June 8, 1965 W. G. WILSON 3,187,901

FIREWOOD RACK

Filed Jan. 14, 1963

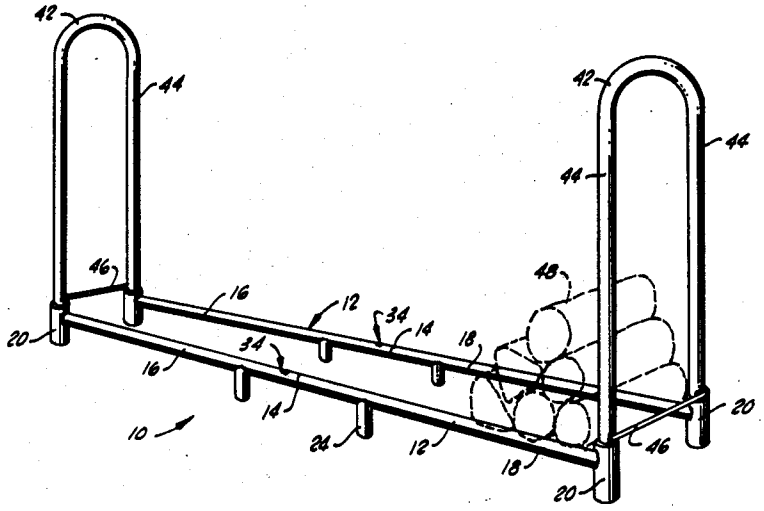


Fig. 1

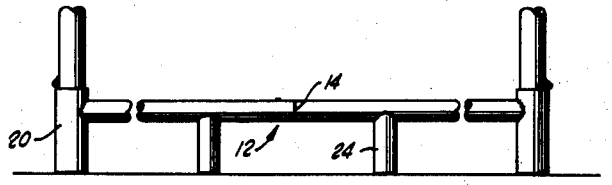


Fig. 2

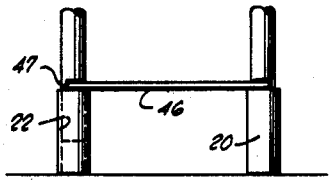


Fig. 3

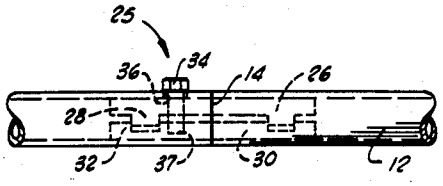


Fig. 4

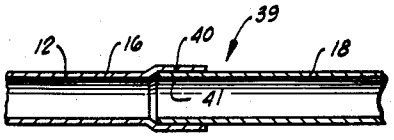


Fig. 6

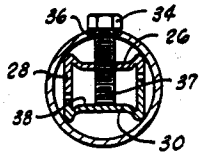


Fig. 5

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FIREWOOD RACK

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This invention relates to improvements in the general field of materials handling and storage, and more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a novel rack especially adapted for receiving and storing logs of firewood.

Due to an increased popularity of wood burning fireplaces in homes, a greater demand for firewood racks has been created in residential areas. A firewood rack, normally located outdoors, holds the firewood above the ground for increasing the dryness of the wood and minimizing nesting and hiding places for rodents and the like. It is desirable for a firewood rack to be strong and rugged in construction for a long service life with a minimum of maintenance. In order that the rack may easily store a sufficient quantity of firewood, it is also desirable that a firewood rack be portable, not in the sense of normally being carried about, but in the sense that it may easily be carried to a site where it is to be erected. If a firewood rack large enough for storing a desirable quantity of firewood were to be completely constructed in a shop prior to transportation to the desired location, a problem of ease and cost of transporting such a large and awkward structure would be created. Accordingly, the desired firewood rack should be easily and economically constructed of readily obtainable materials which are light in weight with respect to strength.

