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St. Paul

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[54] **ADJUSTABLE ROD CONSTRUCTION FOR TROPHIES AND SIMILAR ARTICLES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**287/62,** 287/103 A

[51] **Int. Cl.** **F16b 7/20**

[58] **Field of Search** .....287/103 A, 125, 62; 85/1 L; 248/158

[56] **References Cited**

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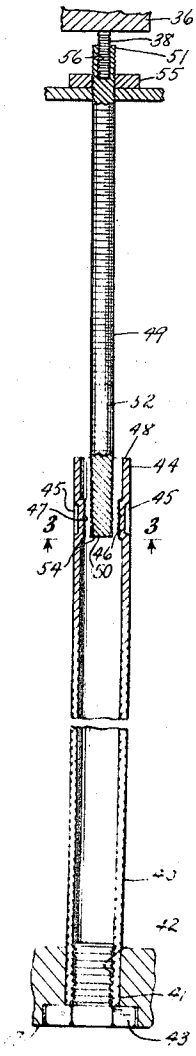
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An adjustable length rod construction for assembling trophies from selected interchangeable components, permitting the use of a single size of rod in conjunction with trophies of varying heights. The rod includes a first member having a hollow bore, an upper end of which is provided with a series of discontinuous oppositely disposed thread segments defining an interstice therebetween, and a second rod member of non-circular cross section corresponding to said interstice, and having corresponding discontinuous threads thereon so as to be longitudinally insertable therein to a degree determining the overall length of the rod, and subsequently rotatable to cause mutual engagement of the thread segments on the first and second rod members, and create a frictionally reached retained adjustment therebetween.

