Aug. 1, 1961 E. S. NYITRAI 2,994,437

FOLDING POCKET HAT HOLDER

Filed July 22, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

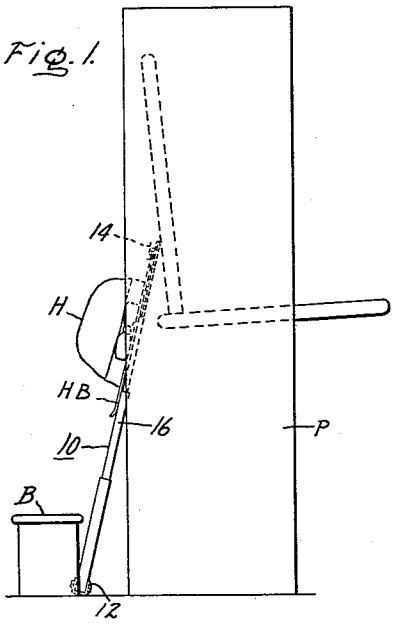


Fig. 8

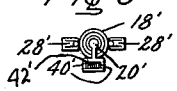


Fig. 9.

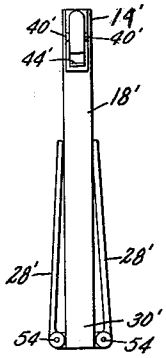


Fig. 7.

Fig. 2.

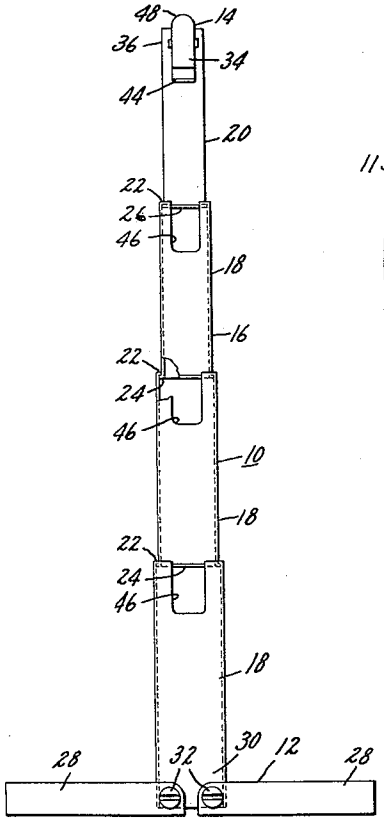


Fig. 3.

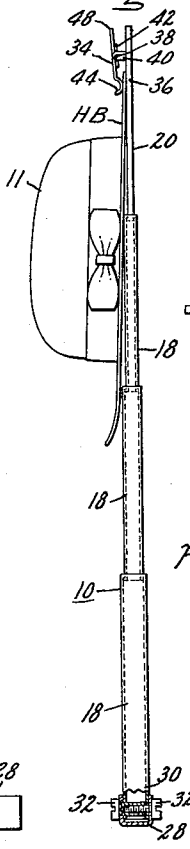


Fig. 4.

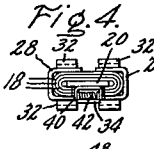


Fig. 5.

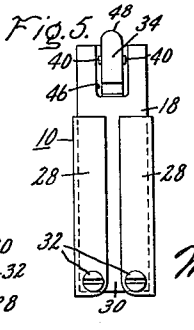


Fig. 6.

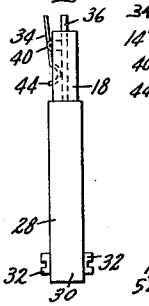
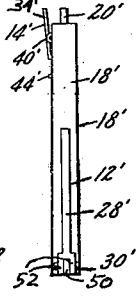


Fig. 10.



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Fig. 11.

