May 25, 1954 R. W. MELDRUM 2,679,371

CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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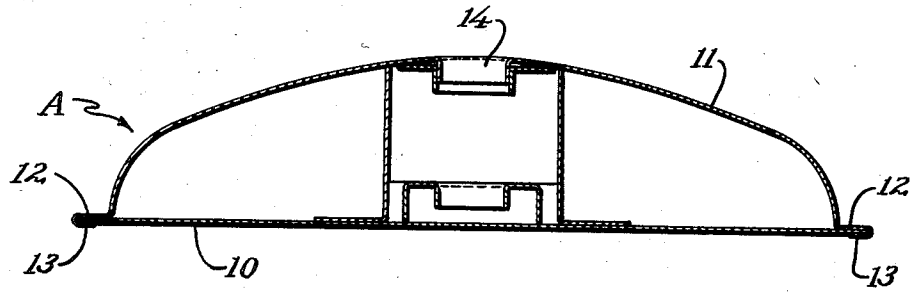


Fig. 1

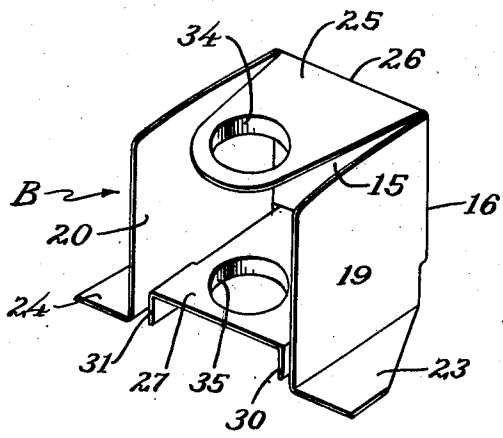


Fig. 2

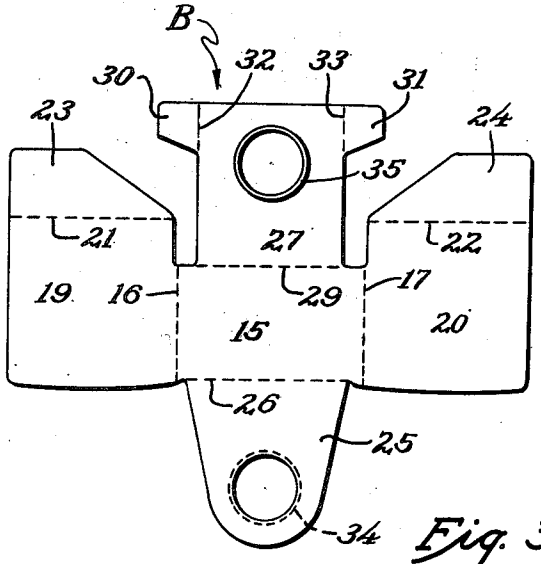


Fig. 3

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CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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8 Claims. (Cl. 248—44)

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My invention relates to an improvement in Christmas tree stand wherein it is desired to provide a hollow support for holding a Christmas tree in upright position.

In my previous Patent No. 2,337,914, I described a Christmas tree stand which had a substantially flat base and an upwardly bowed top portion marginally secured to the base. This construction has been manufactured in tremendous volume for several years and has proven extremely satisfactory for its purpose. However, in some instances it has been found desirable to provide a means for engaging the portion of the tree trunk enclosed within the stand for insuring the vertical position of the tree trunk. By engaging a portion of the trunk near the lower extremity thereof the trunk is engaged at two spaced points and is thus more firmly held. Attempts have been made to provide a cup shaped receptacle in the base for engaging the lowermost end of the tree trunk. However, in some instances the tree trunks are not forced into the stand to the extent necessary to engage the lower end of the tree with the base of the stand. Accordingly it has been found desirable to engage the tree trunk at a point spaced upwardly from the base of the stand.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a tree engaging member within the Christmas tree stand so as to hold the tree at two spaced points. This support is formed of scrap metal produced during the stamping of the portions of the stand and therefore may be produced at low cost. Furthermore, the support extends between the center portion of the top of the stand and the base of the stand, acting to resist compression on the top of the stand. As a result the stand incorporating the support is stronger than it would otherwise be, or else may be made of lighter metal without sacrificing compressive strength.

A feature of the present invention resides in providing a support which may be automatically located in proper position without the necessity of welding or other affixing the support in place. The support includes a ring-shaped portion designed to encircle the downwardly extending sleeve in the center of the top of the stand so that when the top of the stand is secured to the base, the support is automatically aligned with the sleeve. An apertured flange is supported spaced above the base of the stand for engagement with the lowermost end of the tree trunk to hold the same in vertical position.

These and other objects and novel features of my invention will be more clearly and fully set

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forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings forming a part of my specification:

Figure 1 is a sectional view centrally through the stand showing the support in place therein.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the support removed from the stand.

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of the blank from which the stand is formed.

The stand A is generally similar to the construction illustrated in my previously described Patent No. 2,337,914. The stand includes a substantially flat bottom disc 10 and an upwardly bowed upper portion 11. The upper portion 11 is convex on its upper surface and is provided with a peripheral outwardly extending marginal flange 12 designed to lie flat against the base along the periphery thereof. A gasket may be provided between the flange 12 and the base 10 if desired. The marginal edge 13 of the top portion is crimped over the marginal edge of the bottom disc 10 to seal the parts 10 and 11 marginally together.

