March 4, 1969 E. BERLET 3,430,877

TOWEL HOLDER

Filed Sept. 7, 1967

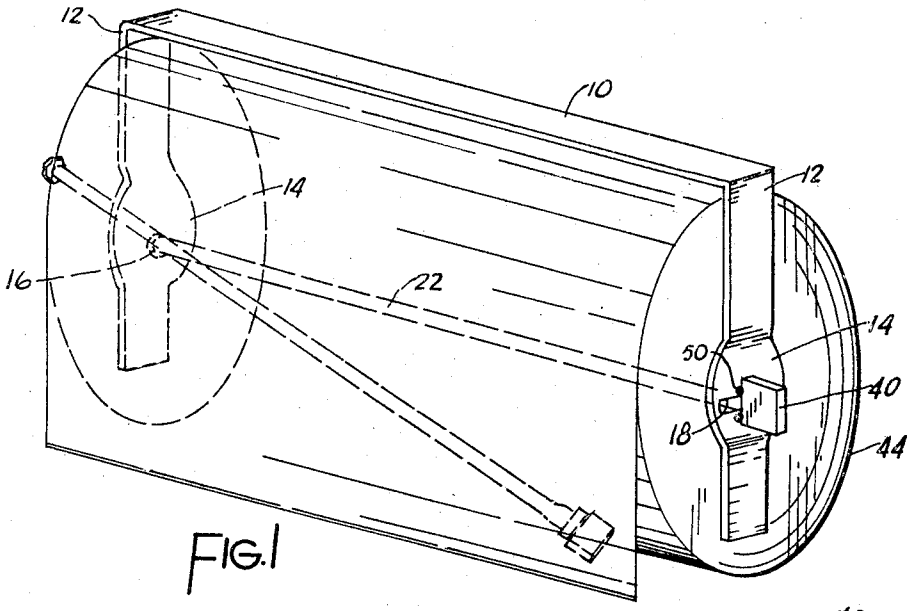


FIG. 1

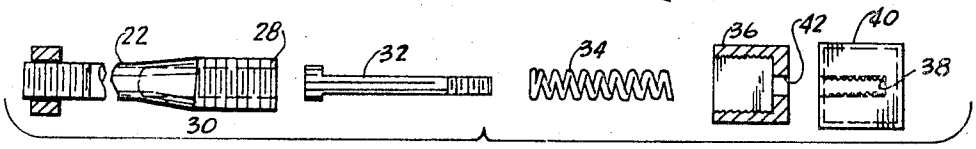


FIG. 2

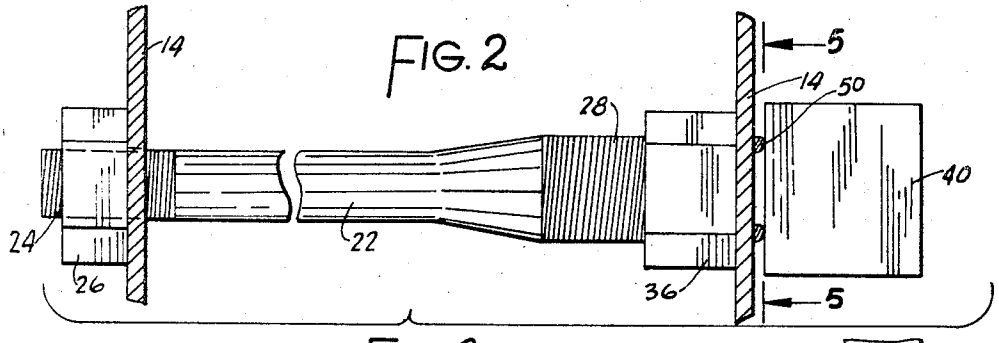


FIG. 3

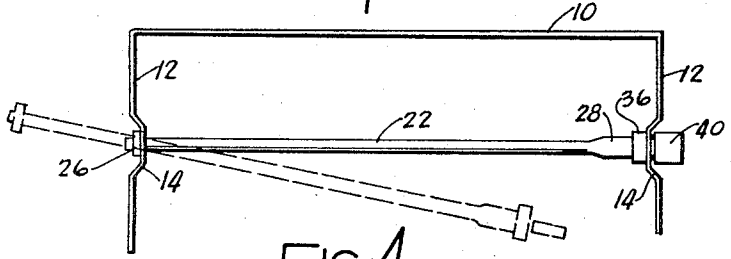


FIG. 4

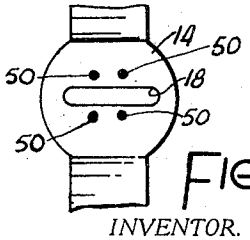


FIG. 5

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TOWEL HOLDER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A holder for a roll of paper towels including a paper towel roll supporting member slidably received in opposed legs of a frame, the supporting member having a rotatable locking means at one end thereof which is movable between a locked, roll supporting position and an unlocked, roll loading position, and adjustable biasing means on the supporting member adjacent one of the opposed legs whereby the leg can be adjustably biased toward the roll of paper towels to exert a selective pressure thereon.

Summary of the invention

My holder comprises a frame having an elongated member with first and second vertical legs secured to opposite ends of the member and extending downward therefrom. Each leg has a bar receiving opening. A horizontal bar extends between the legs and has one end slidable in one of the openings. Means secured to the other end of the bar and cooperating with the other opening has a first position at which the bar is locked in the frame and a second position at which the bar can be slid through the other opening until the means is disengaged from the one opening and is free to have a roll of towels slid therearound onto the bar; the bar can then be returned to its original position and locked into the frame to hold the roll in position for use, and by means of a threaded nut, the side pressure can be increased or decreased.