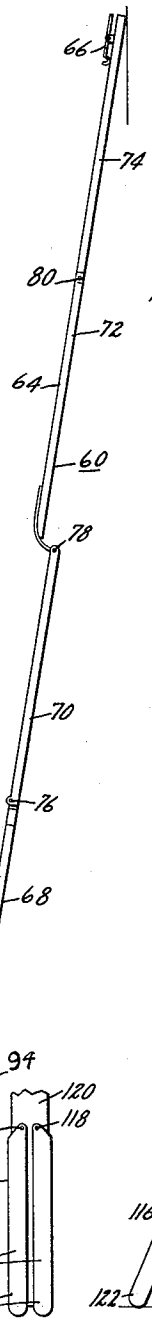


Fig. 15.

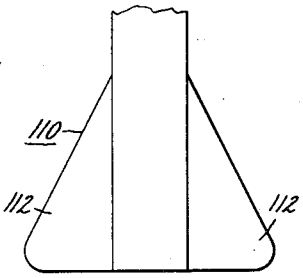


Fig. 16.

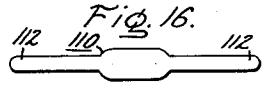


Fig. 13.

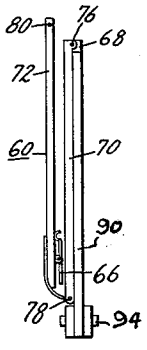


Fig. 12.

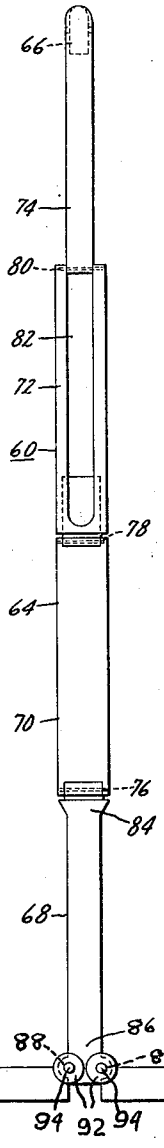


Fig. 14.

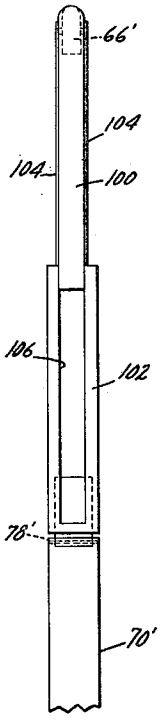


Fig. 19.

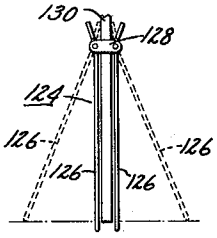


Fig. 17.

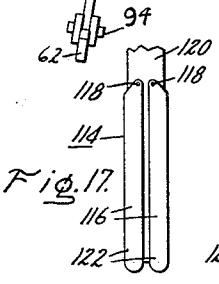
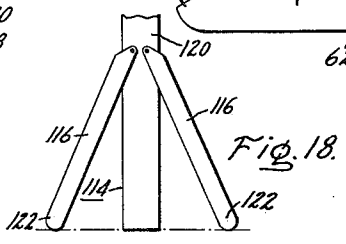


Fig. 18.



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FOLDING POCKET HAT HOLDER

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Filed July 22, 1959, Ser. No. 828,769
2 Claims. (Cl. 211—30)

This invention relates to supports, and particularly to a portable hat holder which is collapsible into a small, compact, pocket-size unit that may be conveniently carried about by a user when not in use, as by being inserted in a pocket.

There are many activities, particularly public and semi-public assemblies such as meetings in churches, auditoriums, theaters and the like, wherein a person requires the free use of his hands in order to properly participate. Such activities are normally held in places to which a well groomed man is likely to have worn his hat. Unless there is a substantial hat-checking or hat storing facility provided, and in the activities here involved there normally is not, a man normally must resort to holding his hat on his lap, or placing it alongside of him on the seat, pew or bench. The deficiency of this latter technique is well known, as the many soiled and squashed hats which are knocked to the floor or sat upon will attest.

