July 15, 1952 H. J. LE VESCONTE ET AL 2,603,440

PLATE AND CUP SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed Dec. 16, 1946 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

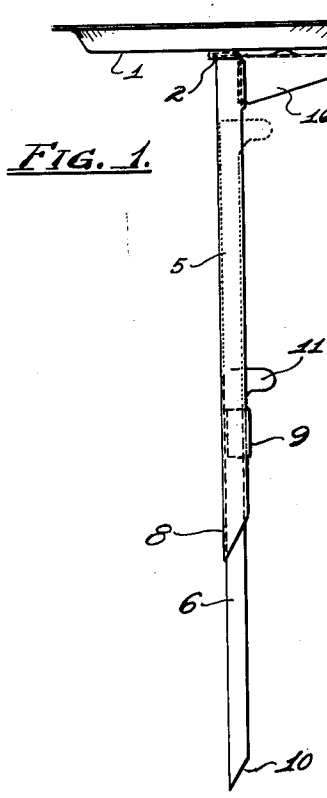


FIG. 1.

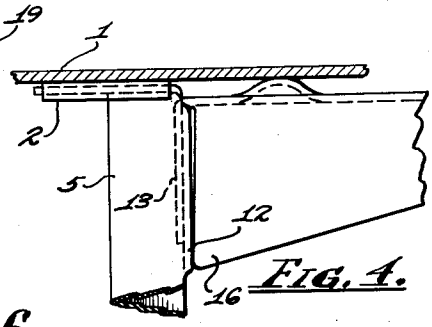


FIG. 4.

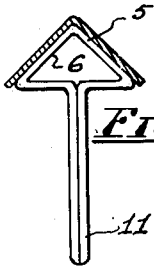


FIG. 6

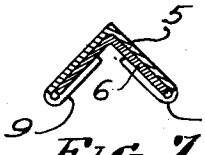


FIG. 7.

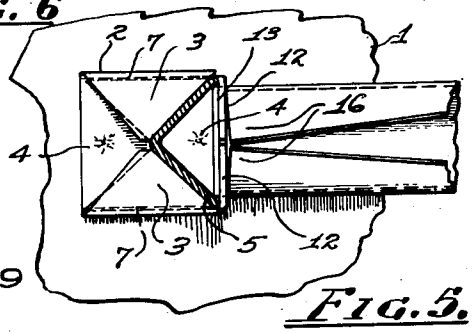


FIG. 5.

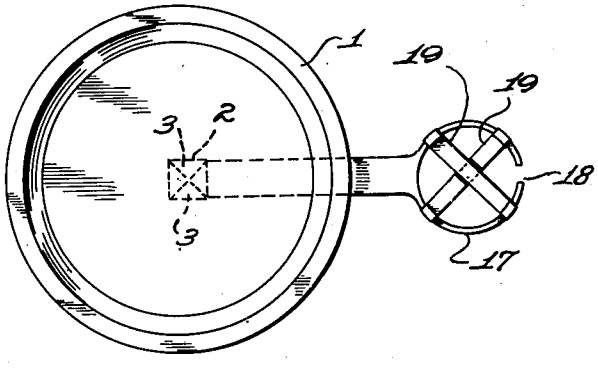


FIG. 2.

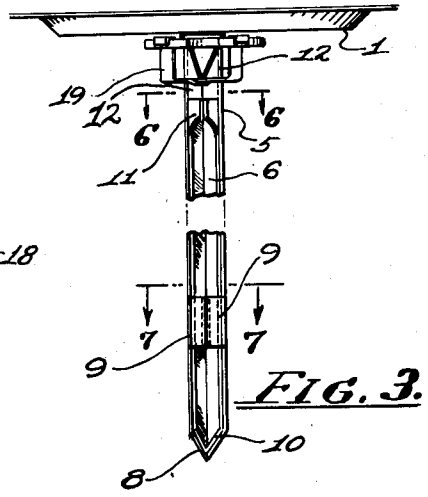


FIG. 3.

