferably, the vertical linear portion **36** is spaced rearwardly from the plane of the plate a distance sufficient to receive and accommodate any of the customarily encountered thicknesses of belting material. When a hunter desires to secure the gun rest to his belt it is only necessary that the free end of the belt be threaded through the belt engaging loops **31** and **32** in the direction of the buckle and the belt buckle. Since the belt loops are located substantially vertically above the corresponding game engaging links, and since the belt loops are preferably disposed adjacent the outermost or side edges **13** and **14** of the plate, substantial resistance to angular displacement or turning of the gun rest plate is provided. Even though one or the other of the game links carries a considerably greater load than its mate, any weight on the link is exerted in the same vertical line as the corresponding weight-supporting belt loop and thus any tendency of the plate **11** to tilt is minimized.

Frequently, users of the gun rest, for example, soldiers, prefer to remove the gun rest from time to time, for a period of rest or sleep, for example, and may find it necessary quickly to install the gun rest in ready for use position. For this class of users, another belt engaging structure is provided, namely, a belt clip **40** mounted on

the rear side of the plate adjacent the upper edge thereof and depending downwardly in a vertical linear plane as most clearly appears in Figure 2. The belt engaging clip **40** is of considerably greater width measured in its edge to edge dimension than either of the belt loops, and is disposed approximtely centrally between each of the plate edges **13** and **14**. Owing to its width, the clip serves as an effective retardant to angular displacement or tilting of the plate in its own plane, thus acting in a fashion quite like the two spaced belt loops **31** and **32** so far as resistance to tilting is concerned. Resistance to dislodgment and tilting is further provided by the location of a vertical depending portion **41** of the clip **40** and which is outwardly displaced toward the plate from the plane of the vertical portion **36** of the two belt loops; and, as appears most clearly in Figure 2, the clip is spaced from the plate so as to engage frictionally belts of the ordinarily used thicknesses. Thus, the user, for example, a soldier, does not need to unbuckle and thread his belt through the loops but instead needs only to deflect or bend outwardly his belt adjacent the clip **40** so that the belt is curved around the back sides of the two belt loops and, in a sinuous path, is curved outwardly for insertion into the space between the undereneath or inner side of the belt clip and the plate. The sinuous path thereby formed by the belt increases the tension on the belt and enhances the frictional clamping effect of the clip on the belt. When, on the other hand, the belt is threaded through the loops **31** and **32**, the user may also prefer to take advantage of the frictional clamping provided by the clip so as to secure the gun rest even more securely on the belt. Should the user thread the belt through the loops **31** and **32** but bend the belt so as to pass the belt behind the clip, that is, toward the user's body, the sinuous path created by virtue of the inwardly projecting clip increases the belt tension and thus the holding force of the loops. As a result of the centrally disposed and frictionally engaging belt clip any arrangement of the belt with respect to the loops and the clip effects a very secure mounting against tilting and dislodgment.

Support to the gun butt is provided by a gun cup **51**, or gun butt receptacle, elongated in shape and, in horizontal attitude, projecting somewhat beyond each of the vertical sides **13** and **14** of the plate. The cup **51** comprises a front wall **52** and a rear wall **53**, both of which may conveniently be slightly tapered inwardly adjacent the lower portions of the walls so as more easily to receive and guide downwardly the gun butt. The opposite ends **56** and **57** of the cup are rounded to conform generally to the shape of the gun butt and the bottom **58** of the cup is ordinarily provided with a plurality of holes **59** to drain any moisture from the cup which might otherwise collect therein. Serving as a guide to the hunter in inserting the gun butt within the cup is an overhanging lip **61** which projects in an outward direction on the front side of the cup and inwardly or toward the plate on the rear side of the cup. The portion of the lip **61** adjacent the plate is spaced from the plate and at no time frictionally engages with the plate. While the cup may conveniently be fabricated from some sound deadening material such as plastic, yet, in the event the plate and cup were to be fabricated from metal, the spacing between the cup and plate herein provided avoids any possibility of a scratching noise which might serve to alert any game nearby.

While a cup securely held in a horizontal attitude would be satisfactory to some hunters, the usual hunter prefers some freedom of cup motion to enable him to tip his gun either to the right or to the left from a vertical attitude. By tipping or swinging the gun toward the arm used to support the gun when in firing position, the hunter is more easily and rapidly enabled to withdraw the gun from the cup and place the gun against the shoulder in aiming and firing position. The cup is therefore pivotally mounted on the plate by a rivet, generally designated

71. The rivet comprises a central shank **72** terminating at its inner end in an inner rivet head **73** in abutment with the inner side of the plate and, at its outer end, in an enlarged portion **78** providing a shoulder **74**. Confined between the outer side of the plate and the shoulder **74** is an elongated rectangular block **76**. The enlarged portion **78** of the rivet terminates at its outer end in an outer rivet head **79**. A beveled opening **81**, or aperture, in the inner wall of the cup, and surrounding the enlarged rivet portion **78** and outer rivet head **79**, permits the cup to be freely tilted with respect to the rivet.