It is extremely desirable, and it is an object of this invention, that an inexpensive collapsible hat support be provided which is a small and compact unit when collapsed so as to be capable of being carried in a pocket of the user's clothes, such as the breast pocket of a suit coat, and wherein when extended into operative condition it is capable of functioning as a hat holder which may be propped up against an adjacent seat, pew or bench and effectively support a hat off of the floor during activities wherein the user needs the use of his hands.

The object of the invention is accomplished in one form by providing a hat support which is made of inexpensive, light-weight materials and which is collapsible into a small, compact, pocket-size unit.

The above and other objects and further details of that which I believe to be novel and my invention will be clear from the following description and claims taken with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view showing one embodiment of the invention in operative condition for supporting a hat;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of said embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a side elevational view thereof and showing a hat supported thereby;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 5 is a front elevational view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 6 is a side elevational view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 7 is a front elevational view of another embodiment of the invention in operative condition;

FIG. 8 is a top plan view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 9 is a front elevational view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 10 is a side elevational view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 11 is a side elevational view of another embodiment of the invention in operative condition;

FIG. 12 is a rear elevational view thereof;

FIG. 13 is a side elevational view thereof when collapsed;

FIG. 14 is a rear elevational view of a portion of another embodiment of the invention in operative condition;

FIG. 15 is a front elevational view of a modified base portion;

FIG. 16 is a bottom plan view thereof;

FIG. 17 is a front elevational view of another modified base portion in collapsed condition;

FIG. 18 is a front elevational view thereof in extended condition, and

FIG. 19 is a front elevational view of still another modified base portion in collapsed condition.

In the drawings there are illustrated a number of different physical embodiments of the invention. All of the illustrated embodiments are predicated on the same inventive concept of providing an inexpensive, light weight holder for a hat, which is collapsible into a small, compact, pocket-size unit when not in operative condition for supporting a hat. All of the illustrated embodiments when in operative condition are capable of effectively supporting a hat above the floor by gripping it and by being propped up against a nearby object. In the latter connection, all of the illustrated embodiments include a floor-contacting base portion for facilitating propping of the support, and all of the illustrated base portions except one (that illustrated in FIGS. 15 and 16) are collapsible. All of the illustrated embodiments of the invention may be made almost entirely of an inexpensive light weight material, such as any of the available suitable plastic materials or metals, for example, aluminum alloys.

All of the illustrated embodiments of the invention comprise an inexpensive, light-weight, portable hat holder which is collapsible into a small, compact, pocket-size unit. All of the illustrated embodiments comprise three essential portions: (1) a floor-contacting base portion for supporting the remainder of the hat holder; (2) a hat-gripping and supporting portion which is spaced from the base portion, and (3) a selectively contractable and extendable intermediate portion which connects the base portion and the hat-gripping and supporting portion.

In FIGS. 1–6, there is illustrated one embodiment of the invention. The hat holder is generally designated by reference numeral **10** and comprises a base portion **12**, a hat-gripping and supporting portion **14**, and an intermediate portion **16**.

The intermediate portion **16** comprises a plurality of elongated telescoping members. In FIGS. 1–6, the telescoping members are four in number, however, the precise number may be varied, if desired. The three lower telescoping members are designated by reference numeral **18**, and the upper telescoping member by reference numeral **20**. The members **18** are hollow, and generally rectangular in cross section, whereas the upper member **20** may be solid. The upper ends **22** of each of the members **18** are bent inwardly at **22**, and the lower ends **24** of the two upper members **18** are bent outwardly so as to effect telescoping. The lower end of member **20** has a radially outwardly extending flange **26** formed thereon which cooperates with the upper end **22** of the uppermost member **18** to effect telescoping. The fit of the members **18** and **20** is such that there is frictional engagement between the members which may be selectively manually overcome, but the members are frictionally held in whatever condition of contracting or extending that the portion **16** is selectively adjusted to. Therefore, the intermediate portion **16** comprises a longitudinally contractable and extendable, connecting portion between the base portion **12** and the hat-gripping and supporting portion **14**.

