May 20, 1941. S. H. HAMMAR 2,242,609

ADJUSTABLE CLOTHESLINE PROP

Filed Nov. 3, 1939

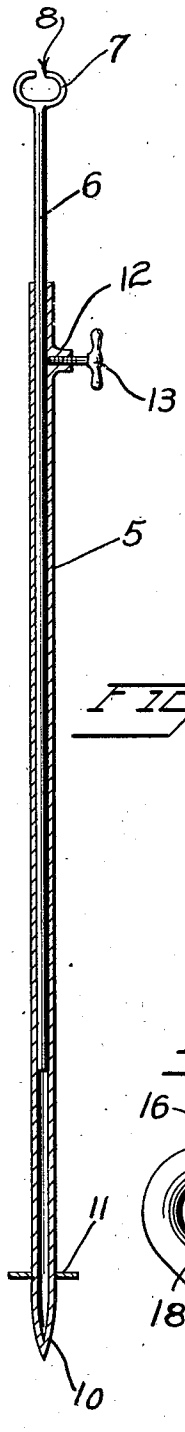


FIG. 2

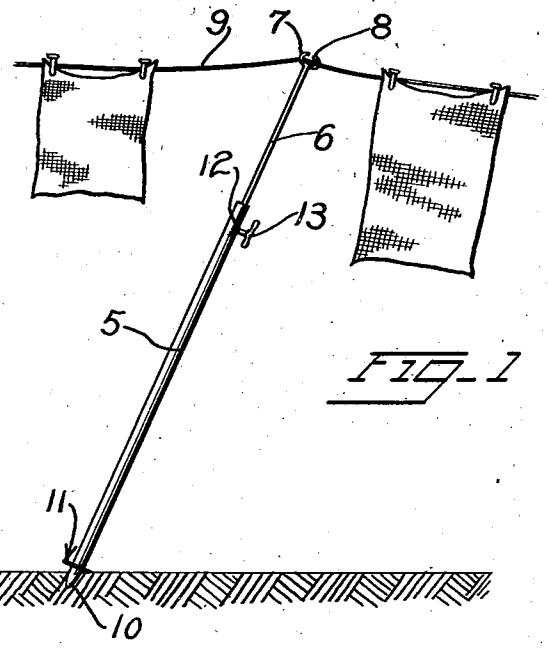


FIG. 1

FIG. 3

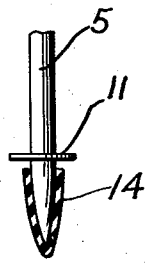
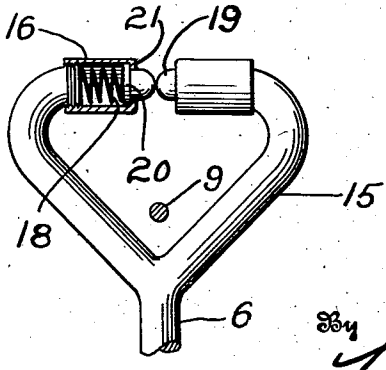


FIG. 4



Inventor
Samuel H. Hammar

By Lacey & Lacey Attorneys

Patented May 20, 1941

2,242,609

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,242,609

ADJUSTABLE CLOTHESLINE PROP

Samuel H. Hammar, Stambaugh, Mich.

Application November 3, 1939, Serial No. 302,756

2 Claims. (Cl. 248—353)

This invention relates to clothes line props and has for its object to provide a comparatively simple and inexpensive device of this character which may be quickly adjusted to raise or lower a clothes line and which will effectually prevent sagging of the line while the clothes thereon are drying.

A further object of the invention is to provide an adjustable prop comprising telescopic members, one of which is provided with means for engagement with a clothes line and the other with a piercing point that contacts with the ground or other support, means being provided for clamping said members in any selected position of vertical adjustment.

A further object is to form the line-engaging member of the prop with inwardly extending fingers, the ends of which are spaced apart to receive a clothes line whereby to prevent accidental displacement of the prop after being positioned on said clothes line.

A still further object of the invention is generally to improve this class of devices so as to increase their utility, durability and efficiency as well as to reduce the cost of manufacture.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and in which similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an adjustable clothes prop constructed in accordance with the present invention and showing the same positioned on a clothes line,

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view, partly in elevation,

Figure 3 is a detail side elevation, partly in section, showing a rubber cap fitted to the lower end of the clothes prop, and

Figure 4 is a side elevation, partly in section, illustrating a modified form of the invention.

