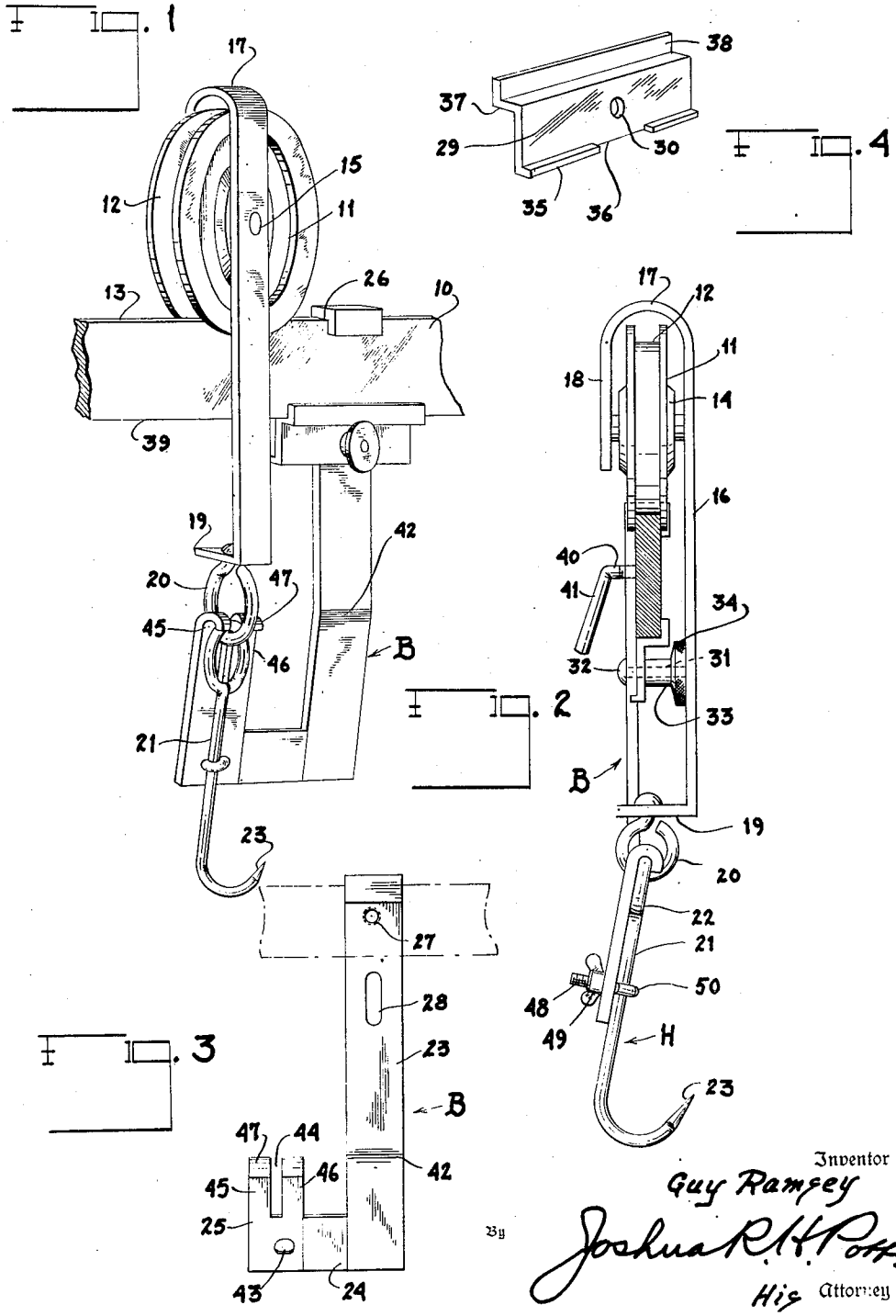
Sept. 4, 1951 G. RAMSEY 2,566,962

HOLDER FOR HOOKS AND TROLLEYS

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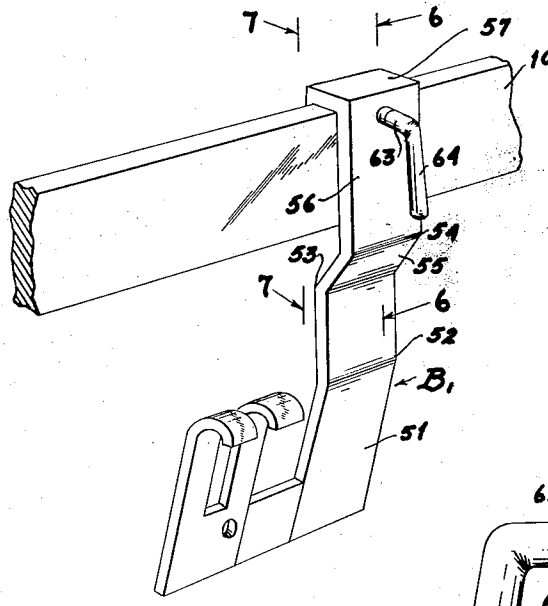


