Jan. 16, 1923. 1,442,097.

F. L. ROWNTREE.

CASTER BRACKET.

FILED NOV. 10, 1921.

FIG. 1.

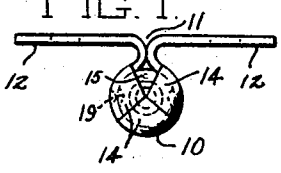


FIG. 3.

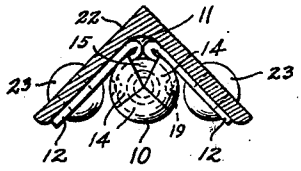


FIG. 2.

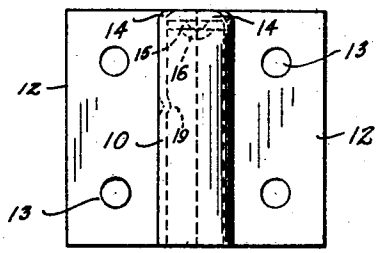


FIG. 4.

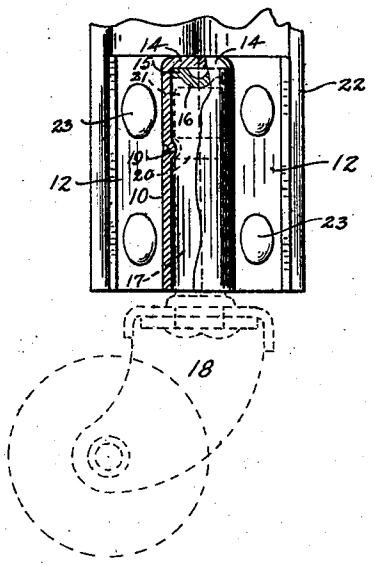


FIG. 5.

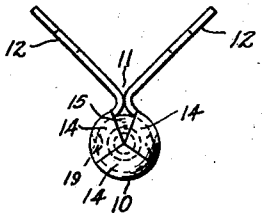
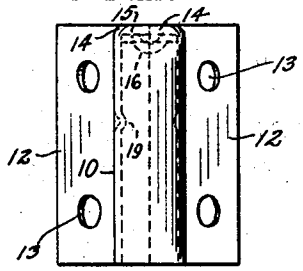


FIG. 6.



INVENTOR.

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BY Wooster & Davis

ATTORNEYS.

Patented Jan. 16, 1923. 1,442,097

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK L. ROWNTREE, OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO FOSTER, MERRIAM AND COMPANY, OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF CONNECTICUT.

CASTER BRACKET.

Application filed November 10, 1921. Serial No. 514,298.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK L. ROWNTREE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Meriden, county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Caster Brackets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to casters and particularly to a bracket including a socket adapted to be secured to furniture to receive the pintle of a caster proper.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a bracket of simple construction so that it may be easily and cheaply manufactured.

It is also an object to provide a bracket of this type which may be formed of sheet metal.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an improved top bearing for a pintle in the socket.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a bracket structure which may be secured to either a flat wall, the inside of an angle shaped leg, or the outside thereof with a very slight change.

With these and other objects in view I have devised the improved bracket structure illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of what I call a straight bracket.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation thereof.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of what I term an inside bracket showing it secured to the inside of an angle shaped leg of a piece of furniture.

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the form shown in Fig. 3, a portion of the wall of the socket being broken away.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of what I term an outside bracket, and

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of the form shown in Fig. 5.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2 the bracket is shown as constructed of a piece of sheet metal with its midsection bent to form a tube 10, the ends of the piece of sheet metal being brought together or nearly so at the back of the tube at 11 and are then bent away from each other, and in substantially the same plane to form wing portions 12 provided with any desired number of drilled holes 13 to receive bolts or rivets to secure same to a support, such as the leg of a piece of furniture. As the wing portions 12 are in the same plane, this bracket is adapted to be secured to the flat side of the support and I call it a straight bracket. The top of the tube is closed by means of integral lugs 14 substantially triangular in shape bent over the end of the tube, as shown. In the top of the tube or socket I provide a top bearing disc 15 formed of any suitable material, such as sheet metal or fibre, and preferably provided with a central raised portion 16 forming a top bearing for the end of a pintle 17 for a caster proper 18, as shown in Fig. 4, this raised portion providing a substantially small bearing surface and allowing free turning of the pintle in the socket. I preferably form this disc separate from the bracket and insert it in the tube or socket and retain it therein by the lugs 14 closing the top of the socket. I may, however, form this bearing in the top of the tube itself, omitting the disc. The curved portion of the bearing may also, obviously, be omitted and the end of the pintle curved to provide the small bearing surface, if desired.

Any suitable means may be provided for retaining the pintle in the socket or tube such as lugs 19 struck inwardly from the walls of the tube and adapted to coact with a groove 20 formed in the pintle, as shown in Fig. 4. When the pintle is inserted in the socket, as the walls of the tube are not connected at 11, the tube yields sufficiently to allow the lugs 19 to pass over the end 21 of the pintle, and then springs in to cause these lugs to enter the groove 20. A reverse operation will allow removal of the pintle from the socket.

Referring to Figures 3 and 4 the side portions or wings 12 are bent backwardly toward the opposite sides of the tube so as to allow the bracket to be secured on the inside of an angle shaped leg 22 of a piece of furniture, the securing means being shown as rivets 23 although bolts or any other securing means may be employed. Otherwise, the structure of this socket is the same as that shown in Figures 1 and 2. This form of bracket I call an inside bracket.

In the bracket shown in Figures 5 and 6, the structure is also the same as that shown in Figures 1 and 2, but the side or wing portions 12 instead of being bent toward the tube, as in the form shown in Fig. 3, are bent to the rear so that the bracket may be

secured to the outside of an angle shaped leg of a piece of furniture. I term this an outside bracket.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that the bracket, including the socket, is very simple in construction and may be formed from a single piece of sheet metal. Also that it provides a very rigid structure which will effectively hold the caster in place, and at the same time will allow free swinging movement thereof.

Having thus set forth the nature of my invention, what I claim is:

1. A caster bracket comprising a substantially tubular socket, and a top bearing disc in the socket having a downwardly extending projection providing a thrust bearing for the end of a caster pintle.

2. A caster bracket comprising a substantially tubular socket adapted to receive a caster pintle, and a separate top bearing element for the pintle in the socket comprising a disc having a projection pressed downwardly from the body thereof.

3. A caster bracket comprising a piece of sheet metal with its midsection curved to form a tube and the end portions adapted to be secured to a support, and a top bearing for a pintle in said tube comprising a disc having a downwardly extending projection to abut the end of the pintle.

4. A caster bracket comprising a piece of sheet metal with its midsection curved to form a tube and the end portions adapted to be secured to a support, a top bearing disc in the tube, and lugs bent over the top of the tube to retain the disc therein, said disc being formed with a downwardly extending projection to abut the end of the pintle.

5. A caster bracket comprising a piece of sheet metal having its midsection formed into a tube adapted to receive a pintle and the opposite ends extending away from each other on one side of the tube, a top bearing disc in the tube provided with a downwardly extending projection abutting the end of the pintle, and means for retaining a pintle in the tube.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FRANK L. ROWNTREE.