W. E. PRATT.

CLOTHES LINE REEL.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 7, 1914.

1,244,445. Patented Oct. 23, 1917.

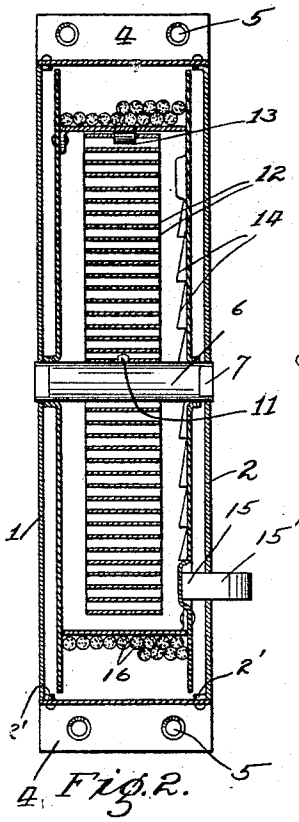


Fig. 2.

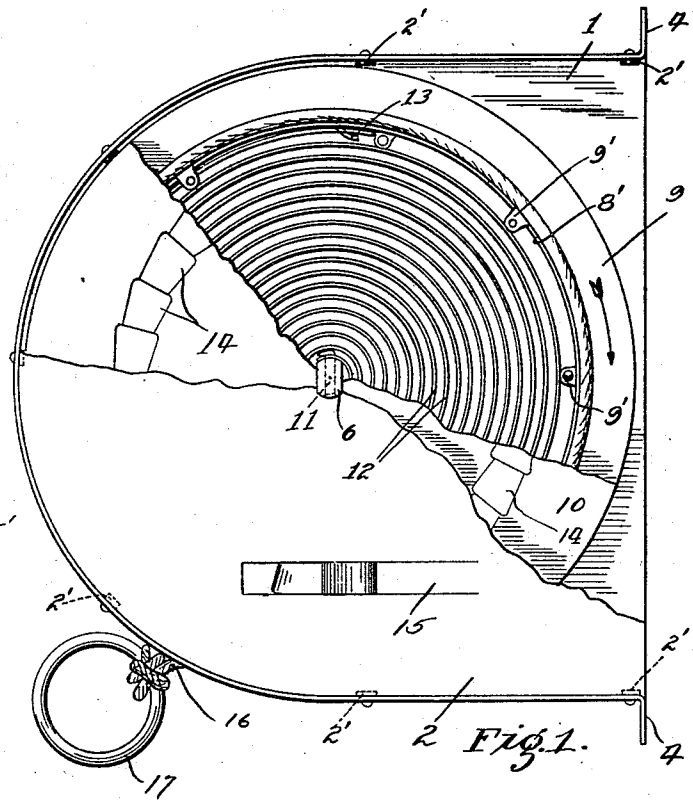


Fig. 1.

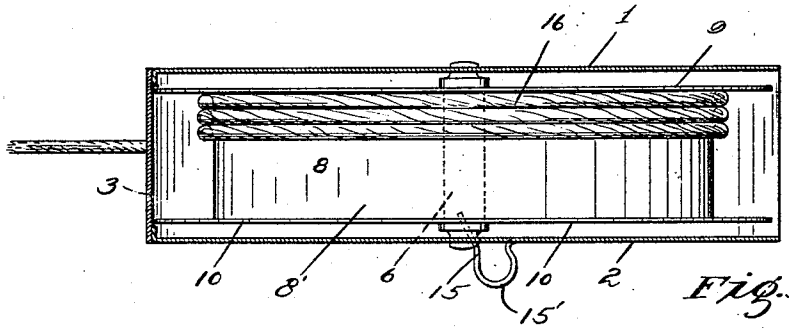


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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CLOTHES-LINE REEL.

1,244,445. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 23, 1917.

Application filed April 7, 1914. Serial No. 830,276.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER E. PRATT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Berkeley, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Line Reels, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to clothes line reels of the spring winding type and has for its principal object the construction of a neat compact device particularly adapted for indoor use.

