E. R. HUNTLEY.

CLOTHES LINE CLAMP.

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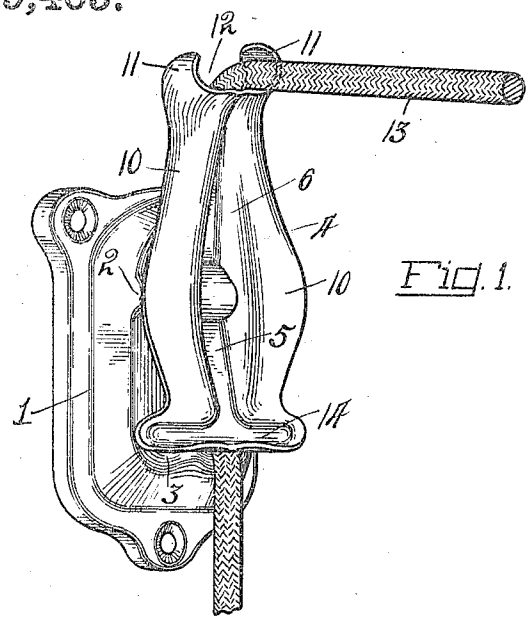
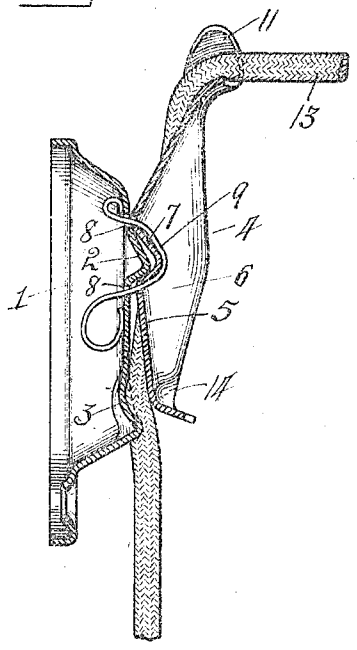


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



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CLOTHES-LINE CLAMP.

1,249,405. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 11, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST R. HUNTLEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Clothes-Line Clamp; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to clamping devices and particularly to a device adapted to clamp and hold one end of a clothes line or the like.

The primary object of my invention is the provision of an improved clamping device of the class described which is simple, strong and durable in its construction, and easy and rapid to manufacture and assemble the parts thereof.

The invention is fully described in the following specification, and while, in its broader aspect, it is capable of embodiment in numerous forms, a preferred embodiment thereof is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clamp embodying my invention in holding engagement with the rope, and Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section thereof.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the base member of the clamp, which member is adapted to be secured to a wall, post or other suitable support, and is preferably stamped from sheet metal with its central part protruding from its wall engaging edge portion. The outer end face of the base 1, which is preferably vertically elongated, is formed near its upper end with a transversely extending ridge 2, which is preferably of L form in cross-section, with the lower leg thereof projecting outward and upward at a slight incline from a horizontal plane and with the upper leg longer and extending upward and inward, as shown. The outer end face of the base is provided adjacent to its lower end with a transverse recess 3 having depressed end portions.

The clamping lever or dog member 4 of the clamp in its preferred form is stamped from sheet metal and provided with a centrally disposed longitudinally extending rearward depression having the bottom 5 and opposed side walls 6. This depression is of greatest depth at or adjacent to its longitudinal center, the respective end portions of the bottom 5 being tapered outward therefrom, and the bottom at such central or deepest point is provided with a transverse ridge or hump 7, which forms a depression in the under side of the bottom substantially complemental to and adapted to fit over or receive the ridge 2 of the base member. Both the base and lever members 1 and 4 are provided at the edges of their respective ridges 2 and 7 with registering apertures 8 through which the legs of a U-shaped retaining yoke 9 project. The looped portion of this yoke extends around the outer side of the ridge 7 and the legs of the yoke preferably terminate in coils within the hollow of the base member to prevent their withdrawal from the apertures 8. One of the leg coils of the yoke (the lower in the present instance) is enlarged and forms a spring terminal which bears outward against the base front and normally holds the lever member in clamping relation to the base, to permit a limited outward or opening movement of the lower end portion of the lever member, the fulcrum point of the lever on the base being adjacent to the upper edges of the ridges 2 and 7, as is apparent by reference to Fig. 2.

