United States Patent [19]

Seaman, Jr.

[11] **3,838,838**

[45] **Oct. 1, 1974**

[54] **CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDER**

[76] Inventor: **John A. Seaman, Jr.**, P.O. Box 141, McMinnville, Tenn. 37110

[22] Filed: **Aug. 24, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **391,475**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/44,** 248/188.7

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47g 33/12**

[58] **Field of Search** 248/44, 46, 48, 188.7, 248/188.8, 188.9

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Primary Examiner—William H. Schultz

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Berman, Bishoff & Platt

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A Christmas Tree stand, or holder consisting of an upstanding socket having a plurality of spaced radial sleeves threadedly connected to its bottom end and rods telescopically received in said sleeves and provided at their ends with floor engaging suction cups. Adjustable struts connect the sleeves to the upper portion of the socket. The sleeves have set screws for clamping the rods in outwardly adjusted positions. The struts are provided with turnbuckles for adjusting their length.

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

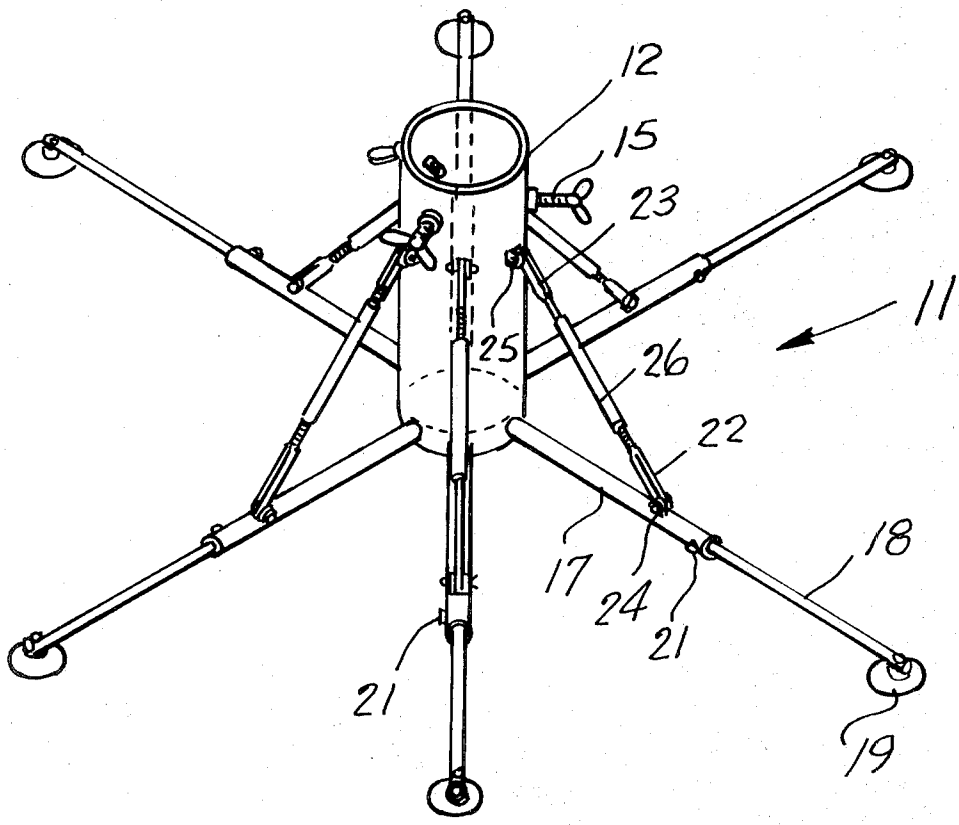
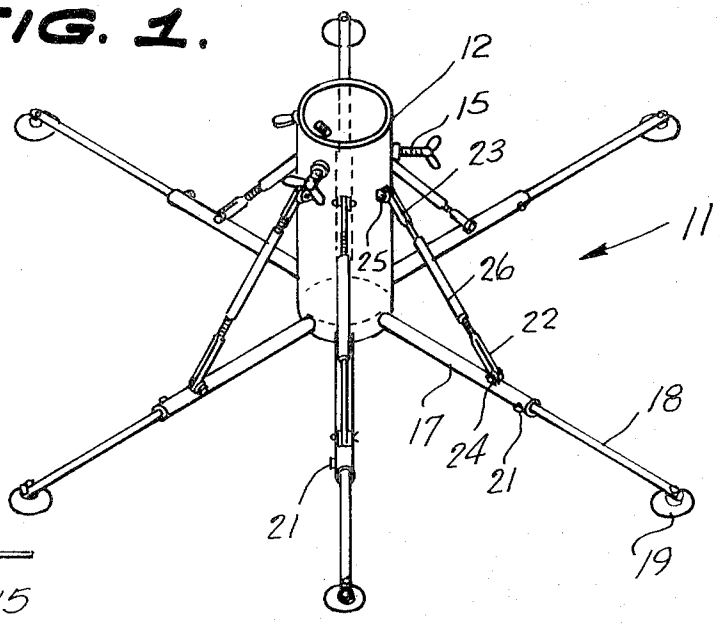


