July 1, 1930. W. A. FINNEGAN 1,769,127

SOCKET REDUCER

Filed May 29, 1929

Fig. 1.

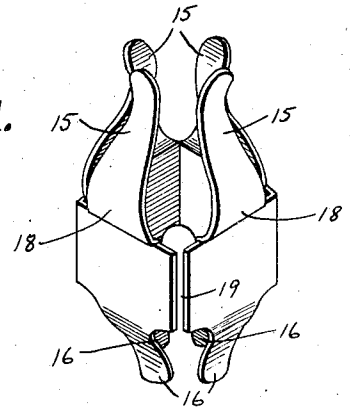


Fig. 2.

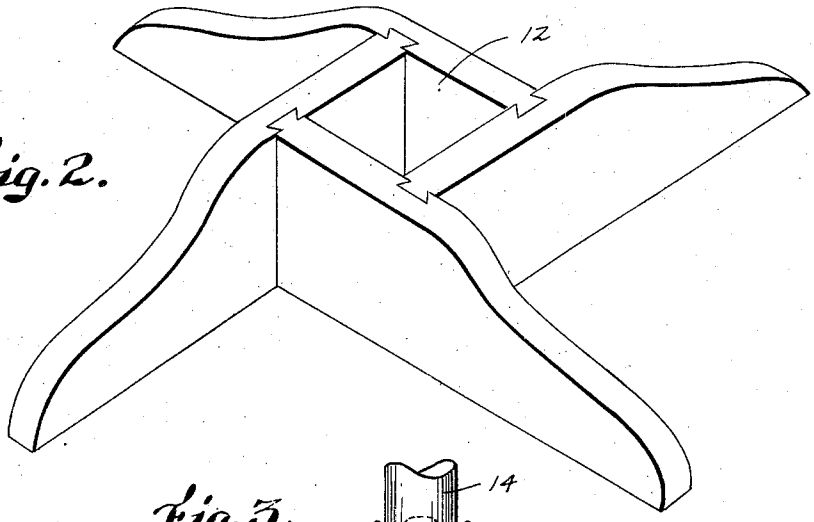
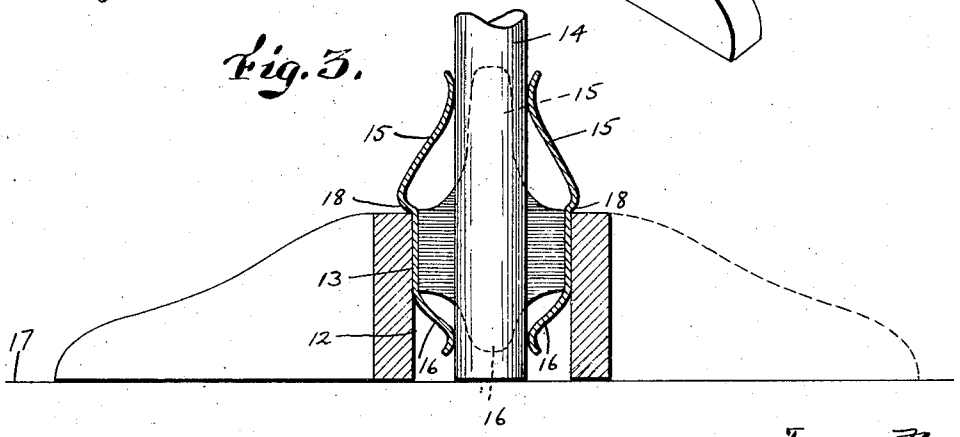


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SOCKET REDUCER

Application filed May 29, 1929. Serial No. 366,832.

This invention relates to a holder adapted to be placed on a flat support and provided with a socket in which one end of an upright standard or member may be inserted, the holder being adapted to support the standard perpendicular to the support.