The present invention contemplates an improved firewood rack, utilizing in its construction, tubular members which are strong and rugged in strength, but which have a low weight in relation to strength. The elements comprising the firewood rack are preferably prefabricated in a shop and then transported to a site where the novel rack may be easily assembled in a short period of time by workers having a minimum of skill.

The present invention may be defined as a firewood rack which comprises a pair of spaced, parallel tubular members which are separable at a median point into first and second portions. A suitable coupling means is carried by each tubular member for precluding an undesired separation thereof. Each tubular member is provided at each end with a vertically disposed tubular cornerpost having an upwardly directed opening in the upper end thereof. Each of the tubular members is also provided with a pair of downwardly extending supporting legs which are carried intermediately of said cornerposts and on either side of the median point. A pair of inverted U-shaped members, each having a pair of downwardly extending legs adapted to be removably positioned in the openings of said cornerposts at adjacent ends of base members provide vertical retaining means for the logs of firewood which are stacked transversely to the longitudinally extending base members. A cross bar is horizontally secured to the lower portions of the legs of each U-shaped member for limiting the vertical positioning of said legs in the openings of the cornerposts.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved rack for storing logs of firewood.

Another object of this invention is to provide a strong and ruggedly constructed rack which stores a large quantity of firewood logs.

And another object of this invention is to provide an easily assembled firewood rack which may be constructed from readily obtainable materials.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a firewood rack which may be prefabricated in one location and transported to a desired site where it may be quickly and easily assembled with labor having a minimum of skill.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrated the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view, illustrating a firewood rack constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a partial side elevational view of the firewood rack shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a partial end view of the firewood rack shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a side view illustrating one coupling means which may be used with this invention.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged end view of the coupling means shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a side view illustrating another coupling which may also be used with this invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and particularly FIG. 1, reference character 10 designates a novel firewood rack constructed in accordance with this invention and which includes a pair of spaced, separable, generally tubular base members 12. Each tubular base member 12 is separable at a median point 14 into first and second portions 16 and 18, respectively. By way of example, the median point 14 is illustrated as being the bisector of the tubular member 12, but the invention is not limited to that specific separation point.

A vertically disposed cornerpost or supporting legs 20, having an upwardly directed opening 22, in the upper end thereof, is secured to each end of each tubular base member 12. A plurality of downwardly extending supporting legs or members 24 are secured to the base member 12 and spaced inwardly of the cornerpost 20. In the embodiment of this invention shown in the drawing, a pair of supporting legs 24 is carried by each base member 12 with the median point 14 appearing therebetween. The legs 24 provide an intermediate support for the members 12 to preclude bending of the members 12 since the weight of a rick of firewood carried by the rack 10 will be downwardly directed and could possibly be centered on the members 12.

A coupling means 25 is provided for precluding an undesired separation of each tubular member 12. This may take the form, as seen in FIGS. 4 and 5, of a first channel shaped member 26 having a pair of downwardly depending, particularly configured legs 28 and being disposed longitudinally within a tubular member 12 at the median separation 14. A second channel shaped member 30 having a pair of upwardly extending complementarily configured legs 32 is longitudinally disposed within a tubular member 12 adjacent to the median separation 14. The legs 28 of member 26 and legs 32 of member 30 cooperate to preclude relative movement therebetween. A suitable bolt 34 extends through an aperture 36 in the tubular member 12 and threadedly engages the first channel member 26. The lower end 37 of the bolt 34 engages an inner surface 38 of the second channel shaped member 30 so that the first and second members 26 and 30 are spread apart and urged into contact with the first portion 16 and the second portion 18 of the tubular member 12 thereby providing a friction coupling means which precludes separation of said portions.

Another coupling means 39 which may be utilized with this invention is shown in FIG. 6. An end portion of the first portion 16 of the tubular member 12 which is opposite to the end secured to a cornerpost 20 is expanded to provide a socket 40 having an inner diameter approximately the same as the outer diameter of the second portion 18 of the tubular member 12. It will be apparent that the second portion 18 may be press fitted into the

open socket 40 thereby providing an efficient friction coupling means for the tubular member 12.

