H. M. FILLMORE.

FLAG CLEARER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 8, 1914.

1,119,147.

Patented Dec. 1, 1914.

Fig. 1.

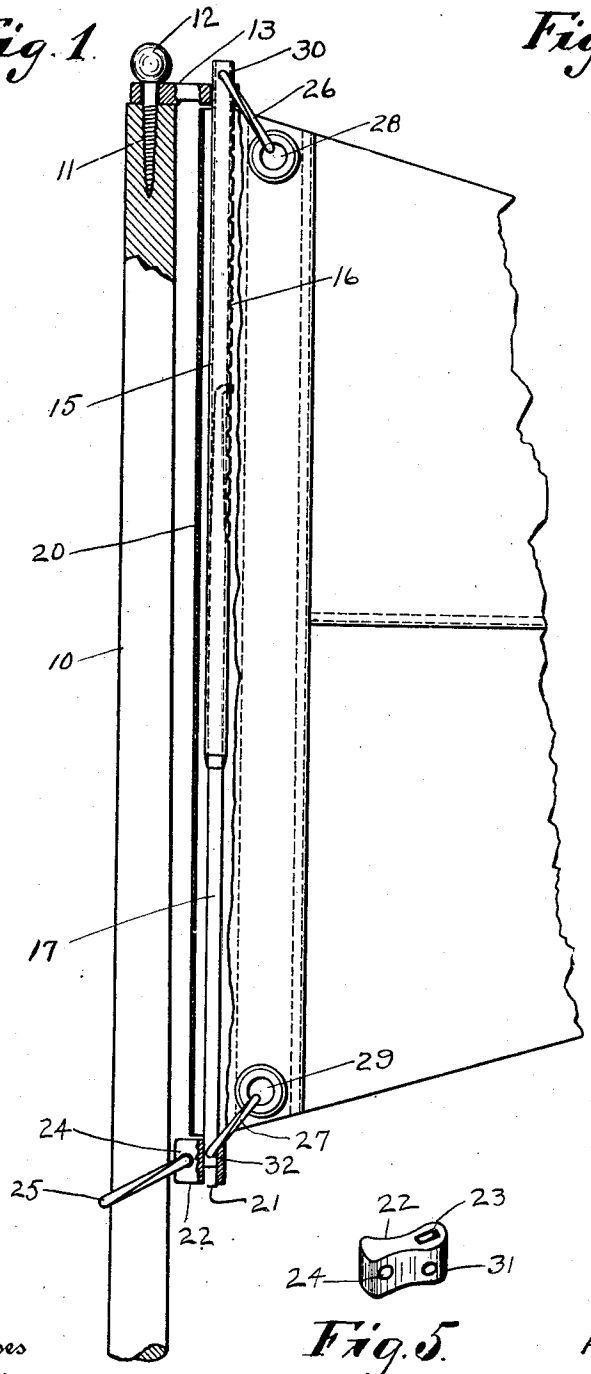


Fig 3

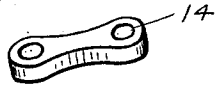




Fig. 4.

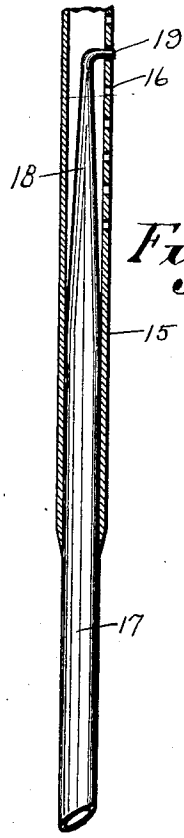


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FLAG-CLEARER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY M. FILLMORE, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flag-Clearers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved flag clearer of the type adapted primarily for use on ship-board for mounting a comparatively small flag, such as pennants, or the like, on a staff to be hoisted to the mast head, or other position, to prevent the same from fouling, and the invention has for its object to provide such a device of simple and inexpensive construction that is light in weight, will not rattle and that will cause the flag to lie close to the staff and hold the hem tight at all times.

The invention further consists in the provision of a supporting rod that may be readily adjusted to fit flags of different sizes.

A still further object of the invention is to provide means whereby the flag may be readily removed from the clearer and another positioned in its place when desired.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Of the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a side elevation showing a portion of a flag partially in section, mounted on my improved clearer which is supported on a flag staff. Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of a portion of the extendible rod, partially in section, illustrating the reduced outwardly turned end engaging one of the row of holes in the other member for releasably securing the two members against relative endwise movement. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the top link which connects the rod to the staff. Fig. 4 is an enlarged edge view of one of the split rings for connecting the flag to the rod and the rod to the staff. Fig. 5 is a foot block adapted to receive the flattened portion of the flag engaging rod.