FIG. 1.



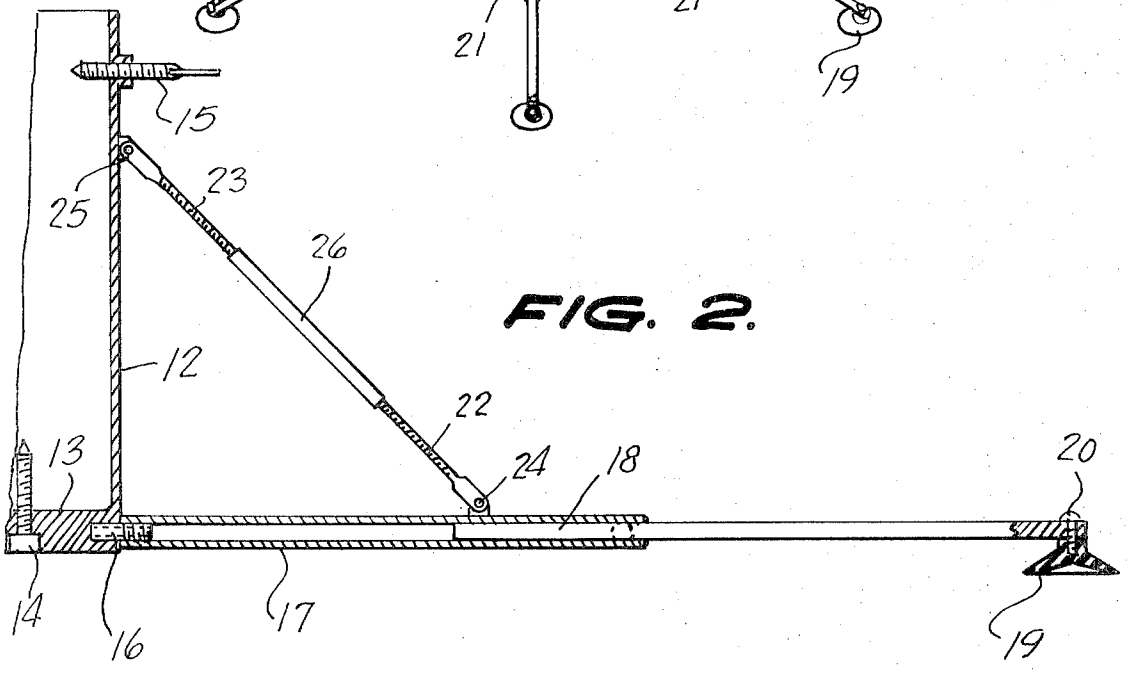
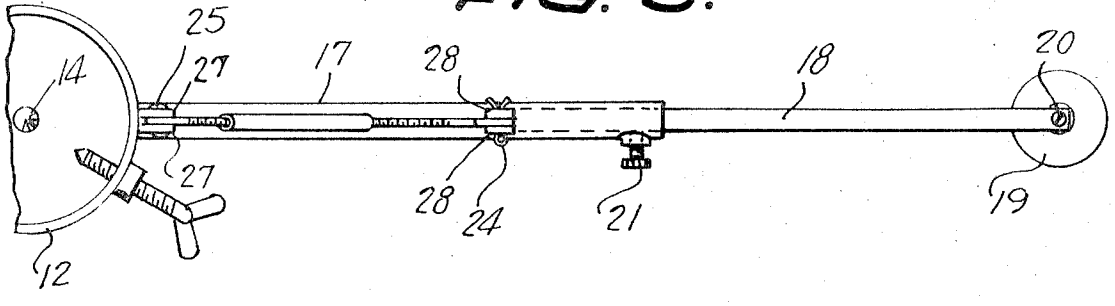


