

J. L. DAVIDSON.
 FLY CATCHER.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 18, 1910.

979,443.

Patented Dec. 27, 1910.

Fig. 1.

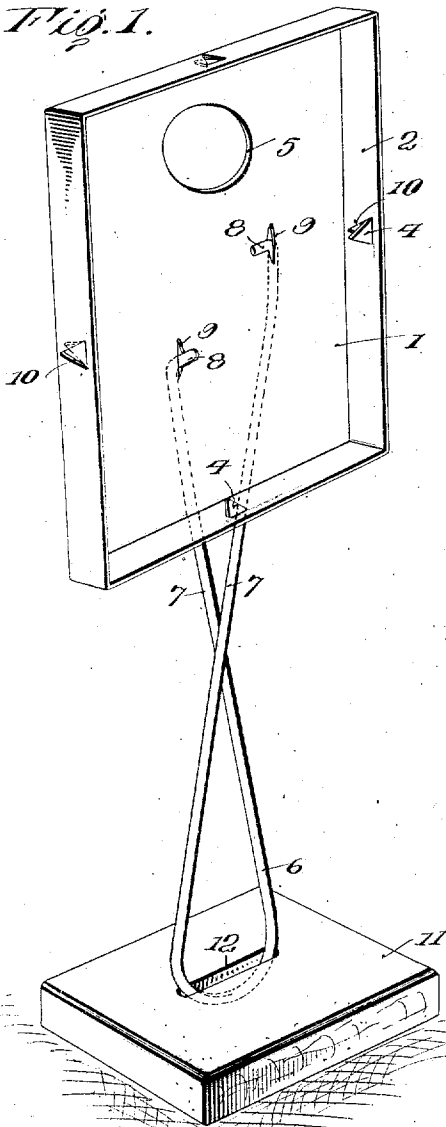


Fig. 2.

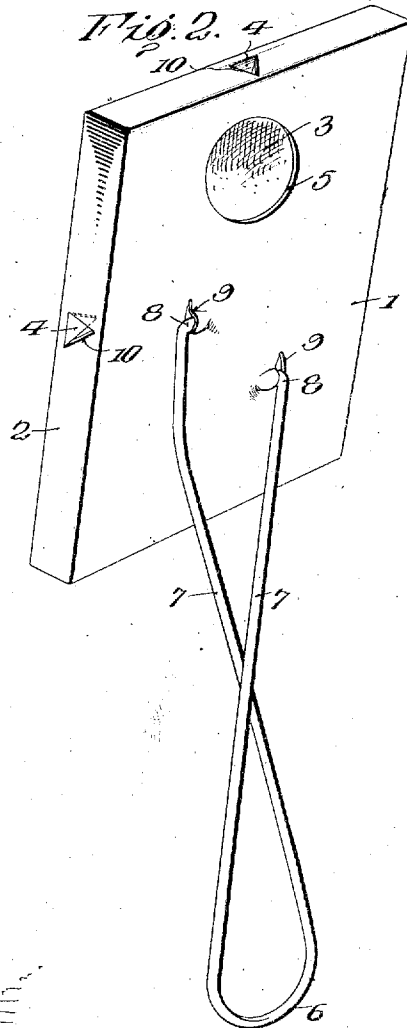
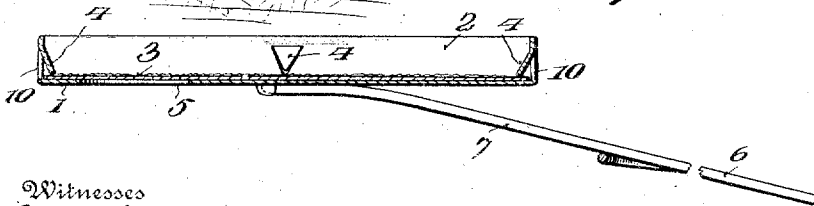


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FLY-CATCHER.

979,443.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. DAVIDSON, citizen of the United States, residing at Barnet, in the county of Caledonia and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fly-Catchers, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention comprehends certain new and useful improvements in fly catchers, and the invention has for its object an improved device of this character including a tray which holds a sheet of sticky paper, and a handle which is secured to the tray to permit the same to be conveniently moved about to cause the flies to be caught on the sticky paper, the tray having an upstanding rim to prevent the sticky paper from coming into contact with a wall or like object against which the device is placed in operation.

Another object of the invention is a tray of this character having lugs projecting inwardly from its rim and engaging over the sheet of sticky paper to retain the same firmly against the bottom of the tray, the lugs being preferably struck from the rim, whereby to provide outlet openings therein to prevent the formation of an air cushion within the tray during the movement of the device.

A further object of the invention is a tray which is formed in its bottom with an opening through which the finger may be inserted to press the sheet of sticky paper away from the bottom of the tray and out of engagement with the lugs, whereby to be conveniently detached from the tray to be replaced by a new sheet.

A still further object of the invention is a fly catcher having a wire handle which is separate from the tray and is detachably connected thereto in a particularly efficient manner.

