Sept. 17, 1940. F. ROMANO 2,215,336

CLOTHESPIN

Filed Sept. 2, 1939

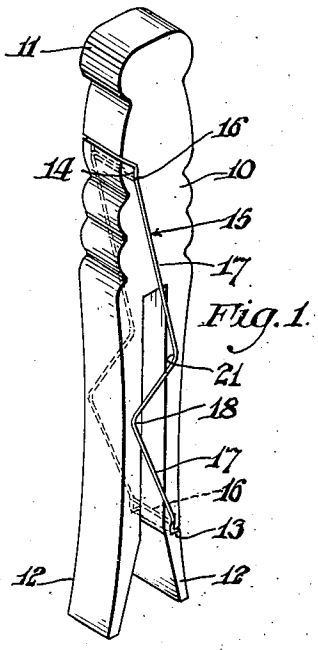


Fig. 1.

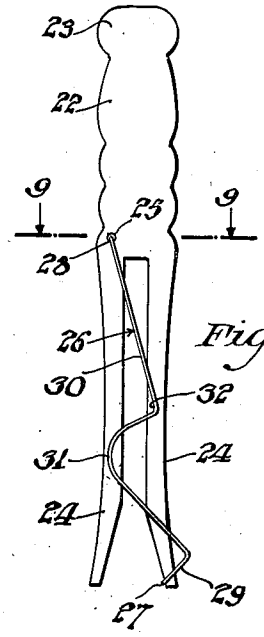


Fig. 8.

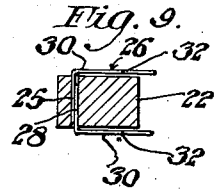


Fig. 9.

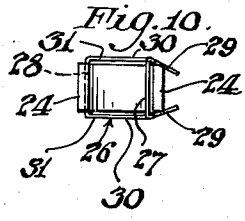


Fig. 10.

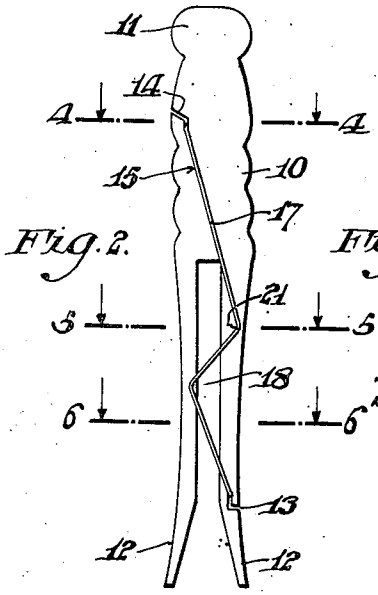


Fig. 2.

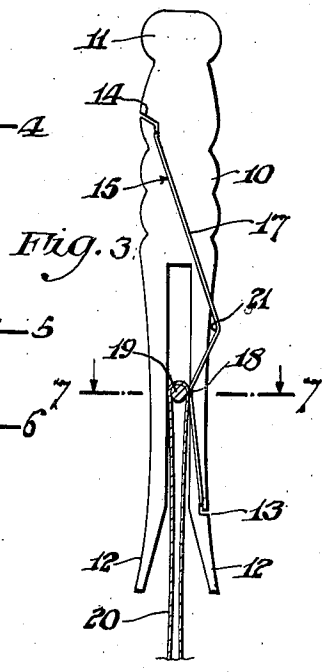


Fig. 3.

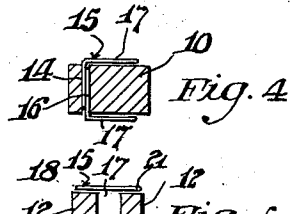


Fig. 4.

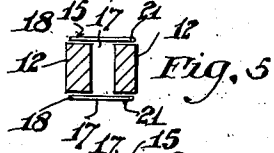


Fig. 5

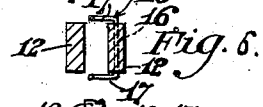


Fig. 6.

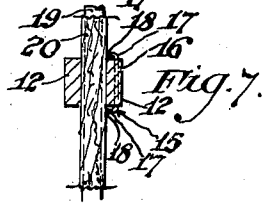


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,215,336

CLOTHESPIN

Frank Romano, Weatherly, Pa.

Application September 2, 1939, Serial No. 293,161

6 Claims. (Cl. 24—138)

My invention relates to a new and useful clothespin, the same being a continuation in part of application filed May 12, 1937, Ser. No. 142,116, and has for one of its objects to provide an exceedingly simple and effective device of this kind which is inexpensive to manufacture, strong and durable, and efficient in operation.

Another object of this invention is to construct a clothespin which will firmly grip articles on a line and will not become loosened by the articles blowing about in the wind.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clothespin consisting of a wooden bifurcated body with a clamping means, preferably of wire, mounted thereon to grip an article on the line and firmly hold such article in place.

A still further object of this invention is to make such a clothespin in such form that it may be slipped onto the line and pulled therefrom in the manner of an ordinary clothespin without a clamping means.

With the above and other objects in view, this invention consists of the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, I will describe its construction in detail, referring by numerals, to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of clothespin constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof in its normal condition.

Fig. 3 is a similar view illustrating one position of the clothespin when in use.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of a slight modification.

Fig. 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a bottom end view of Fig. 8.

In carrying out my invention as embodied in Figs. 1 to 9 inclusive, 10 represents the body of the clothespin preferably produced from wood with a head 11 at one end. The other end of said body is bifurcated to provide legs 12 and in the outer broad face of one of these legs adjacent its free end is formed a transverse slot 13 at least a portion of which extends generally lengthwise of the clothespin leg while in the body above the other leg is formed a similar transverse slot 14 at least a portion of which extends generally lengthwise of said body. Said slots are diagonally opposite one another.