3 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



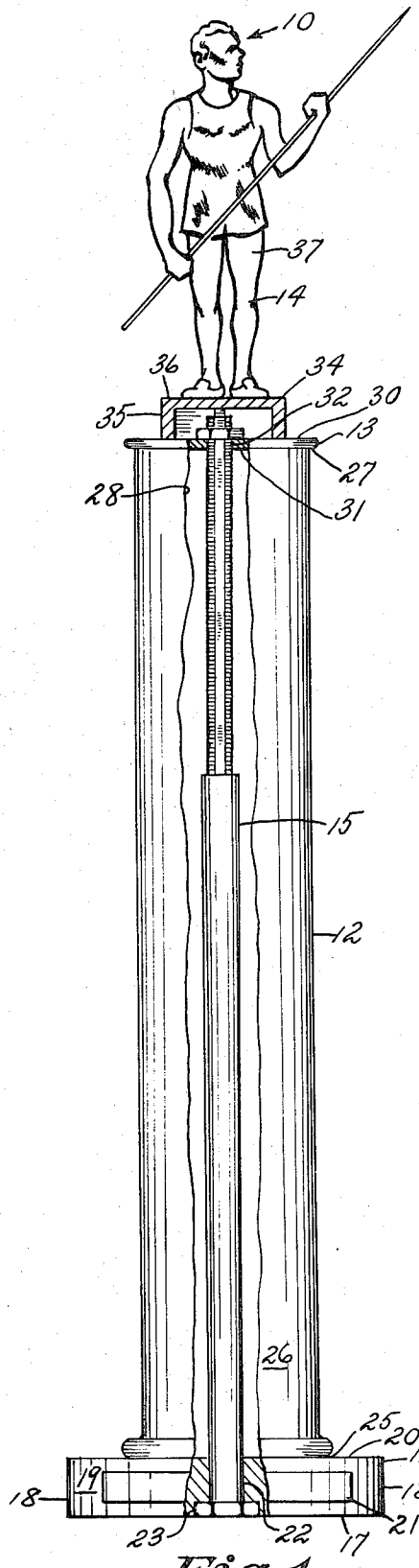


Fig. 1

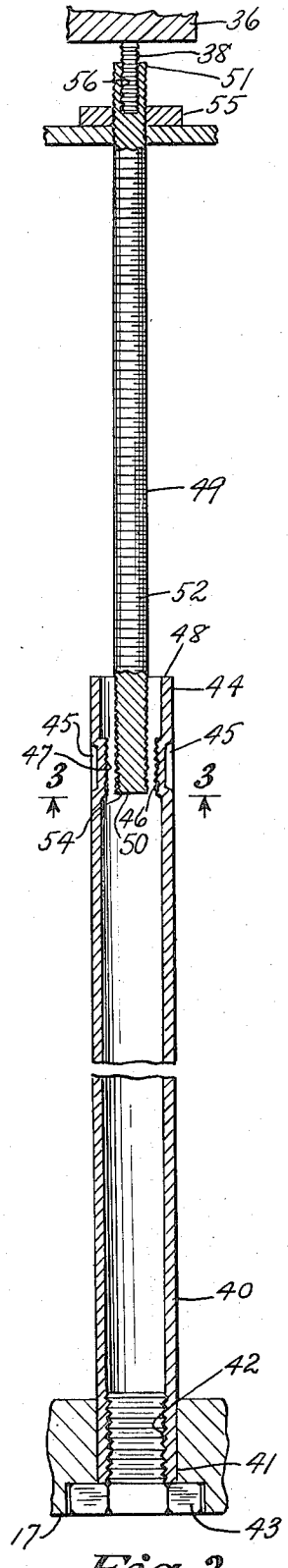


Fig. 2

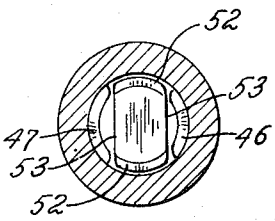


Fig. 3

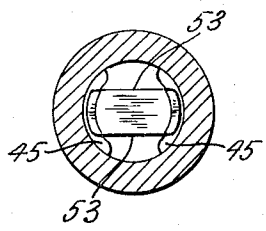


Fig. 4

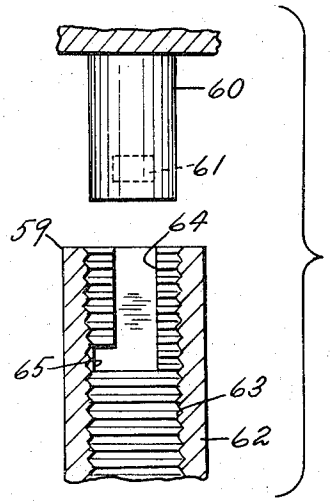


Fig. 5

ADJUSTABLE ROD CONSTRUCTION FOR TROPHIES AND SIMILAR ARTICLES

This invention relates generally to the field of free-standing trophies, and more particularly to an improved assembly rod construction for use therewith. Although I have chosen to illustrate the invention in conjunction with such devices, it will be understood by those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains, that the inventive structure has application in the manufacture of lamp bases and other similarly constructed articles as well.

In the prior art, trophy construction on a commercial basis has achieved great flexibility by providing a choice of base constructions to which may be selectively attached any of a plurality of suitable figures. The base may include a relatively planar table engaging member, a generally vertically oriented column and an upper platform. In many cases, the same base and upper platform may be used in conjunction with columns of different height, depending upon customer requirements. The base, columns and platform are normally maintained in assembled condition by means of a threaded rod having an enlargement on the lower end thereof and an engaged nut on the upper end, the upper end of the rod also having provision for attachment of a suitable figure replica suggestive of the particular sport or event for which the trophy is awarded. As might be expected, the stocking of large numbers of figures, varying heights of columns also calls for the stocking of varying lengths of rod for interconnecting the same, thus unduly complicating the inventory of parts which must be normally maintained.

It is therefore among the principal objects of the present invention to provide an improved interconnecting rod of selectively adjustable length, the adjustability of which eliminates the necessity of maintaining an inventory of non-adjustable rods of varying lengths, in which the effective length thereof may be varied over a range of almost two to one.

Another object of the invention lies in the provision of an improved adjustable rod construction of the class described in which the adjustment of the effective length thereof may be conveniently performed by those possessing only ordinary skill, and without resort to special tools.

Yet another object of the invention lies in the provision of an improved adjustable rod of the class described, in which the cost of fabrication may be of a reasonably low order, with consequent wide sale, distribution and use.

A further object of the invention lies in the provision of an improved adjustable rod possessed of the above advantages, in which provision is incorporated for the attachment of figures by either threaded or bayonet type means.

These objects, as well as other incidental ends and advantages, will more fully appear in the progress of the following disclosure, and be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing, to which reference will be made in the specification, similar reference characters have been employed to designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

FIG. 1 is a view in elevation, partly in section of an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of the adjustable rod element forming a part of the disclosed embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a transverse enlarged sectional view as seen from the plane 3—3 in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a transverse sectional view, corresponding to that seen in FIG. 3, showing certain of the component parts in alternate relative position.

FIG. 5 is an exploded view in section of an alternate form of the embodiment.