FIG. 5

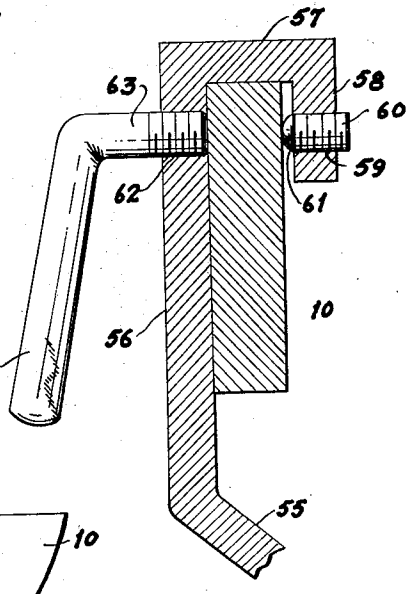


FIG. 6

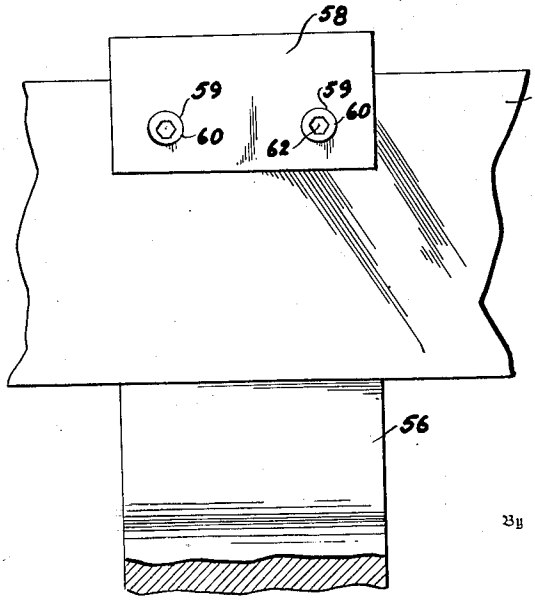


FIG. 7

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HOLDER FOR HOOKS AND TROLLEYS

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11 Claims. (Cl. 105—150)

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The present invention deals with a holder for a hook and trolley and is concerned primarily with a holding device which is adapted to be mounted on a track to hold a trolley and hook suspended therefrom in an immovable position.

At the present time, it is common practice around meat-packing plants, wholesale meat houses, and other places where large pieces of meat are stored and handled to utilize hooks which are suspended from trolleys which move over tracks. Each of these hooks is intended to carry a piece of meat, and it is common practice to embed the point of the hook in the meat by pressing the latter thereagainst.

In places where ample manpower is available, only a small amount of inconvenience is experienced with this arrangement because one man may hold the hook immovable while another man presses the meat thereagainst. It is evident this operation requires the services of more than one man. In places where only a single man is available, serious difficulties and inconveniences are experienced. This is particularly true when large pieces of meat, such as a quarter of beef, is to be placed on a hook. It is just about all that one man can do to lift such a large piece of meat and with nothing to hold the hook immovable, while the meat is being pressed thereagainst, it is just about impossible for a single man to do the job.

With the foregoing conditions in mind, the present invention has in view as its foremost objective, the provision of a holding device that is adapted to be applied to a track of the type indicated, and attached to a hook which is suspended by a trolley riding over the track to hold the hook immovable.

In carrying out this idea in a practical embodiment, a piece of flat metal having a generally L-shape is employed. One end of the long leg of the L carries means for rigidly clamping the same to a track. At the free end of the shorter leg is clamping means for rigidly engaging a hook.

Another somewhat more detailed object of the invention, is to provide in a hook and trolley holder of the character indicated, an overturned flange at the end of the long leg which defines a groove adapted to receive the upper edge of a track. A complemental bracket member is adjustably carried in spaced relation, relative to said overturned flange to provide another groove which receives the lower edge of the track. This bracket is mounted on the holder by a clamping screw which may be tightened to cause the bracket to securely grip the track.

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In using a holder of this type, it is important that the same be readily positioned over the track. Thus, the flanged structure which receives the track ordinarily will fit over the latter with a loose fit.

