June 23, 1936. F. M. NEEDHAM 2,045,484

PROP

Filed Jan. 28, 1935

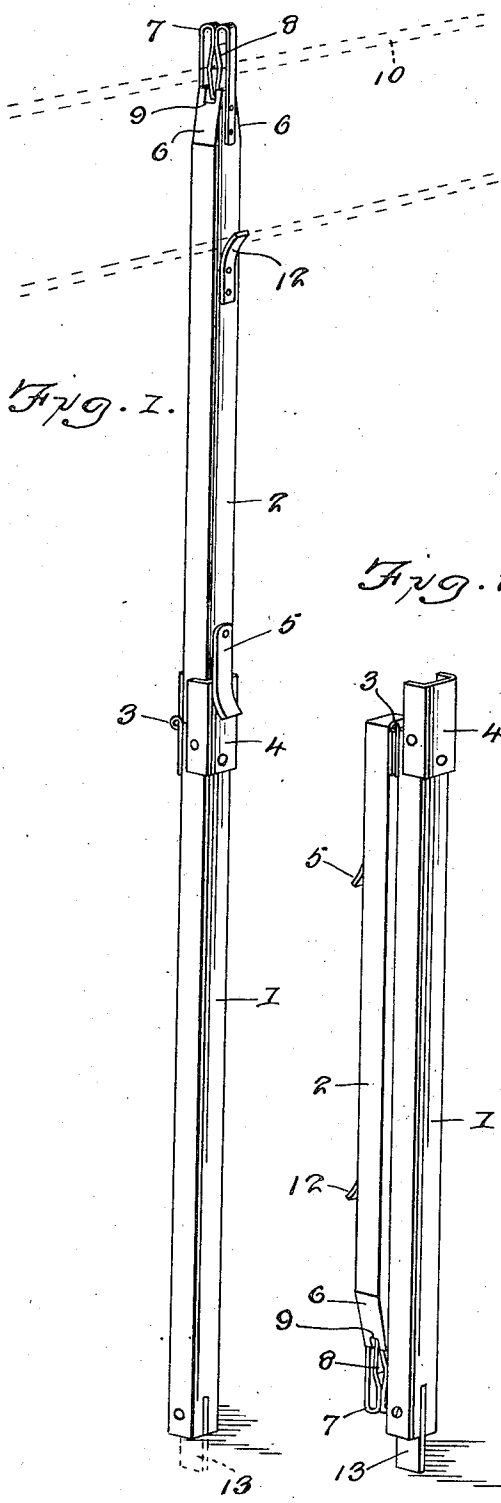


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

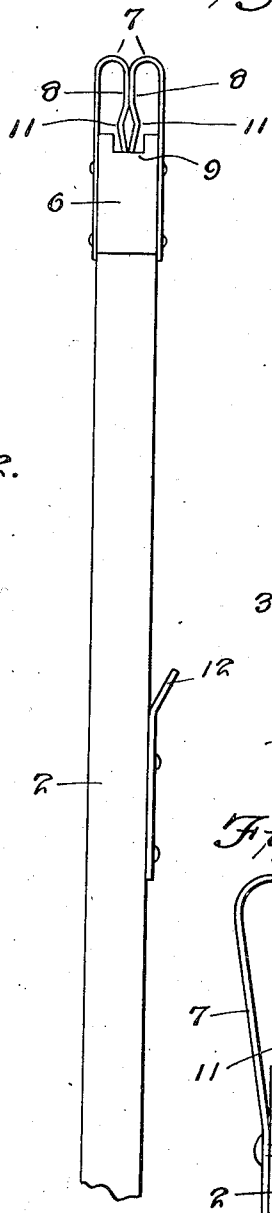


Fig. 3.

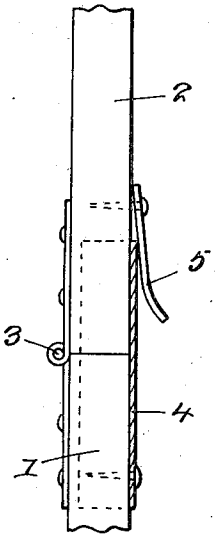


Fig. 4.

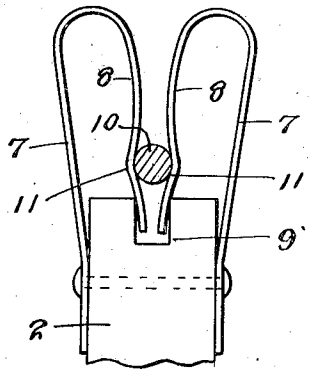


Fig. 5.

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PROP

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Application January 28, 1935, Serial No. 3,862

1 Claim. (Cl. 248—353)

This invention relates to supports and has special reference to clothes line props, the object being to provide a prop which may be folded into compact form when not in use and which, when in use, will be rigid and will firmly engage and hold the line. The annexed drawing illustrates one embodiment of the invention which consists in certain novel features hereinafter fully set forth and defined.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the prop as it appears in use.

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the prop folded for storage or transportation.

Figure 3 is a side view of the upper end portion of the prop.

Figure 4 is a view of the jointed portion of the prop, partly in section.

Figure 5 is an enlarged elevation of the upper end of the prop.

The prop comprises two bars 1, 2, of wood or other suitable material having the same cross-sectional contour and area whereby, when they are arranged in alinement, their corresponding surfaces will be flush. The bars or prop sections are joined at their meeting ends by a hinge 3 whereby they may be extended in alinement for use, as in Figure 1, or may be disposed side by side, as in Figure 2, so as to occupy a small space when the prop is to be stored or shipped. At the upper end of the section or bar 1 is rigidly secured a bracket or clip 4 fitting around three sides of the member and extending beyond the same to engage around the lower end of the upper section and hold the sections rigidly in alinement. To maintain the firmness of the joint and avoid accidental breaking or opening thereof, a latch 5 is pivoted on the upper bar or section in position to extend over the bracket or clip 4, as shown in Figures 1 and 4, and thereby prevent the sections swinging out of alinement.

The upper end of the upper section or bar 2 has two converging faces, as shown at 6, and upon the intervening faces I secure line-grippers 7 consisting of resilient strips of metal extending beyond the end of the bar and doubled on themselves to define mating jaws 8 having their free ends disposed within and restrained from excessive movement by a notch 9 in the extremity of the bar. It will be readily noted that the upper bends of the grippers present converging surfaces so that they may be engaged with the line 10 by merely pushing them upward against the line. It will also be noted that the jaws are formed with recesses 11 to fit around the line so that the line will be firmly held when engaged but may be released by merely pulling the prop downward. On one side of the upper section is secured a clip 12 to engage and hold the return run of an endless or looped line.

The lower end of the lower bar is to rest on the ground when the prop is in use, and it is equipped with a foot or anchoring plate 13 which may enter the ground to prevent slipping.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, it will be seen that I have provided a very simple inexpensive prop which will firmly support a clothes line when in use and may be folded into very compact form when it is not in use.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

A prop for clothes lines comprising a bar having two converging faces, clothes line grippers on the two intervening faces comprising resilient strips of metal extending beyond the end of the bar and doubled upon themselves to define mating jaws having their ends free, there being a notch in the end of the bar receiving the ends of the jaws whereby excessive movement of the jaws is prevented by contact of the free ends of the jaws with the walls of the notch, the jaws presenting converging surfaces whereby they may be engaged with the line by pushing them upward against the line, the jaws being provided with recesses to fit around the line so that the line will be firmly held when engaged but may be released by pulling the prop downward.

FRANCIS M. NEEDHAM.