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July 15, 1952 H. J. LE VESCONTE ET AL 2,603,440

PLATE AND CUP SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed Dec. 16, 1946 2 SHEETS--SHEET 2

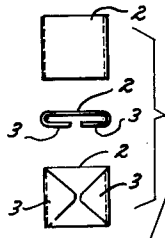


FIG. 8.

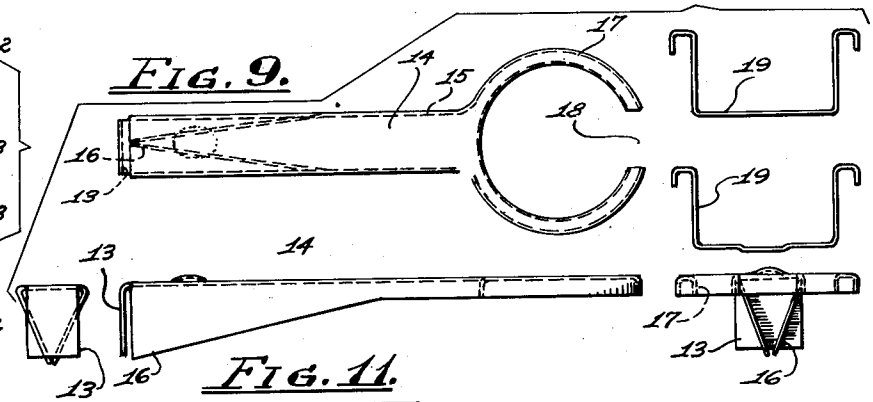


FIG. 9.

FIG. 11.

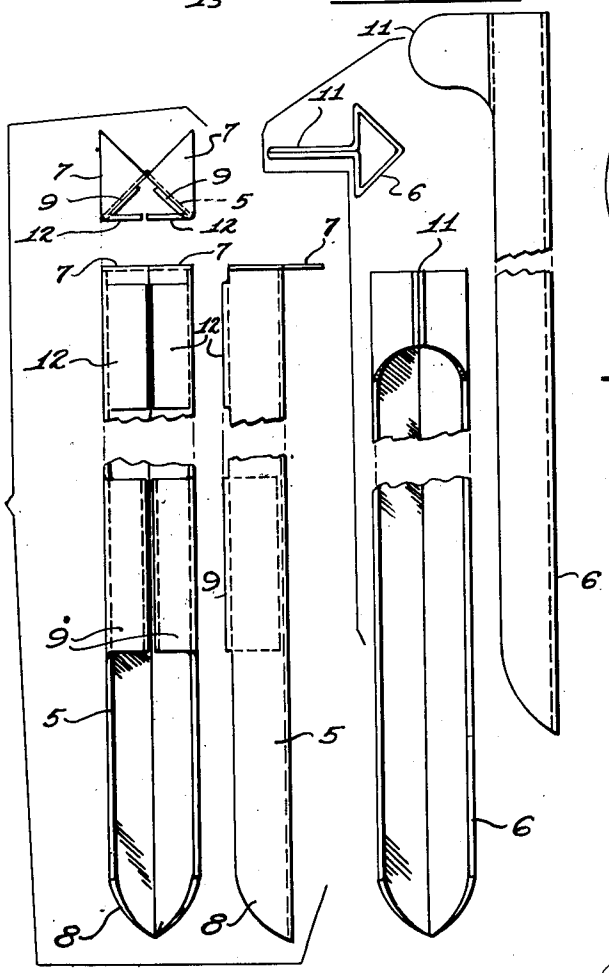


FIG. 10.

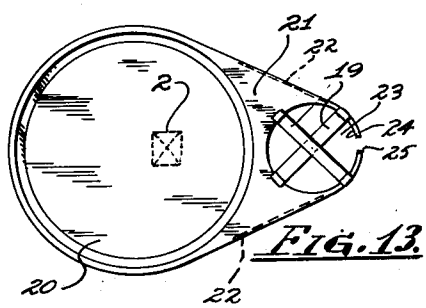


FIG. 13.

