

Feb. 28, 1928.

1,661,045

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LINE TIGHTENER

Filed June 18, 1927

Fig. 1.

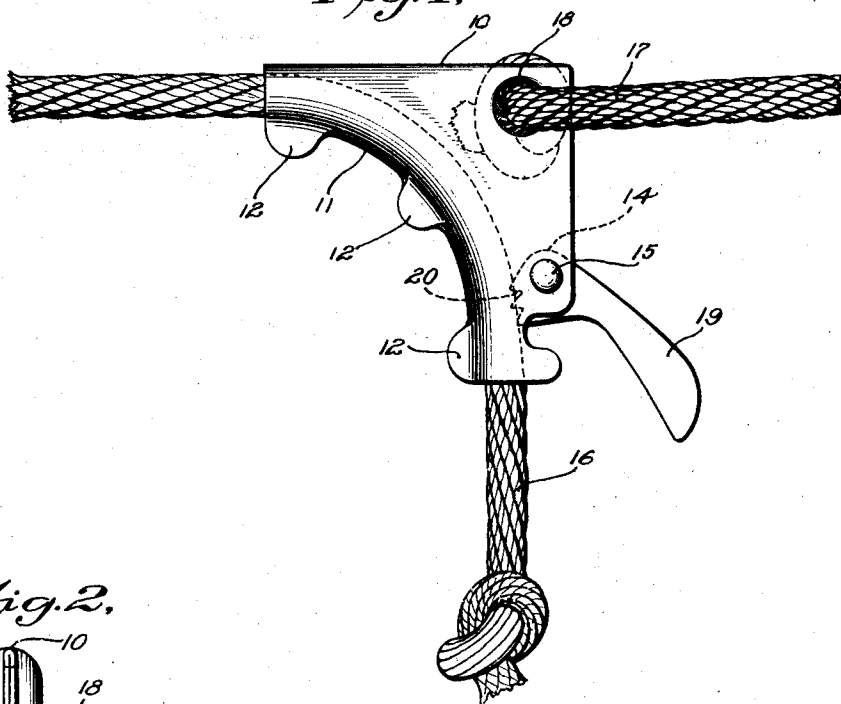


Fig. 2.

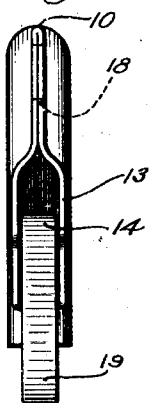


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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LINE TIGHTENER.

Application filed June 18, 1927. Serial No. 199,748.

The present invention is concerned with a line tightener which may have a wide range of utility, but which finds one of its preferred fields of use as a tightening device for clotheslines.

An object of the invention is to provide a tightener of this character in which the line-engaging element is gravitationally operated, so that there will be no need for manually swinging levers or adjusting parts in order to clamp the device in engagement with the running end of a line.

Another object of the invention is to provide a line tightener so arranged that tightening of a line may be effected by simply pulling the running end of it, and without need for disengaging any line clamping means.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a line tightener so constructed that it may be readily manually grasped with one hand while the line is pulled with another, and may be conveniently operated from a window or other awkward location where clothesline pulleys are used.

Still other objects of the invention are to provide a line tightener of simple, practical construction, which will be rugged, durable and efficient in use, and well suited to the requirements of convenient manipulation and economical manufacture.

With the above noted and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, as will be more fully hereinafter set forth and pointed out in the claims. The invention may be more fully understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation showing the line tightener in line engaging position.

Fig. 2 is an edge view of the device of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view thereof.

The line tightener includes a body portion which may be conveniently bent from a single sheet of metal. This body portion is of general triangular shape, the metallic sheet being bent along a line which constitutes the straight top edge 10 of the tightener. Along a generally arcuate line from one upper corner to an opposite lower corner the free edges of the metallic sheet are soldered, welded or otherwise secured together along a line 11, and a number of lugs

or equivalent devices 12 preferably integral with the body provide between them effective finger spaces so that the device may be readily gripped by a user.

From the opposite upper corner of the body 10, the body extends downwardly at substantially right angles to its top edge, and near the lower portion of the side edge the opposite sides of the body are spaced apart or bifurcated as at 13 in order that an eccentric 14 may be pivotally mounted between them on a pin 15.

The soldered or closed end of the substantially triangular body designated at 11 provides a curved and partially tubular guideway for the running end 16 of a line, the other end 17 of the line being anchored preferably by knotting it through an opening 18 in the upper square corner of the body.

Preferably integrally connected to the eccentric 14 is a handle member 19 acting gravitationally to move the eccentric into clamping engagement with the line 16. This eccentric if desired may be provided with comparatively blunt teeth 20 for engaging the line, but such teeth are usually unnecessary.

It will be observed from Fig. 1 that any attempt to pull the running end of the line through the tightener will simply serve to rotate the eccentric 14 on its pivot and jam it more firmly into engagement with the line. When it is desired to take up slack in the line however, the running end 16 may be grasped and pulled downwardly automatically rotating the eccentric about its pivot in a counter-clockwise direction, and when the desired slack has been taken up, the eccentric due to the gravity action of its handle, and the rotary action of the line attempting to run through it, is automatically returned to line-clamping position.

Obviously, various changes and alterations might be made in the general form and arrangement of the parts described without departing from the invention. Hence I do not wish to limit myself to the details set forth, but shall consider myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A line tightener including means for anchoring one end of a line, and means for guiding the running end of said line, an eccentric engaging said running end to pre-

vent movement of the line in one direction, said eccentric permitting free movement of the line end in the opposite direction, the tightener being of general triangular shape and hollow formation with its longer edge curved and constituting a guide for the line end, the eccentric being arranged adjacent the lower corner of the device, whereby it is disposed well below the line to be tightened.

5 2. A line tightener including means for anchoring one end of a line, and means for guiding the running end of said line, an eccentric engaging said running end to prevent movement of the line in one direction. said eccentric permitting free movement of 15 the line end in the opposite direction, the tightener being of general triangular shape and hollow formation with its longer edge curved and constituting a guide for the line end, said curved edge having a plurality of 20 exterior lugs defining finger grips.

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