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D. H. COFFMAN

2,249,114

CLOTHESLINE REEL

Filed June 5, 1940

Fig. 1

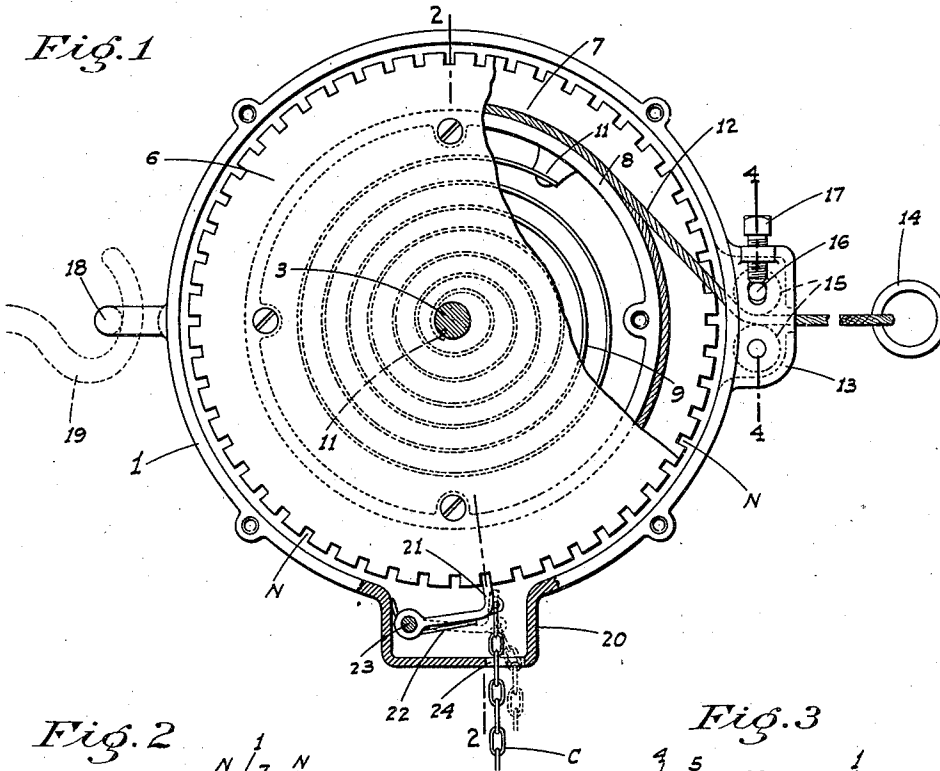


Fig. 2

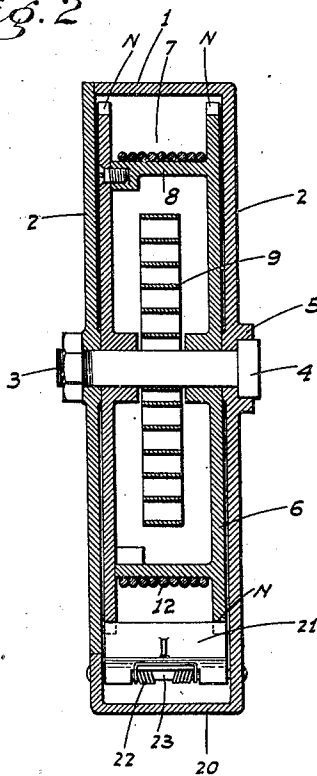


Fig. 3

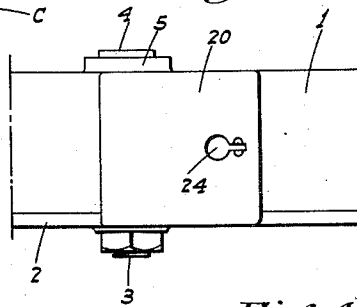
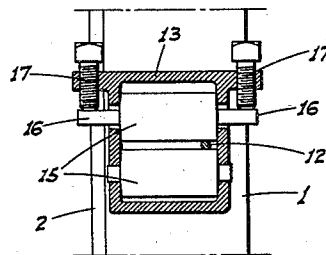


Fig. 4



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CLOTHESLINE REEL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 242-100)

This invention relates in general to a household appliance and in particular the invention is directed to an improved clothesline reel.

