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I. MELINE

2,604,286

PLATE HANGER

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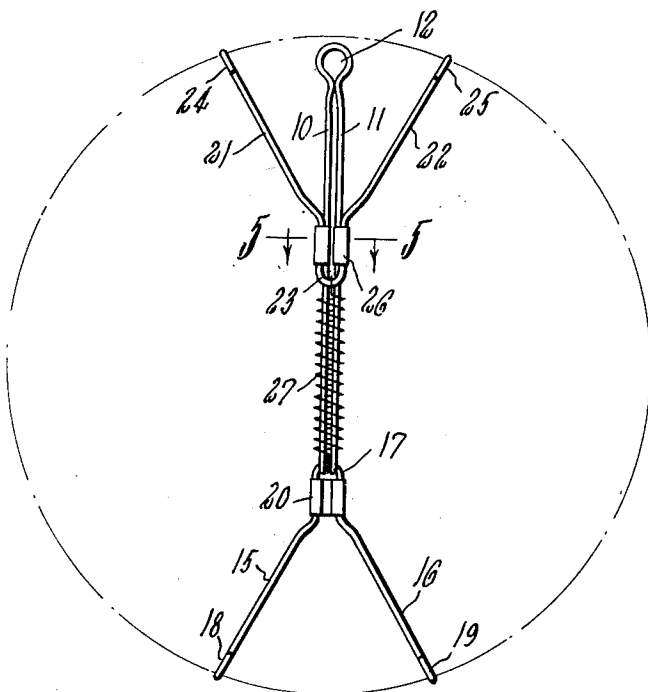


Fig. 1.

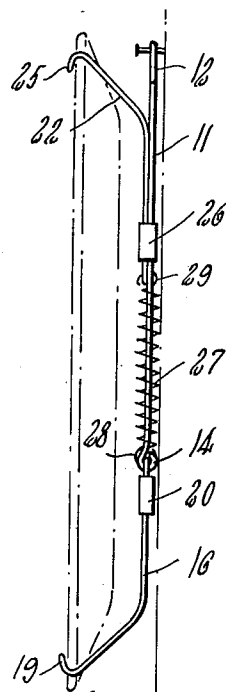


Fig. 2.

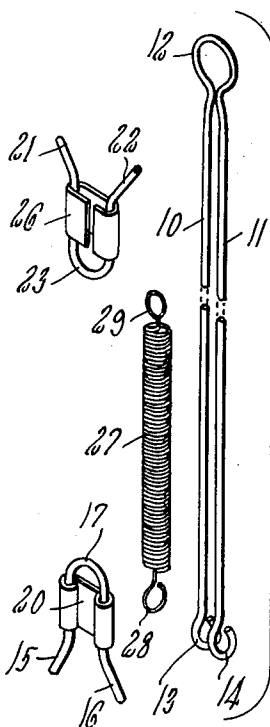


Fig. 4.

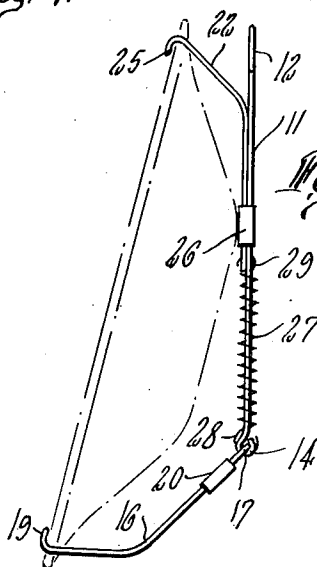


Fig. 3.

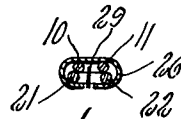


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PLATE HANGER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—31)

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The invention hereinafter described relates to devices for grasping the rim of plates and dishes of various kinds and supporting them in pendent position next to a wall, such as the wall of a room or a china closet or cabinet, or other upright surface. It is entitled "plate hanger" for descriptive purposes. Among the objects of the invention are to provide a hanger for the purpose set forth which can be easily and quickly adjusted to grasp plates and other dishes of a wide range of diameters and also dishes of different depths, such as shallow or deep plates, bowls, etc. Another object is to provide such a construction that the hanger, when grasping a dish and suspended next to a wall, will hold the dish symmetrically, that is, without being canted to either side. Other objects appear from the following detailed description of a plate hanger embodying the principles, and preferred structural features and details of the invention.

In the drawings which accompany this specification,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the plate hanger in the position which it occupies when grasping a shallow plate and hung next to a wall;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the same as seen from the right of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the adaptability of the hanger for accommodating deep dishes;

Fig. 4 is an exploded view of the hanger;

Fig. 5 is a detail cross section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Like reference characters designate the same parts wherever they occur in all the figures.