The invention is embodied in a socket reducer adapted to be used with a holder characterized as above stated, in supporting a standard or member which is smaller than one adapted to be inserted in the holder socket, and permitting a holder having a socket adapted to support a relatively large standard, such as the trunk of a Christmas tree, to support a smaller standard, such as a flag pole, or other relatively slender article.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification,—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a socket reducer embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a holder having a socket adapted to receive the reducer.

Figure 3 shows the holder and reducer in section and assembled, and a slender standard laterally supported by the reducer.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

The holder shown by Figure 2, embodies the invention disclosed by Patent No. 1,706,223, dated March 19, 1929, and is composed of arms assembled and interlocked to form a holder adapted to have an extended bearing on a flat support, and including a polygonal central socket 12, which may receive one end of an upright or standard to be supported laterally by the socket. The socket is open from end to end so that a standard such as the trunk of a Christmas tree inserted in the socket bears on a floor 17 supporting the holder and sustaining the downward end thrust of the standard.

For convenience of description, I call the socket 12 a primary socket, to distinguish it from the reducer socket.

My improved reducer comprises a polygonal bushing 13, adapted to enter the primary socket 12, and having a plurality of flat side portions adapted to conform to the flat sides of the socket 12, and a plurality of resilient tongues collectively forming a reduced socket of smaller size than the bushing, and adapted to laterally support a relatively small standard 14, which may be a flag pole or other article. The bushing and tongues are integral with each other and formed from a single piece of resilient sheet metal.

The tongues are arranged in two groups, one including a plurality of outer tongues 15, projecting upwardly from one end of the bushing, and the other a plurality of inverted inner tongues 16, projecting from the opposite end of the bushing, each tongue being formed on a flat side portion of the bushing.

The free ends of the tongues are adapted to bear on spaced apart portions or zones of the standard 14, so that the latter is firmly supported laterally at points above and within the holder. The lower end of the standard may bear on a floor, or other flat support 17, as shown by Figure 3. Each group of tongues constitutes a socket portion adapted to yieldingly grasp the standard 14, the two groups cooperating to maintain the standard 14 in a vertical position and spaced inwardly from the walls of the socket 12.

The reducer is preferably so proportioned that the tongues 16 are spaced somewhat above the support, and are maintained at a predetermined height out of contact therewith to prevent interference by the support with free movement of said tongues by means with which the reducer is provided, for limiting its insertion into the socket 12, said means being preferably embodied in shoulders 18, formed on the tongues 15, and adapted to bear on the holder, as shown by Figure 3.

In forming the bushing, I preferably provide it with two free ends, normally sprung apart by the resilience of the sheet metal, so that said ends are separated by an opening or slot 19, as shown by Figure 1. The bushing is therefore adapted to be compressed or contracted by its insertion in the socket 12, so that its effort to expand causes its external surfaces to bear closely on the sides of the socket 12.

I claim:

1. A socket reducer composed of resilient

sheet material, and including an open ended polygonal bushing having a plurality of flat side portions adapted to bear on the walls of a polygonal primary socket in a holder which is formed to laterally support a relatively large standard, a plurality of resilient outer tongues projecting upwardly from one end of the bushing, and a plurality of resilient inverted inner tongues projecting downwardly from the opposite end of the bushing, said tongues being formed on the flat side portions of the bushing and inclined inwardly therefrom, so that the tongues collectively form two reduced spaced apart socket portions adapted to yieldingly grasp spaced apart zones of a smaller standard, and maintain the latter spaced inwardly from the walls of said primary socket.

2. A socket reducer as specified by claim 1, means being provided for limiting downward movement of the bushing into the primary socket and maintaining the free ends of the inner tongues above the bottom of the primary socket, so that movement of said free ends is not impeded by a support on which the holder rests.

3. A socket reducer as specified by claim 1, two of said side portions being normally spaced apart by an opening at one corner of the bushing and between adjacent tongues to permit the contraction of the bushing by the wall of a primary socket in which it is inserted.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WILFRED A. FINNEGAN.