May 17, 1955 M. J. WEDDEN 2,708,324

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

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Fig 3

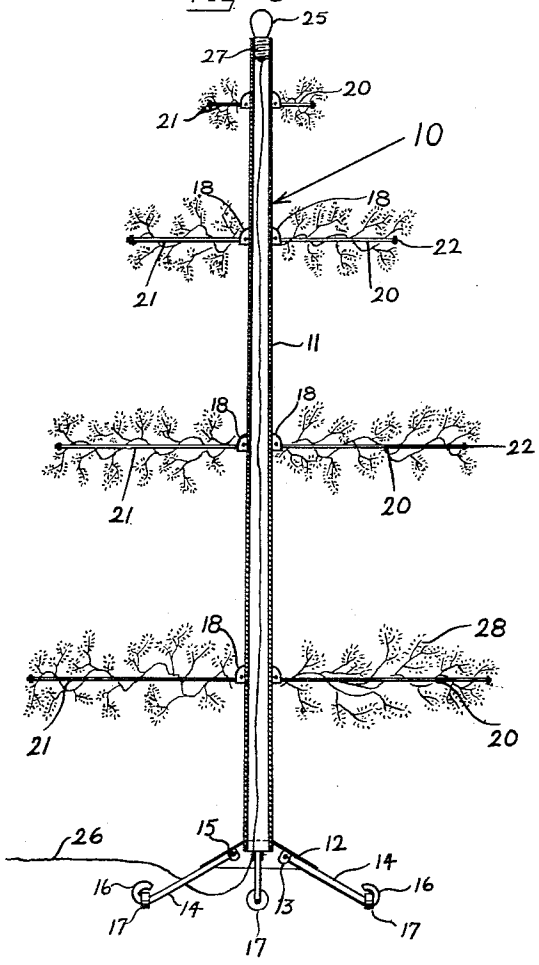


Fig 1

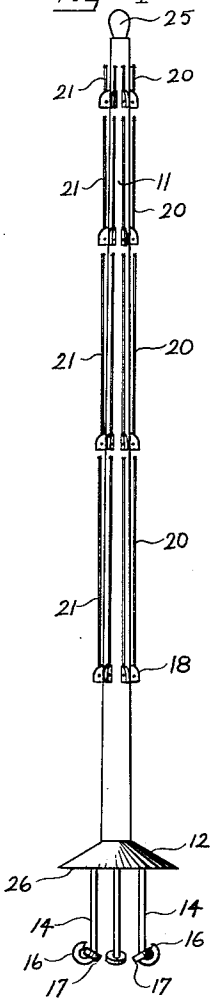
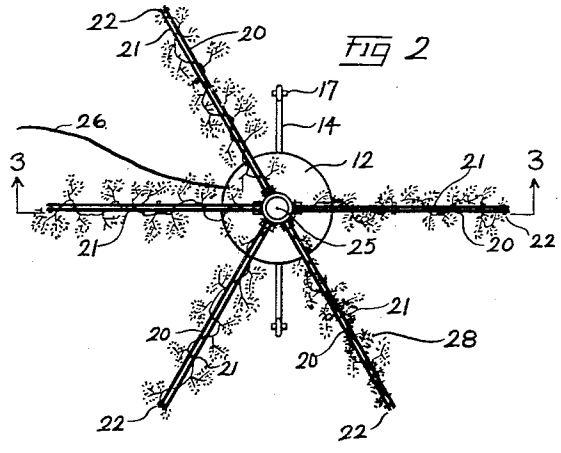


Fig 2



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Fig 4

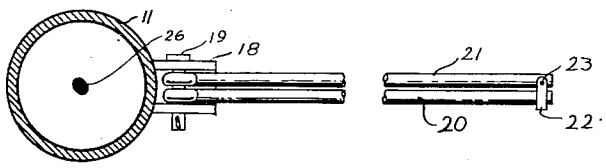


Fig 5

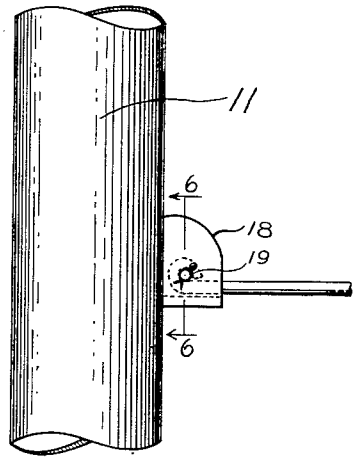


Fig 6

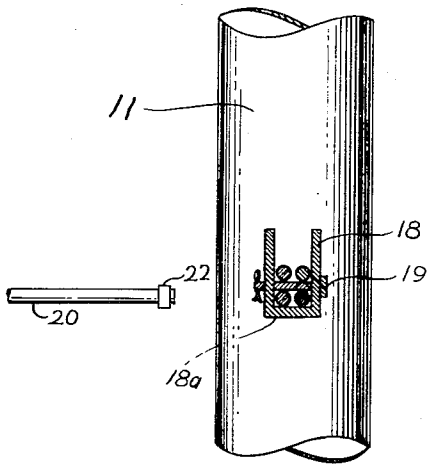


Fig 7

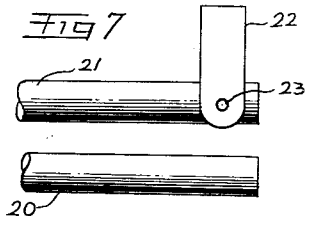
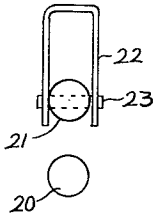


Fig 8



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ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

Murdock James Wedden, Miami, Fla.