The principal object of the invention is to provide an improved clothesline reel which includes a supporting housing and a spring actuated drum in the housing, and upon which drum the clothesline is adapted to be wound when not in use; the line thus normally being out of the way and not unsightly, as well as being out of the weather, while at the same time being convenient and accessible for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a clothesline reel including a spring actuated drum for the clothesline, means associated with the drum to positively lock the same against rotation when the clothesline has been run out and is in use, and other means to prevent too fast a return of the line to the spring actuated drum when the line is being fed back to said drum after use.

A further object of the invention is to produce a simple and inexpensive device and yet one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects I accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claim.

In the drawing similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views:

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, with the adjacent end plate of the housing removed.

Figure 2 is a cross section on line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of the housing.

Figure 4 is a cross section on line 4-4 of Fig. 1.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawing, the device comprises a cylindrical housing 1 formed with end plates 2, one of which is removable. A non-rotatable bolt 3 extends axially through the cylindrical housing 1 between the end plates; such bolt being secured in non-rotatable relation in any suitable manner as by seating the non-circular head 4 of the bolt in a correspondingly formed socket 5 in one of said end plates.

Within the housing 1 the bolt 3 supports a rotatable drum 6 formed with a relatively deep peripheral channel or groove 7; said drum being hollow radially inwardly of the bottom 8 of said groove. A relatively heavy duty spiral spring 9 is disposed in said hollow portion of the drum 6; the inner end of said spring being fixed on the

non-rotatable bolt 3 as at 10, while the outer end of said spring is fixed on the portion 8 of the rotatable drum, as indicated at 11.

A flexible clothesline 12 is normally wound about the drum in the groove 7; one end of said clothesline being fixed to the drum, while the other end portion extends from the drum through a radially projecting housing extension 13 to a point exteriorly thereof. A connecting ring 14 is secured on said other or outer end of the clothesline. Within the housing extension 13 the clothesline passes between and is frictionally engaged by a pair of rollers 15. The upper one of said rollers 15 is mounted for vertical adjustment relative to the lower roller by suitable means such as extended roller pins or shafts 16 which are engaged by vertically adjustable screws 17. Radially opposite the housing extension 13, housing 1 is provided with a supporting eye 18 adapted to engage over a hook 19 secured to a building, a post, or the like.

At the bottom the housing 1 is formed with another radially projecting housing extension 20 in which an L-shaped dog 21 is pivoted for movement to and from the periphery of the drum 6. The dog 21 is of substantially the same width as drum 6 and the end plates of said drum at their periphery are formed with circumferentially spaced outwardly opening notches N into which the dog 21 is adapted to engage. The dog 21 is urged in a direction toward engagement with said notches by means of a spring 22 associated with the dog and its pivot pin 23. Except when the clothesline is in use, the dog 21 is held free of notches N by means of a light-weight link chain C connected to the dog some distance from its pivot and depending through a key-hole slot 24 in the bottom of housing extension 20; the chain being pulled downwardly and shifted laterally into the narrow portion of the slot whereby to lock the chain and dog in a position with the dog clear of notches N.

Operation

In use, the assembly is suspended by eye 18 from a hook 19 as previously indicated. When the clothesline is to be used, ring 14 is grasped and the line run out to the desired length whereupon said ring is engaged with another suitable hook (not shown) at a point remote from the clothesline reel. Thereafter, chain C is released from the narrow portion of the key-hole slot 24 whereupon said chain moves upward through the enlarged portion of the slot. The dog 21 then shifts into engagement with the periphery

of drum 6 and into the adjacent ones of notches N preventing further paying out of the line under the weight of the clothes supported therefrom.

After the line has been used, the dog 21 is retracted from notches N and held in retracted position in the manner previously explained. Ring 14 is released from its supporting hook and the clothesline 12 permitted to run back into the housing and onto drum 6 under the influence of spiral spring 9. The friction unit, including rollers 15, is adjusted to exert such compression or friction on clothesline 12 to assure that it runs back onto drum 6 slowly and without a snap as would be undesirable.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that I have produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a de-

parture from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and useful and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

In a clothesline reel assembly, a housing, a spring actuated clothesline drum rotatably mounted in the housing, a dog pivoted in the housing below the drum for swinging movement to and from the latter, the drum having a plurality of circumferentially spaced notches into any one of which the dog is adapted to engage and lock the drum against rotation, a spring urging the dog toward said notches, and a dog release, link chain connected to and depending from the dog; the housing having a bayonet slot formed therein below the dog, the chain being passable only through the enlarged portion of the slot and normally freely depending therethrough, but engageable in holding relation in the smaller portion of the slot.

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