Oct. 15, 1929. T. E. FOSTER 1,731,654

CLOTHES STICK

Filed Sept. 14, 1927

Fig. 1

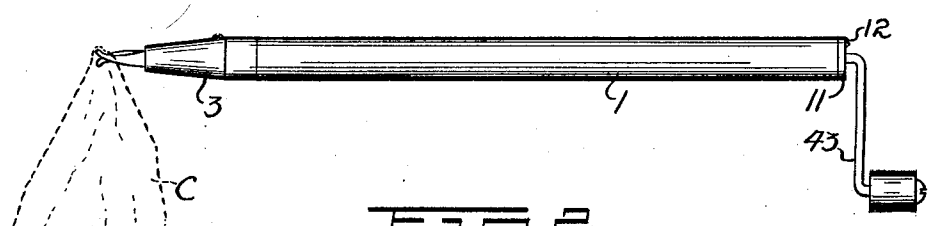


Fig. 2

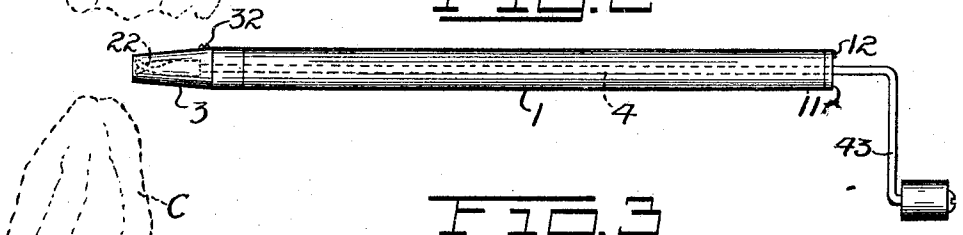


Fig. 3

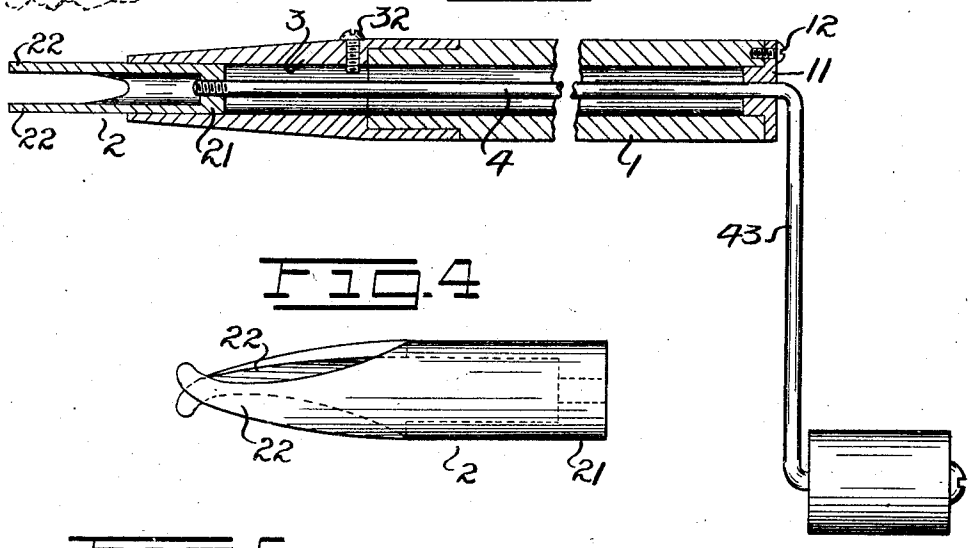
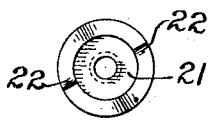


Fig. 4

Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THOMAS EWELL FOSTER, OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

CLOTHES STICK

Application filed September 14, 1927. Serial No. 219,414.

My invention relates to an improvement in clothes sticks, and it is intended for the use of housewives, to enable them to grasp clothes immersed in hot water, to lift the clothes therefrom and into a basket, or to a wringer, and to release them, all without the necessity of touching the hot clothes.

The object of my invention is to produce an efficient clothes stick of simple and cheap construction, and one which has novel means for quickly engaging the clothes and releasing them.

Further objects, especially such as relate to the mechanical structure of the device, will be disclosed by study of the following specification.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the preferred form of my invention.

Figure 1 is a side view of the clothes stick, showing it engaging a cloth (shown in dotted lines).

Figure 2 is a similar view of the clothes stick, showing the cloth (shown in dotted lines) disengaged.

Figure 3 is an axial section of the structure shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a detailed side view of the clothes-engaging member.