Referring to the drawings, 10 designates a staff which is preferably made of wood or other light material, adapted to be hoisted to the mast head, or other desired position. Screwed into the upper end of this staff or stick is a long screw-threaded pintle 11 having a head preferably in the shape of an ornamental ball, at its outer end. A link 13 is pivotally supported on this pin at one end and extends longitudinally outward therefrom, and is provided with a hole 14 at its outer end for the reception of the upper end of the rod 15. This rod is preferably constructed of two members the upper, a tubular member, is provided with a vertically disposed row of holes 16 and the lower member 17 is adapted to slidably fit into the upper tubular member, the inner end of this second member is preferably tapered as at 18, see Fig. 2, its extremity being reduced as at 19 and turned at substantially a right angle so that the inherent spring in this portion causes this end to pass through any one of the holes 16 which is presented to register with it. When it is desired to extend or contract this rod to accommodate flags of different sizes, it is only necessary to press this end 19 inward with the point of a knife, or other instrument, and then slide the members one upon the other until the desired length is obtained, when the pin is again caused to register with and enter its hole 16 and the length of the rod is fixed in its new position. The outer surface of this rod is formed smooth so that it may be readily pased through the hem 20 of the flag, whereby this portion of the flag is held stiff and prevented from sagging or wrinkling and giving a better and more correct appearance when in position on the mast. The lower end of the lower member of this rod is preferably flattened as at 21 and is adapted to be stepped into a foot block 22 to prevent its rotation. This block, the underside of which is shown in a perspective view in Fig. 5, is provided with a rectangular slot 23 for the reception of the correspondingly shaped end of the rod, the block is also provided with an eye 24 through which a split ring 25 is passed, the same being of a size sufficient to encircle the staff and loosely connect the lower end of the rod thereto.

In order to provide simple and effective means whereby the opposite edges of the flag may be releasably connected to and held taut by this device I have provided a pair of split rings 26 and 27 adapted to engage their corresponding eyelets 28 and 29 in the flag, the upper ring 26 passing through the eye 30 in the upper end of the rod and the lower ring 27 passing through the eye 31 in the block 22 and also the eye 32 in the lower end of the rod. This latter ring,

as will be seen by this construction, performs a double function, first it locks the block 22 to the end of the rod and it also secures the lower edge of the flag to the lower end of the rod.

By my improved construction of flag clearer it will be noted that as the rod passes through the hem of the flag it holds the same stiff and rigid at this point and the rings 26 and 27 hold the opposite edges tight and always in position. Then again, by my construction the flag is held in correct position close to the staff, as it should be in order to look well and ship-shape, and the flag with its extendible rod is pivotally supported by the link 13 on the pin 11 whereby it is adapted to rotate freely about the staff thereby rendering it practically impossible for the flag to become foul.

The mechanism from which a clearer is constructed must of necessity be very light for two reasons, first if the mechanism is too heavy it will be difficult to hold the stick supporting the pennant in an upright position as it is obliged to be extended up above the end of the mast by means of halyards, and its tendency will be to always lop over either to one side or to the other and will be very difficult to be held in the proper position which is very essential to devices of this character, particularly on board of yachts where such devices would be used. Second, if the device is not very light it will not operate freely and therefore will defeat the very purpose for which it is designed, therefore in order to accomplish these purposes I have made the mechanism of the very lightest material, preferably of aluminum and have also constructed the parts very thin and small and yet of such shape as to give them the necessary strength.

I claim:

1. A flag clearer comprising a rod adapted to pass through the hem of the flag and means in said rod whereby it may be extended lengthwise to accommodate flags of different sizes, a pin in the head of the flag staff, a link pivotally supported at one end on said pin and its outer end providing a bearing for said rod, a ring at both the upper and lower ends of the rod for engaging corresponding eyelets in the flag and a ring at the lower end of the rod loosely connecting the same to the staff.

2. A flag clearer comprising a pivot pin projecting from the upper end of the staff, a rigid link pivotally supported at one end on said pin, a rod adapted to pass through the hem of the flag and having its upper end engaged by the outer end of said link, a ring at the lower end of said rod for loosely connecting the same to the staff, split rings for detachably connecting both the upper and lower ends of said rod to corresponding eyelets in the flag, and means in the rod whereby the same may be extended or contracted to accommodate flags of different sizes.

3. A flag clearer comprising a telescoping tubular rod adapted to be passed through the hem of the flag, one member of the rod being provided with a vertically disposed row of holes and the second member being slidably mounted within the first member and having a pin at its end adapted to enter any one of said holes by spring pressure, whereby the two members may receive relative endwise adjustment to cause the rod to accommodate flags of different sizes, and means at both ends of said rod for being loosely connected to the staff and means for connecting the rod to the flag.

4. A flag clearer comprising a telescoping tubular rod adapted to be passed through the hem of the flag, one member of the rod being provided with a vertically disposed row of holes and the second member being slidably mounted within the first member and having a pin at its end adapted to enter any one of said holes by a spring pressure, whereby the two members may receive relative endwise adjustment to cause the rod to accommodate flags of different sizes, a pin in the head of the staff, a supporting link having one end pivotally engaging said pin and its opposite end engaging said rod, a split ring loosely connecting the lower end of said rod to the staff and a split ring at both ends of said rod for releasably engaging corresponding eyes in the flag.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HARRY M. FILLMORE.

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