

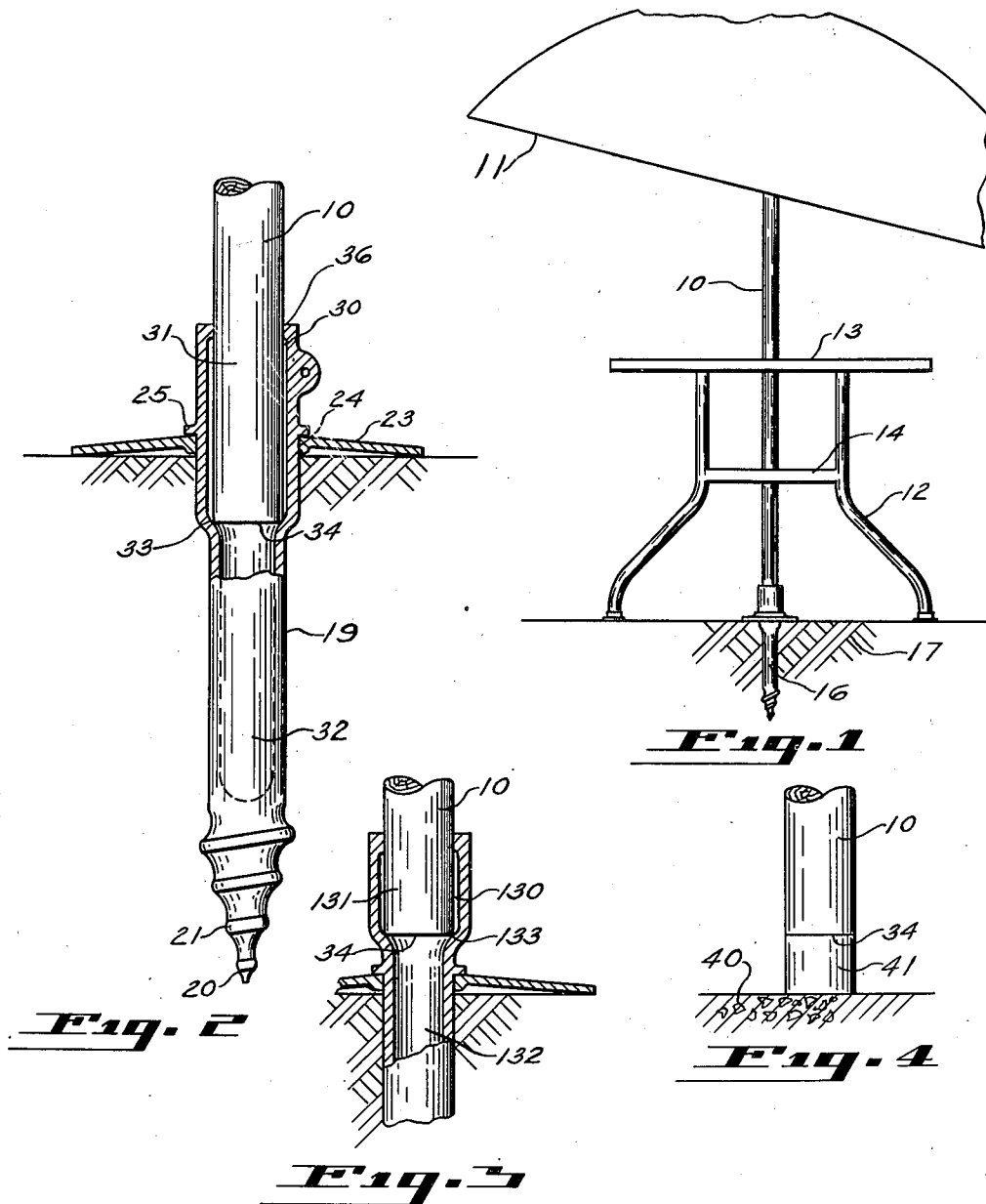
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UMBRELLA CONSTRUCTION

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UMBRELLA CONSTRUCTION

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This invention relates to umbrella constructions, and in particular to the so-called garden umbrella constructions.

