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SUPPORT FOR CHRISTMAS TREES AND THE LIKE

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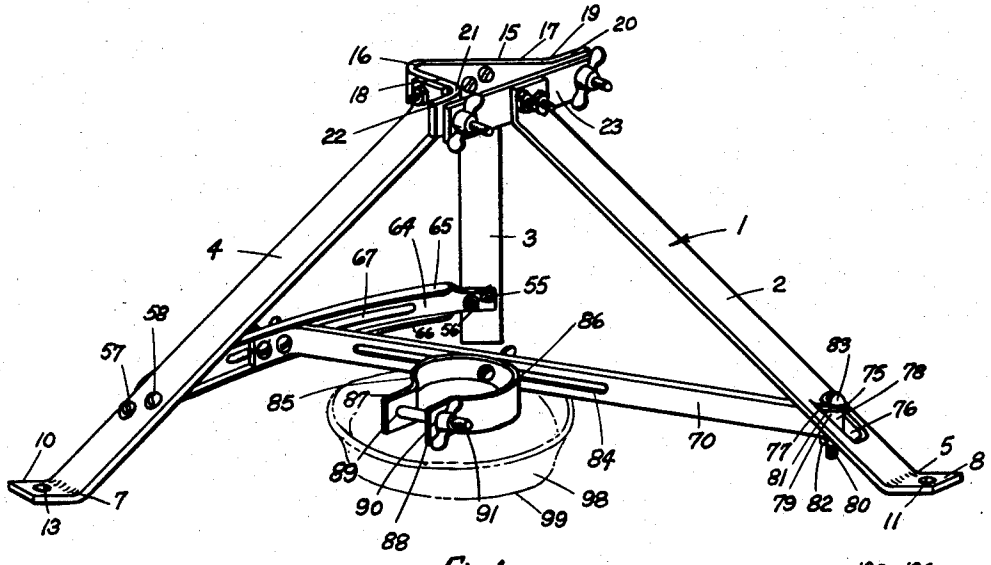


Fig. 1

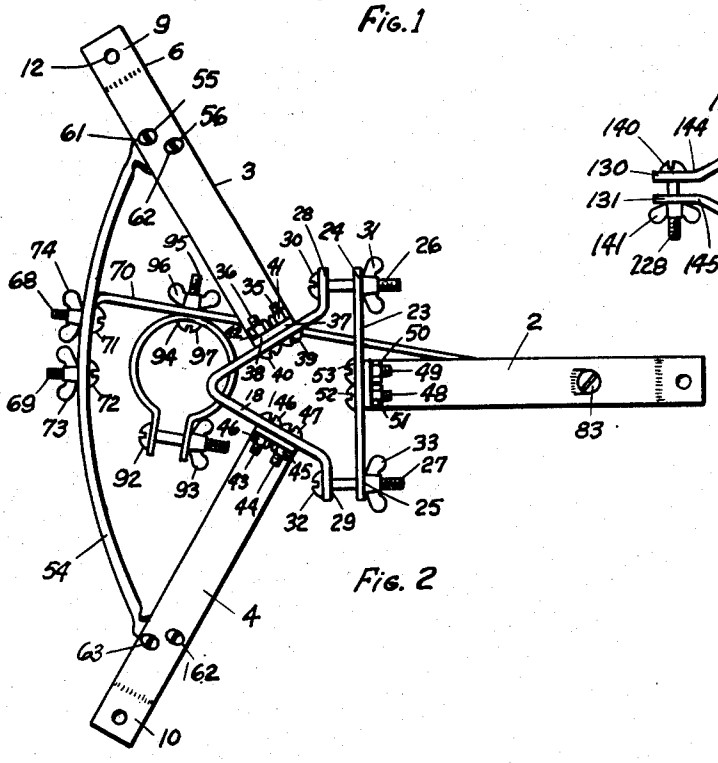


Fig. 2

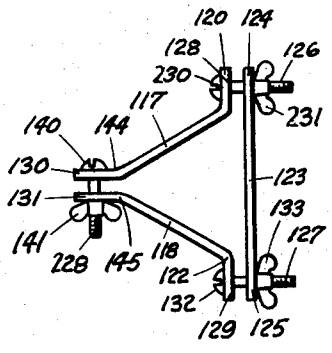


Fig. 3

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SUPPORT FOR CHRISTMAS TREES AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 248—44)

This invention relates generally to supports and more particularly to supporting bases or feet for supporting Christmas trees.

In supports for Christmas trees which were made according to previous designs, no provision was made for supporting a tree in a vertical position when the trunk of the tree was bent or crooked. Furthermore, many of the previous types of supports were not readily adapted to be readily dismantled for storage and transportation purposes.