While the block **76** is extremely effective to stiffen the adjoining walls of the cup and of the plate it serves another and highly useful function in that as the cup is tilted approximately 15 to 20 degrees from the horizontal and to the position shown most clearly in full line in Figure 4, the overhanging lip **61** of the cup which is adjacent the plate comes into abutment or contact with the adjacent corner of the rectangular elongated block **76**. Between the horizontal attitude of the cup shown in outline in Figure 4 and the inclined attitude shown in full line in Figure 4, the cup is freely tiltable or rotatable owing to the loose fit between opening **81** in the cup-wall and the enlarged portion **78** and outer head **79** of the rivet. Upon abutment between the lip overhang **61** and the block **76**, however, any further inclination or tilting of the cup causes a corresponding tilting or rotation of the block **76**. Since the block **76** is tightly held to the plate, owing to the force exerted thereon by the shoulder **74** of the rivet and the plate held by the inner head **73** of the rivet, very considerable resistance to angular displacement of the block is encountered. Consequently, as the hunter tilts his gun to a position which results in the cup's tilting or tipping beyond the position shown in full line in Figure 4 and toward the cup and block position shown in Figure 3, a definite resistance to further turning is felt by the hunter. The resistance felt serves as a warning to the hunter that his gun is tipping to a position somewhat more than the dictates of safe hunting procedures would permit. This indication to the hunter serves to warn him to return his gun to a more nearly upright position, and thus to a safer barrel attitude.

In the event, however, that the hunter desires to place his gun in a still lower angular position or attitude, or, if he inadvertently fails to heed the warning given him by the increased resistance to turning occasioned by the block, the cup will be brought to a full stop in a position indicated in full line in Figure 3. As the cup assumes the attitude shown in Figure 3, the bottom inner edge of the cup impinges against one or the other of an out-turned pair of tabs **91**, formed most conveniently by punching or striking out from the plate. The stop, therefore, serves positively to limit to a predetermined safe amount, the maximum angle of gun tilt.

It is to be recognized that if the tilt warning feature of the block is not desired by the user, the block's cup-spacing and stiffening functions could be added to by indenting inwardly the plate over an area and to a depth sufficient to accept or receive the block for at least a fraction of the block's thickness. With this construction the block would not only continue to serve as a spacer and as a cup and plate stiffener, but would also serve as a positive stop as the inner cup lip **61** comes into abutment with the corner of the block.

Owning to the symmetry of parts, in either construction, the cup is capable of being tilted in either direction, as is most clearly shown by the arrow **96** in Figure 4, and thus both right and left-handed hunters can use the gun rest with equal facility.

What is claimed is:

1. A gun rest comprising a plate vertically mountable on a belt, the vertical dimension of said plate being substantially in excess of the vertical dimension of said belt; a pair of vertical, parallel, spaced loops mounted on the inner side of said plate adjacent the vertical edges there-

of; a belt confining clip depending from the upper edge of said inner side of said plate intermediate said pair of loops and displaced toward said plate from the plane of said pair of loops; a pair of tabs mounted on the outer side of said plate and projecting outwardly therefrom; an elongated cup, means for pivotally mounting said cup on the outer side of said plate for tilting movement about a horizontal axis normal to the plane of said plate from a horizontal attitude to an angular attitude inclined with respect to the horizontal and determined by abutment between said cup and the adjacent of said pair of tabs; and a friction block surrounding said pivot means and engaging said cup and said plate whereby the angular motion of said cup is characterized by substantial resistance to rotation.

2. A gun rest comprising a plate, a pair of elongated belt-engaging loops mounted on the back side of said plate, a belt clip parallel to and interposed between said loops and mounted on said plate, an elongated cup pivotally mounted on the front side of said plate and tiltable about a pivot axis within a predetermined angle to tilt with respect to an attitude normal to said clip and said loops, a pair of tabs out-turned from the front side of said plate, said tabs limiting the angle of tilt of said cup by abutment therewith, a block interposed between said cup and said plate in tight frictional engagement with said plate and said cup, said block being co-axially mounted with said cup on said plate, and a lost motion connection between said cup and said block for impelling rotation of said block with said cup during a portion only of the tilting of said cup.

3. A gun rest comprising a plate vertically mountable on a belt, a first belt engaging means mounted on the

inner side of said plate, a second belt engaging means on the inner side of said plate, said first and said second belt engaging means being disposed in cooperative relation to resist vertical dislodgment of said plate from the belt and angular displacement therefrom, a gun butt receptacle pivotally mounted on the outer side of said plate, means for positively limiting the angular displacement of said receptacle from a horizontal attitude relative to said plate, and means for frictionally retarding the free angular displacement of said cup as said cup approaches said positive limiting means.

4. A gun rest comprising a mounting plate, belt clips on said mounting plate, a gun butt cup, means for pivotally connecting said gun butt cup adjacent to the center thereof to said plate, a friction block surrounding said connecting means and engaging said cup and said plate, means on said cup spaced from said block a predetermined distance but coplanar with said block for forming a lost motion connection between said cup and said block, and tabs projecting from said plate into the path of said cup and spaced therefrom a distance greater than said predetermined distance.

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