One of the principal objects of this invention is to provide an umbrella construction which is simple, sturdy to withstand wind pressure, and readily adapted for different uses, such as for garden or terrace use, or for display purposes.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing in which like characters of reference designate like parts throughout the several views thereof,

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of an umbrella construction completely assembled;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical elevation of a ground screw construction with an umbrella positioned therein, certain parts being in section to illustrate the construction thereof;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view similar to Fig. 2 of a modification; and

Fig. 4 is an elevation illustrating the mounting of the umbrella of Fig. 3 for display purposes such as in a store window.

In umbrellas of this type as heretofore constructed, it has been the usual practice to support the lower end of the umbrella handle by suitable means and in such a manner that the lower end of the handle was supported considerably below ground level. This was usually accomplished by an earth engaging member or "ground screw" having a long bore therein adapted to receive a portion of the umbrella handle, the lower end of the handle being thus supported about six inches to a foot or more below ground level. Consequently it was necessary to make the umbrella handle very long so that when in this position the umbrella or sunshade would be disposed at the proper height above the ground. When it was desired to arrange such umbrella constructions for display purposes such as in store windows, or to use same as terrace umbrellas, where the lower end of the umbrella handle customarily rested upon the floor, the handle was then too long and the umbrella was disposed at a height above that

at which it would normally be disposed in actual use. This of course was undesirable, as the most attractive display is secured by positioning the umbrella at the height of actual use. In order to overcome this objection, it has been necessary heretofore for manufacturers to provide two types of handles for each such umbrella construction, one handle being the usual long handle for actual garden use, and the other handle being a shorter handle adapted for display purposes.

This invention overcomes the objection noted above by providing an umbrella construction in which one handle may be used for both display purposes or for actual use, and in which the umbrella in either case is disposed at the proper height.

As illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention, there is shown in Fig. 1 an umbrella construction completely assembled. This umbrella construction comprises an umbrella handle 10 carrying an umbrella or sunshade 11, the sunshade 11 being supported from the handle 10 by a tilting device (not shown) which may be of usual and well-known construction to afford a plurality of tilting angles for the sunshade 11. The umbrella is associated with a table indicated generally at 12, the handle 10 of the umbrella passing through a receiving hole in the table top 13 and through a second hole in the table shelf 14, these two holes being properly aligned to support the handle in a substantially vertical position. The lower end of the handle is supported by an earth engaging or ground screw construction indicated generally at 16. This earth engaging construction is adapted to be positioned within the ground 17 to rigidly and securely support the lower end of the umbrella handle 10, thus forming a sturdy umbrella construction adapted to withstand considerable wind pressure so that the umbrella construction can be used out of doors, such as for garden use.

The ground screw construction 16 is illustrated in detail in Fig. 2. As shown this comprises a hollow elongated earth engaging member or screw member 19 having a pointed end 20 provided with spiral threads 21 to facilitate insertion into the ground. Associ-

ated with this screw member 19 is a plate or flange member 23 having a large surface area adapted to rest upon the ground to prevent the umbrella construction from tipping or tilting. This plate 23 may be formed integrally with the screw member 19, or as shown may be formed as a separate piece having a hole 24 drilled therethrough to receive the screw member 19. Adjacent the upper end of the screw member 19 a flange or projection 25 is provided to engage the plate 23 to limit the downward movement of the screw member 19 into the ground.

The upper end of the screw member 19 is provided with a bore 30 adapted to receive a portion 31 of the umbrella handle 10. A second bore 32 of lesser diameter is formed in the lower part of the screw member 19 to thus lighten and cheapen the construction, the bores 30 and 32 being connected by a surface 33 which thus forms a shoulder adapted to engage the lower end 34 of the umbrella handle 10. As shown the bore 30 is made somewhat larger than the diameter of the handle 10, the upper end of the screw member 19 being provided with an inwardly extending flange 36 having an opening therethrough of a size adapted to somewhat snugly receive the handle 10 to thereby prevent wobbling of the umbrella handle when supported within the bore 30.

As thus shown, the screw member 19 is adapted when in position to have a portion thereof protruding above the ground. The length of the bore 30 is such as to support the lower end of the handle 10 substantially at ground level. Thus the handle 10 of the umbrella is also adapted for display purposes, as when this handle rests upon the floor of a display window, the umbrella is then in substantially the same position as it occupies when in actual use, and is thus in its most attractive position. And this handle also adapts the umbrella for use as a terrace umbrella wherein the umbrella handle may extend through suitable openings in the top and the shelf of a terrace table with its lower end resting directly on the ground, the terrace table being usually of such weight as to prevent upsetting of the table and umbrella due to wind pressure upon the umbrella.