With these and other objects in view as will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, arrangements and combinations of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the fly catcher showing the same supported

by the block; Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view; and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

My improved fly catcher consists, essentially, of a tray that serves as a fly paper holder. The tray has a bottom or base-plate 1 which is substantially flat, although not necessarily so, the bottom being of any suitable size or shape and being shown in the present instance as of rectangular form. The bottom is provided at all of its edges with an upturned rim 2. The entire tray is preferably formed from a single piece of suitable sheet metal, the edge portions of which are bent upwardly to form the rim.

A sheet of sticky paper 3 fits snugly within the rim and lies flat against the bottom with its adhesive side exposed. In order to maintain the paper in place, a plurality of lugs 4 project inwardly from the rim at suitable intervals and are arranged in spaced relation to the bottom of the tray so as to engage over the edge portions of the sheet of paper, as shown. The sheet of paper extends across and closes a relatively large opening 5 that is formed in the bottom of the tray. The purpose of this opening is to permit the finger to be inserted therethrough to press the sheet of paper away from the bottom 1 and out of engagement with the inwardly projecting lugs 4. A material advantage is attained with this arrangement inasmuch as the sheet of paper is rendered susceptible of being expeditiously removed from the tray to be replaced by a new sheet when occasion requires. It will be obvious that the removal of the sheet of paper may be effected without the finger of the operator coming into contact with the adhesive surface.

The tray may be moved about by means of a handle 6 which is preferably formed of a single length of stout wire that is doubled upon itself at an intermediate point to form spring arms 7. The arms are crossed intermediate of their ends and have inwardly bent extremities 8 that are held by the spring action of the arms, in engagement with transversely spaced apertures 9 extending through the bottom 1. Inasmuch as the arms are crossed, there is a tendency for the free ends thereof to spring together, and

this, of course, insures the bent extremities 9 being firmly retained at all times in engagement with the apertures, although admitting of the handle being readily detached 5 from the tray by merely pressing the arms apart. One of the spring arms is somewhat longer than the other and the apertures 9 are spaced apart in the direction of the length of the handle in order to compensate 10 for this difference in the length of the arms. By virtue of this construction, the handle is held against turning movement about the bent extremities 9 as pivots and is maintained rigidly in oblique relation to the 15 plane of the bottom of the tray, the handle projecting considerably beyond one end of the tray so as to be conveniently grasped when using the device.

In practice, the catcher may be moved 20 rapidly about to cause the flies to strike against and be retained by the adhesive surface of the sheet of paper 3. The tray may also be placed over a fly or flies which have lighted on a wall or like flat object, the flies 25 being caught by the sticky paper as they attempt to escape. In this instance the upstanding rim 2 prevents the adhesive surface of the paper from coming into contact with the wall.

Attention is particularly directed to the fact that the lugs 4 are struck from the metal forming the rim. Outlet openings 10 are thus provided in the rim and permit the air to escape from the tray as the device is 30 moved about, so as not to hinder such movement. The free passage of air through the tray avoids the formation of an air cushion as would possibly permit the insects to escape.

From the foregoing description in connection with the accompanying drawing, it will be apparent that I have provided an improved fly catcher which is quite efficient in operation, which is not likely to get out of order, and which possesses to a marked 45 degree the characteristics of simplicity, durability and strength. The device consists of comparatively few parts that are capable of being easily and cheaply manufactured so as to permit the invention to be placed on 50 the market at a price not too great to prevent its general adoption.

It is to be understood that the device may be made in various sizes, it being contem-

plated to equip the larger sizes with long 55 handles to permit their use in capturing flies on the ceilings of rooms.

Where it is not desired to move the device about to catch the flies, the same may be supported in a stationary position in any 60 suitable manner, as by means of a block 11 that is adapted to rest upon a table or like support and is formed with a slot 12 into which the returned end of the handle may be fitted frictionally, as illustrated in Fig. 1. 65

The handle may be disposed at a greater angle to the tray than in Figs. 1 and 2, as for instance, as illustrated in Fig. 3.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is: 70

1. A fly catcher including a plate, a marginal rim outstanding from one side of the plate, and a plurality of lugs projecting inwardly from the rim and arranged to engage over a sheet of sticky paper to hold the 75 same against the plate, the lugs being struck from the rim to provide air outlet openings therein for the purpose specified.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a fly catcher comprising a handle, and a tray secured to the handle and consisting of a bottom, an upstanding rim, and a plurality of lugs projecting inwardly from the rim and arranged to engage over a sheet of sticky paper lying against the bottom of the tray, 85 the lugs being struck from the rim and providing outlet openings therein to prevent the formation of an air cushion within the tray.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a fly catcher comprising a tray adapted to hold 90 a sheet of sticky paper, and a handle having a pair of arms engaged terminally with the tray, one of said arms being longer than the other to prevent the handle from turning relative to the tray. 95

4. As a new article of manufacture, a fly catcher comprising a tray for holding a sheet of sticky paper, and a handle including a pair of spring arms connected together at one end and crossed intermediate of their 100 ends with their free terminals detachably engaged with the tray.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN L. DAVIDSON. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

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