July 1, 1941. E. R. ERICKSON 2,247,437

TOWEL HOLDER

Filed Oct. 16, 1939

Fig. 1.

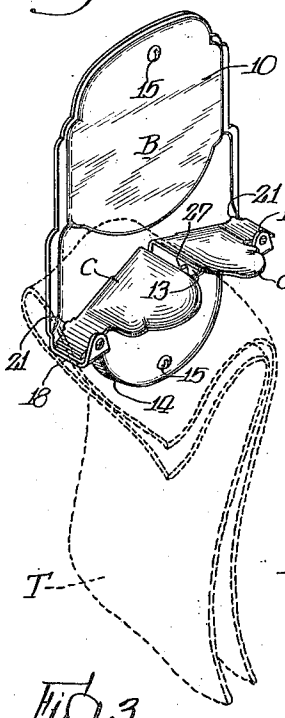


Fig. 2.

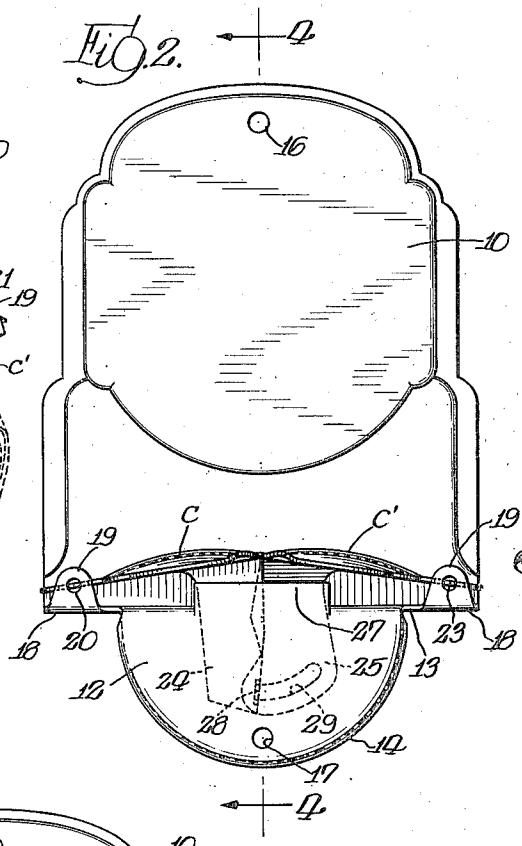


Fig. 4.

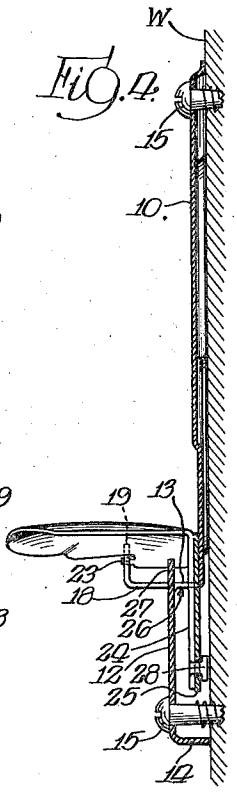


Fig. 3.

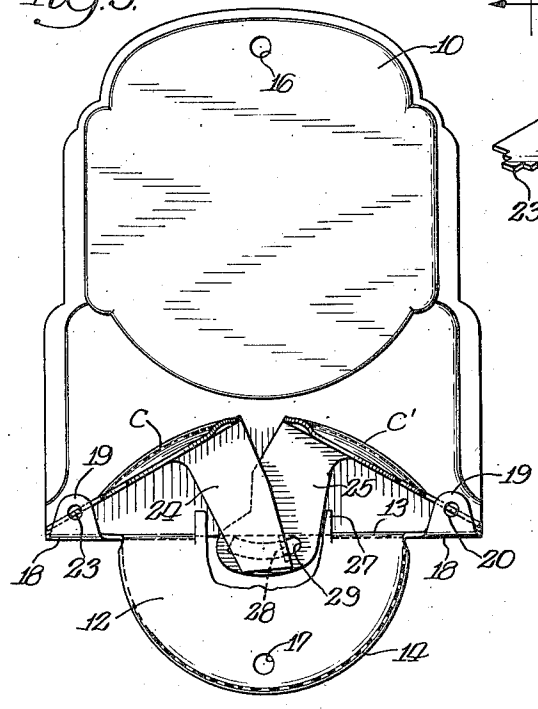
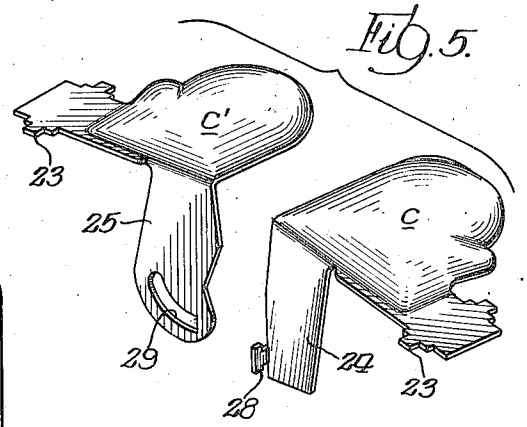


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TOWEL HOLDER

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Application October 16, 1939, Serial No. 299,741

6 Claims. (Cl. 24—248)

My present invention relates to a holder for towels and the like which can be economically formed of sheet metal and can be sold as an advertising novelty.

One object of the invention is to provide a holder of this character adapted for supporting towels or any piece of cloth or soft material with respect to a wall, the device being so designed that it is easily operated to effect a positive gripping of the article by clutch plates of the device which are actuated by gravity, once the article is inserted between them.