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDER

This invention relates to supporting devices, and more particularly to a Christmas Tree holder, or the like.

A main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved Christmas Tree stand or holder which is simple in construction, which is easy to set up for use, and which is adjustable in size so that it can be employed in a wide randge of locations and in areas where floor space is relatively limited.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved adjustable Christmas Tree holder which involves relatively simple components, which is inexpensive to manufacture, which can be readily taken apart for transportation or storage, and which provides reliable support for a Christmas Tree.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved Christmas Tree holder which is compact in size, which is neat in appearance, which can be used in a wide variety of different locations, and which is provided with means for preventing damage to the floor on which it is placed, as well as for securely gripping the floor to maintain the holder in a stable and firm position.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved Christmas Tree holder which is adjustable so that its socket portion can be accurately placed in a vertical position and can be maintained therein to securely support a Christmas Tree upright and to hold the Christmas Tree against falling, whereby to avoid fire hazards and other possible damage which may be caused by the falling of a Christmas Tree.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an improved Christmas Tree holder constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view taken substantially in a plane containing one of the radial horizontal supporting sleeve elements of the Christmas Tree holder of FIG. 1; FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the structure shown in FIG. 2.

Referring to the drawings, **11** generally designates an improved Christmas Tree holder constructed in accordance with the present invention. The Christmas Tree holder **11** comprises a generally cylindrical socket member **12** adapted to be supported in an upright position, as will be presently described. The socket **12** is provided with the integral circular bottom wall **13** and is centrally apertured to receive a tree-engaging spike **14,** as shown in FIG. **2,** for fastening the bottom end of a Christmas Tree trunk in the holder. The socket member is further provided at its upper portion with at least three equally spaced thumbscrews **15** projecting radially, as shown in FIG. **2,** and being directed inwardly to engage the trunk of a Christmas Tree received in the socket **12** to firmly clamp said trunk in the socket.

Secured in the peripheral portion of the base **13** of the socket **12** and projecting radially therefrom are a plurality of externally threaded studs **16,** which may be in the form of short lengths of tubing having externally threaded outer end portions. At least three such stud elements **16** may be employed, and in the typical embodiment illustrated in the drawings, there are four

equally spaced stud members **16.** The members **16** may be secured in the peripheral portion of the base **13** in any suitable manner, asb by welding, or the like.

Threadedly engaged on the stud elements **16** are respective outwardly extending radial sleeve members **17** in which are telescopically engaged respective rod members **18.** Secured to the outer ends of the rod members **18** and facing downwardly therefrom are respective suction cups **19,** said suction cups being fastened to the ends of the rod members **18** by fastening screw **20,** as is clearly shown in FIG. **2.** The sleeve members **18** are provided at their outer end portions with set screws **21** which are clampingly engageable with the associated rod members **18** to clamp said rod members in adjusted outwardly extending positions. Thus, the rod members **18** may be adjusted to conform with the particular shape of the floor area on which the holder **11** is to be installed, and where a large amount of such floor area is provided, the rod members **18** may be extended to a maximum amount to provide the corresponding maximum amount of floor bearing area for the holder. Where the floor area is relatively constricted, the rod members **18** may be adjusted inwardly to conform with the shape of said floor area.

Respective adjustable strut assemblies connect the outer end portions of the sleeve members **17** to the upper portion of the socket member **12.** Thus, the strut members are provided with turnbuckle means so that they may be adjusted in length to accurately set the socket member **12** in a vertical upstanding position. As shown in the drawings, each strut member comprises respective threaded rod elements **22** and **23** pivotally connected at **24** and **25** to the outer end portion of the associated sleeve member **17** and the upper portion of the socket **12.** The rod members **22** and **23** are oppositely threaded and are threadedly engaged by a turnbuckle sleeve **26,** so that by rotating the sleeve in one direction the strut assembly may be shortened, and by rotating it in the opposite direction the strut assembly may be lengthened.

