

1,368,378.

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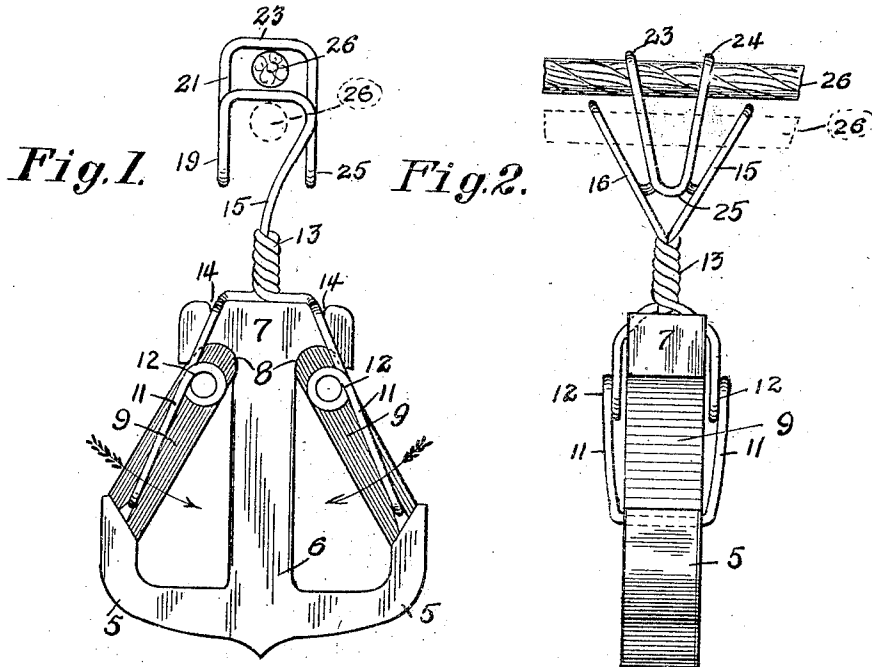


Fig. 3.

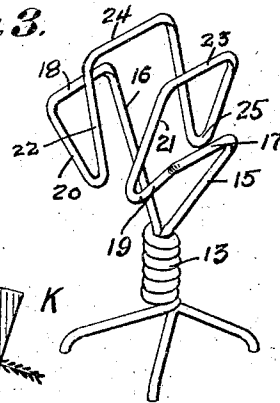
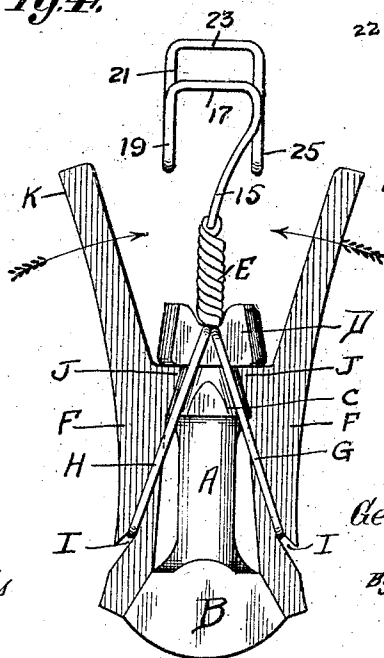


Fig. 4.



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CLOTHESPIN.

1,368,378.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. WALKER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oakland, county of Alameda, State of California, have invented a new and useful Clothespin, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to clothespins and has for its primary object to provide a novel and improved form of clothespin which includes a double or compound anchor grip for the clothes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clothespin which will be far superior to any known devices of this character and at the same time will be cheap to produce, easily manipulated in use and capable of offering a practical solution of the difficulties experienced with devices of this kind.

In the accompanying drawing Figure 1 is a side elevation of the preferred form of the clothespin; Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the same form; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the line hook and Fig. 4 is a side view of a second or modified form.

According to Fig. 1 the flukes (5) of the anchor shaped holder (6) are presented outwardly and upwardly and terminate in beveled faces. The upper end of the holder is constructed with a T-head (7) having under cut notches or arm pits (8). Confined between the beveled faces just mentioned and the notches or arm pits (8) are the movable oblong blocks (9), both of which being made with rounded ends to conform to the notches or arm pits and with their opposite ends beveled to correspond with the slant of the beveled faces on the upturned ends of the flukes. The slanting or beveled ends of the blocks are further provided with longitudinal recesses (10) which are made to receive the looped ends of the wire spring (11) which extends along opposite sides of both blocks and further looped as at (12) to provide a spring tension device. From the loops (12) the wire extends over the T-head (7) where it is tightly twisted as at (13) to exert a pull to the blocks and confine their rounded ends in the notches or arm pits. To prevent displacement of the wire, the T-head is notched as at (14) with the wire confined in the same.

