Nov. 29, 1955 F. E. WALLMAN 2,725,253

UTILITY HOOK

Filed May 2, 1952

Fig. 1

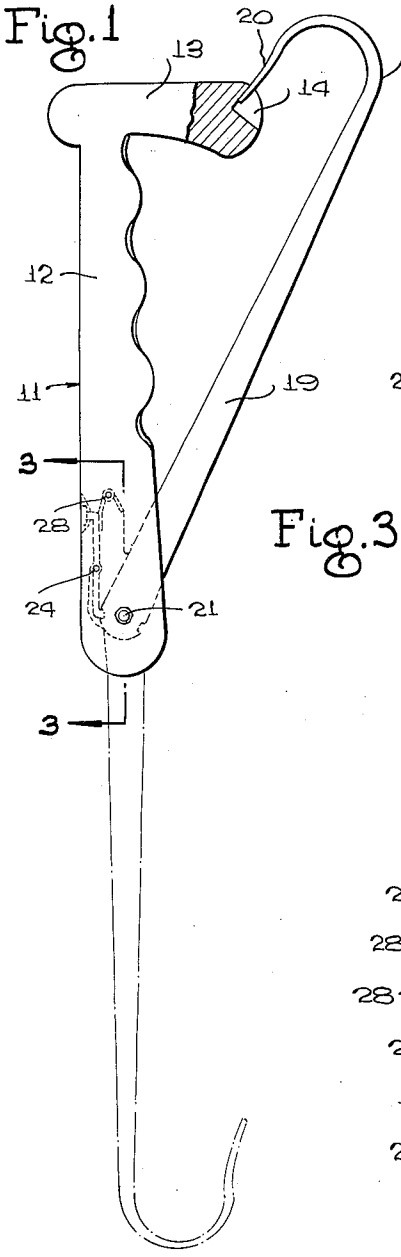
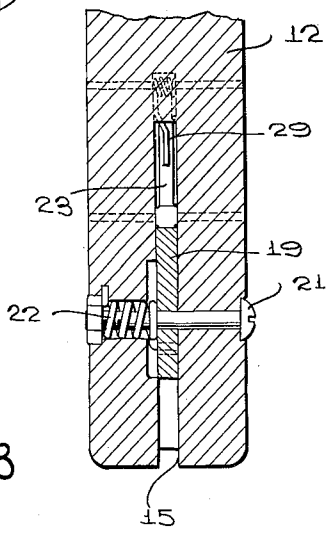


Fig. 2



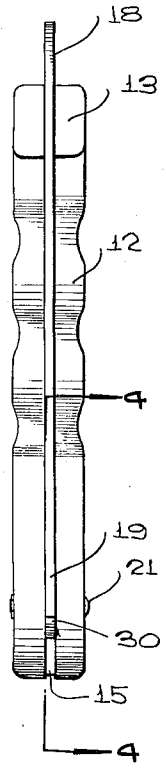
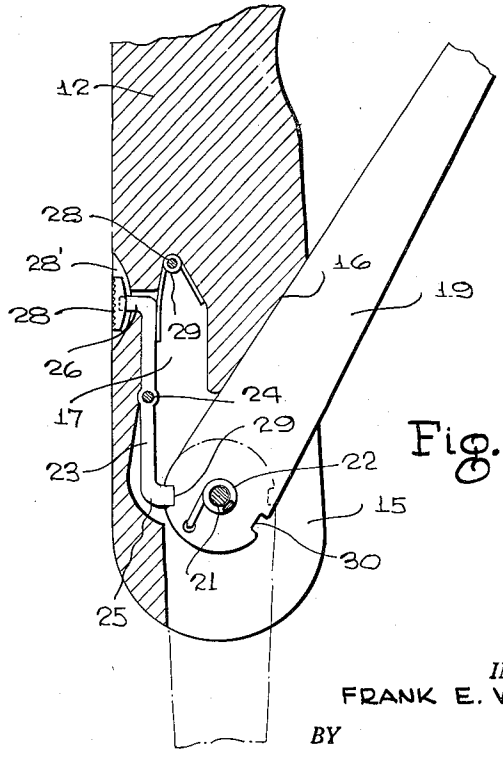


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



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UTILITY HOOK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 294—26)

This invention relates to article handling devices, and more particularly to an improved folding hook.