A further object is to provide a holder of this character comprising a single base plate and a pair of pivotally mounted clutch plates, all of which can be formed of sheet metal, the clutch plates being so designed and related to each other that an article inserted between them, when released, will cause the clutch plates to grip the article as it shifts downwardly by gravity.

Still another object is to provide clutch plates with a novel and inexpensive means to synchronize them and thus insure proper operation in their gripping capacity.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of my device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my holder for towels and the like, and showing a towel held therein;

Figure 2 is an enlarged front elevation of Figure 1 showing the clutch plates closed;

Figure 3 is a similar view of the device showing the clutch plates raised for opening them as when an article is being inserted upwardly between them;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 2, and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the clutch plates as viewed from the rear.

On the accompanying drawing, I have used the reference character B to indicate generally a base plate and C and C′ the clutch plates of my device. The base B has an upper part 10 and a lower guard part 12. The parts 10 and 12 are separated by a ledge 13 and the part 12 has an enclosing flange 14 around its edge. The base plate B is adapted to be secured to a wall W or the like by screws 15 inserted through openings 16 and 17 in the upper part 10 and the guard part 12, respectively.

The ledge 13 adjacent its ends is made somewhat wider, as indicated at 18. The portions 18 may be considered as extensions and terminate in upwardly directed perforated ears 19. The perforations are indicated at 20.

In the upper part 10 of the base plate B, corresponding perforations 21 are provided.

The clutch plates C and C′ are provided with pintles 23 for pivoting in the perforations 20 and 21 as shown in the drawing. The clutch plates have downwardly extending flangelike extensions 24 and 25, respectively, passing through a slot 26 formed by bending a tongue portion 27 of the ledge 13 upwardly, as shown in Figure 4. Under the ledge and behind the guard 12, the flanges 24 and 25 are provided with a projection and slot means of coaction. The projection is indicated at 28 and is T headed in shape. The slot indicated at 29, it will be noted, is arcuate. The parts 28 and 29 coact with each other, as shown by dotted lines in Figs. 3 and 4, to synchronize movement of the clutch plates C and C′.

Practical operation

When it is desirable to insert an article, such as a towel T, into my holder it is merely necessary to place it against the under surfaces of the adjacent edges of the clutch plates C and C′ in Figure 4 and lift upwardly, while at the same time pushing inwardly toward the base plate B. This will easily open the clutch plates with relation to each other and when the towel is released its weight will pull them closed again. The flanges 24 and 25 with their coacting means at 28 and 29 effectively synchronize the movement of the clutch plates in a simple manner. Any possibility of the towel getting into the working parts is obviated by the guard 12 which covers the slot and projection means of coaction 28—29 at all positions of its operation.

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, I have described the principle of operation of my invention together with an illustration of a towel holder which I consider to represent the best embodiment thereof, but I desire to have it understood that the structure disclosed is only illustrative and that the invention may be carried out by other means within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A holder for towels and the like comprising a support, a pair of clutch members pivoted

thereto with their pivots spaced from each other and the free ends of the clutch members engageable with each other between the pivots at a point spaced above a line connecting them, and means to synchronize the pivotal movement of said clutch members, said means comprising downward projections from the edges of said clutch members adjacent said support, coacting projection and slot means providing coaction between said downward projections, said support having a guard portion covering said downward projections and said projection and slot means.

2. A holder of the class disclosed comprising a base plate, a pair of pivoted clutch plates thereon with their pivots spaced from each other and their free ends engageable with each other between the pivots, means to synchronize the pivotal movement of said clutch plates, said means comprising downwardly projecting flanges from the edges of said clutch plates having coacting projection and slot means providing coaction between said downward projections, said base plate having a guard portion covering said downward projection and said projection and slot means.

3. A holder for towels and the like comprising a sheet metal base plate adapted for mounting on a wall or the like, a pair of forward projections therefrom terminating in upstanding perforated ears, a pair of clutch plates having pintles pivotally mounted in said perforated ears and in corresponding perforations in said base plate, said clutch plates extending toward each other and adapted to have their free edges engage with each other between said perforated ears, said clutch plates having downwardly extending flanges adjacent said base plate provided with coacting projection and slot means affording synchronization of the movement of said clutch plates, and a guard for said flanges formed on said base plate.

4. In a holder, a sheet metal base plate having a pair of forward projections therefrom terminating in upstanding perforated ears and an extension between said ears forming a guard, a pair of clutch members having pintles pivotally mounted in said perforated ears and in registering perforations in said base plate, said clutch members extending toward each other and adapted to have their free edges engage with each other between said perforated ears at a point spaced above a line between the perforations thereof, said clutch plates having downwardly extending flanges adjacent said base plate provided with coacting means to synchronize their movement and said guard covering said flanges and said means.

5. In a holder, a sheet metal base plate, a pair of forward projections therefrom terminating in upstanding perforated ears, a pair of clutch plates having pintles pivotally mounted in said perforated ears and in corresponding perforations in said base plate, said clutch plates extending toward each other and adapted to have their free edges engage with each other between said perforated ears, said clutch plates having downwardly extending flanges provided with coacting means affording synchronization of the movement thereof, and a guard for said projections, said guard comprising an offset portion of said base plate spaced from the plane of the back of the plate, said offset portion having an enclosing flange along its edge and the offset having an opening therethrough through which said flanges extend.

6. A holder for towels and the like comprising a base adapted for fitting on a wall or the like, a pair of clutch members pivotally mounted thereon and extending toward each other so that their free edges are adapted to engage with each other, said clutch members having downwardly extending projections provided with coacting means affording synchronization of their movement, and a guard for said projections, said guard comprising an offset portion of said base spaced from the wall surface, said offset portion having an opening therethrough through which said projections extend.

ERNEST R. ERICKSON.