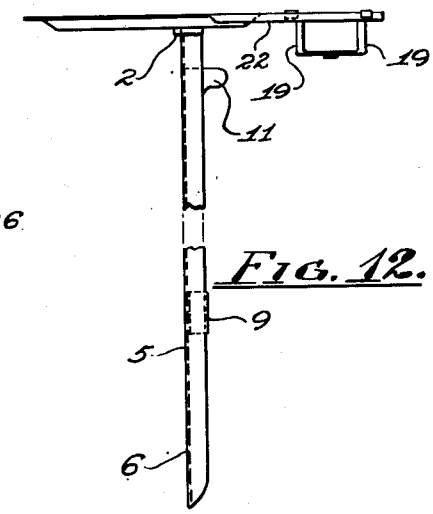


FIG. 12.

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2,603,440

PLATE AND CUP SUPPORTING DEVICE

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Application December 16, 1946, Serial No. 716,524

3 Claims. (Cl. 248—156)

1

This invention relates to plate and cup supporting devices adapted to support a plate and cup and thereby placing food and beverages at a level convenient for a person seated on the ground.

It is an object of the invention to provide a device of the above character which is composed of parts stamped from sheet metal which parts are simple in design and light in weight and which may readily be assembled and disassembled.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character in which the device is supported by a sheet metal stake inserted in the ground which stake is so designed as to resist any tendency of the assembly to turn.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character in which the holding means for a cup or other beverage container and the plate are separately mounted on the supporting stake.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character in which the mounting of the plate on the stake serves to lock the cupholder in the supporting stake.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character in which the supporting stake is comprised of telescopically arranged members which may be collapsed to enable arrangement of the disassembled device in a compact package when not in use.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device in which the cupholding portion is formed as an integral part of the plate.

With the foregoing objects in view, together with such other objects and advantages as may subsequently appear, the invention resides in the parts and in the combination, construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a representative form of the invention as assembled and put into use,

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a side elevation as viewed from the right hand side of Fig. 1, but showing the stake element collapsed,

Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary side elevation showing the mode of interlocking of the plate and cupholder with the stake means,

Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of Fig. 4,

Figs. 6 and 7 are enlarged sectional plan views taken on the lines 6—6 and 7—7 respectively of Fig. 3,

2

Fig. 8 is a series of top end and bottom views of the clip by which the plate is connected to the stake means,

Fig. 9 is a series of end, top and side views of the component parts of the cupholder shown in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive,

Figs. 10 and 11 are series of top and side views of the elements comprising the stake means,

Fig. 12 is a side elevation of an assembly of a modified form of the device in which the plate and cupholding functions are performed by single member, and

Fig. 13 is a top plan view of the combined plate and cupholder shown in Fig. 12.

Referring first to that form of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 11 inclusive, the device comprises a plate 1 similar in form and size to the ordinary pie plate. A clip 2 formed of a sheet metal strip having the ends 3 thereof pointed and bent over the center portion, as best shown in Fig. 8 is welded or soldered to the underside of the plate. The clearances formed by the pointed ends provides clearance for welding of the clip to the underside of the plate 1 as shown at 4, 4 in Fig. 5. Preferably, the clip is welded to the plate in a position offset from the center to counter balance the weight of the plate and a cupholder associated therewith to be later described in detail.

The supporting stake means comprises a plate engaging member 5 and a ground engaging member 6. The plate engaging member 5 is formed from a V-shaped strip of sheet metal the upper end of which is split at the bottom of the V for a short distance and the ends are then bent outwardly and shaped to form clip-engaging flanges 7—7 adapted to enter the slot formed by the clip 2 with the outer surface of the stake engaging the edges of the pointed ends 3—3 of the clip as best shown in Fig. 5.

The plate engaging member at its lower end is pointed as at 8 and slightly above the pointed end is provided with a pair of inturned flap portions 9—9. The ground engaging member 6 is also V-shaped and is slidably mounted within the member 5 as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, being held in assembly therewith by the inturned flaps 9—9. At its lower end the member 6 is pointed as at 10 and at its upper end it is provided with a laterally projecting handle or lug portion 11 by which it may be grasped to push it into the ground.