In accordance with the invention, the device, generally indicated by reference character **10**, comprises broadly: a base member **11**, a column member **12**, an upper platform member **13**, and interchangeable figure member **14** and an interconnecting rod element **15**.

The base member **11** may be of conventional construction, being bounded by a lower surface **17**, side surfaces **18**, a front surface **19** and an upper surface **20**. A plaque **21** may be attached to the front surface **19**, as is well known in the art. A vertical bore **22** extends from the lower surface **17** to the upper surface **20** for engagement of the rod element **15**, the bore **22** preferably including a countersunk portion **23**.

The column member **12** may be of any desired height, and is normally of hollow configuration. It is bounded by a lower edge **25**, an outer surface **26** and an upper edge **27**. The centrally disposed bore **28** may correspond to the diameter of the rod element **15** or not, depending upon considerations of economic manufacture.

The upper platform member **13** is of generally planar configuration, and is bounded by an upper surface **30**, a lower surface **31** and includes a centrally disposed bore **32** extending therebetween.

The interchangeable figure member **14** may be of any desired configuration, and includes a base portion **34** of hollow configuration bounded by a vertical wall **35** and a horizontal wall **36** upon which a figure representation **37** is supported. Threaded attachment means **38** extends downwardly from the horizontal wall **36** to be engaged within the rod element **15**, as will more fully appear.

The rod element **15** includes a lower hollow rod member **40**, the lower end **41** of which is provided with a threaded bore **42** engageable with a correspondingly threaded member of plate or flange **43** engaging a lower surface of the base member **11**. Adjacent the upper end **44** thereof is a segmentally threaded portion **45** including first and second sets of threads **46–47**, respectively (see FIG. 3). The bore **42** terminates in an upper opening **48**.

An upper rod member **49** is of narrower width than the lower member **40**, and includes a lower end **50** insertable into the opening **48** and an upper end **51**. The effective length of the same is bounded by a pair of threaded curvilinear sides **52** and planar smooth sides **53**. Although the upper rod member **49** is illustrated as being of solid cross section, using suitable extrusion techniques, it can also be made in hollow form. Engaged on the upper end **51** is a retaining nut **55**, the upper end also including a centrally disposed threaded bore **56** selectively engaging the means **38**.

Assembly of the device **10** is in a conventional manner, after the effective length of the rod element **15**

has been determined. This adjustment is fixed by inserting the upper rod member **49** into the lower rod member **40**, and when the desired relative position has been achieved, the former is twisted through 90° with respect to the latter, causing the corresponding thread segments on each to frictionally engage. By forming the threads with relatively minimal clearance, a locking effect can be obtained without the necessity of set screw or other fastening means.

In the alternate form of the embodiment illustrated in FIG. **5**, and generally indicated by reference character **59**, the attaching means **60** corresponding to the means **38** in the principal form is a smooth cylinder having a radially extending projection **61** adjacent a lower end thereof. The upper rod member **62**, in addition to the threaded internal bore **63**, is provided with a longitudinal slot portion **64** communicating with a peripheral slot portion **65**, the portion **64–65** forming a bayonet attaching means selectively engageable by the projection **61**. Using this construction, once the desired base column and platform members have been selected, they may be partially assembled with the rod element, to await the selection of an interchangeable figure member which is conveniently installed by merely inserting the means **60** to engage the bayonet interconnection. Should another figure be desired at any time, the detachment of the same is an equally facile operation.

I wish it to be understood that I do not consider the invention limited to the precise details of structure shown and set forth in this specification, for obvious modifications will occur to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains.

I claim:

1. An adjustable length rod construction for use in assembling trophies and similar articles comprising: a first rod member of hollow configuration, and having first and second ends; a first end having means thereon for the engagement of a transversely extending flange, said second end having a bore therein and a plurality of discontinuous parallel thread segments on an inner surface of bore; a second rod member of generally non-circular cross section and having first and second ends and at least one outer peripheral surface thereon having corresponding discontinuous thread segments therein throughout a substantial portion of the length of said second rod member, said second rod member being longitudinally insertable into said hollow bore in said first rod member to adjust the effective total length of said first and second rod members, and subsequently rotatable therein to cause mutual engagement of the thread segments on each of said first and second rod members to frictionally fix a desired adjustment thereof; said second rod member having an axially disposed bore therein extending from one of said first and second ends for the reception of a trophy component having a corresponding interfitting means.

2. Structure in accordance with claim **1**, in which said bore is defined by a threaded interior surface.

3. Structure in accordance with claim **1** in which said bore is provided with a bayonet-type fitting.

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