The hanger is made principally of lengths of wire and straps or clips of sheet metal. The wire used is thick enough to have strength and stiffness adequate for the purpose and is sufficiently non resilient and ductile to permit of being bent by the user's fingers, when necessary, in order to engage its hook elements with the rim of a plate.

The body or central part of the device is made of a piece of wire bent double at mid length so as to provide two parallel legs or rods 10 and 11 with a narrow space between them. The bend is widened to form an eye 12 adapted to be passed over a hook or nail or the like set into a wall, as indicated by Figs. 2 and 3. The extremities of the rods 10 and 11 are curled back on a short radius to form eyes 13 and 14 situated side by side in parallel planes perpendicular to the plane of the rods.

Two lower arms 15 and 16 are formed of another piece of wire bent double at its mid length

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to form a loop 17 with short parallel sides, from which the arms 15 and 16 diverge symmetrically. The extremities of these arms are bent up to form hooks 18 and 19 and the arms are bent forwardly at suitable locations between the loop and the hooks. This pair of arms is connected with the main portion by passing one of the extremities through the parallel eyes 13 and 14 until the loop 17 occupies these eyes, and a clip or strap 20 of sheet metal is placed back of the parallel side elements of loop 17 and curled tightly around these side elements.

The arms 15 and 16 thus are in integral connection with each other and in hinged engagement with the central part of the hanger, whereby they can be set at different inclinations as needed to accommodate plates and dishes of different depths.

Two upper arms 21 and 22, substantially similar to the lower arms, are formed in the same way with a central loop 23 and hooks 24 and 25 at their extremities. A sheet metal strap 26 is placed around the parallel side members of loop 23 so as to embrace both these members and the rods 10 and 11.

The illustrated arrangement of these parts enables the rods 10 and 11 to serve as a track and the strap or clip 26 to serve as a trolley or slide adapted to travel lengthwise on this track and to maintain the upper arms 21 and 22 in guided movable connection with the track.

A helical spring 27 surrounds the track rods between the upper and lower pair of legs. Its lower end is curled to form an eye 28 which surrounds the loop 17 of the lower legs and its upper end has a similar curled eye 29 which surrounds the loop 23 of the upper legs. Both eyes 28 and 29 project into the space between the legs or rods 10 and 11.

In connecting this hanger with a plate, the hooks 18 and 19 of the lower arms are engaged with the rim of the plate below the center and the slide, composed of the strap 26 and upper arms, is moved upward until the hooks 24 and 25 are carried past the upper rim of the plate and enabled to pass over it. Spring 27 then draws the two pairs of legs together and causes their hooks to hold the plate firmly. When the hanger is suspended from a hook or the like against a wall, and a shallow plate, such as that indicated by broken lines in Fig. 1, is grasped by the arms, the plate hangs parallel to the wall. Although the outwardly bent formation of the arms causes the plate to be separated more or less from the wall, yet the construction of the hanger, with

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parallel rods 10 and 11, the strap 26 embracing them, and the loop or eye 24 of the spring located between the rods, causes the plate to be parallel to the wall and prevents the plate from tipping so that its rim at either side is nearer to the wall than the opposite side.

Deep dishes and bowls of considerable depth can be engaged with the hanger by swinging the lower arms forward around the hinge provided by the eyes 13 and 14. The manner of engagement with such a dish is shown in Fig. 3. Then, although the rim of the dish is in an inclined plane, yet the cooperative action of the parts 10, 11, 26 and 29 causes the dish to hang symmetrically with reference to the wall in such a case as well as with shallow dishes.

By "symmetrical" in this connection I mean that both ends of the horizontal diameter of the dish are held at substantially the same distance from the wall against which the hanger is suspended.

For ornamental appearance and relative immunity against corrosion, I prefer to use brass wire of sufficiently heavy gauge for the body and arms of the hanger, resilient brass wire for the spring, and sheet brass for the straps or clips. This, however, is not a critical feature of the invention, for other metals than brass may be used and other materials than metal, when desired. For example, corresponding parts to those described may be made of one or another of the suitable known plastics.

Hangers having the characteristics here described are constructed in different dimensions and proportions for holding plates and dishes

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larger or smaller than the range of adjustability possible with any one size of hanger.

What I claim is:

A plate hanger comprised by a body portion formed of a length of wire bent double to form parallel rods with a suspension eye at the bend and eyes located side by side at the extremities of said rods, a pair of lower arms formed of a length of wire bent in the middle to form a loop with short parallel sides contained within the last named eyes of said parallel rods, a strap embracing said sides, the arms below said strap being divergent from one another and having hooks on their extremities, a pair of upper arms formed of a length of wire bent in mid length to provide a loop with parallel sides, a strap embracing said parallel sides and the side rods of the body portion in sliding engagement with the rods, said upper arms being divergently bent above said straps and having hooks on their extremities, and a helical spring surrounding the body portion between said pairs of arms having eyes at its opposite ends which embrace, respectively, the loop of the lower arms and the loop of the upper arms.

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