United States Patent

[11] 3,598,420

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[21] Appl. No. **857,447**
[22] Filed **Sept. 12, 1969**
[45] Patented **Aug. 10, 1971**

[54] **GARBAGE CAN CARRIER**
4 Claims, 4 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **280/47.24, 214/384**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **B62b 1/06**
[50] **Field of Search** 280/47.24, 47.26; 214/384, 383, 382, 381

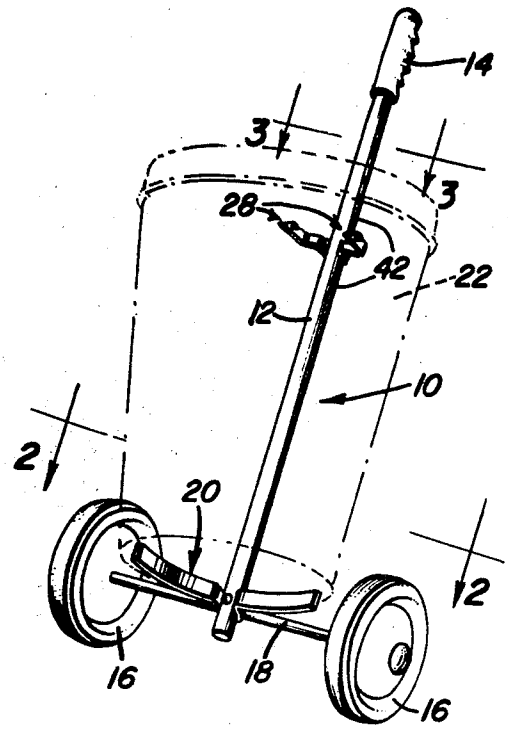
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ABSTRACT: A carrier for garbage cans or the like comprising an elongated post including a can-handle-grasping pair of hooks mounted toward the upper end thereof and a can-seating straplike cradle mounted toward the lower end thereof. An elongated wheel axle extends transversely through the post and the post-mounted portion of the cradle. Ground-engaging wheels are mounted on the outer extremities of the axle whereby a rolling support for the carrier is provided.