In view of this condition, a further object is to provide a means for tightening the holder relative to the track to provide a good clamping engagement. This means may take the form of a screw which is threaded through an opening in the holder immediately back of the track and the free end of which engages the track to force the latter against the flanges aforesaid.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in a holding device of the type noted, gripping means for engaging a hook and holding the latter rigidly in position. This means takes the form of a shank which passes through an opening at the end of the short leg of the holder. One end of this shank is formed as a hook which engages the main hook aforesaid, while the other end is threaded and carries a wing nut which may be tightened to cause the hook on the other end to firmly urge the meat hook against the holder.

A meat hook of the type with which this invention is concerned ordinarily comprises a long shank having a bill at its lower end and an eye at its upper end from which it is suspended. Thus, due to the tendency of the center of gravity of the hook to assume the lowermost position, the shank ordinarily assumes a position inclined with respect to the vertical.

Thus, a further object of the invention, is the provision of a hook and trolley holder of the type indicated, which is designed to accommodate this inclination of the meat hook. This end is accomplished by forming the long leg of the holder with a bend intermediate the ends thereof, which causes the lower portion to extend at an angle with respect to the vertical.

Various other more detailed objects and advantages of the invention such as arise in connection with carrying out the above noted ideas in a practical embodiment will, in part become apparent, and in part be hereinafter stated as the description of the invention proceeds.

The invention, therefore, comprises a hook and trolley holder which consists of an L-shaped piece of metal having means at the free end of the long leg for clamping the same to a track and means at the free end of the short leg for grippingly engaging a hook that is suspended from a trolley on said track.

For a full and more complete understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the fol-

lowing description and accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a track with a trolley thereon, and a hook suspended from the trolley held in position by the holder of this invention.

Figure 2 is a view in end elevation of the trolley, hook, and holder with the track shown in section.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the holder per se.

Figure 4 is a detailed perspective of the bracket which engages the track.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a modified arrangement of attaching the support to the track.

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical section taken about on the plane represented by the line 6—6 of Figure 5; and

Figure 7 is a vertical section taken normal to the showing of Figure 6 and about on the plane represented by the line 7—7 of Figure 5.

Referring now to the drawing wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts and first more particularly to Figure 1, a track is therein illustrated and identified by the reference character 10. It will be understood that the track 10 will be appropriately mounted in a place such as a meat storage house, wherein it will extend into a refrigerator. The particular structure which supports the track 10 is not a part of the present invention.

Movable over the track 10 is a trolley 11 having the usual groove 12 which receives the top edge of the track 10 that is designated 13.

It will be further understood that ordinarily, a plurality of the trolleys 11 will be mounted on a single track 10 and that only one is illustrated herein for the purpose of explaining the present invention.

The trolley 11 has a hub at 14 in which is journalled a shaft 15. A hanger 16 takes the form of a long strap or bar of metal having its upper end turned over to provide a bend portion at 17 which is spaced above the trolley 11 and an end portion 18 that is spaced from the main part of the hanger 16. The shaft 15 extends between this end portion 18 of the hanger and the main body portion 16 as is clearly shown in Figure 2. Thus, the hanger 16 is supported from the trolley 11.

The lower end of the hanger 16 is turned back to provide an end flange at 19 to which is secured an eye or loop 20.

A meat hook is referred to in its entirety by the reference character H and comprises a shank 21 which is formed at its lower end with a bill 23 and its upper end with an eye 22 that is linked in with the eye 20, that is, the eyes 20 and 22 are interlocked in the manner of a chain.

It is evident that under normal conditions, the hook H will be suspended in the angular position illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. This means that the shank 21 is inclined with respect to the vertical.

A holding device, such as provided by this invention, is referred to in its entirety by the reference character B. The holder B is preferably made from fairly heavy sheet metal and is of the L-shaped form illustrated, providing a long leg 23 and a short leg 24, the free end of which is formed with an upward extension 25. The holder is preferably a fabricated structure with the several elements joined by welding.

Referring now more particularly to Figures 1 and 3, it will be seen that the upper end of the leg 23 is turned first outwardly and then downwardly to provide a groove at 26 which receives the top edge 13 of the track 10.