Another object of my invention is to so construct the device that the parts may be readily formed of sheet metal stampings, thus making a device which is light in weight and cheap to construct.

With these and other objects in view my invention consists in the novel form, construction and arrangement of parts as herein described and as more specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

Reference should be had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification wherein,

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of my improved device having a portion of the side plate and line drum broken away to disclose the interior construction.

Fig. 2 is a view in vertical section through the device showing the ratchet teeth formed in the side plate of the drum, the spring pawl and means for holding the actuating spring.

Fig. 3 is a view in horizontal section through the outer casing, the line drum being shown in plan.

Referring to the parts by corresponding numerals in the several views, my device consists of an outer casing having the side plates 1 and 2 formed with lateral bent integral lugs 2′ by which they are fastened to a band 3, the ends of this band being turned at right angles to form feet 4, in which are screw holes 5 for attaching the device to its supporting surface. The side plates are formed with square or rectangular holes in which is held a shaft 6 having the side flattened as at 7 to hold the same against rotation. Rotatably mounted on this shaft is a drum or reel 8, which is formed of a circular band 8′ to which is attached side plates 9 and 10 having suitable bosses engaging shaft 6. These plates are somewhat larger in diameter than the band 8′ thereby forming flanges adapted to hold the cable upon the reel. In attaching the band and side plates I prefer to form ears 9′ around the periphery of the band which are riveted or screwed to the side plates.

In the shaft 6 is a projecting pin 11 to which is attached one end of a spiral spring 12, the other end being attached to a hook 13, formed in the band 8′. This hook is formed by partly severing the metal in the band and bending it inwardly. The side plate 10 is formed with a series of circumferential ratchet teeth 14 stamped in the metal and which are adapted to be engaged by a spring pawl 15. Thus the complete reel is formed of sheet metal as well as the pawl 15, which is formed by punching a long tongue from the side plate 10 and then bending this tongue to form a loop 15′, which serves as a handle and the end thereof serves to engage the ratchet teeth. The cable is denoted by 16, which on its inner end is attached to the drum in any suitable manner, and which extends through a suitable opening in band 3 and exteriorly thereof is provided with a ring 17.

In use the device is attached to a wall or other supporting surface by screws passing through the openings 5 and a hook provided on the opposite side of the room over which the ring 17 may be placed. Then when the latter is pulled out the drum is rotated in the direction of the arrow which winds the spring 12. The pawl 15 entering the ratchet teeth 14 holds the cable against rewinding. When it is desired to wind up the cable the pawl 15 is withdrawn by inserting the finger through the loop thereof and pulling the same outwardly. This allows the reel to revolve under the action of spring 12, thus wind up the cable.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a neat compact device, which effectively accomplishes the object hereinbefore set forth and while I have shown the preferred embodiment of my invention it will be understood that I wish to cover all such modifications as are covered by the scope of the claims.

I claim:—

1. A clothes line reel comprising a sheet metal casing, a non-rotatable shaft supported thereby, a reel rotatably mounted on said shaft and having one side wall pro-

vided with ratchet teeth, a spring connecting said shaft and said reel, and a pawl strip integral with one wall of the casing extending inwardly from the latter to coöperate with said ratchet teeth, said pawl strip having a loop portion whereby the same may be manually disengaged from the ratchet teeth.

2. A clothes line reel comprising a metallic casing formed of an edge strip and side plates, a shaft held non-rotatively in said side plates, a reel revolubly mounted in said shaft, a spring attached to said shaft within said reel and having the other end attached to the outer circumference of said reel, said reel comprising two thin metallic circular side plates and a cylindrical ring connecting said circular side plates, ratchet teeth stamped in one of said side plates and a tongue cut from one of the casing side plates and bent to form a spring pawl adapted to engage said ratchet.

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

WALTER E. PRATT.

Witnesses:
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R. M. Oyarzo