From the above it will be seen the blocks are confined in place by the spring wire and the influence of the wire will normally

tend to pull the slanting ends of the blocks against the beveled faces. Thus in use either one of the blocks may be pushed inwardly away from their normal position to leave an unobstructed opening over the upturned ends of the flukes; when released the blocks will return to normal position under the influence of the spring and catch the material to be hooked to the device. Both blocks operate alike and while the peculiar construction of the device will offer a most convenient clothespin its adaptation is in no way confined to this use, as it also finds expression in a clasp hook or rather a compound clasp hook capable of use in various ways.

So far as concerns the means for suspending the device from a line or other support attention is directed to the hook made from the ends of the spring wire. Instead of cutting the wire after twisting it over the T-head it is first spread apart, then each wire (15) and (16) is bent transversely as at (17) and (18), looped downwardly as at (19) and (20), then presented upwardly as at (21) and (22), and again bent transversely as at (23) and (24) and then again turned downwardly in a V-shaped loop (25). As best shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 2 by constructing the hook in this manner the clothesline (26) may be passed under the V-shaped loop (25) and confined between the parallel transverse bends (17) and (18) and (23) and (24), and thus provide a grip which will prevent sliding of the device along the line. If desirable the hook made by the first two transverse bends (17) and (18) may be used to suspend the device from the line as shown in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2. This latter feature will not however offer the advantages of an anti-slipping suspension means.

The second form shown in Fig. 4 while producing a compound catch, involves a slightly different construction in that in lieu of the anchor shaped holder, a tubular pin A is used having an enlarged end B flat on its two broad sides and with its narrow sides rounded and slanting. The opposite end of the pin begins with a slight increased diameter as at C tapering inwardly and with an enlargement or head D having a transverse groove and two opposite flat sides or faces. A spring wire E is used in this form to clamp the opposed fingers F to the sides of the pin. This wire may be bent at the

top to provide the same suspending means as described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2 and after being twisted over the head D and confined in the groove provided therein terminates in a pair of looped ends G and H. The loops extend downwardly of the fingers and through under cut notches I in the sides thereof. Arranged on the inside of each finger is a shoulder or spur J which is 10 dished out to correspond to the shape of the tapered part C of the pin. These shoulders or spurs J bear against the under sides of the head D and are maintained thereagainst by the spring wire loops G and H. The 15 free ends of the fingers provide manipulating projections K which when squeezed together will open the opposite ends of the fingers against the influence of the spring loops and enable the material to be gripped 20 to be inserted under the clamping ends of the fingers. It might be added that the clamping ends of the fingers are dished out on the inside and also cut on a slant to conform to the shape of the narrow sides of the 25 enlarged end B of the pin against which they bear.

The material from which either form of the device is produced is of little importance but it is suggested that either wood or fiber 30 be used at least where the device is to be used as a clothespin. However for other purposes metal would meet the requirements.

I claim:

35 1. A clothespin including an anchor shaped holder having a T-head at one end and a pair of outwardly and upwardly presented flukes at its opposite end, a pair of blocks arranged on each side of the said 40 holder between said T-head and the said flukes, and a spring device for holding said blocks on the holder with their lower ends

normally bearing against the upwardly presented ends of the flukes under tension.

2. A clothespin including an anchor 45 shaped holder having a T-head at one end and a pair of outwardly and upwardly presented flukes at its opposite end, a pair of blocks arranged on each side of the said holder between said T-head and the said 50 flukes, and a spring device for holding said blocks on the holder with their lower ends normally bearing against the upwardly presented ends of the flukes under tension, said spring device comprising a wire including 55 a pair of loops each of which extending along opposite sides of each block and confined in transverse slots in the bottom of each block, said wire being twisted over the head of the holder and terminating in a 60 suspension hook for the device.

3. A clothespin comprising a pin shaped holder having a flat sided enlargement at one end and a head at its opposite end, a pair of opposed fingers associated with the 65 holder, a spring wire twisted over the head of the holder and including a pair of loops extending along opposite sides of the fingers and through cuts in the sides thereof, shoulders on the fingers adapted to bear against 70 the undersides of the head of the holder under tension of said spring wire and a hook on the said wire for suspending the clothespin from a support.

4. A suspension hook for clothespins and 75 the like comprising two strands of wire bent to form a double hook having parallel transverse bends in different planes, both of the said hooks adapted to cooperate one with the other when a line is engaged by the 80 higher one of the two but the said higher hook being inactive when a line is engaged by the lower hook.

GEORGE W. WALKER.