The upwardly bowed top portion 11 is provided with an integral down-turned sleeve 14 at its center point. This sleeve 14 is bent downwardly from the body of the top 11 to form a guide and support for the trunk of the tree inserted thereinto. The sleeve 14 also tends to prevent the spilling of liquid or semi-liquid material within the body of the stand A. The stands are usually partially filled with material which serves to keep the tree in a fresh condition and to keep the needles of the tree from dropping off for a considerable period of time.

The support B which is interposed into the stand A to form a support for the top member 11 is best illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawings. This support B includes a back panel 15 which is foldably connected along vertical parallel fold lines 16 and 17 to side panels 19 and 20. The side panels 19 and 20 are connected along fold lines 21 and 22 to base flanges 23 and 24 respectively. A top flange 25 is connected to the back panel 15 along a fold line 26. A bottom panel 27 is connected along the rear panel 15 along a fold line 29. Supporting flanges 30 and 31 are connected to the bottom flange 27 along parallel fold lines 32 and 33.

A sleeve 34 is punched from the top flange 25 and is downwardly directed toward the bottom flange 27. A sleeve 35 is punched in the bottom flange 27 to extend downwardly therefrom. The flanges 34 and 35 are in alignment in the formed position of the support B.

It will be noted that the lower edge of the rear

panel 15 is spaced substantially above the lower edges of the side panels 19 and 20 and that the flanges 30 and 31 are bent downwardly so as to engage the upper surface of the base 10. In other words, in formed position of the support the lower edges of the flanges 30 and 31 are on the same plane as the lower surface of the base flanges 23 and 24 so that the bottom flange 27 is spaced substantially above the surface of the base panel 10 of the stand A. As a result the aperture 35 may engage the lower edge of the tree even though this lower edge is not inserted into the stand a distance sufficient to contact the bottom panel 10.

In assembling the stand, the standard B is preferably placed so that the sleeve 34 is in telescoping relation with the integral sleeve 14 of the stand top member 11. This arrangement automatically locates the support within the stand body and insures the fact that the lower sleeve 35 is in alignment with the upper sleeve 34. The side panels 19 and 20 bear against the undersurface of the stand top member 11 and thus are able to resist considerable compressive force on the top member of the stand. The down-turned flanges 30 and 31 on the lower flange 27 support this lower flange in parallel relation to the bottom 10 of the stand and also resist substantial downward force. As a result the stand A is much stronger than previously if made of the same metal, or may possess similar compressive strength even though made of lighter gauge metal.

If desired the standard may be first attached to the base by means of spot welding or the like through the use of a suitable jig or fixture to properly locate the support upon the base. However, the support usually provides the strength required without this welding operation and therefore the simpler assembly method is usually preferred.

In accordance with the patent statutes, I have described the principles of construction and operation of my Christmas tree stand, and while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A Christmas tree stand including a receptacle having a base and a top portion marginally secured thereto, the top portion including a centrally down-turned sleeve providing an opening through said top portion, a support including a pair of vertically disposed spaced panels of proper dimensions to engage the top portion and the base and to hold the same in proper spaced relationship, and means on said support encircling said sleeve for holding said panels in proper position.

2. A Christmas tree stand including a top portion and a base marginally secured thereto, a downwardly extending sleeve centrally positioned on said top portion circumjacent an opening in said top portion, and a support interposed between said top portion and said base, said support including a pair of generally parallel panels extending from said top portion to said base to hold the same in properly spaced relationship, a connecting panel connecting an edge of said parallel panels, and means on said support encircling said sleeve for locating said panels relative to the sleeve.

3. The structure described in claim 2 in which the last named means comprises a flange connected to said connecting panel and having an aperture therethrough encircling said sleeve.

4. The construction described in claim 2 and including flanges on said parallel panels designed to overlie said base.

5. The structure described in claim 2 and including a flange on said support extending parallel to the base of the stand and having an aperture therethrough in alignment with said sleeve.

6. The structure described in claim 2 and including a flange on said connecting panel extending parallel to the base of the stand and spaced therefrom, and an aperture therethrough in alignment with said sleeve.

7. A Christmas tree stand including a hollow receptacle having a base and a top member connected together, a central downwardly extending sleeve in said top member, the bore of said sleeve communicating with an opening in said top member, and a support interposed between said top member and said base provided with a pair of vertically disposed spaced panels for holding said top member and base in properly spaced relation, said support including a guide located between said top and said base for engaging the trunk of a tree inserted through said sleeve.

8. A support for spacing the top and bottom members of a Christmas tree stand, the support including a pair of substantially parallel panels having top, bottom, front and rear edges, a connecting panel connecting the rear edge of said panels, a top flange connected to the connecting panel adjacent its upper edge, a bottom panel connected to the connecting panel adjacent its bottom edge and extending parallel to said top flange, said top and bottom flanges having aligned apertures therethrough, and down-turned flanges on said bottom panel for supporting same above the plane in which the bottom edges of said first mentioned parallel panels lie.

References Cited in the file of this patent

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