The base portion **12** comprises a pair of flexible, channel-shaped feet **28** that are individually pivotally connected to the lower end **30** of the lowermost member **18** at one of their respective ends by a pair of adjustable tension screws **32**. As can best be observed by comparison of FIGS. 2 and 5, the base portion **12** is selectively manually adjustable by pivoting the feet **28** between an operative condition shown in FIG. 2 wherein it is extended

and provides a horizontally extending, floor-contacting means for supporting the entire hat-holder, and a collapsed carrying or storing condition illustrated in FIG. 5 wherein the feet **28** closely embrace the lower member **18** and are generally parallel thereto. The ends of the feet **28** which are pivotally connected to the lowermost member **18** have frictional contact with the said section **18** which may be selectively adjusted by screws **32**, and are structurally related thereto so as to be selectively manually adjusted to either the FIG. 2 or FIG. 5 condition and to remain in such condition thereafter.

The hat-gripping and supporting portion **14** comprises a small spring clip **34** which is operatively mounted on the upper end **36** of the member **20**. The spring clip **34** may be made of a springy metal and is pivotally mounted on said upper end as by being mounted on a hinge pin **38** that is supported in hinge ears **40** that are secured to said upper end. Spring clip **34** has a torsion spring **42** associated therewith so as to normally bias the bent end **44** of the spring clip into firm contact with the upper end **36** of the member **20**. The specific type and mounting of the spring clip **34** is not critical, however, it is extremely important that it be mounted in a proper manner so as to have its bent end **44** biased against the member **20**, and that it be a small member which does not extend or project to any appreciable extent. The latter attribute is desirable to facilitate the ability of the hat holder to form a small, compact, pocket-size unit when it is collapsed. In this regard, as can best be seen in FIG. 2, each of the members **18** includes an upper, cut-out notch **46** which functions to accommodate the spring clip **34** when the hat holder is collapsed, as can best be seen in FIG. 5.

In use, the hat holder is selectively manually adjusted to either its operative FIG. 2 condition or its collapsed FIG. 5 condition. When in its FIG. 5 condition it forms a small, compact unit which may conveniently be carried by a person by being slipped into the breast pocket of a suit coat. In practice, the major length of the hat holder when collapsed as shown in FIG. 5 should not exceed approximately seven inches, the width should be approximately one and one-half inch, and the thickness approximately one-half inch. Therefore, the collapsed hat holder is small and compact and may be carried about in a person's pocket when not in use. At the time when a person reaches a building and it is desired to temporarily support his hat, the collapsed hat holder is withdrawn from the person's pocket, the intermediate portion **16** is extended to its FIG. 2 operative condition, and the base portion **12** is extended by pivoting the feet **28** to its FIG. 2 condition. In practice, the major length of the hat holder may conveniently be approximately twenty-two inches when it is in operative condition. As can best be seen in FIG. 3, a hat H may then be supported by the hat holder **10** by forcing the spring clip end **44** away from the member **20** and slipping the hat brim HB therebetween. In performing this manipulation, the end **48** of the spring clip **34** may be conveniently used as a finger grip to overcome the bias of the torsion spring **42**. When the hat is gripped and supported as illustrated in FIG. 3, the hat holder may be propped against an adjacent object, such as the church pew P illustrated in FIG. 1. The most suitable propping angle to be utilized may be determined by the user, and in the case of a church setting wherein kneeling benches are provided, the base portion **12** may be propped against the kneeling bench B to facilitate propping. With his hat supported in the foregoing manner by the hat holder **10**, a person is free to participate in the activities of the assemblage for his hands are fully free. After the activities terminate, the hat H is removed from the hat holder, the latter is collapsed by contracting the intermediate portion **16** and folding the pivotally mounted feet **28** into their FIG. 5 condition, and the collapsed hat holder is inserted in the pocket of the user, who is then free to place his hat upon his head and leave the building.

