W. J. HICKMAN.

ARTICLE SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 20, 1919.

1,361,056. Patented Dec. 7, 1920.

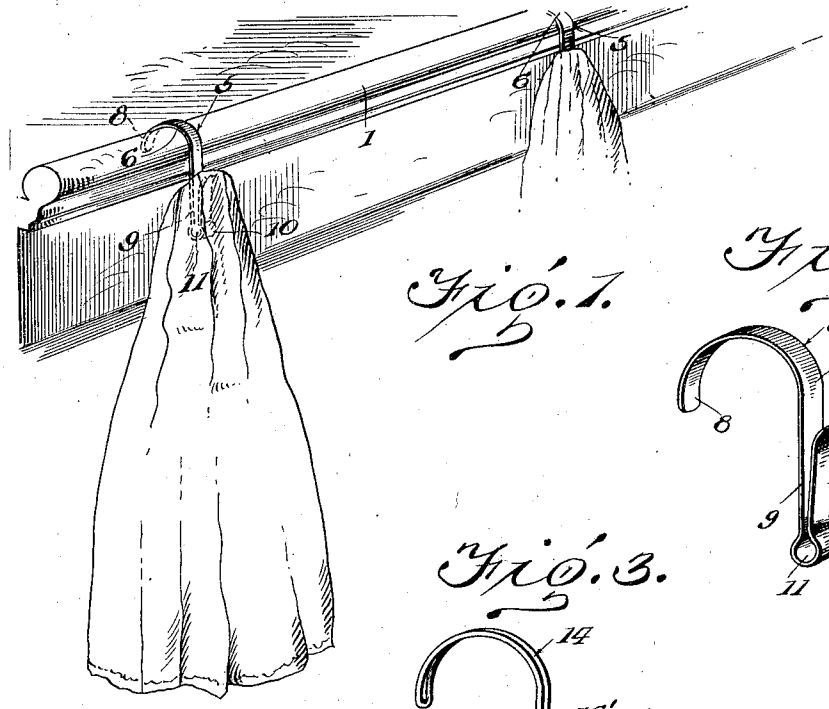


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

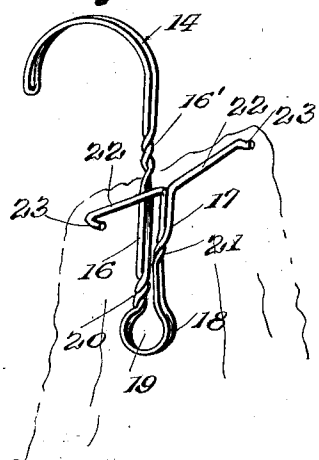


Fig. 4.

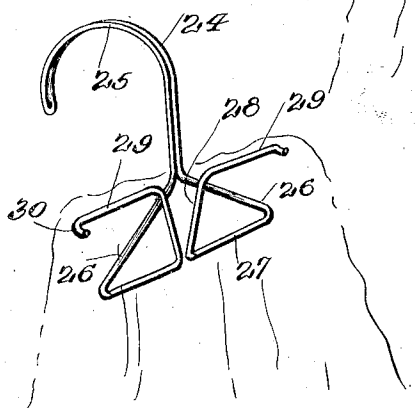
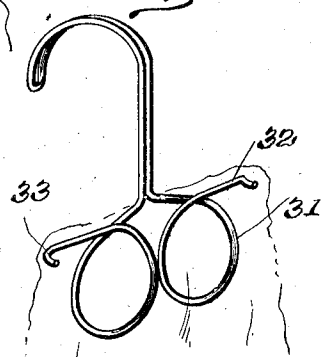


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ARTICLE-SUPPORT.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. HICKMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Sangamon and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Article-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in supports especially adapted for supporting such articles as napkins, towels, window draperies and price tags.

An important object of this invention is to provide a support of the character described provided with novel means for engaging various articles whereby the same are securely held in position and also enabled to be readily detached.

A further object of the invention is to provide a support of the character described including pairs of spring arms between which is adapted to be arranged an article such as a towel, a napkin or a display device, one pair of said spring arms being provided with means for coöperating with the spring arms for securing the article in position.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the class described which is formed from a single piece of metal and which is of highly simplified construction and cheap to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this application and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a perspective of the improved support in use;

Fig. 2 is a perspective of the same detached;

Fig. 3 is a perspective of a slightly modified form of the invention;

Fig. 4 is a perspective of a further modification of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a perspective of a still further modified form of the invention.

In the drawing wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown several preferred embodiments of the invention, the numeral 5 generally designates one form of the device which as illustrated in Fig. 2 is formed from a single length of flat metal having a high degree of resiliency and bent intermediate its ends to form an attaching member 6 and a spring arm 7. The attaching member 6 is in the form of a hook having its free end portion 8 extended downwardly in spaced parallel relation to the body portions of the device. In cases where the support 5 is employed for supporting such articles as towels or napkins, the hook 6 may be well suspended from a rail 1 though it is obvious that the hook may be suspended from any other support. For instance the hook 6 may be attached to the vest for supporting a napkin in front of one's person while eating. As illustrated in Fig. 2, one end of the hook terminates in a spring arm 9 which extends approximately in spaced parallel relation to the spring arm 7 for forming a gripping device between which a napkin or other article is adapted to be supported. The lower portions of the arms 7 and 9 are integral and are extended outwardly as indicated at 10 for forming an enlarged article receiving recess 11. When one edge portion of a napkin is arranged between the arms 7 and 9, the same is bunched, so to speak, within the cylindrical recess 11 for securely retaining the article in position. The upper end portion of the arm 7 is extended outwardly as indicated at 12 and is provided at its upper end with prongs or teeth 13 which are adapted to engage the adjacent portion of the article which is supported from the device. The major portion of the article to be supported is arranged in front of the device and therefore is folded over the teeth or prongs 13 and is engaged by the same whereby the teeth or prongs 13 effectively coöperate with the spring arms 7 and 9 in retaining the article in position. In other words, the arms 7 and 9 frictionally grip the article and when the same is folded over the outer arm 7 the teeth 13 engage the article and effectively prevent the same from slipping from between the arms 7 and 9. Though the teeth 13 grip the napkin or other article, the same are not long or stout enough to injure the napkin.