Figure 5 is an end view of the clothes-engaging member as viewed from the left of Figure 4.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a suitable handle, which may be made of any desired size and material. In my preferred form the handle consists of a wooden tube 1. This handle supports a member 2 which engages the clothes C to lift them. I have found that a pair of oppositely directed fingers, as 22, when rotated, will sufficiently engage the clothes, and these fingers, with their base 21, are received in one end of the handle 1. These fingers are so formed that they will readily release the clothes by their axial withdrawal, especially when assisted by engagement of the clothes by the end of the handle during such withdrawal, hence the fingers 22, in addition to being rotative, are also reciprocable to withdraw them into the end of the handle 1, or to project them therefrom into operative position.

Suitable means, distant from this end of the clothes stick, are provided for operating the clothes-engaging member 2, and as shown herein, these comprise a shaft 4 extending through the axial bore of the handle 1, secured by one end in the base 21, and having a crank arm and handle 43 formed on its opposite end. In case the bore of the handle is greater than the diameter of the shaft 4, a journal 11 is provided to support said shaft in the handle. This journal may be secured in place by such means as the set screw 12.

Inasmuch as the handle would ordinarily be made of wood, it will ordinarily be found necessary to employ a ferrule 3 at the end which receives the clothes-engaging member 2, and this ferrule forms a guide within which the member 2 rotates and reciprocates. To this end the fingers 22 are formed as a continuation of the cylindrical base 21, the peripheries of the fingers being continuous with that of the base. A stop, such as the set screw 32, projecting within the bore of the ferrule, limits retraction of the member 2, so that when fully retracted its fingers are just within the tip of the ferrule 3.

It will be noted that the shaft 4 is sufficiently long to permit projection of the fingers 22 into position to engage the clothes properly, but when so projected the engagement of the crank arm 43 with the end of the handle acts as a stop to prevent further projection, without, however, impeding rotation of the member 2.

This rotation, as shown in Figure 1, engages and twists the clothes onto the fingers 22 sufficiently to enable them to be lifted from the boiler or washing machine.

In removing the clothes C from the clothes-engaging fingers 22, the fingers are withdrawn into the ferrule 3, through the associated shaft 4 and crank arm 43. During the operation the clothes C are engaged by the end 31 of the ferrule and are pushed off the retracting fingers.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a clothes stick, in combination, a handle axially bored, a cylindrical clothes-engaging member of a diameter corresponding to that of the mouth of the bore, and mov-

able into and projectible from and rotatable in one end of said handle, a shaft journaled in said recessed handle and connected to said clothes-engaging member at one end thereof, a crank arm formed on the other end of said shaft to reciprocate said clothes-engaging member to project it to engage the clothes, and to rotate it, and to retract said clothes-engaging member to release them.

2. In a clothes stick, in combination, a handle, a ferrule secured to one end of said handle, a cylindrical clothes-engaging member of a diameter corresponding to that of the mouth of said ferrule, and movable into and projectible from and rotatable in said ferrule, and means for projecting and rotating said clothes-engaging member to engage the clothes, and for retracting said member to release them.

3. In a clothes stick, in combination, a handle recessed at one end, a clothes-engaging member comprising a cylindrical base of a diameter substantially the same as that of the mouth of said recess, a pair of spaced and oppositely faced fingers formed thereon and lying in a continuation of the cylindrical periphery of said base, said clothes-engaging member being movable into and projectible from and rotatable in said recess, and means for projecting and rotating said clothes engaging member to engage the clothes and for retracting said member to release them.

4. In a clothes stick, in combination, a handle having a circular-mouthed recess at one end, a clothes-engaging member retractable within and projectible from said recess, said member and the mouth of the recess being so formed and disposed to be in contact while the member is being retracted, and means for projecting and rotating said member to engage the clothes, and for retracting it to release them, said means for rotating including a shaft projecting from the opposite end of the handle, and a crank arm on its projecting end, and engageable with the end of the handle to limit projection of the clothes-engaging member.

5. In a clothes stick, in combination, a cylinder having a pair of fingers formed on an end thereof and lying in the periphery of the cylinder, a ferrule of internal diameter corresponding to that of said cylinder, and means for retracting said cylinder axially within and projecting it from the ferrule.

6. In a clothes stick, in combination, a plurality of fingers disposed in the periphery of a cylinder, a ferrule having a mouth of diameter corresponding to the diameter of the cylinder, and means for projecting said fingers from the ferrule, and for retracting them axially past its mouth.

Signed at Seattle, King County, Washington, United States of America, this 7th day of September, 1927.

THOMAS EWELL FOSTER.