Application May 26, 1952, Serial No. 292,107

1 Claim. (Cl. 41—15)

This invention relates to fabricated trees and is more particularly directed to an artificial Christmas tree which is collapsible and can be used on innumerable occasions.

It is a principal object of the present invention to provide a fabricated Christmas tree which is constructed of non-inflammable materials, and which can be collapsed for economical shipping and storing purposes.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of the above described Christmas tree which is simple in construction, relatively inexpensive in cost and whose life is measured over many years of use.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of an artificial tree characterized as above, whose limbs consist of a pair of pivotally mounted rods clamped together to maintain foliage of the tree securely thereon.

With these and other objects in view, the invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the present specification with the understanding, however, that the invention is not confined to any strict conformity with the showing of the drawing, but may be changed or modified so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claim.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of my improved artificial Christmas tree shown in a folded or collapsed condition.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the tree showing the limbs while in their extended position.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken horizontally through the standard and showing only one set of limbs.

Figure 5 is an enlarged side elevational view of the structure shown in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken along line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is detailed plan view of the end portions of a set of limbs showing the clamp in its unengaged position.

Figure 8 is an end view of the structure shown by Figure 7.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in particular to Figures 1–3 inclusive, the numeral **10** refers generally to the tree which consists of a vertically disposed tapered hollow tube **11** as the trunk thereof, at the base of which is welded or otherwise secured a cone shaped base **12**. On the inner surface of the base **12** there are mounted a plurality of hinge lugs **13** on which are pivotally mounted by pivot pins **15** the legs **14** whose free ends **16** terminate in an arcuate loop and over which a rubber member **17** having a cylindrical shape is fitted. When the legs **14** are in their supporting position, the side walls of the base member operate as a stop member and thereby maintain the legs **14** in their extended position while the rubber members **17** are in contact with the floor upon which the tree is placed.

A plurality of hinge lugs **18** are welded or otherwise secured about the side wall of the standard **11**; the hinge lugs **18** being arranged in tiers thereon. Each of the hinge lugs **18** is provided with a bottom wall **18***a* and have pivotally mounted thereon a pair of elongated rods **20** and **21** whose inner end portions are looped to form a pivotal portion and through which a pivot pin **19** mounted on the hinge lug **18** extends. The bottom walls **18***a* of each of the lugs **18** maintain the members **20** and **21** in a horizontal position. At the free end of each of the elongated members **21** there is a U-shaped clamp **22** pivotally mounted thereon by a pivot pin **23**. Each of the clamps **22** is adapted to engage the member **20** when swung to its clamping position as shown by Figure 4 and to swing out of its engaged position, when so desired, as is best shown by Figures 7 and 8.

At the topmost portion of the standard **11** there is a socket **27** in which is threaded a light bulb **25**. An electric cable **26** is connected to the socket **27**, extends through the tubular standard **11** and is connected to a source of electricity (not shown).

Foliage **28** which may be natural foliage taken from evergreen trees or may be artificially produced is placed between the pairs of elongated members **20** and **21**. The clamp **22** is then pivoted about its pivot pin **23** to encircle and engage the member **20** whereby the foliage **28** is maintained securely gripped along and between the members **20** and **21**. The Christmas tree **10** is then ready to be further decorated with ornaments, lights and other paraphernalia.

When it is desired to dismantle the tree, the ornaments, etc. are removed therefrom and the clamps **22** pivoted to their unengaged position. The foliage **28** is removed from between the members **20** and **21** and the clamps **22** are then returned to their engaged position. Then the pairs of members **20** and **21** are swung upwardly until they abut against the outer surface of the standard **11** and the legs **14** are swung downwardly as best shown by Figure 1. The tree **10** is now ready for storage or for shipping purposes.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new is:

An artificial Christmas tree comprising a vertically disposed standard, a cone shaped plate member secured to the lower portion of said standard, a plurality of hinge lugs secured to the inner surface of said plate member, leg members pivotally mounted on said hinge lugs and adapted to bear against the inner surface of said plate members when said leg members are in their operative position, a plurality of pivot support means mounted on said standard, said pivot support means having a horizontally disposed bottom wall portion, a pair of rods pivotally mounted on each of said pivot support means, said bottom wall portions being adapted to maintain said rods at a substantially horizontal position, a plurality of U-shaped clamp members, pivot means mounting the leg portions of each of said clamp members at a free end of one of said rods of said pairs of rods, said other end of each of said clamp members adapted to releasably engage each of said other rods whereby said rods of each of said pairs of rods are maintained securely together.

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