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Fig. 1

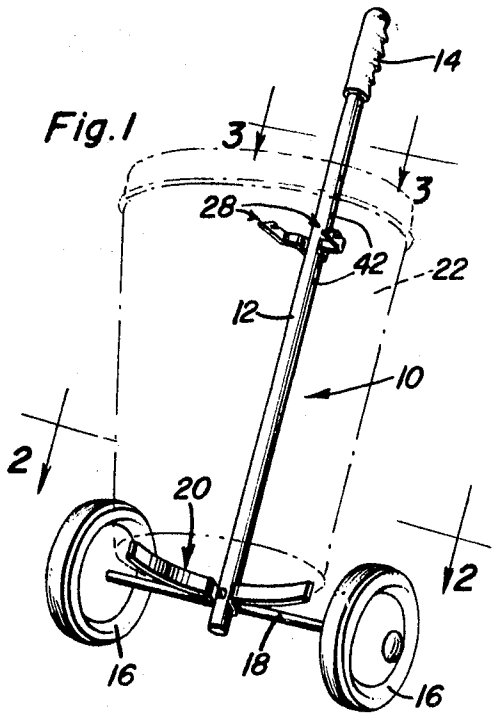


Fig. 2

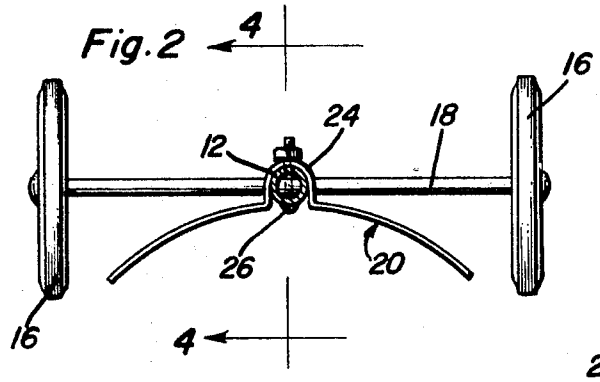


Fig. 3

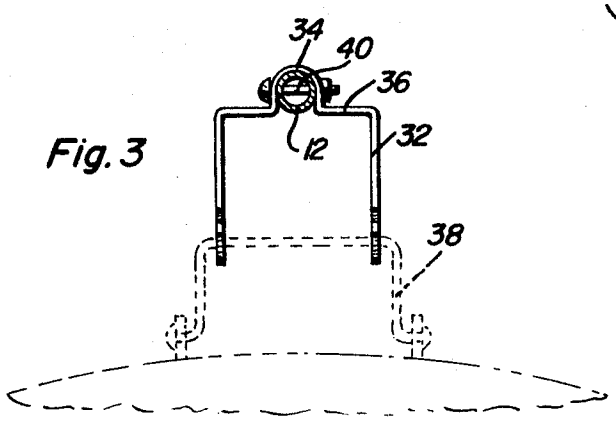
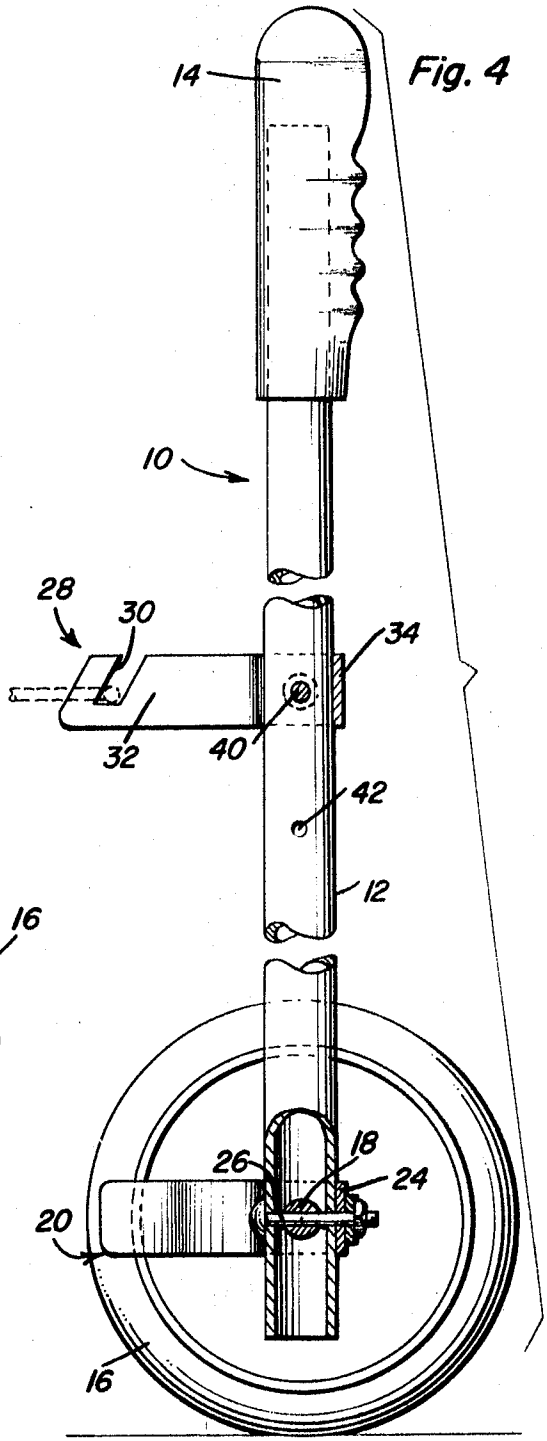


Fig. 4



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GARBAGE CAN CARRIER

The instant invention is generally concerned with carriers, and more particularly relates to a lightweight carrier particularly adapted for use in conjunction with garbage cans and the like.

