July 14, 1953 I. J. LONDON 2,645,351

TOWEL GRIP

Filed Nov. 20, 1947

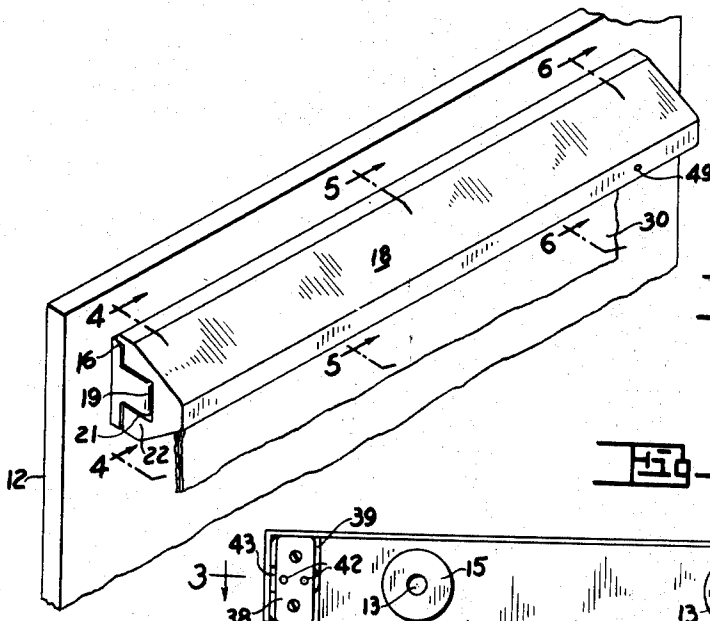


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

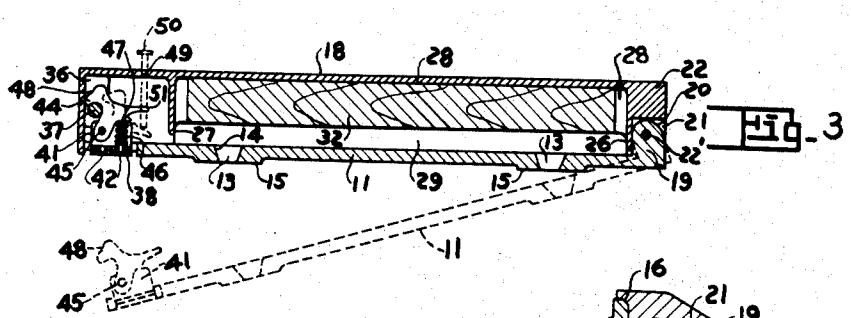


Fig. 3

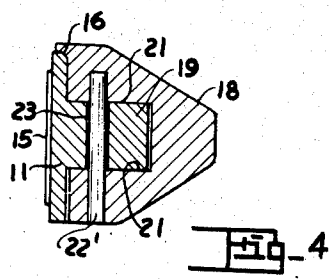


Fig. 4

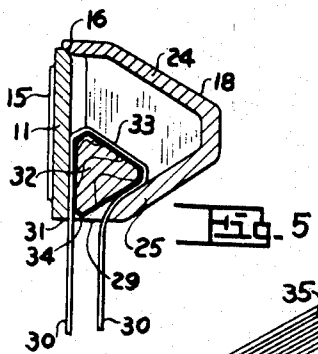
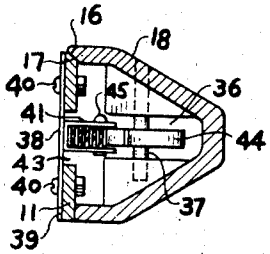


Fig. 5

Fig. 6



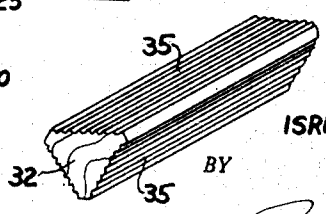


Fig. 7

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TOWEL GRIP

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1 Claim. (Cl. 211—7)

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This invention relates to a towel grip and more particularly to a towel holder including locking means for effectively retaining a portion of a towel within said holder.

This application is a continuation in part of my copending application Serial No. 781,357, filed October 22, 1947, now U. S. Patent No. 2,526,376, relating to a Towel Grip.

Heretofore and particularly in public places such as bowling alleys, for instance, hand towels are available for public use, and due to ineffective or no securing means for the towels, large numbers thereof are stolen over a period of time representing a considerable loss to the proprietor.

It is the principal object of this invention to overcome this difficulty and eliminate such loss by incorporating within the towel holder an effective gripping means which will prevent removal of the towel from its holder, and at the same time leave substantially all of the towel surfaces available for use.