A means for increasing the effective height to which firewood may be stacked in the rack 10 is provided by a vertical retaining means in the illustrated embodiment. This means takes the form of a pair of U-shaped end members 42 each having a pair of spaced parallel tubular extending legs 44. The lower ends of the downwardly extending legs 44 are removably positioned within the upwardly directed openings 22 of the cornerpost 20. A horizontally disposed crossbar or member 46 is transversely secured to the lower portions of the legs 44 in a suitable manner such as by welding or the like. The crossbar 46 engages the upper face or upper end 47 of each cornerpost 20 thereby limiting the extension of each leg 44 into the opening 22 in the cornerpost 20.

With respect to economy, it will be seen that the tubular base members 12, the cornerposts 20, the supporting legs 24, and the end members 42 are constructed out of readily obtainable tubular goods and are secured together in a suitable manner such as described. The firewood rack 10 may be prefabricated by connecting, by welding or the like, the cornerposts 20 and the supporting legs 24 to the first and second portions 16 and 18 of the tubular members 12. Each crossbar 46 is transversely secured to the lower portions of the legs 44 of each end member 42 for a strengthening of the end member 42 and for setting the correct distance between the legs 44. The foregoing elements of the rack 10 may then be easily transported to a desired location for erection.

The rack 10 is erected by securing the first and second portions 16 and 18 of each tubular member 12 together by a suitable coupling means 25 shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. The base members 12 are then spaced apart a predetermined distance in a parallel spatial relationship. The end members 42 are then arranged so that the downwardly extending legs 44 thereof are removably positioned in upwardly directed openings 22 of adjacent cornersposts 20 of the base members 12.

In use it will be seen, as shown in FIG. 1, that a plurality of logs of firewood generally designated by reference character 48 may be placed on the firewood rack 10 so that they extend transversely across the base members 12. The firewood may be stacked to any desired height since the upwardly extending end members 42 provide a strong retaining means at each end of the tubular members 12. In one embodiment of this invention, the rack 10 may be suitably dimensioned to receive one rick of firewood. Thus, a person may determine whether he has received a full rick of firewood when he has ordered the same from a dealer in firewood and the like.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the present invention provides a novel firewood rack which will provide storage for a substantial quantity of firewood logs. This rack may be economically prefabricated from readily obtainable materials and easily transported to a desired location where it may be easily constructed by labor having minimum skill. Also, this firewood rack although light in weight is strong and rugged in construction. Finally it will be apparent that the present invention provides a novel firewood rack that is simply and economically constructed and which has a long service life with a minimum maintenance.

Changes may be made in the combination and arrangements of parts as heretofore set forth in the specification and shown in the drawings, it being understood that changes may be made in the precise embodiments disclosed without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claim.

I claim:

A rack for storing firewood and the like comprising:

a pair of spaced parallel elongated base members which are separable at a median point, each base member having a cornerpost vertically secured to either end;

each of said cornerposts having an upwardly directed opening in the upper end thereof;

coupling means precluding separation of said base members, said coupling means including

a first channel shaped member longitudinally positioned within each tubular member at said median point, said first channel shaped member having two spaced particularly configured legs,

a second channel shaped member longitudinally positioned within said tubular member at said median point, said second channel shaped member having legs configured complementary to those of said first channel shaped member and cooperating therewith to preclude relative longitudinal movement between said first and second channel shaped members, and

a threaded bolt extending through each tubular member and said first channel shaped members into contact with the second channel shaped members so that the first and second channel shaped members may be urged apart to provide a friction coupling between the first and second portions of each tubular member; each of said base members having a pair of spaced downwardly extending supporting legs secured thereto;

a pair of inverted U-shaped end members, each having a pair of spaced parallel downwardly depending legs adapted to extend into the openings of the cornerposts at adjacent ends of the base members; and,

a pair of cross bars, each being horizontally secured to the lower portions of the legs of each U-shaped member for limiting the extension of said legs into the openings of said cornerposts.

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