It is a primary object of the instant invention to provide means for facilitating the handling of garbage or trash cans. As will be readily appreciated, the raising and moving of a loaded garbage can can be a difficult, and in many instances unpleasant, task, requiring substantial physical effort. It is to avoid the physical effort and unpleasantness associated with the movement of garbage cans that the instant invention has been devised.

Primarily, with the garbage can carrier herein set forth, a user can, through merely a manipulation of the carrier itself, and without touching the can, raise the can off the ground onto a wheel support and roll the can, without danger of tipping, spilling or falling, to any desired location. The major weight of the can is maintained by the carrier itself, the user of the carrier avoiding the necessity of any bending or direct lifting, or for that matter any direct contact with the can itself in that the raising, transporting and depositing of the can is effected solely through a manipulation of the carrier at the handle end thereof.

Also of significance in providing a carrier contemplated to function as a labor saving device of the type with which we are herein concerned is the fact that the instant invention is of an extremely rigid and stable construction, while at the same time being lightweight, compact for easy storage, and in fact capable of being disassembled for shipping purposes and the like.

The objects of the instant invention are achieved through the provision of a device which consists basically of an elongated central post, a handgrip on the upper end of the post, a pair of laterally projecting handle-engaging hooks adjustably affixed to the upper portion of the post, a cradle-forming arcuate strap affixed to the lower portion of the post, and a pair of relatively widely spaced wheels rotatably supporting the lower end of the post through an elongated axle which extends through both the lower end portion of the post and the post-encircling portion of the cradle-forming strap.

These together with the objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the carrier of the instant invention in a can-transporting position;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken substantially on a plane passing along line 2–2 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken substantially on a plane passing along line 3–3 in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged partial cross-sectional view taken substantially on a plane passing along line 4–4 in FIG. 2.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, reference numeral **10** is used to generally designate the carrier comprising the instant invention. This carrier **10** includes an elongated main support member or post **12**, preferably in the nature of a hollow rigid tube. The upper end of the post **12**, the end from which a control of the carrier **10** is to be effected, is provided with an enlarged handgrip **14**, including finger-conforming portions for insuring a positive grasping thereof.

The carrier **10** incorporates a pair of support and transporting wheels **16** rotatably supported on an elongated axle **18** which extends transversely through the lower portion of the post **12** and positions the wheels **16** laterally outward to the opposite sides of the post. A can-receiving cradle **20** is positioned between the wheels **16** and fixed to the post **12** for receiving and stabilizing the lower portion of an elevated can **22**. This cradle **20** is defined by an elongated flat rigid metal strap arcuately configured so as to generally follow the curvature of a can body. The central portion of the strap-formed cradle **20** includes a rearwardly offset post encircling portion **24** which is snugly received about the post **12**. Noting FIG. 2 in particular, when the post **12** is seated within the rearwardly offset portion **24** of the cradle **20**, the arcuate portions of the cradle-forming strap to the opposite sides of the post align with the forward portion of the post **12** so as to in effect form a continuous can-supporting cradle, the depth of the offset portion **24** generally corresponding to the exterior diameter of the post **12**. The actual mounting of the cradle **20**, and more particularly the offset portion **24**, to the post **12** is effected by extending the wheel axle **18** through a pair of aligned holes in the sides of the portion **24** which in turn align with an axle-receiving passage through the post **12**, the axle **18** thus assisting in the mounting and stabilization of the cradle **20**, while at the same time being itself mounted on the post **12**. The completion of the mounting of the axle **18** and cradle **20** is effected by a fastener **26**, in the nature of a bolt and nut, cotter pin, or the like, extended from front to rear through the post **12**, the post received portion of the axle **18**, and the bright section of the rearwardly offset portion **24**.

