Jan. 2, 1951 S. P. DARKINS 2,536,159

CLOTHESLINE FASTENER

Filed Feb. 2, 1949

Fig-3

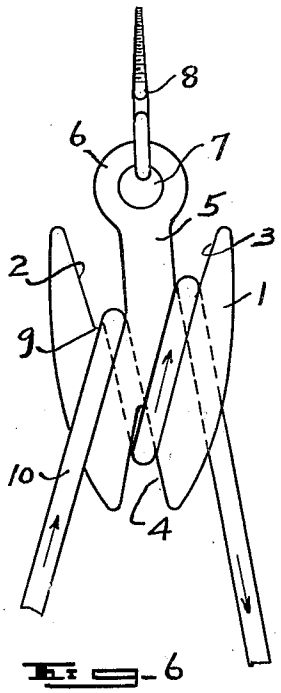


Fig-1

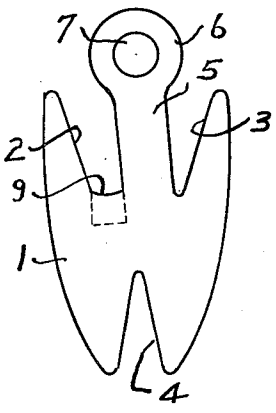


Fig-2

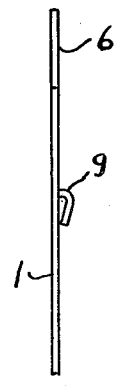


Fig-4

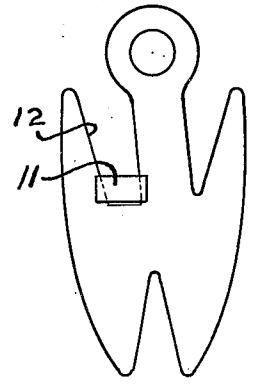
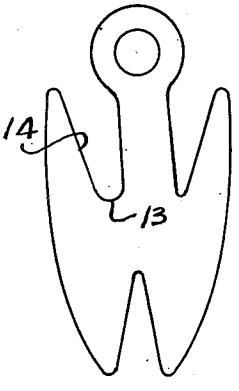


Fig-5



Fig-6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CLOTHESLINE FASTENER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—130)

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This invention relates to an improved fastener, and primarily designed and intended for securing clotheslines, it will be obvious that the device may be employed for securing the tie ropes of tents, tarpaulin covers and the like, or for any other purposes wherein it is found to be applicable.

Important objects and advantages of the invention are to provide a fastener of the character described, which may be conveniently employed for tensioning and securing a clothesline to the supporting structures, which will facilitate and expedite the stringing of a clothesline, which will independently maintain either of a pair of extensions of the clothesline connected therewith in the secured position in the event one of such pair of extensions of clothesline should break or part, which is simple in its construction and arrangement, durable and efficient in its use, compact, and comparatively economical in its manufacture.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, but it is to be understood that changes in the form, proportions and details of construction may be resorted to that come within the scope of the claim hereunto appended.

In the drawing wherein like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a clothesline fastener constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is an edgewise elevational view thereof.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the fastener and illustrating the securing engagement of a clothesline with the latter.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of a modified form of fastener embodying the invention, and Figure 5 is an edgewise elevational view thereof.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of still another modified form of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing the improved fastener comprises an integrally formed body 1, which is constructed of a stiff flat piece of metal, and which is generally oval-shaped in configuration, and preferably stamped to provide the fastener structure.

The body 1 is provided with a substantially U-shaped tensioning slot 2, and with a pair of V-shaped holding slots, respectively indicated at 3 and 4. The tensioning slot 2 and the holding slot 3 are disposed in the outer end portion of the

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body in spaced relation to each other, and the other holding slot 4 is disposed in the inner end portion of the body.

The formation and spaced relation of the tensioning slot 2 and holding slot 3 provide a stem 5 therebetween. A head 6 is formed at the outer free end of the stem and is provided with an aperture 7, by which the fastener may be engaged on a hook 8, or the like, that is fixed in any suitable supporting structure like a post or the wall of a building.

The holding slot 4, in the inner end portion of the body 1, extends in opposed relation to the slots 2 and 3, and is disposed intermediate of the latter approximately at the longitudinal center of the body.

The bottom 9 of the tensioning slot 2 is rounded in the transverse direction and preferably slightly curved in the longitudinal direction, and is formed by turning-over or up-setting a portion of the body material against the under face of the body 1, as clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2.

In securing a clothesline 10 to the improved fastener, the clothesline is first inserted downwardly through the tensioning slot 2 and then drawn to the tautness desired. The clothesline is now inserted upwardly through the inner holding slot 4, and is finally inserted downwardly through the holding slot 3. Such progression of the clothesline securing operation is clearly indicated by arrows in Figure 3.

Due to the V-shaped formation of the holding slots 3 and 4, the engaged portion of the clothesline 10 will be securely wedged therein against slippage in either direction, and consequently if one of the pair of extensions of the clothesline should break or part, the other of said pair of clothesline extensions will be maintained in the secured position in the fastener.

The conformation of the bottom 9 of the tensioning slot 2 is an important feature of the invention, as such bottom formation will prevent damage to the clothesline while the latter is being drawn through said slot 2 to effect the tensioning of the clothesline in the manner stated.

The modified form of the invention, shown in Figures 4 and 5, differs from the preferred form thereof above described, only in that a separate cylindrical bottom member 11 is permanently secured in the tensioning slot 12 for the purpose set forth.

In the modification illustrated in Figure 6, the bottom 13 of the tensioning slot 14 simply comprises the single thickness of the body material. This embodiment of the invention may be em-

ployed in a satisfactory manner if the clothesline is tensioned by a pull and then inserted in the tensioning slot 14 instead of drawing the clothesline across the slot bottom 13 to effect the tensioning operation.

The present invention provides a most efficient device of its kind, which may be economically constructed, and successfully and conveniently employed for the purposes and in the manner herein set forth.

What I claim is:

A clothesline fastener comprising a flat body, said body being provided with a substantially U-shaped tensioning slot and with a pair of V-shaped holding slots extending in opposed relation to each other, an apertured head formed at one end of said body for attaching the latter to a supporting structure, and a cylindrical member secured at the bottom of said tensioning slot to provide a rounded bottom extending in the transverse direction in said tensioning slot.

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