In FIGS. 7–10 there is illustrated another embodiment of the invention which is generally similar to the first embodiment described, wherein corresponding parts of these embodiments are indicated by like reference numerals with a prime (') added. The principal difference between these embodiments is that in the FIGS. 7–10 embodiment, the members which comprise the intermediate portion **16'** have a generally circular cross section and the feet **28'** comprise solid circular rods that are pivotally secured to the lower end **30'** of the lowermost member **18'**. The pivotal connection between the feet **28'** and lowermost member **18'** may be effected by forming oppositely extending, apertured tabs **50** at the lower end **30'** and a pair of flexible apertured ears **52** on each of the feet **28'**, and hingedly securing these parts so as to be frictionally related, as by utilizing adjustable tension screws **54**. The operation of this FIGS. 7–10 embodiment is generally the same as that of the FIGS. 1–6 embodiment.

In FIGS. 11–13 there is illustrated another embodiment of the invention, wherein the hat holder **60** comprises a base portion **62**, and intermediate portion **64**, and a hat gripping and supporting portion **66**, all of which generally correspond in function to their corresponding portions in the first embodiments described. However, there are structural differences in the base portions and intermediate portions.

The intermediate portion **64** comprises a plurality of members, four in number as illustrated, which are designated by reference numerals **68**, **70**, **72** and **74**. These members are pivotally connected to each other by appropriate hinges **76**, **78** and **80** so as to enable the intermediate portion to be folded up into a small compact unit, as illustrated in FIG. 13. It should be particularly observed that the upper member **74** carries a hat gripping and supporting portion **66** which may be identical in construction to its counterpart in the first two embodiments described. The member **72** has an elongated recess **82** formed therein on its rear side into which the member **74** may be folded and nested when the intermediate portion **64** is contracted. The lowermost member **68** is reduced over most of its longitudinal extend other than for its upper tapered portion **84**. The lower end **86** of the member **68** has a pair of oppositely extending apertured tabs **88** formed thereon to which the feet **90** are pivotally connected, as by having a pair of apertured ears **92** which are formed on each of the feet individually connected to the tabs **88** by adjustable tension screws **94**. The free ends of the feet **90** are inclined at **96**, and the feet and member **68** are configured and dimensioned in such a manner that the feet nest up against the tapered portion **84** of the member **68** when the hat holder is collapsed. The general operation and functioning of the FIGS. 11–16 embodiment is the same as the other embodiment described.

In FIG. 14 there is illustrated a portion of another embodiment of the invention, which essentially comprises the FIGS. 11–13 embodiment modified in a manner so as to render the uppermost member of the intermediate portion telescopically related to its adjacent member. In FIG. 14, corresponding parts to those of the FIGS. 11–13 embodiment are designated by the same reference numerals with a prime (') added. The uppermost member of the intermediate portion shown in FIG. 14 is designated by reference numeral **100** and its adjacent member by reference numeral **102**. The member **100** has a pair of opposite side guide portions **104** which are received in a guideway **106** formed in the rear side of member **102** to render these parts telescopic.

In FIGS. 15–19 there are illustrated a number of modifications of base portions which may be used with one or more of the various hat holder embodiments described. In FIGS. 15 and 16 there is illustrated a base portion

110 which is not collapsible, and which comprises a solid formation which may be integral with the lowermost member of the intermediate portion of whichever embodiment it is utilized with. The base portion 110 comprises a pair of oppositely extending fin-like feet 112 having rounded edges throughout so as to be smooth. The base portion 110 may be conveniently made to be approximately three and three-quarter inches wide and three-sixteenths of an inch thick. Although the base portion 110 is not collapsible, it is small enough to be inserted in a pocket of a user's clothes when a hat holder into which it is incorporated is collapsed.

