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TWINE HOLDING AND DISPENSING DEVICE

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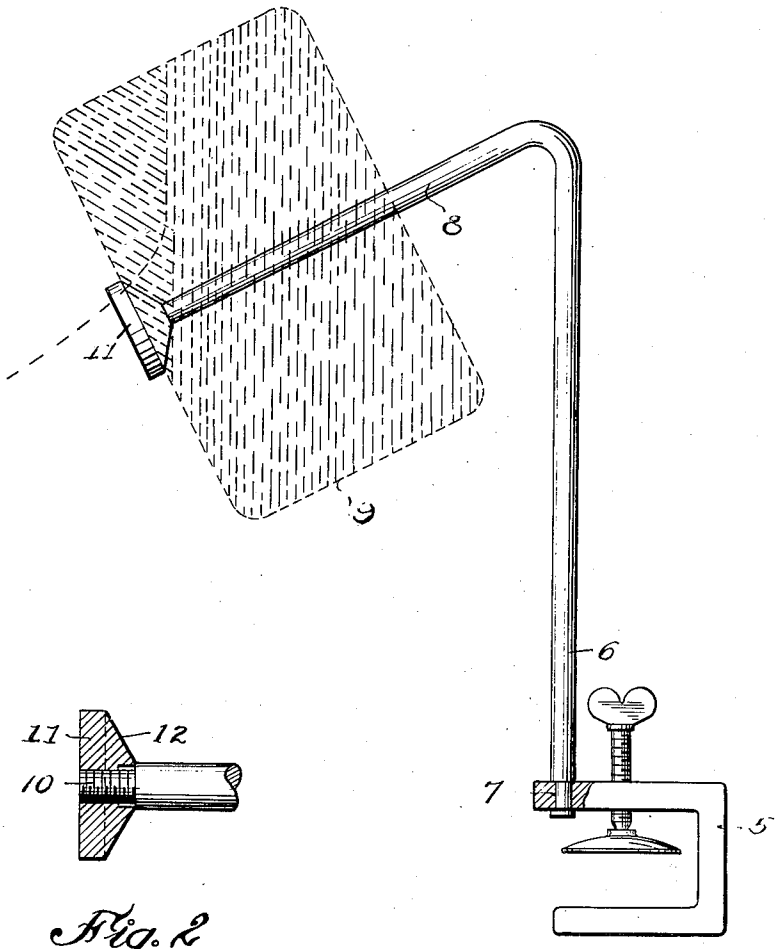


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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TWINE HOLDING AND DISPENSING DEVICE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 242—141)

This invention relates to a cord or twine holding and dispensing device, and it has for its object to provide a very simple and inexpensive article of this nature constructed to hold a ball of cord in such fashion that all of the cord may be withdrawn from the ball without collapse of said ball and without waste of any of the cord.

It is also an object of the invention to so support the ball of cord that very little, if any, rotation will have to be imparted to the ball, and consequently, there will be no such spinning of the ball as would tend to cause overrunning and consequent entanglement of the cord.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description which follows.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device constructed in accordance with the invention, and

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view of the retaining nut at the end of the spindle.

Like numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, 5 designates a clamp of well known form, by which the structure may be clamped to the edge of a table, counter, sorting case or the like. A vertical standard 6 is pivoted at 7 in the upper part of the clamp in such manner that it may turn about its axis. The upper end of the standard terminates in a downwardly inclined spindle 8 which preferably tapers slightly toward its outer end. This spindle is preferably disposed at an angle of about 25° with respect to the horizontal.

The spindle receives and supports the ball of cord indicated in dotted lines at 9. The terminal end of the spindle is reduced and threaded at 10 for the reception of a retaining nut 11, said nut having a beveled inner face 12.

One of the most important fields of use of the present invention is in the mail service, where many thousands of pounds of cord are used annually in tying up packages of sorted mail. The clerks who sort this mail and tie it work in front of cases of considerable height, and these cases have a ledge at their upper portions upon which the clamp 5 is adapted to be secured.

In sorting and tying the mail, the clerks must move to rapidly changing positions in front of the cases and in all of these positions must be able to pull the cord from the ball easily and without danger of snarling of the cord.

The fact that the standard can rotate freely causes the spindle to swing around to always point toward the position to which the clerk has moved, and the fact that the spindle points downwardly permits the clerk to draw the cord off of the ball in a direction more or less lengthwise of the spindle. Consequently, there is little tendency for the ball to rotate, and this in turn insures against overrunning of the cord in unwinding of the ball.

Any tendency for the ball to spin is further restrained by the taper of the spindle, because this taper causes the ball of cord to lightly, frictionally engage the interior of the ball. Thus the ball can rotate if the pull of the cord is strong enough but it will not rotate under the normally very light pull required to withdraw the cord endwise from the ball.

In some forms of cord holders, the cord is withdrawn from the interior of the ball. In such cases, the ball collapses before all the cord has been withdrawn. This results in great waste of cord where the cord is used upon a large scale.

Upon the other hand, in some of the forms of cord holders in which the cord is pulled sidewise from the ball, the ball is caused to spin so fast, when a long pull is given in wrapping a large package, that the ball overruns and starts to wind the cord up again. Here again, tangling and snarling result, with great loss of both time and cord.

My device avoids all of these objections, and in addition may be manufactured much more economically than any cord dispensing article of which I have knowledge.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction set forth, but that it includes within its purview whatever changes fairly come within either the terms or the spirit of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A holding and dispensing device for balls of cord comprising a supporting member, a vertical shank having its lower end pivotally mounted with respect to said member for turning movement about its axis, an outwardly and downwardly directed spindle projecting from the upper end of said shank to lie wholly to one side of said shank and of a length to extend through the central opening of a ball of cord to support said ball wholly to one side of said shank, a retaining member mounted upon the outer end of said spindle and of materially larger diameter than the spindle against which the ball of cord rides under the influence of gravity.

2. A structure as recited in claim 1 wherein

the spindle tapers from the shank outwardly toward the retaining member.

3. A structure as recited in claim 1 wherein the spindle lies at an angle of approximately 25° with respect to the shank.

4. A holding and dispensing device for balls of cord comprising a clamp of substantial U shape adapted to engage over the edge of a supporting object, a vertical shank having its lower end pivotally mounted in the upper side of said clamp so that said shank may turn about its own axis, the upper end of the shank terminating in an integral downwardly and outwardly extending spindle portion lying at an angle of approximately 25° with respect to the shank, said spindle portion lying wholly to one side of said shank and being of a length to pass through and support a ball of cord wholly to one side of said shank so that as the cord is pulled from the ball the spindle and ball tend to swing bodily toward the direction of pull and around the axis constituted by the shank, and a removable retaining nut upon the outer end of the spindle which, when removed, permits the ball of cord to be thrust upon the spindle and which, when in place, provides a part against which the ball of cord may ride as it tends to move toward the outer end of the spindle under the action of gravity.

5. A structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said spindle portion tapers outwardly.

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