Brief description of the drawings

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of my invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of certain parts thereof;

FIG. 3 is a detail side view of the parts of FIG. 2 in assembled form;

FIG. 4 is a side view of my invention; and

FIG. 5 is a detail end view of a portion of my invention as taken through 5—5 in FIG. 3, with portions removed for the sake of clarity.

Detailed description of preferred embodiment

Referring now to FIGS. 1–5, there is shown a flat elongated member **10** lying in a horizontal plane and having flat legs **12** secured to each end and extending vertically downward, these legs lying in parallel vertical planes which are perpendicular to the direction in which member **10** extends.

Each leg has a centrally disposed enlarged section **14**. One section has a circular hole **16** therein; the other has a horizontal slot **18**. If desired, these sections **14** can be set inward of the main body of each leg. The section **14** including the slot **18** has four equidistantly spaced projections **50**; two such projections being spaced above the slot **18** and two projections being spaced below the slot, as shown in FIG. 5.

An elongated bar **22** has one shallow threaded end **24**

which extends through hole **16** and receives a nut **26**. The shallow thread on **24** allows the nut **26** to be hand tightened. The other end **28** of the bar is externally threaded and is provided with an axial bore **30** which rotatably receives a bolt **32**. Bolt **32** extends axially through a coil spring **34** and through an internally threaded member **36**.

More specifically, the member **36** includes an end cap having a central through bore **42** through which the shank of the bolt **32** extends. The internally threaded portion of member **36** threadedly engages the threaded end **28** of the bar **22**. Provided in a substantially flat locking member **40** is a threaded passage **38** which engages the threaded end of the bolt **32**. The locking member **40** is sized to slide through the slot **18** when the member **40** is oriented in a horizontal plane.

In operation, when it is desired to mount a roll of towels **44** on the towel holder of the invention, the member **40** is rotated until it is aligned with the slot **18**. The bar **22** then is moved toward the left until the member **40** passes through the slot **18**. The bar is moved downwardly to a position as indicated by the dashed line position of FIG. 1 and the towel roll **44** is mounted thereon (i.e., the bar **22** extends axially through the towel roll). The member **40** is passed through the slot **18** until the juxtaposed leg **12** abuts the end cap of the member **36**. The locking member **40** is rotated to a vertical position to prevent the member from again passing through the slot **18**, thereby to securely lock the roll of towels **44** on the holder. In this latter position, the member **40** is received between the upper projections **50** and the lower projections **50** to prevent the accidental rotation of the member to the unlocked position.

It is specifically emphasized that the present construction provides means for selectively varying the tension of the legs **12** on the roll **44** thereby to control the freedom of movement of the roll. More particularly, the spring **34** bears against the head of the bolt **32** at one end and against the end cap of the member **36** at the other end. Additionally, the inner edge of the locking member **40** bears against the outer surface of the right-hand leg **12**, as shown in FIG. 3. Accordingly, as the member **36** is tightened on the end **28** of the bar **22**, the spring **34** is compressed between the head of the bolt **32** and the member **36**. As a result, an increased inwardly directed biasing force is applied to the right-hand leg **12** by means of the member **40** which is rigidly connected with the bolt **32** via the above-noted threaded connection, thereby causing the leg **12** to restrict the freedom of rotation of the roll **44**. On the other hand, if it is desired to decrease the pressure on the roll **44**, the member **36** is rotated in the opposite direction.

Accordingly, a towel holder has been described in which a roll of towels easily may be mounted and the pressure on the roll selectively varied to obtain a desired freedom of movement of the roll.

While I have described my invention with particular reference to the drawings, my protection is to be limited only by the terms of the claims which follow.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A paper towel holder comprising a frame having an elongated horizontal member and opposed legs depending from the respective ends of said member, a respective opening in each of said legs, a substantially horizontal towel supporting bar, one end of said bar being slideably

received through the opening in one of said legs, means on said one end of said bar for preventing movement of said one end through the corresponding opening in said one leg, rotatable locking means on the other end of said bar movable between a first position wherein said locking means is slidable through the opening in said other leg and a second position wherein said locking means bears against the outer surface of said other leg, and adjustable biasing means for resiliently biasing said locking means toward said bar to bias said other leg inwardly when said locking means is in said second position to exert a selective pressure on a roll of towels received between said legs.

2. A paper towel holder as in claim 1, in which the slot in said other leg comprises an elongated opening, and said locking means comprises a flat elongated member sized to slide through said elongated slot when said locking means is in said first position, and to extend above and below said slot to engage said outer surface of said other leg when said locking means is in said second position.

3. A paper towel holder as in claim 1, in which said biasing means includes a cap threaded on said other end of said bar, a bolt having a head at one end and a threaded portion at the other end received within said bar and having said threaded portion extending through said cap, said threaded portion threadedly engaging said locking means,

and a spring received between the end of said cap and the head of said bolt to bias the head of said bolt away from said cap, whereby said locking means is biased inwardly towards said bar.

4. A paper towel holder as in claim 1, in which said other leg is provided with outwardly directed extensions sized and positioned to receive said locking means therebetween when said locking means is in said second position to prevent the accidental movement of said locking means to said first position.

5. A paper towel holder as in claim 3, in which the spring is a coil spring and the tension on said spring is varied by rotating said cap on said bar, thereby to adjust the pressure on the roll of towels.

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