It is, accordingly, an object of my invention to overcome the above and other defects in Christmas tree supporting devices and more particularly to provide a Christmas tree supporting device which will be economical to manufacture, simple in construction, and efficient in use.

Another object of my invention is to provide a Christmas tree supporting foot wherein the base of the tree can be supported in a different vertical plane than the main trunk of the tree.

Another object of my invention is to provide a Christmas tree supporting base wherein the lower portion of the base of the tree can be moved in two directions with regard to the main trunk of the tree.

Another object of the invention is to provide a Christmas tree supporting device wherein the lower end of the tree can be immersed in a receptacle containing water or other fluid.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a Christmas tree supporting foot according to my invention;

Fig. 2 is a top view of a Christmas tree supporting foot; and

Fig. 3 is a top view of another embodiment of my invention.

Now with more specific reference to the drawing, I show a Christmas tree supporting foot or base **1** having upwardly and outwardly extending legs **2**, **3**, and **4**. The legs **2**, **3**, and **4** are bent outwardly at **5**, **6**, and **7**, respectively, to form the flat floor engaging members **8**, **9**, and **10**, respectively. The floor engaging members **8**, **9**, and **10** have the holes **11**, **12**, and **13**, respectively, formed therein which are adapted to receive studs, bolts, screws, nails, or similar fastening means to attach the base to a floor, box, or other supporting means or rubber pads or similar resilient members could be attached to these floor engaging members to protect the floor of a dwelling house or other supporting surface from being marred by possible abrasion of the floor engaging members.

A metal section **15** is bent at **16** in V-shape to provide the legs **17** and **18**. The V-shaped member **15** and the plate **23** make up a clamp member. The leg **17** is bent outwardly at **19** to form the outwardly extending member **20** and the leg **18** is bent outwardly at **21** and terminates in the outwardly extending end **22**. A flat plate **23** has holes **24** and **25** formed therein. The threaded bolts **26** and **27** extend through the holes **24** and **25** and through the hole **28** in the member **20** and the hole **29** in the member **22** to hold the members **15** and **23** together. The bolt **26** has the head **30** which engages the outer surface of the member **20** and a wing nut **31** threadably engages the bolt **27**. The bolt **27** has the head **32** which engages the end **22** of the member **15** and a wing nut **33** threadably engages the bolt **27**.

The legs **3** are held to the leg **17** of the V-shaped member by means of bolts **35** and **36** which extend through holes **37** and **38** in the upper end. The bolts **35** and **36** have the heads **39** and **40** attached thereon and the nuts **41** and **42** threadably engage the ends of the bolts **35** and **36** to hold them in place in the leg. The bolts **43** and **44** have threads to engage the nuts **45** and **46**. The bolts **43** and **44** are provided with heads **146** and **47**, respectively, which cooperate with the nuts **45** and **46** to hold the leg **4** to the leg **18** of the V-shaped member.

Suitable holes are drilled to accommodate the bolts **35**, **36**, **43**, **44**, **48**, and **49**. Nuts **50** and **51** threadably engage the bolts **48** and **49** and heads **52** and **53** are formed integral with the bolts **48** and **49**. The nuts **50** and **51** and the heads **52** and **53** cooperate with the bolts **48** and **49** to hold the leg **2** to the member **23**.

The brace **54** has holes drilled at the end thereof to receive the bolts **55** and **56** and the bolts **57** and **58**. The bolts **55** and **56** are provided with the heads **61** and **62**. The bolts **57** and **58** are provided with heads **162** and **63**. The member **54** is channel shaped in cross section and has a web **64** integrally attached to the top flange **65** and the bottom flange **66**. A longitudinal slot **67** extends longitudinally in the web **64** and receives the bolts **68** and **69** which extend through the brace **70** in the holes formed therein. The bolts **68** and **69** have the heads **71** and **72** integrally attached thereto and the wing nuts **73** and **74** threadably engage the bolts **68** and **69**.

The leg **2** has the member **75** stamped out from the aperture **76** and the member **75** is allowed to remain integral with the leg **2** at **77**. The brace **70** is bent back on itself at **78** to form an eyelet **79** to receive the bolt **80** which extends through the hole **81** in the member **75** and through the eyelet **79** in the brace **70**. A nut **82** is threadably engaged on the bolt **80** and a head **83** is integrally attached thereto. From an inspection of the drawing, it will be seen that the bolt having the head **83** and the nut **82** cooperating therewith will hold the brace **70** in rigid and pivotal engagement with the member **75**. A longitudinal slot **84** is provided in the brace **70** to accommodate the bracket **85** which has a circular formed portion **86** for receiving the base of a tree and has the ends **87** and **88** disposed in parallel relation and having holes **89** and **90** formed therein to receive the bolt **91** which has a head **92** formed thereon and is threadably engaged by the wing nut **93** which cooperates with the head **92** in the bolt **91** to clamp the bracket **85** to the base of a tree. A hole **94** is bored in the bracket **85** and the bolt **95** extends through the hole **94** and the slot **84** and can be locked by means of the wing nut **96** which cooperates with the head **97** to hold the bracket **85** in the desired location on the brace **70**. A pan or dish **98** may rest on the floor of supporting means at **99** to contain water or other fluid and to receive the base of the tree.