The improved adjustable prop forming the subject-matter of the present invention comprises telescopic members 5 and 6, the outer member 5 being in the form of a metal tube of the desired length and the inner member 6 in the form of a solid rod slidably mounted within the tube 5. The upper or free end of the rod 6 is bifurcated to form coacting inwardly extending fingers 7, the inner ends of which are spaced apart at 8 to receive a clothes line, indicated at 9, thereby to prevent accidental displacement of the prop after it has been properly positioned on the clothes line. The lower end of the outer member or tube 5 is closed and terminates in a piercing point 10 adapted to enter the ground immediately beneath the clothes line 7 so that the upper end of the prop engages the line and the lower end thereof is anchored in the ground. Spaced inwardly from the piercing point 10 is an annular stop flange 11 preferably formed integral with the tube 5 and which by contact with the ground not only serves to limit the depth of penetration of the pointed end of the tube but also assists in anchoring the ground-engaging end of the prop.

Spaced inwardly from the upper end of the tube 5 is a laterally extending boss 12 having a threaded opening formed therein for the reception of a correspondingly threaded clamping screw 13 which serves to lock the telescopic members 5 and 6 in any selected position of vertical adjustment.

In operation, the fingers 7 are positioned over the clothes line 9 and the latter elevated to the desired position by adjusting the rod 6 vertically within the tube 5, after which the parts are securely clamped in adjusted position by tightening the screw 13. In order to lower the line 9, it is merely necessary to loosen the screw 13 when the weight of the inner member or rod 6 will cause the same to slide by gravity within the outer member or tube 5 carrying with it the clothes line 9 so as to enable the clothes to be readily detached therefrom. When the clothes prop is not in use, the inner member 6 is pressed downwardly within the outer member 5 until the fingers 7 bear against the upper end of the member 5 and in which position it is securely held by tightening the screw 13, as will be readily understood.

When the adjustable prop is used indoors, I provide a rubber tip or cap 14 which fits over the pointed end of the outer member 5, as best shown in Figure 3 of the drawing, and serves to prevent slipping on concrete or scratching or otherwise marring the surface of a floor.

In Figure 4 of the drawing, there is illustrated a modified form of the invention, in which the inner ends of the fingers 15 are exteriorly threaded at 16 for engagement with correspondingly threaded sleeves 17, the inner ends of which are spaced apart, as shown. Fitted within the sleeves 17 are coiled springs 18 which bear against contact members or buttons 19 so as to yieldably hold said contact members in engagement with each other. The contact members or buttons 19 are provided with stop flanges 20 which engage the inturned ends 21 of the sleeves 17 and prevent displacement of the buttons, as shown. In using this form of the device, the bifurcated end of the rod is pressed upwardly against the

clothes line, thereby retracting the buttons 21 against the tension of the springs 18 and permitting the clothes line to enter the chamber formed by the fingers 15. In order to remove the prop, it is merely necessary to press the line against the buttons 21 when said buttons will be moved laterally against the tension of the springs 18 and allow the prop to be readily detached from the clothes line.

It will, of course, be understood that the clothes prop may be made in different sizes and shapes and constructed of any suitable material without departing from the spirit of the invention.

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

1. An adjustable clothes prop comprising vertically adjustable inner and outer members, inwardly extending fingers formed on the upper end of the inner member and provided with threaded portions, correspondingly threaded sleeves engaging said threaded portions, contact buttons fitting within the sleeves, coiled springs housed within the sleeves and yieldably engaging the buttons, and means for clamping said members in a selective position of vertical adjustment.

2. An adjustable clothes prop comprising telescopic members, one of which is provided with a laterally extending boss, inwardly extending fingers carried by the upper end of the other member and provided with terminal threaded portions, correspondingly threaded sleeves engaging said threaded portions and provided with inwardly extended lips, buttons having their inner ends provided with flanges engaging said lips and their outer ends formed with semi-spherical heads, springs housed within the sleeves and yieldably engaging the flanges of the buttons for normally holding the semi-spherical heads thereof in contact with each other, and a clamping screw engaging the threads in the boss and bearing against the adjacent member for holding said members in different positions of vertical adjustment.

SAMUEL H. HAMMAR.