Just beneath this overturned structure, the leg 23 is formed with a threaded opening 27 for a purpose to be later described. With the groove 26 receiving the top edge 13 of the track 10 so that the two are in the relative positions illustrated in Figure 3, the leg 23 is formed with a slot at 28. A bracket which is shown in detail in Figure 4 and which is designated 29 is formed with an opening 30 which aligns with the slot 28. A headed bolt 31 passes through the slot 28 and opening 30. As shown in Figure 2, this bolt 31 has a head 32 which engages the rear face of the leg 23. The shank of the bolt 31 is threaded and carries a lock nut 33 which is formed with a knurled flange 34 to facilitate its tightening by manual operation. Thus, the nut 33 may be tightened to clamp the bracket 29 against the leg 23 of the holder B.

The lower edge of the bracket 29 carries a flange 35 which is formed with a gap at 36 which receives the leg 23. The upper edge has an outwardly extending flange at 37 which terminates in an upturned flange 38. The flanges 37 and 38 cooperate with the leg 23 to provide a groove which receives the lower edge of the track 10, such as represented at 39. A clamping screw 40 is threaded in the opening 27 and its outer end carries a handle 41 which may be availed of to rotate this screw. This clamping screw 40 may be tightened to clamp the track 10 between the leg 23 on one side and the flanges at the groove 26 and 38 on the other.

Intermediate its ends, the leg 23 is formed with a bend represented at 42 to provide a lower portion which takes the same angle of inclination as that assumed by the shank 21 of the hook H.

The end of the short leg 24 is formed with an opening as represented at 43. The upward extension 25 is formed with a slot 44 to provide a bifurcation presenting arms 45 and 46, each of which is formed with a turned-over end at 47 which is adapted to snugly fit over and engage the eye 22 of the hook H. In this position, the slot 44 accommodates the eye 20.

A clamping screw 48 has one end threaded with the threaded portion receiving a wing nut 49. This screw is positioned in the opening 43 with the wing nut located on the rear face of the leg 24. The forward end of this clamping screw 48 is formed with a hook retainer 50 which fits over the shank 21 of the hook H.

Operation

Ordinarily, the trolley 11 with the hook H suspended therefrom by a hanger 16 is permitted to ride freely over the track 10. When it is desired to hold the hook and trolley immovable, so that a piece of meat may be pressed against the bill 23 of the hook, the holder B is placed in the position shown in Figures 1 and 2.

As the holder B is first positioned over the track, there will be a fairly loose fit of the groove 26 relative to the top edge 13 and the flange 38 relative to the bottom edge 39. However, this looseness is readily taken up by tightening either or both of the lock nut 33 and clamping screw 40.

The hook H is positioned so that the eye 22 is grippingly engaged at the top by the turned-over flanges of the arms 45 and 46. In this position, the eye 20 is received in the slot 44. The hook

retainer 50 is placed over the shank 21 of the hook H and wing nut 44 tightened to securely clamp the shank against the outer end of the leg 24. It is evident that in this position the hook H is held immovable so that a piece of meat may be applied to the bill 23.

It is evident that after the bill of the hook has been embedded in the piece of meat, the holder B may be removed by loosening the wing nut 40 so as to permit withdrawal of the shank 21 of the retainer 50 and either or both of the lock nut 33 and clamping screw 40 loosened to break the connection between the upper end of the leg 23 and track 10.

The modification

It will be recognized that as the meat is pushed onto the hook from the front the pressure or force that is effective on the holder is toward the rear. It is therefore believed that certain advantages may be derived from an arrangement in which the long leg of the holder overlies the front face of the track rather than the rear face.

Referring now more particularly to Figures 5, 6 and 7 a modified form of the invention which is based on this principle will be described. The holder is identified in its entirety by the reference character B' and is of the usual L-shaped construction presenting a long leg and a short leg with an upward extension. The only difference between the holders B and B' is at the free end of the long leg where the anchorage to the track 10 is established.

The long leg of B' is designated 51. Between the ends thereof the leg 51 is formed with a bend 52 corresponding to the bend 42 in the holder B. Above the bend 52 are the opposed bends 53 and 54 which define an inclined part 55 from which extends upwardly a track engaging portion 56.

The latter engages the front face of the track 10 and is bent over to provide a top wall 57. Depending from the top wall 57 is a rear flange 58.

Formed in the flange 58 are a pair of spaced threaded openings 59. Screwed into each opening 59 is an Allen set screw 60 having a rounded nose 61 at one end and a hexagonal recess 62 at the other end. These set screws 60 may be adjusted to accommodate a track 10 of any thickness within the range in which these tracks are ordinarily made. The distance between the noses 61 and the track engaging portion 56 should be adjusted to snugly receive the track 10.

Formed in the track engaging portion 56 is a threaded opening 62 and screwed thereinto is a clamping screw 63 the inner end of which is adapted to engage the track 10 under pressure to force the latter against the set screw 60, thus establishing a firm clamping engagement between the free end of the leg 51 and the track 10.

