Oct. 9, 1934. E. F. RAWLINGS 1,976,037

SPOOL HOLDER OR THE LIKE

Filed May 18, 1931

Fig. 1

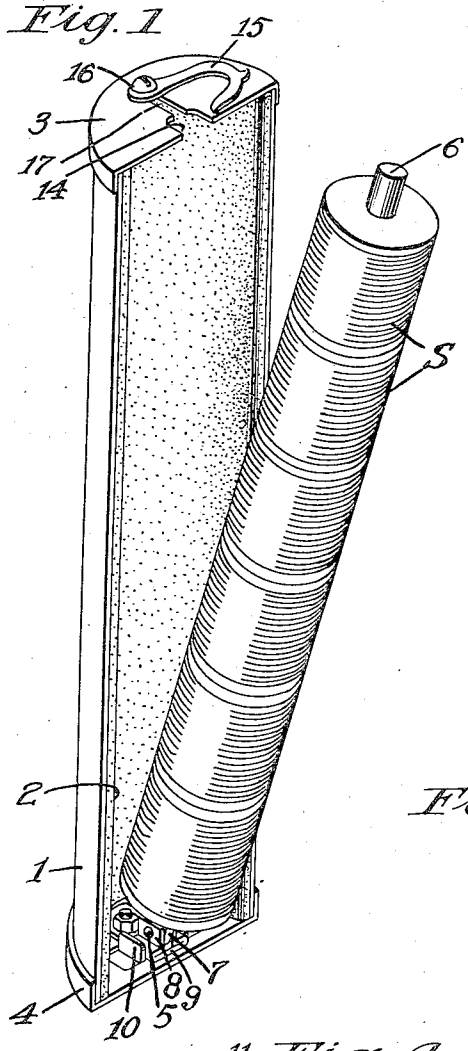


Fig. 2

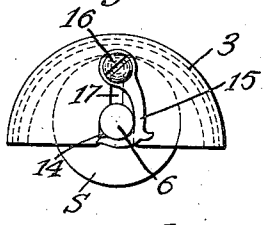


Fig. 3

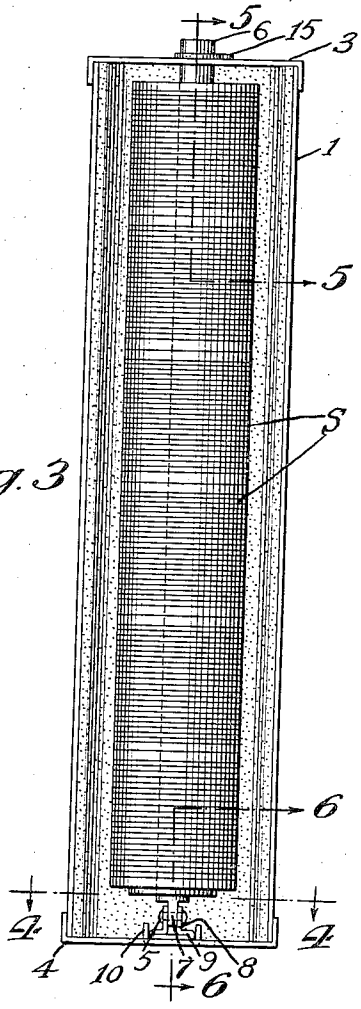


Fig. 4

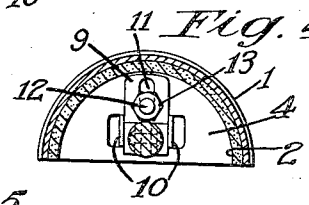


Fig. 5

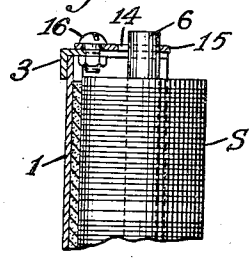
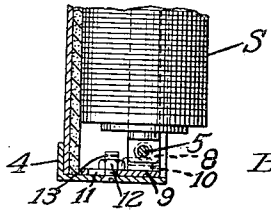


Fig. 6



Inventor:
Ethel F. Rawlings.

By Geo. B. Rawlings.
Attorney.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,976,037

SPOOL HOLDER OR THE LIKE

Ethel F. Rawlings, Watertown, Mass.

Application May 18, 1931, Serial No. 538,135

4 Claims. (Cl. 242—137)

This invention relates to article holders and particularly to a holder for such familiar articles of every-day use as spools or bobbins of thread.

For the purposes of this application I shall discuss my invention in its adaptation to the holding in convenient and orderly assembly of a plurality of spools of thread. It is to be understood, however, that this treatment is purely illustrative and in no way limiting and that the principles of my invention apply to the holding of any of a large variety of articles of which thread spools and bobbins are sufficienty typical.

One object of my invention is to provide an article holder of this general class which is at once both simple and inexpensive of construction and convenient of use.

Another object is to provide a compact and conveniently operable holder which will maintain the spools or bobbins in orderly assembly and in an arrangement which lends itself peculiarly to the most advantageous display of the articles and to their convenient withdrawal as needed, all in a structure which will avoid any possibility of snarling or entanglement of the thread on one spool with that on adjacent spools.

Such a holder is particularly useful as a counter or sales display in that it admits of the convenient assembly and display of a selected range of spools of different gauge or color in a compact and useful holder or case which functions both as a shipping container and a service article, thus adapting it for use by dressmakers, housewives and others. As such it makes an attractive gift package as well as a novel display for stimulating the sale of some particular brand of merchandise.

These objects, together with various other features of advantage which will appear more fully hereinafter, are secured in the device of the present invention.