It will be noted that a tree which has a crooked trunk may be erectly supported in the supporting base shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by loosening the wing nuts **41** to allow the member **23** to move outwardly on the bolt **26** until the tree trunk can be slid down between the members **15** and **18**. When the lower end of the tree trunk has been disposed in the water pan **98**, the wing nuts **31** can be replaced on the bolts **26** and the trunk supported in that position. Then the nut **93** on the bolt **91** can be loosened until the tree trunk can be slid through the bracket **85**. The nut **96** can then be loosened and the bolt **95** slid in the slot **84** and the nuts **73** and **74** can be loosened and the bolts **57** and **58** can be slid in the slot **67** until the upper part of the trunk of the tree is in a vertical position. Then the nuts **73**, **74**, **93**, and **96** can be tightened and the nuts **31** and **33** can be retightened to hold the tree rigidly in this position.

It will be noted that the radius of curvature of the brace member **54** is equal to the length of the brace **70** between the pivot point represented by the bolt **80**

and the bolt **68**. Therefore, the brace **70** will swing around in the channel **54** without binding and be freely pivoted on the bolt **80**.

In order to avoid removing lower branches on a tree, the member **23** can be completely removed and the lower branches extended outward below the member 15 and then the plate **23** can be replaced, thereby preserving the lower branches of the tree.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 3, I show another embodiment of the trunk supporting member. The leg members **117** and **118** correspond to the legs **17** and **18** in Fig. 1 and the plate **123** corresponds to the plate **23** in Fig. 1.

Holes **128**, **129**, **130**, and **131** are formed in the leg members **117** and **118** and holes **124** and **125** are formed in the member **123**. The bolts **126**, **127**, and **228** are disposed in the holes indicated and the bolt **126** is provided with the head **230** and a wing nut **231** threadably engages the bolt **126** whereby the end **120** of the member **117** is urged toward the member **123** to support the trunk of a tree. The bolt **127** is provided with a wing nut **133** and a head **132** and the end **122** is engaged by the head **132** and urged toward the member **123** by the wing nut **133**. The bolt **228** has the head **140** thereon and a wing nut **141** is threadably engaged on the bolt **228** to urge the members **144** and **145** of the members **117** and **118** toward each other.

From this description of the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, it will be apparent that the trunk engaging member shown therein will have more versatility in use on certain trees than the member shown in Fig. 1.

In the foregoing specification, I have set forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but I am aware that the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A support for a tree comprising a V-shaped member, a plate attached to said V-shaped member, outwardly and downwardly extending legs attached to said V-shaped member and to said plate, brace means to support said legs, said brace means comprising a first brace pivotally attached to an intermediate place on one leg and a second brace attached to an intermediate point on each of the other legs, said first brace being attached to said second brace, a longitudinal slot in said first brace, and a tree supporting bracket slidable in said longitudinal slot.

2. A support for a tree comprising a V-shaped member, a plate attached to said V-shaped member, outwardly and downwardly extending legs attached to said V-shaped member and to said plate, brace means to support said legs, said brace means comprising a first brace attached between two of said legs and a second brace pivotally attached to another leg at a pivot point and to said first brace, said first brace being bent in an arc centered on the pivot point between said second brace and said other leg, said second brace being slidable on said first brace, and a tree base supporting bracket adjustably attached to said second brace.

3. A support for a tree comprising a V-shaped member, a plate attached to said V-shaped member, outwardly and downwardly extending legs attached to said V-shaped member and to said plate, brace means to support said legs, said brace means comprising a first brace attached between two of said legs and a second brace pivotally attached to said other leg at a point, said first brace being bent on a radius centered on said pivot point, a longitudinal slot in said first brace, a bolt slidable in said slot and adapted to lock said second brace to said first brace and engaging said second brace, a slot in said second brace, and a bracket having a bolt attached thereto, said bolt extending through said longitudinal slot.

4. A support for a tree comprising a clamp member adapted to embrace the trunk of a tree, outwardly and downwardly extending legs attached to said clamp member, brace means to support said legs, said brace means comprising a first brace attached between two of said legs and a second brace pivotally attached to another leg at a pivot point and to said first brace, said first brace being bent in an arc centered on the pivot point between said second brace and said other leg, said second brace being slidable on said first brace, means to lock said second brace to said first brace, and a tree base supporting bracket adjustably attached to said second brace.

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