In FIGS. 17 and 18 there is illustrated a base portion 114 which is particularly well suited for use with the FIGS. 1–6 embodiment of hat holder, wherein a pair of flexible channel-shaped feet 116 are hingedly mounted at their upper ends, as by adjustable tension screws 118, to the lowermost member 120 of the intermediate portion of a hat holder. In FIG. 17 the base portion 114 is shown in collapsed condition with the feet frictionally held on the member 120, and in FIG. 18 the base portion 114 is shown in extended position with the feet 116 frictionally held in position wherein their free ends 122 are spread apart and located for contacting a floor surface and supporting the hat holder.

In FIG. 19 there is illustrated a base portion 124 which is particularly well suited for use with the FIGS. 7–10 embodiment of hat holder, wherein a pair of feet 126 in the form of bent rods are pivotally connected near their upper ends to a hinge bracket 128 that, in turn, is rigidly fixed to the lowermost member 130 of the intermediate portion of a hat holder. The configuration and pivotal mounting of the feet 126 is such that the feet may be pivoted between positions wherein they embrace the member 130, and the base portion 124 is thereby collapsed, and wherein they are spread apart and are located for contacting a floor surface to support the hat holder, as shown in dotted lines.

As will be evident from the foregoing description, certain aspects of my invention are not limited to the particular details of construction of the examples illustrated, and I contemplate that various and other modifications and applications will occur to those skilled in the art. It is, therefore, my intention that the appended claims shall cover such modifications and applications as do not depart from the true spirit and scope of my invention.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A hat holder which is collapsible to pocket size for carrying by a person in a pocket of his clothing and extensible to operative condition at the point of use wherein it is adapted to be supported in a vertically inclined position with its lower end arranged to contact a supporting surface and its upper end arranged to contact a wall against which the hat holder is propped comprising: a collapsible base portion adapted to rest on a supporting surface and support the remainder of the hat holder; a hat gripping and supporting portion comprising a resilient clip arranged to grip a hat brim and suspend a hat therefrom adapted to be spaced from said base portion and disposed above the supporting surface in engagement with a wall whereby said portions constitute a means for supporting the hat holder in a vertically inclined position; and a selectively extensible and contractible intermediate portion connecting said first two portions, said intermediate portion functioning when extended to space said hat gripping and supporting portion from said base portion and when contracted to collapse said hat holder to pocket size; said intermediate portion comprising a plurality of elongated telescoping members, said hat gripping and supporting portion being carried by the central one of said elongated telescoping members, and the other elongated telescoping members having cut-out portions for accommodating said hat gripping and supporting portion when all of said elongated telescoping members are telescoped and said intermediate portion is contracted.

2. A hat holder which is collapsible to pocket size for carrying by a person in a pocket of his clothing and extensible to operative condition at the point of use wherein it is adapted to be supported in a vertically inclined position with its lower end arranged to contact a supporting surface and its upper end arranged to contact a wall against which the hat holder is propped comprising: a collapsible base portion adapted to rest on a supporting surface and support the remainder of the hat holder; a hat gripping and supporting portion comprising a resilient clip arranged to grip a hat brim and suspend a hat therefrom adapted to be spaced from said base portion and disposed above the supporting surface in engagement with a wall whereby said portions constitute a means for supporting the hat holder in a vertically inclined position; and a selectively extensible and contractible intermediate portion connecting said first two portions, said intermediate portion functioning when extended to space said hat gripping and supporting portion from said base portion and when contracted to collapse said hat holder to pocket size; and said collapsible base portion comprises a plurality of elongated feet that are pivotally secured at one of their ends to said intermediate portion, and said feet are channel-shaped in cross section and dimensionally related to said intermediate portion so as to receive and accommodate parts of said intermediate portion in nesting relationship when said base portion is collapsed.

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