The actual grasping and lifting of the can **22** is effected by a pair of forwardly directed hooks **28** positioned toward the upper portion of the post **12** below the handgrip **14**. These hooks **28** are actually defined by a pair of inwardly angled recesses **30** formed in the forward portions of a pair of laterally spaced forwardly projecting platelike arms **32** constituting the opposed end portions of a platelike rigid member configured so as to embrace the upper portion of the post **12**. This member includes a central rearwardly offset portion **34** which, noting FIG. 3 in particular, snugly seats the post **12** therein, lying against the sides and about the rear thereof. This rearwardly offset portion terminates, in general alignment with the forward face of the post **12**, in a pair of integral laterally outwardly projecting wings **36** which in turn are integrally formed with the inner ends of the hook-defining arm portions **32**, thereby spacing the hooks **28** laterally from each other so as to engage the carrier handle **38** at laterally spaced points whereby a positive and a stabilizing grip on the handle **38**, and hence the can **22**, is effected. The actual fixing of the hook-forming member to the post **12** is effected by means of a transverse nutted bolt **40** or the like extending through the opposed sides of the rearwardly offset portion **34** and through the portion of the post **12** sandwiched therebetween. In order to accommodate the carrier **10** to cans of different heights, it will be noted that the post **12** is provided with a series of holes **42** therethrough for the selective accommodation of the fastener **40** and the mounting of the hook-forming member in a vertically adjusted position.

From the foregoing, it should be appreciated that a highly unique carrier has been defined. While this carrier is particularly adapted for the carrying of garbage cans or the like, it will of course be appreciated that substantially any type of can or container can be accommodated thereby, as long as the container includes upper means which can be engaged by the grasping and raising hooks **28**. The carrier itself is adjustable, lightweight, compact, and capable of being easily assembled and disassembled for both storage and shipping purposes, requiring in effect only the utilization of two fasteners in the mounting of the hooks, cradle and wheel supports. In use, the handle or similar upper portion of a can is engaged by the laterally spaced hooks, which incidentally are rearwardly angled so as to provide a positive nonslip engagement with the can handle and are laterally spaced so as to provide for a stable nontilting gripping. The carrier is then swung rearwardly, pulling the can upwardly and at the same time tilting the can so as to bring the lower portion thereof into seated engagement with the arcuate cradle formed on the lower portion of the carrier immediately between the laterally spaced wheels. The can is then firmly supported on the carrier and can be easily transported to any desired site through a mere rolling of the carrier along the ground or floor. When the can is to be redeposited on the ground, the carrier is merely swung to the

vertical, the lower portion of the can swinging outwardly away from the cradle and seating on the ground, the continued forward swinging of the carrier **10** dropping the hooks **28** away from the can handle for a complete release of the can. Thus, it will be appreciated that the raising, transporting and depositing of the can can be effected utilizing a single hand and without any direct contact between the user and the can.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

What I claim as new is as follows:

1. A carrier for cans or the like comprising an elongated post, handle means on one end of said post, ground-engaging wheel means on the second end of said post, can-grasping and -raising hook means mounted on the post adjacent the first end thereof, and can-cradling means mounted on said post adjacent the second end thereof whereby, through a swinging of the first post end about the wheel means, the hook means can be engaged with the upper portion of a can and the can swung upwardly so as to seat within the can-cradling means, said wheel means comprising a pair of wheels positioned laterally outward to the opposite sides of the second end of the post, and an elongated axle mounting the wheels and in turn being mounted on said post, said can-cradling means comprising an elongated arcuately formed rigid strap affixed to said post between the wheels, the strap including a central rearwardly offset portion which encircles the post, said wheel axle extending through the offset portion of the strap and the portion of the post encircled thereby, and fastener means interlocking said post, offset strap portion, and axle.

2. The carrier of claim **1** wherein said fastener means comprises a rigid member extending through the post, axle and offset strap portion perpendicularly to the axle.

3. The carrier of claim **2** wherein said hook means comprise a pair of laterally spaced hooks defined on the forward end portions of an elongated member, the central portion of which is offset so as to extend about and snugly seat the post toward the second end thereof, and fastener means engaged through the offset portion of the hook-forming member and the portion of the post received therein.

4. The carrier of claim **3** wherein said post includes a series of holes at longitudinally spaced points therealong toward the second end thereof for the selective reception of the fastener means utilized in mounting the member incorporating the hooks on the ends thereof.