It is the object of this invention to provide a hollow towel holder for receiving an intermediate folded portion of the towel, together with towel gripping means within said holder and associated with the inserted portion of the towel to effectively retain the same within the towel holder.

It is the further object of this invention to provide a hollow towel holder having a throated opening adapted to receive a folded portion of the towel, such as at its central portion, together with floating means within said holder retainingly associated with the folded portion of said towel and cooperable with said throated opening for frictionally retaining said towel within said holder upon receipt of an outward thrust upon one of the ends thereof.

It is the further object of this invention to provide a towel grip within the towel holder where the frictional locking effect increases as the outward thrust upon the towel is increased.

It is the further object of this invention to construct a towel grip consisting of a mountable base, and a hollow towel supporting cover member hinged thereto at one end, and adapted for releasable locking engagement therewith at its other end.

These and other objects will be seen from the following specification and claim in conjunction with the appended drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the towel grip as preferably mounted upon an upright support.

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Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the towel grip when removed from said support.

Figure 3 is a horizontal section on line 3—3 of Figure 2, and with a dotted line indication of the relative position of the base to its cover portion when the latter is pivotally opened.

Figure 4 is an elevational section on line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an elevational section on line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is an elevational section on line 6—6 of Figure 1, and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of a slightly different form of towel gripping means.

It will be understood that the above drawing illustrates merely a preferable embodiment of the invention and that other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the claim hereafter set out.

Referring to the drawing the towel grip consists of substantially flat rectangular base 11, which is attachable to any suitable preferably upright support 12 by a plurality of screws not shown, which extend through transverse openings 13 in said base. Said openings are preferably countersunk at 14 so that the screw heads will not project above the surface of base 11 to interfere with the operation of the towel gripping mechanism. Circular bosses 15 are formed on the back of base 11 corresponding to the two screw openings 13.

The upper edge of base 11 is horizontally bevelled at 16 as shown in Figures 1, 4, 5 and 6 to cooperatively engage the horizontally bevelled or similarly shaped rear edge 17 of the hollow cover 18 within which the towel is gripped in a manner hereafter set out.

As shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, a boss 19 projects outwardly from one end of base 11, being rounded at points 20, and is adapted to be cooperatively received within the transversely slotted portion 21 formed within one of the end walls 22 of the hollow cover 18.

Said cover is pivotally supported upon base 11 by virtue of boss 19 which is slidably positioned within the slotted portion 21 of said cover, and which is retained therein by means of the transverse upright pivot pin 22' which extends upwardly through corresponding openings in cover 18 and through the opening 23 in boss 19.

Consequently it is seen that through the cooperation and support of said boss, said cover is pivotally mounted thereon and is adapted for opening and closing horizontal pivotal move-

ment with respect to base 11 of which said boss forms an integral part.

Referring to Figures 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the cover 18 is substantially triangular in shape, and includes the converging walls 24 and 25. The inner portion of hollow cover 18 corresponding to the base 11 is open throughout the length of said cover with the exception of the spaced inwardly projecting flanges 26 and 27 which project inwardly toward said base and which define therebetween, the towel gripping housing 28.

As viewed in Figures 3 and 5 a longitudinal slot 29 for receiving portions of towel 30 is formed within the rear edge of the inclined cover element 25, being positioned intermediate the parallel spaced boss formations 26 and 27 in said cover.

Slot 29 in cooperation with the bottom longitudinal edge 31 of base 11 thus defines an elongated throated opening for receiving the ends of the folded portion of towel 30 as illustrated in Figure 5.

The substantially triangularly shaped towel gripping element 32 preferably constructed of wood, is initially positioned within the central fold or folded portion 33 of the towel, and with cover 18 hingedly open is positioned within said cover in the portion thereof designated as towel gripping housing 28 Figure 3. After insertion of this gripping element in the folded portion of the towel, the cover is hingedly closed and locked in the manner hereinafter described.

Gripping shaft 32, preferably of light weight, is floatingly positioned within cover 18—28 with the folded portion 33 and the weight of the towel 30 bearing down upon said shaft. As viewed in Figure 5, one of the longitudinal converging edges of grip 32 lies in substantially parallel bearing alignment with the inner surface of housing element 25, while the corresponding other converging surface of said grip lies in substantial parallel bearing relation with the inner wall of base 11 adjacent slot 29.

The longitudinal apex 34 of grip 32 projects downwardly extending partially into the throated slot 29 as shown in Figure 5.

