COMBINATION CLOTHESLINE AND FASTENING DEVICE

Filed May 29, 1950

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

INVENTOR.
Paul Weaver

ATTORNEY.
This invention relates broadly to structure usable in connection with the laundry and has to do specifically with clothesline construction, the primary object being to provide a novel clothespin-like device for holding the clothing in a condition for drying and having readily releasable means forming a part thereof.

It is the most important object of the present invention to provide clothespin construction including an L-shaped support having a resilient loop reciprocably mounted thereon for movement to and from a position clamping fabric material between the loop and the support and releasably holding the same in a suspended condition for drying.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide clothespin construction including a loop of resilient material that has one leg thereof reciprocably mounted in an opening formed in its support and so shaped as to present a snap-action when the same is moved relative to the support to a fabric clamping position.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide clothesline construction including a plurality of resilient clothes-clamping loops arranged in a row upon an elongated support, there being a plurality of such assemblies that are in turn secured to a pair of spaced-apart, continuous chains or the like permitting movement of the assemblies to and from a given position for permitting placing of the clothes upon the line and removal thereof.

Other objects of the present invention include the way in which the loops are each provided with finger-receiving ends to facilitate moving of the loops to and from an operative position; the way in which the loops are provided with a head cooperable with the loops in holding the clothing clamped in place; the manner of producing the loop and finger control means from a single length of wire-like material; and many more minor objects including details of construction, all of which will be made clear or become apparent as the following specification progresses, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a combination clothesline and fastening device made in accordance with my present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a detailed, cross-sectional view taken on line III—III of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary, side elevational view of one of the fastening devices per se.

In Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing, there is illustrated a pair of spaced-apart endless chains 10 and 12, trained about sprocket wheels 14, there being a pair of sprocket wheels 14 on each end respectively of a pair of spaced-apart parallel shafts 16 and 18. A bearing 20 on each end of each shaft 16 and 18 respectively, is supported by a post 22. A plurality of elongated supports 24, spans the distance between the endless chains 10 and 12 in spaced-apart, parallel relationship as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

The supports 24 are L-shaped, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawing, presenting a horizontal flange 25 and a vertical flange 28. The ends of each support 24 are secured to the proximal endless chains 10 or 12 as the case may be, through the medium of a laterally extending link 30 and bolt and nut assemblies 32 interconnecting supports 24 and links 30.

A bead 34 on the innermost face of the flange 28 adjacent the lowermost edge thereof and in underlying relationship to the flange, extends the full length of the support 24. Each support 24 has mounted thereon a plurality of clothes supporting loop constructions of identical nature and broadly designated by the numeral 36. Loop constructions 36 are made from a single length of wire or the like, each including a pair of spaced-apart loops 38 having a height 40 and a pair of legs 42 and 44.

Flange 26 of support 24, is provided with a notch 46 for each loop construction 36 respectively, having a pair of branches 48 for receiving the legs 42 of the two loops 36, as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawing. The two legs 42 of loops 38 extend upwardly beyond the uppermost face of flange 26 in substantial parallelism and are joined at the uppermost ends thereof by a cross-member 50. The uppermost ends of the legs 44 of the two loops 38 are rebent as at 52 and extend downwardly in a length 54, the two lengths 54 being joined at the lowermost end thereof by a cross member 56.

As illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawing, the two legs 44 of loops 38 converge as the heights 40 thereof are approached and likewise, the lengths 54 converge as the cross member 56 thereof, is approached.

Fig. 3 of the drawing illustrates the way in which the loops 38 are in partial encompassing relationship to the support 24, legs 44 thereof extending upwardly along the outermost face of the
flange 28 and being in parallelism therewith when the loops 38 are in the operative position illustrated in Fig. 3.

Fig. 3 also illustrates the way in which the flange 28 is disposed between the legs 42 and 44 of the loops 38 and the manner of holding a fabric garment or the like 58 in place and in clamping relationship between the loops 38 and the support 24. The fabric material 58 is looped over the rebent portions 52 and thence extends downwardly along the legs 44 of the loops 38 between the flange 28 and legs 42. Fabric material 58 is then looped beneath the lowermost free edge of the flange 28 and extends upwardly around the bead 34 thereof. It is noted in Fig. 3 of the drawing that the fabric is clamped into place between the lowermost edge of flange 28 and the heights 40 of loops 38 and is also clamped into place between bead 34 and legs 42 of loops 38. The uppermost ends of the legs 44 of the loops 38 projecting above the uppermost face of flange 28, extend inwardly toward proximal legs 42, the distance between the uppermost ends of the legs 44 and corresponding legs 42 being less than the distance between branches 48 of notch 46 and the opposite edge of flange 26. Accordingly, as the loops 38 are moved to and from an operative position as shown by full lines in Fig. 3, loops 38 are taken into place with respect to the support 24. Furthermore, as the loops 38 are moved to and from the operative position, the legs 42 thereof slide vertically within the branches 48 of notch 46. It is to be preferred that the entire construction 36 be made from resilient material whereby the looped line position illustrated in Figs. 3, 4 and 5. In placing garment 58 in a position for clamping the same in place, fabric 58 is looped over the rebent portions 52 while the loop construction 36 is in the doted line position and a sufficient amount of one edge of the garment 58 is permitted to fall into the heights 40 to assure an adequate clamp thereof at the bead 34 when the assembly 38 is moved upwardly to the operative position. In this last mentioned movement, the operator grasps the cross member 50 and pulls upwardly thereon, carrying the garment 58 therewith and as the garment 58 comes into contact with the support 24, it will be clamped in place automatically as the legs 44 snap into place upon support 24.