In Fig. 3 there is shown a slight modification of the ground screw construction. This construction is substantially the same as that shown in Fig. 2 with the exception that the shoulder 133 between the bores 130 and 132 is raised somewhat the lower end 34 of the handle 10 being thus supported slightly above ground level. Of course the construction can be made such that the lower end of the handle is supported at exactly ground level. This obviously is not essential, as a slight discrepancy of the order of an inch or two either below or above the ground level such as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 respectively is not sufficient to

alter the appearance or effect of the umbrella construction when on display or in use. It is only necessary that the lower end of the umbrella handle be disposed at substantially ground level, and the expression "substantially ground level" as used herein means sufficiently close to ground level so that the difference in appearance or effect when the umbrella is on display and when the same is in actual use is not appreciable or noticeable.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary illustration of the mounting of the umbrella of Fig. 3 on display such as in a store window. The umbrella handle 10 could be positioned with its end 34 directly upon the floor 40 of the store window, and the discrepancy between the position of the sunshade on display and its position in actual use would not be noticeable and would be insufficient to affect its attractive appearance. However, if desired a small block 41 conforming in shape to the shape of the handle could be positioned between the lower end 34 of the handle 10 and the floor 40 to thereby support the handle and umbrella in the identical position in which it is supported in actual use.

While the invention disclosed herein is particularly described in connection with umbrella constructions of the so-called garden type, it is to be understood that the invention is also applicable to umbrella constructions of the so-called terrace or terrace table type, in which heretofore the lower end of the handle has customarily been supported in a groove or notch formed in a shelf of the terrace table. The ground screw construction illustrated herein can be provided to support the lower end of the terrace umbrella handle at substantially ground level to thereby replace the supporting means formed in the table shelf or the umbrella handle may rest directly upon the ground or hard floor. In this manner umbrellas may be provided with handles of a single length suitable for either garden or so-called terrace use, or for display.

While the forms of apparatus herein described constitute preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to these precise forms of apparatus, and that changes may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention which is defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An earth engaging construction for supporting the handle of an umbrella comprising an earth-engaging member, a plate adapted to rest upon the ground having an opening therethrough for receiving said earth-engaging member, said plate and said member having cooperating engaging surfaces thereon adapted to limit the downward movement of said earth-engaging member, said member having a bore therein adapted

to receive a portion of said handle, a constriction in said bore adapted to contact with the lower end of said handle, said engaging surfaces of said plate and said member lying in a plane adjacent the plane of the constriction in said bore, whereby the lower end of said handle is adapted to be supported at substantially ground level.

2. A ground screw construction for supporting the handle of an umbrella comprising a hollow earth-engaging member having a pointed screw-threaded end to facilitate positioning in the ground, said member having a bore therein at its upper end adapted to receive a portion of said handle to support the same, a second bore therein of reduced diameter below said first-named bore, the surface connecting said bores forming a shoulder adapted to engage the lower end of said handle, and means for limiting the downward movement of said earth-engaging member into the ground, said parts being so constructed that when said member is in position in the ground said shoulder is at substantially ground level to thereby support the lower end of said handle at substantially ground level.

3. For use with an umbrella of the character described adapted to be supported at a predetermined distance above the ground, a supporting member adapted to be inserted within the ground and having provisions for receiving the lower end of the handle of the umbrella in supporting relation, and means for limiting the depth of insertion of said supporting member within the ground to thereby support the lower end of said handle at substantially ground level.

4. For use with an umbrella of the character described adapted to be supported at a predetermined distance above the ground, an earth-engaging member adapted to be inserted within the ground and having a bore therein for receiving the lower end of the handle of said umbrella in supporting relation, means for limiting the depth of insertion of said handle within said earth-engaging member, and means for limiting the depth of insertion of said earth-engaging member within the ground, whereby when said handle and said earth-engaging member are inserted to their respective limiting means, the lower end of said handle is supported at substantially ground level.

55 In testimony whereof I hereto affix my signature.

CLARENCE G. SNOOK.