The member 5 near its upper end is provided with a second pair of inturned flap portions 12—12 back of which a tongue 13 of a cupholder 14 is adapted to be slid. The cupholder is formed

of a sheet metal and comprises a shank portion 15 to one end of which the tongue 13 is attached. The side edges of the shank portion are turned down and at the end adjacent the tongue 13 extend downwardly slightly below the lower end of the tongue. As shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 9 these end portions are inclined toward each other and provide abutments 16, 16 adapted to bear against the outer faces of the flap portions 12, 12 to hold the cupholder at right angles to the stake element 5. At its other end the cupholder is formed into a circular portion 17 with the inner and outer edges turned downwardly to stiffen it and with an opening or notch 18 at the outer edge thereof. A pair of U-shaped straps 19, 19 have their upper end portions reversely bent to engage the circular portion and are welded thereto to provide a bottom for the cupholder as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 while the notch 18 provides clearance for the handle of a cup or the like positioned in the holder.

To put the device into use, the cupholder is first assembled with the stake means by inserting the tongue 13 back of the flaps 12, 12 and pushing downwardly until it is seated against the upper edges of the flap 12, 12. Next the flanges 7—7 are inserted in the clip 2 of the plate and when thus assembled the plate will lock the cupholder in place. Then the stake assembly is inserted in the ground and by grasping the lug 11 the stake element 6 is forced further into the ground as shown in Fig. 1. When thus set up, the engagement between the clip 2 and the stake element will prevent relative rotary movement and the shape of the stake element will prevent rotary movement of the stake in the ground.

Referring now to Figs. 12 and 13 there is shown a modified form of the device in which the plate and cupholder are stamped from a single sheet of metal. As here shown the plate depression 20 is provided with a laterally disposed rim portion which at 21 is extended and is provided with downturned edges 22, 22 for stiffening. The extension 21 at its outer end is provided with a circular opening 23 having downturned inner edges 24 and a cup handle clearance notch 25. The bottom of the cupholder may be provided with straps 19, 19 similar in form to that shown in Figs. 1 to 11. A clip 2 is welded to the bottom of the plate portion and the same stake assembly may be used although if desired the flaps 12, 12 which are then unnecessary may be omitted.

While we have shown and described a specific embodiment of our invention we do not limit ourselves to the exact details of construction set forth, and the invention embraces such changes, modifications and equivalents of the parts and their formation and arrangement as come within the purview of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a plate and cup supporting device, a stake means having one end adapted to interengage the underside of a plate and a cupholding means separately attachable to said stake means adjacent the end thereof engageable with said plate, said stake means comprising a pair of relatively slidable, V-shaped sheet metal elements, one of said elements having means constructed and arranged to hold the other in nested engagement therewith while permitting relative longitudinal movement.

2. In a plate and cup supporting device, a plate having a socket element on its under surface, a stake means having a horizontally disposed flange portion engageable with said socket, said stake means including a V-shaped ground engaging element and having opposed tongue elements bridging the open side of said V-shape, and a cupholding element engageable with said tongues, the interengagement of said cupholder and said tongues being so constructed and arranged that when said plate is engaged with said flange portion, the cupholder is locked in place.

3. In a plate and cup supporting device, a plate having a socket element on its under surface, a stake means having a horizontally disposed flange portion engageable with said socket, said stake means including a V-shaped ground engaging element and having opposed tongue elements bridging the open side of said V-shape, and a cupholding element engageable with said tongues, the interengagement of said cupholder and said tongues being so constructed and arranged that when said plate is engaged with said flange portion, the cupholder is locked in place, said cupholder comprising a sheet metal stamping including a shank portion, a tongue element at one end thereof engageable with said stake means and a socket at the other end adapted to receive and hold a cup or other beverage container positioned exterior to and adjacent the periphery of said plate.

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