In normal operation the grip 32 and the folded portion 33 of said towel assumes substantially the position shown in Figure 5, due to the weight of said grip and the towel supported thereon. It is thus seen that portions of the towel are interposed between the converging wall portions 11 and 25 and the grip 32, so that the towel is normally and frictionally retained within cover 18.

In operation a downward thrust upon either of the free ends of towel 30 will cause one of the longitudinal apexes 34 a downward movement relative to the throated slot 29, bringing the converging walls of the grip 32 into frictional and wedging engagement with the converging wall portions 25 and 11 corresponding thereto.

The towel portions interposed between said walls and said grip are thus frictionally retained relatively thereto against longitudinal outward movement. A downward thrust upon either or both of the free ends of the towel render the grip 32 fully effective to restrain longitudinal movement of either of the ends of said towel relative to housing or cover 18. The greater the downward thrust upon a towel end, the greater will be the frictional locking effect to retain the towel within its holder.

The grip 32 is preferably of triangular cross section, however it is contemplated that any other polygonal shape may be employed, such as rectangular, wherein a pair of converging side walls of the grip would be adapted for cooperative frictional and wedging engagement with the corresponding converging members 11 and 25 forming a part of the towel grip or holder.

The grip shown fragmentarily in Figure 7 has a plurality of parallel longitudinal grooves 35 formed therein for increased gripping effect between the towel, the converging edges of grip 32, and the converging walls in the interior of the towel grip adjacent slot 29.

If desired these longitudinal grooves may be eliminated as it has been found that the grip will give satisfactory results even when their outer surfaces are flat.

A lock and latching means are employed as shown in Figures 3 and 6 for effectively securing the cover 18 in operatively closed position relatively to its base 11.

A horizontal latch receiving slot 36 is formed on the interior of cover 18 at one end thereof opposite from its pivoted end. A vertically arranged locking pin 37 is secured within the corresponding end portion of said cover and extends across slot 36, being substantially parallel to pivot pin 22'.

A latching device is carried upon the corresponding end of base 11, being adapted for cooperative retaining engagement with the locking pin 37 in slot 36 of said cover.

Said latch mechanism includes a vertically arranged supporting plate 38 mounted upon the recessed portion 39 of base 11 at its rear, and is secured thereto by bolts 40.

Bifurcated latch housing 41 is uprightly mounted upon plate 38 and secured thereto by rivets 42. Said housing extends forwardly through the slot 43 in the end of base 11, and has pivotally mounted thereon latch 44.

The latter is pivotally mounted on the rivet 45 which extends transversely through said housing and is adapted for locking retaining engagement with locking pin 37 in hollow cover 18.

Coil spring 46 is positioned within latch housing 41 with one end expansively bearing against the projection 47 of said latch normally maintaining the same in its locking position as shown in Figure 3.

Latch 44 has a cam surface 48 so as to cooperatively bear against locking pin 37 for forcing said latch temporarily to open position against the action of spring 46 as cover 18 is hingedly closed relative to base 11. Once closed latch 44 is free to lockingly engage pin 37 in said cover.

A small circular key receiving slot 49 is formed in the central portion of cover 18, and is adapted to slidably receive latch releasing key 50 as shown in Figure 3.

The inner end of cylindrical key 50 is adapted for operative registry with the extension 51 on latch 44, for effecting a pivotal releasing movement thereof against the action of spring 46.

In operation, key 50 is projected through slot 49 in cover 18 releasing latch 44, and while so released the cover 18 may be normally opened outwardly upon its pivot 22'. The relative position of the base 11 to hollow cover 18 is shown by the dotted line indication of Figure 3.

For towel replacement, it is seen that with cover 18 opened, the dirty towel and its supporting grip element 32 will drop from said housing, and the clean towel with a grip 32 inserted adjacent its central fold 33 repositioned within

cover 18. The new towel and grip are manually held within cover 18 as the same is hingedly closed relative to base 18, with the free ends of the towel extending loosely through the slot 29.

Having described my invention, reference should now be had to the claim which follows for determining the scope thereof.

I claim:

A towel grip comprising an upright rectangular base, a hollow elongated horizontally swingable housing pivotally mounted at one end upon one end of said base, said housing having a longitudinally cutout portion along its lower edge adjacent to and cooperable with said base forming a horizontal slot therebetween adapted to receive the free ends of a towel folded within said housing, an elongated horizontally arranged gripping element loosely lying within said housing over which the folded portion of said towel is adapted to extend, said cutout portion being narrower than the width of said gripping element in cross section, whereby said gripping element is

adapted to frictionally retain said towel within said housing upon an outward thrust applied to one of the towel ends.

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