The main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved folding hook device which is simple in construction, which is easy to open and close, and which may be employed for use in handling bundles, cartons and other articles to eliminate moving these articles by hand.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved foldable hook device for use in handling bundles, cartons, bags, and other articles, said hook device being inexpensive to manufacture, being safe to use, and being sturdy in construction.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view, partly in cross section, of an improved article-handling hook device constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the hook device of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross sectional detail view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged cross sectional detail view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawings, the improved hook device is designated generally at **11** and comprises an elongated main body **12** of suitable sturdy material, such as molded plastic material or the like, said main body being formed with the top arm **13**. The top arm **13** is formed at its end with the small, substantially axially located recess **14**. The opposite end of the body **12** is formed with an open ended axial slot **15** having the inclined front wall portion **16** and the recessed portion **17**, as shown in Figure 4. Designated at **18** is a hook member having the elongated, tapering shank **19** and the hook portion **20**. The end of the shank **19** is pivotally secured in the slot **15** by a transverse bolt **21**. Designated at **22** is a coil spring which surrounds the bolt **21**, said spring having one end anchored in the body **12** and having its other end secured to the shank **19**, biasing said shank in a counter-clockwise direction, as viewed in Figure 4, whereby the shank is biased against the sloping surface **16**.

Designated at **23** is a lever pivoted at **24** in the recess **17**, the lever having a first hooked end **25** directed inwardly and having a second end **26** directed outwardly and extending through an aperture in the body **12**, as shown in Figure 4. Secured on the end of the arm **26** is a button **27**, said button being located in a recess **28'** formed in the body **12** and being arranged to allow substantial pivotal movement of the lever **23** in a clockwise direction from the position thereof shown in Figure 4. Mounted on a transverse pin **28** in the top end of the recess **17**, as viewed in Figure 4, is a coiled spring **29** having one end bearing against the lever **23** and having its other end bearing against the opposite wall of the recess **17**, thereby biasing the lever **23** in a counter-clockwise direction, as viewed in Figure 4, but being yieldable to

allow manual rotation of the lever **23** clockwise by the inward movement of the button **27**, as will be presently described.

The pivoted end of the shank **19** is formed with the respective notches **29** and **30** which are respectively lockingly engageable by the end of the arm **25** to lock the shank **19** either in a first position, such as that shown in full line view in Figures 1 and 4, wherein the shank **19** is engaged against the sloping surface **16**, or in a second position, as shown in dotted view in Figures 1 and 4, wherein the shank **19** is extended substantially in alignment with the body **12**. In the position shown in full line view in Figures 1 and 4, the hook portion **20** is received in the recess **14** of the arm **13**, whereby the point of said hook portion is housed and whereby injury to the user is prevented. To unfold the hook **18** to the dotted line position thereof shown in Figure 1, it is merely necessary to press inwardly on the button **27**, whereby the arm **25** is disengaged from the locking recess **29** and the shank **19** may be manually rotated to the dotted line position thereof shown in Figure 1, in which position the arm **25** moves into the locking notch **30** and secures the hook in the extended position thereof. In said extended position, the device may be employed for handling cartons, bags, packages, and similar objects, without requiring gripping of these articles by hand, and consequently greatly facilitating the handling of the articles. When use of the device is not required, it is merely necessary to press inwardly on the button **27**, whereby the spring **22** rotates the hook **18** to the folded position thereof, shown in full line view in Figures 1 and 2.

While a specific embodiment of an improved article-handling hook device has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An article-handling device comprising an elongated main body formed at one end wtih an open-ended axial slot, an arm at the other end of the body projecting laterally of the body, a hook member having a shank pivotally secured at its end in said slot for swinging movement in the plane of said slot, a locking lever within said slot and pivotally connected intermediate its ends to said body and having one end lockingly engageable with the end of said shank, said arm being formed at its outer end with a recess in which the point of said hook member is receivable, a button on the other end of said lever and operable exteriorly of said body to release said one end from said end of said shank, and spring means operatively connected to said main body and said hook member for biasing said hook member toward a position wherein said point is seated in said recess.

2. An article-handling device comprising an elongated main body formed at one end with an open-ended axial slot, an arm at the other end of the body projecting laterally of the body, a hook member having a shank pivotally secured at its end in said slot for swinging movement in the plane of said slot, a locking lever within said slot and pivotally connected intermediate its ends to said body and having one end lockingly engageable with the end of said shank, said arm being formed at its outer end with a recess in which the point of said hook member is receivable, a button on the other end of said lever and operable exteriorly of said body to release said one end from said end of said shank, spring means operatively connected to said main body and said hook member for biasing said hook member toward a position wherein said point is seated in said recess, and additional spring means operatively connected to said lever and said main body for

biasing said one end of said lever into engagement with said end of said shank.

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