As illustrative of the principles involved, I have shown in the accompanying drawing an embodiment of my invention which I have found highly satisfactory under actual service conditions and well adapted to the requirements of manufacture.

In the drawing:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a spool holder in accordance with my invention, the pivoted spindle on which the spools are assembled being shown as swung out of the protective casing so as to permit the ready withdrawal of the spools therefrom.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of Fig. 1 but showing the spool holding spindle latched within the casing.

Fig. 3 is a face view of the device.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3, and

Figs. 5 and 6 are partial longitudinal sections on the lines 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, of Fig. 3.

I have indicated at 1 a half-round shell or casing member, which is of any suitable material, as metal, and is interiorly lined as at 2 with felt or other tensioning material. The ends of the shell 1 are preferably but not necessarily closed by tight-fitting top and bottom caps 3 and 4, respectively.

Pivoted at 5 to the inner face of one of said caps, here shown as the bottom cap 4, is a spindle 6 on which the spools of thread S are removably assembled by being slid onto said spindle endwise from above, the usual holes in said spools being penetrated by the spindle.

The pivotal connection 5 may be made in any suitable manner, as by forming the lower end of the spindle with a reduced tongue 7 which is received between and pivoted at 5 to a pair of spaced upturned ears 8 rising from the bottom cap 4.

If desired, said ears may be arranged for sliding movement relative to said bottom cap. In such event the ears 8 are formed on a transversely adjustable slide 9 which is guided in any suitable guide-way formed on the bottom cap 4. As here shown said guide-way is defined by a pair of spaced upturned tongues 10 struck up from said bottom cap.

The in and out adjustment of the slide 9 is permitted and held by a longitudinal slot 11 formed in said slide within which slot is disposed a bolt 12 set through the cap 4 from below, and carrying at its inner end a nut 13.

The upper end of the spindle may, if desired, be releasably latched to the casing 1. Where such a latch is considered desirable, the upper cap 3 is provided with a recess 14 adapted snugly to receive the upper end of the spindle, and with a pivoted catch 15 adapted releasably to engage and clamp said upper end of the spindle within said locking recess. The catch 15 is pivoted to the cap 3 at 16, and in order to permit adjustment of the spindle closer to or farther away from the shell, the pivot 16 may be arranged as a sliding pivot adapted to slide inwardly and outwardly in a slot 17 communicating with the locking recess 14.

The construction permits the spindle to be positioned and locked closer to or farther away from the tensioning material 2, according to the diameter of the particular spools or bobbins assembled on the spindle, the sliding base 9 permitting the spindle to move laterally at this end.

Either the slidable pivot base 9 or the slid-

able locking pivot 16 however may be dispensed with if desired, as these are simply features of added utility, the essential features of my invention being the provision of a protective case within which a spindle containing a plurality of spools, bobbins, or the like is normally contained, casing and spindle being constructed and arranged to permit the spindle to be projected into a position wherein the spools thereon may be withdrawn.

Thus, while I have shown the casing as half-round, such shape approximating the curvature of the spools, it is evident that the casing need not have this exact shape, it being sufficient only that the casing have an opening therein of sufficient length and diameter to permit the loaded spindle to be swung therethrough into the position shown in Fig. 1. Obviously such a requirement would be answered by a casing consisting of a pair of relatively rotatable shell sections which when closed would define a completely enclosing casing for the spools and which when opened would afford a space sufficient to allow projection of the spindle therethrough into the position of Fig. 1.

Similarly, while most conveniently arranged as a pivot or hinge connection with the bottom cap, the spindle 6 may be connected with the casing by some equivalent mechanical connection which will permit it the desired in-and-out movement relative to the casing. For example, the spindle may be eccentrically mounted on a rotating plate at this end.

These and various other modifications are to be regarded as within the spirit and scope of my invention as defined by the appended claims.

What I therefore claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A holder of the class described, comprising a half-round casing closed at its ends and having an opening extending from end to end thereof and of a size sufficient to permit an assembly of thread-carrying units simultaneously to be swung laterally as a unit through the same, and a spindle pivotally mounted upon the inside face of one of the closed ends of said casing for arcual movement into and out of the opening in said casing, said spindle extending substantially the entire length of said casing and adapted to have loosely threaded thereon in endwise assembly a plurality of thread-carrying units, said spindle normally occupying a position within the casing but movable arcually outwardly through said opening of the casing into an inclined position relative to the casing wherein the thread-carrying units may be withdrawn longitudinally over the free end thereof, and means lining the inner surface of said casing for frictionally holding the thread-carrying units on said spindle against rotation.

2. A holder for an assembly of thread-carrying units, comprising a half-round casing having closed ends, the opening of which casing is substantially coextensive with the half-round wall of said casing, and a spindle pivoted to the inner face of one closed end of said casing and carrying said units in removable endwise assembly thereon, said spindle normally occupying a position substantially axially of the casing but bodily projectable outwardly through the opening of the casing into such angular positions with reference thereto that the units thereon may be individually withdrawn longitudinally over the free end thereof, the units when the spindle is disposed in normal position within the casing being substantially enclosed by the casing with a part of the thread thereon substantially in contact with the inner face of the casing wall so as to be restrained from accidental unwinding action and with another part of the thread exposed to view through said opening of the casing.

3. A holder as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivot for the spindle is mounted on a slide whereby the pivot may be adjusted closer towards or farther away from the opening of the casing to adapt the holder to thread carrying units of different diameters.

4. A holder as claimed in claim 2, wherein the closed end of the casing opposite to the closed end on which the spindle is pivoted is provided with a radial slot in which the free end of the spindle is adapted to be entered and latched.

ETHEL F. RAWLINGS.