The opposed side walls 6 of the lever member preferably converge at their ends to narrow the end portions of the longitudinally extending depression of the lever, and the outer edges of said walls are rolled outward to form laterally projecting side wings or flanges 10, 10. These flanges meet at their upper ends and are provided at such ends with ears 11, 11, which coöperate to form a fork 12 at the upper end of the lever for receiving a rope 13. The metal at the base of the crotch is forwardly rounded to prevent cutting a rope resting therein. The wings or flanges 10, 10 are broadened at their lower ends and depressed, as at 14, to form a transverse gripping ridge or jaw in register with the base recess 3 to coöperate therewith to grip a rope.

In the use of my clamp the end of a rope to be engaged thereby is extended over the top of the lever 4 within the fork 12 thereof, thence down along either side wall 6 of the longitudinally depressed portion of the lever at the rear of the respective side wing

10 and between the transverse gripping jaw 14 at the lower end of the lever and the recess 3 in the base member, the rope seating in one of the end depressions of such recess. It is evident that the greater the outward pull on the rope at the upper end of the lever, the greater will be the gripping force of the lower end of the lever on the rope.

I wish it understood that my invention is not limited to any specific construction, arrangement or form of the parts, as it is capable of numerous modifications without departing from the spirit of the claims.

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

1. In a device of the class described, a base member and a lever member hinged thereto, the lever member having a centrally depressed longitudinally extending rearward depression forming opposed side walls and a bottom wall having opposite end portions thereof forwardly inclined, the side walls of said depression having their outer edges rolled outward to form laterally projecting flanges which coöperate at the upper end of the lever to form a rope receiving fork and at the lower end of the lever to form a rope gripping jaw.

2. In a device of the class described, a base member and a lever member fulcrumed one on the other, the lever member being formed of sheet metal having a centrally depressed longitudinally extending rearward depression with the end portions of its bottom relatively inclined and with the outer edges of its side walls flared to form laterally extending flanges, which flanges form spaced ears at their upper ends which coöperate to form a fork having a forwardly rolled bottom at the upper end of the lever, and the lower ends of said flanges being connected and formed with a rearward transversely elongated depression to form a jaw for coöperating with the registering portion of the base member to grip an interposed object.

3. In a device of the class described, base and lever members having complemental protuberant and recessed portions in adjacent sides for fitting one into the other and permitting a relative rocking of said members, and a yoke connecting said members around said complemental portions and yieldingly retaining the members in closed clamping relation.

4. In a device of the class described, a hollow base member having an outwardly projecting ridge on its outer side, a lever member mounted on said base member and having an outwardly protuberant portion forming a bottom recess for receiving said ridge, said base and lever members having apertures at opposite sides of said outwardly projecting portions, and a yoke of U form fitting around the outwardly projecting portion of the lever member with its legs projected through said apertures and coiled within the base to prevent withdrawal through the apertures, the coil at one end of the yoke being of spring form to coact with the base member to yieldingly resist an opening movement of the lever and base members.

5. In a device of the class described, a base member formed from sheet metal and having a protuberant part, a lever member formed from sheet metal and provided at its rear side with a depression for receiving the protuberant part of said base member whereby one may have a rocking movement on the other, and yoke means for retaining said base and lever members in assembled relative rocking relation.

6. In a device of the class described, a base member formed from sheet metal and having a protuberant part, a lever member formed from sheet metal and provided at its rear side with a depression for receiving the protuberant part of said base member whereby one may have a rocking movement on the other, and means for yieldingly retaining said base and lever members in assembled relative rocking relation.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

ERNEST R. HUNTLEY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."