The pivotal connections at **24** and **25** may be made in any suitable manner, for example, the rod member **23** may be connected to the upper portion of the socket **12** by a conventional rivet **25,** whereas, the rod member **22** may be connected to the outer end portion of the associated sleeve **17** by a cotterpin **24.** The opposite end portions of the rod members **22** and **23** are preferably suitably flattened and are received between respective pairs of lugs **27,27** and **28,28** provided on socket member **12** and the associated sleeve **17,** as shown in FIG. **3.**

In using the holder, the parts are assembled in the manner shown in the drawings, namely, by engaging the sleeves **17** on the studs **16.** The flattened ends of the rod members **22** may then be engaged between the pairs of lugs **28,28** and the cotter pins **24** may then be inserted, the turnbuckle sleeves **26** being adjusted to suitably position socket member **12** in a vertical upright orientation. The rods **18** may then be engaged in the sleeve members **17** and adjusted to their maximum outward positions, in accordance with the amount of floor space available, after which they may be locked in outwardly adjusted position by tightening the set screws **21.** The clamping screws **15** may then be tightened to firmly secure the trunk of the Christmas Tree in the socket **12.**

It will be understood that the socket **12** may first be engaged with the bottom end of the Christmas Tree, the spike **14** being employed to secure the bottom wall **13** of the socket to the bottom end of the Christmas Tree trunk received in the socket **12.** The above-described assembly procedure may then be employed.

The Christmas Tree stand **11** may be disassembled by following a procedure reverse to that above-described. When thus disassembled, the parts may be received in a suitable receptacle, such as a bag, or the like, and may be easily stored until their use is again required.

It will be noted that the suction cups **19** are pressed downwardly to engage the floor and firmly hold the ends of the rods **13** against movement, thereby similarly holding the socket **12** in its intended fixed location. As previously mentioned, the socket member **12** is braced in its upstanding vertical position by means of the adjustable strut assemblies, including the turnbuckle sleeves **26** and the associated oppositely threaded rod elements **22, 23.**

While a specific embodiment of an improved Christmas Tree holder has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A Christmas tree holder or the like, comprising an upstanding tubular socket having a bottom wall and open at the top for receiving the trunk of a Christmas tree, threaded spike means projecting upwardly through said bottom wall, and inwardly extending clamping screw means threadedly engaged through the upper wall portion of the tubular socket for clamping a Christmas tree trunk in the socket, at least three outwardly extending horizontal and radial sleeves of substantial length threadedly secured to and abutting the lower end portion of the tubular wall of the socket in the plane of the bottom wall, and respective rod members telescopically engaged in said radial sleeves in such amanner as to permit adjustment of those portions of said rod members which extend outwardly from the radial sleeves to substantially vary the combined length of said sleeves and said rod members, said radial sleeves and rod members together providing an adjustable floor engaging base structure for preventing said upstanding tubular socket from tilting, and said base structure being disposed at the very bottom of the tubular socket and being horixontally adjustable by reason of the telescopic engagement of said rod members in said sleeves, and respective upwardly and inwardly inclined strut members connecting the outer ends of said radial sleeves to the tubular socket, each strut member including oppositely threaded opposite rod portions pivotally connected respectively to a sleeve and the tubular socket, and a turn buckle sleeve threadedly engaged with the respective opposite rod portions for adjusting the length of the strut member.

2. The Christmas tree holder of claim **1,** wherein each rod member is provided with a downwardly facing floor-engaging suction cup near its outer end.

3. The Christmas tree holder of claim **1,** wherein the lower portion of the socket in the plane of its bottom wall is provided with outwardly projecting stud elements and said sleeves are threadedly engaged on said outwardly projecting stud elements.

4. The Christmas Tree holder of claim **1,** and wherein each sleeve is provided with a set screw clampingly engageable with its associated telescopically received rod member.

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