A clamping means 15, preferably produced from spring wire, is fashioned to produce cross bars 16 which are inserted in the slots 13 and 14 and between both ends of the cross bars extend the zig-zag or Z-shaped side arms 17 which are situated at the side of the legs 12 and across the opening between said legs. One of the bends 18 of each of the side arms 17 functions as a clip to engage and pass the clothesline 19 and engage an article 20 on the line to hold both the article and clothespin on said line. When the clothespin is fully engaged with the line or an article thereon, said line or the part of the article folded over said line is positioned between the crook 21 and the leg 12 opposite said crook.

In practice, the clothespin is placed on the clothesline by registering the opening between the legs 12 with said line and then pushing the clothespin forward with sufficient force to cause the side arms to yield as the clips 19 contact the line or cause the side arms to yield as the clips 19 contact the line or the folded portion of an article on the line. During this time the cross bars, or one of them, may slide in their respective slots. As the clips pass the line they spring back beneath said line and hold the line securely within the space between the crook 21 and the leg 12 opposite said crook. Because of the resiliency of the side arms of the clamping means, the clothespin firmly retains an article on the line but with the application of a small amount of direct force, the clothespin may be readily applied to or removed from the line.

In that form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 8, 9, 10 the reference numeral 22 denotes the body of the clothespin, one end of which has a head 23 thereon while the other end is bifurcated to form legs 24. In the body is produced a transverse hole 25 or other equivalent opening which will hold a portion of the clamping means 26.

Said clamping means 26 is produced from spring wire and fashioned to provide cross bars 27 and 28, the latter consisting of two ends or strands of the wire positioned side by side in the hole 25. In forming the clamping means 26, the wire is bent at right angles to the section constituting the cross bar 27 in order to provide leg gripping jaws 29 which converge toward their outer ends as shown in Fig. 10. This arrangement fastens the lower part of the clamping means to the lower end of one of the legs 24 diagonally opposite the location of the hole 25 so that said clamping means cannot be accidentally disengaged under

ordinary circumstances but permits the cross bar 27 to slide or move longitudinally of the clothespin leg. From the jaws 29, the wire is bent to provide the zig-zag or Z-shaped side arms 30 which are situated at the sides of the legs 24 and across the opening between said legs.

One of the bends 31 of each side arm is curved and functions as a clip to engage and ride over the clothesline and any article thereon when the clothespin is applied or removed and to engage a portion of the article to hold both said article and the clothespin while in use on the line. When the clothes pin is fully engaged with the line and/or an article thereon said line, or the part of the article folded thereover, is positioned between the other bend or crook 32 of each arm and the leg 24 opposite said crook. The upper ends of the side arms 30 of the clamping means are bent inward towards each other and are forced into the hole 25 so as to lie side by side and form the cross bar 28.

It is to be particularly noted that in both constructions the lower end of each clamping means is held captive on a leg of the clothespin but has sufficient freedom to move longitudinally of the leg. The upper end of said clamping means is also held captive and in this case it can be restricted as in Fig. 1 or fixed as in Fig. 8.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction herein shown and described as these may be varied within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is:

1. A clothespin comprising a body, a pair of spaced parallel legs projecting from said body, one of said legs having a transverse slot in its outer broad face adjacent the free end of the leg and said body having a transverse slot above the legs in the face opposite the slotted leg, and a clamping member fashioned from spring wire and including cross bars in the slots and Z-shaped side arms between the ends of the cross bars and situated at the sides of the legs diagonally across the space between said legs.

2. In a device of the kind described, a clothespin member consisting of a body and a pair of spaced parallel legs projecting from said body, each of said legs having an inner and outer face and side edges, one of said legs having a transverse slot in its outer face adjacent the free end of the leg and said body having a cross slot above the legs in the side opposite the slotted leg, and a clamping member fashioned from spring wire and consisting of cross bars, said cross bars being mounted in the slots and said side arms being positioned at the side edges of the legs diagonally across the space between said legs.

3. In a device of the kind described, a clothespin member consisting of a body and a pair of spaced legs, a resilient clamping member having a pair of Z-shaped side arms, said clamping member having a portion attached to one of the legs adjacent its free end and another portion attached to the body above the other leg whereby said Z-shaped side arms are positioned diagonally across the side edges of both of the legs and the space between them.

4. A clamping member for a one piece clothespin which has a body and a pair of spaced legs, said clamping member comprising two cross bars and a pair of Z-shaped arms connected with the bars, one of said bars being secured to one of the legs adjacent its free end and the other bar secured to the body above the legs in opposition to the leg to which the first mentioned bar is secured with the Z-shaped arms extending diagonally crosswise of the space between the legs.

5. In a device of the kind described, a bifurcated member having two outer faces and two side edges, and resilient Z-shaped clamping elements positioned diagonally across the side edges of said member and bifurcation thereof and snugly embracing the side edges of said member.

6. In a device of the kind described, a clothespin member consisting of a body and a pair of spaced legs, a resilient clamping member having a pair of Z-shaped side arms, one of the bends of each arm being curved outwardly, said clamping member including leg gripping jaws to hold the lower portion of said member captive on a leg of the clothespin and also provided with means to fix the upper portion of said clamping member to the clothespin body above the other leg whereby said Z-shaped side arms are positioned diagonally across the side edges of both of the legs and the space between them.

FRANK ROMANO.