When it is desired to detach the napkin, the same may be lifted upwardly and rearwardly and is thereby removed from between the arms 7 and 9 and also from contact with the teeth 13.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 3 the support is designated by the numeral 14 and is formed from a single length of wire bent to form a double thick-

ness. The two strand wire thus formed is bent at one end portion to form an attaching member which in this case is adapted for engaging a suitable support such as a rail, or a curtain pole. The forward portion of the hook is extended downwardly to form an arm 16 and then upwardly to form a second arm 17. The upper end portion of the arm 16 has its strands twisted as indicated at 16′ for forming an uneven surface which assists in preventing the accidental removal of an article from between the arms and also for strengthening the device and securely connecting the strands of wire. The meeting portions of the arms 16 and 17 are extended outwardly as indicated at 18 for forming a cylindrical pocket or recess 19. The arms 16 and 17 thus formed are adapted to receive one edge portion of such an article as a napkin, towel, or drapery. The strands of wire at the meeting portions of the arms 16 and 17 are arranged in spaced parallel relation to form a comparatively flat support for the bottom of such articles as price tags.

The inner spring arm 16 has its strands twisted as indicated at 20 and the outer arm 17 has its strands provided with a plurality of twists 21 which are adapted to coöperate for forming shoulders or locking devices for securely retaining the article gripped between the arms. In providing the twists 20 and 21 the arms 16 and 17 are extended inwardly at said twists and therefore provide efficient gripping elements. The upper portions of the strands of the arms 17 are extended laterally of the device to provide horizontal shoulders 22 over which the napkin or other article is adapted to be folded. The free end portions of the shoulders or arms 21 are extended outwardly and upwardly at a slight angle to provide prongs or teeth 23 which function in a manner similar to the teeth 13 in the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. When a towel or napkin has one edge portion extended through the space between the arms 16 and 17, the same is folded over the shoulders 22 and the prongs 23 grip the cloth and retain the same securely in position in cooperation with the arms 16 and 17.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 4, the device is generally designated by the numeral 24 and is formed from a two strand wire bent at one end portion to form a hook 25. One end portion of the hook has its strands diverging outwardly to provide inner spring arms 26 which coöperate with inwardly extending bearing portions 27 and upwardly and outwardly diverging spring arms 28 for supporting various articles. The spring arms 28 press inwardly toward the arms 26 and therefore serve to effectively grip an article for supporting the same in a relatively stationary position. The upper end portions of the arms 28 are extended laterally to provide horizontal shoulders 29 over which is adapted to be folded a portion of a towel or other article. As in the other forms of the invention, the shoulders 29 are extended upwardly and forwardly as indicated at 30 to form prongs which are adapted to engage the cloth for coöperating with the spring arms 26 and 28 in securing towels and other articles in position.

In the form of the invention illustrated in Fig. 5 the article engaging members are in the form of loops 31 which have their end portions extended outwardly to provide the horizontal shoulders 32. As in the other forms of the invention, the horizontal arms 32 are extended upwardly and outwardly to form the prongs 33 which are adapted to cooperate with the inner and outer spring arms of the device for supporting an article. The lower portions of the loops 31 are arranged in spaced relation and form bearings for supporting articles such as price tags and the like.

In the use of this invention, the same may be employed for supporting draperies for windows by extending the upper edge portion of the draperies between the spring arms and subsequently extending the draperies over the horizontal shoulders whereby the prongs at the end of the same are caused to partly penetrate the drapery for securing the same in position. The hook of the device may now be suspended from a curtain pole or any other suitable support and when desired the same may be readily detached. When the device is employed for supporting price tags, the hook of the same may be readily suspended from a shoe or other article which is on display and the tag may be arranged between the inner and outer spring arms. The bearing portions at the bottoms of the loops in the various forms of the invention serve to support the cards in such a position that the same may be readily viewed.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A device of the class described consisting of a strand of wire doubled on itself and arched to form an attaching hook, and a spring arm depending from one end of the hook, the branches of the wire strand extending through the spring arm, a bend in the wire strand at the lower end of the said spring arm, and a second spring arm rising from said bend, the branches of the wire strand extending laterally in opposite directions from the upper end of said second spring arm and constituting fabric-supporting shoulders terminating in fabric-engaging prongs.

2. A device of the class described including an attaching hook, a spring arm extending downwardly from one end of said hook, a second spring arm extending upwardly from the lower end of the first-named spring arm and arranged in spaced parallel relation to the same, and laterally extending fabric supporting shoulders at the upper end of the second spring arm, said shoulders being provided with fabric-engaging prongs.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM J. HICKMAN. [L. S.]