It is to be appreciated that the garments can be quickly and easily placed into a supporting relationship with respect to the latter and their cooperating supports 24 by grasping the cross member 50 and pulling upwardly thereon. Conversely, when it is desired to release the garment 58, the operator may hold the same in one hand while pulling downwardly upon all of the assemblies 36 at cross portion 56 thereof.

As stated, there is a plurality of the assemblies 36 on each of the number of supports 24 and the length of the latter may be varied to suit the desires of the user. It is contemplated that relatively long garments may be hung upon each support 24 below the chains 10 and 12 and that the assemblies 36 of each support 24, will cooperate in supporting relatively long fabric articles such as sheets, blankets, rugs and the like.

In order to permit hanging of the clothing and removal thereof from the supports 24 at a given location, a crank 50 is provided for shaft 18, manipulation whereby imparts rotative motion to shaft 18 and actuates the continuous chains 10 and 12. The assemblies 24—36 can thereupon be moved to and from a position adjacent the chute 16 filled with garments, the same can be progressively moved toward the shaft 16 until the entire clothesline assembly is fitted. Likewise, in removing the clothing from the clothesline, the operator retains the direction of movement of the chains 10 and 12 and as the garments are removed from the supports 24, they are in turn moved to a position along the uppermost stretch of the chains 10 and 12 as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Through use of the construction hereof, the need for a plurality of separate clothespins as is presently the universal practice, is entirely eliminated. The pins which constitute assemblies 36 are left upon the supports 24 but can be individually removed therefrom by merely springing legs 42 together, whereby the same may be taken from the branches 48 and pulled outwardly with respect to notch 46. Furthermore, it is to be seen that the clamping action provided for by the loops 36 in cooperation with the supports 24 and the beads 34 thereon, provides an effective holding means for the garments that is appreciably more positive than possible through use of conventional clothespins. By mounting all of the assemblies 46 on elongated supports 24, relatively long garments may be individually hung and by shiftable mounting the supports 24 and the assemblies 36 thereon through use of chains 10 and 12, the laundress may conveniently place the clothing upon the lines and remove the same while remaining in one position adjacent the crank 50.

It is manifest that many details of construction may be varied and it is, therefore, desired to be limited only by the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letter Patent is:

1. A clothespin assembly comprising an elongated support having a pair of flanges in angular relation, one of the flanges being perforated; a resilient loop embracing the support and having one leg thereof slidably mounted in the perforation of said one flange and the other leg adjacent the other flange; and a bead on the other flange, said bead being disposed within the bight of said loop for holding a fabric article clamped in place against the loop when the latter is in an article holding position.

2. A clothespin assembly comprising an elongated support having a pair of flanges in angular relation, one of the flanges being perforated; a resilient loop embracing the support and having one leg thereof slidably mounted in the perforation of said one flange and the other leg adjacent the other flange; and a bead on the other flange, said bead being disposed within the bight of said loop for holding a fabric article clamped in place against the loop when the latter is in an article holding position, the distance between the legs of the loop being less than the width of said one flange whereby the loop snaps into place on
the support when shifted to said article holding position.

3. A clothespin assembly comprising an elongated support having a pair of flanges in angular relation; a resilient loop embracing the support and having one leg thereof slidably engaging one of the flanges and the other leg thereof adjacent the other flange; and a bead on the other flange, said bead being disposed within the bight of said loop for holding a fabric article clamped in place against the loop when the latter is in an article holding position; the distance between the legs of the loop being less than the width of said one flange whereby the loop snaps into place on the support when shifted to said article holding position.

PAUL WEAVER.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,219,392</td>
<td>Jorgensen</td>
<td>Oct. 23, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,519,396</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Aug. 22, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,527,674</td>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>Oct. 31, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,527,713</td>
<td>Dunn</td>
<td>Oct. 31, 1950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>