The clamping screw 63 may be provided with an operating member as shown at 64.

While preferred specific embodiments of the invention are hereinbefore set forth, it is to be clearly understood that the invention is not to be limited to the exact mechanisms and devices illustrated and described because various modifications of these details may be provided in putting the invention into practice within the purview of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a track, a trolley movably supported on said track, a hook suspended from said trolley, an L-shaped holder having two legs, means on the end of one leg for clampingly engaging said track, and mechanism on the end of the other leg for clampingly engaging said hook.

2. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, a hook suspended from said hanger, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg, means at the free end of said long leg for clampingly engaging said track, and mechanism at the free end of said short leg for clampingly engaging said hook.

3. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, an eye at the lower end of said hanger, a hook consisting of a shank with an eye at one end interlocked with the eye on said hanger and a bill at the other end, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg with an extension at the free end thereof extending normal thereto, means at the free end of said long leg for clampingly engaging said track, said extension being formed with a slot receiving the eye on said hanger, a turned-over flange on said extension engaging the eye on said shank, and mechanism for clamping said shank to said short leg.

4. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, an eye at the lower end of said hanger, a hook consisting of a shank with an eye at one end interlocked with the eye on said hanger and a bill at the other end, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg with an extension at the free end thereof extending normal thereto, a turned-over flange on the free end of said long leg and fitting over the upper edge of said track, a flanged bracket engaging the lower end of said track, screw means for adjustably mounting said bracket on said long leg, said extension being formed with a slot receiving the eye on said hanger, a turned-over flange on said extension engaging the eye on said shank, and mechanism for clamping said shank to said short leg.

5. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, an eye at the lower end of said hanger, a hook consisting of a shank with an eye at one end interlocked with the eye on said hanger and a bill at the other end, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg with an extension at the free end thereof extending normal thereto, means at the free end of said long leg for clampingly engaging said track, said extension being formed with a slot receiving the eye on said hanger, a turned-over flange on said extension engaging the eye on said shank, a clamping screw carried by said short leg and having a hook retainer engaging said shank, and a wing nut on said clamping screw and operable to cause said retainer to clamp said shank against said short leg.

6. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, an eye at the lower end of said hanger, a hook consisting of a shank with an eye at one end interlocked with the eye on said hanger and a bill at the other end, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg with an extension at the free end thereof extending normal thereto, flanged elements carried by said long leg and engaging said track, a clamping screw threadedly mounted in said long leg and having a nose at one end engaging said track and an operating member at the other end, said extension being formed

with a slot receiving the eye on said hanger, a turned-over flange on said extension engaging the eye on said shank, and mechanism for clamping said shank to said short leg.

7. A hook and trolley holder of the character described comprising, in combination, an L-shaped holder presenting two legs, clamping means on one leg for engaging a track, and clamping mechanism on the other leg for grippingly engaging a hook that is supported from said track.

8. A hook and trolley holder of the character described comprising, in combination, an L-shaped holder presenting a long leg and a short leg, said long leg having a bend therein defining two parts in angular relation, clamping means on the long leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to engage a track, and clamping mechanism on the short leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to grippingly engage a hook supported from said track.

9. A hook and trolley holder of the character described comprising, in combination, an L-shaped holder presenting a long leg and a short leg with a slotted extension on the free end of said short leg and which extension is substantially parallel to said long leg, said long leg having a bend therein defining two parts in angular relation, clamping means on the long leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to engage a track, clamping mechanism on the short leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to grippingly engage a hook supported from said track, and flanges on the free end of said extension adapted to engage an eye on said hook.

10. In combination, a track having an upper edge, a trolley movably supported on said upper

edge, a hanger carried by said trolley, a hook suspended from said hanger, an L-shaped holder having a long leg and a short leg, means at the free end of said long leg for clampingly engaging said track, said means comprising a track engaging portion of said holder offset from the main body portion thereof and engaging the front face of said track together with a flange structure at the free end providing a groove receiving the upper edge of said track, and mechanism at the free end of said short leg for clampingly engaging said hook.

11. A hook and trolley holder of the character described comprising, in combination, an L-shaped holder presenting a long leg and a short leg, said long leg having a bend therein defining two parts in angular relation, clamping means on the long leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to engage a track, said means comprising a track engaging portion adapted to overlie the front face of a track and having structure at the end thereof providing a groove for receiving the upper edge of track, and clamping mechanism on the short leg adjacent to the free end thereof and adapted to grippingly engage a hook supported from said track.

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