Aug. 24, 1943. H. GROOTHEDDE 2,327,519

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT

Filed July 18, 1942

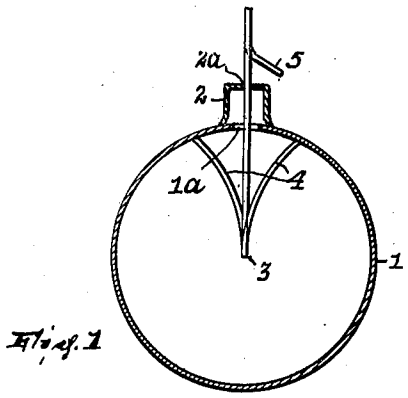


Fig. 1.

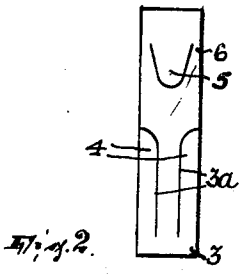


Fig. 2.

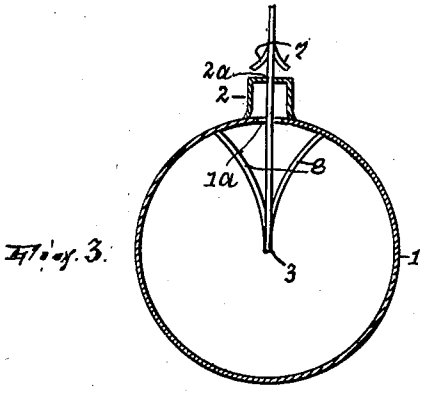


Fig. 3.

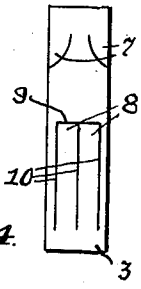


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR,
Harry Groothedde,
BY John W. Neward,
ATTORNEY.

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CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT

Harry Groothedde, Haledon, N. J.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—73)

A known type of Christmas tree decoration comprises a hollow ornament having an aperture therein, and a bifurcated wire hanger whose upper part or bend is enlarged to surmount the ornament and whose terminals extend down through the aperture and diverge within the ornament; usually the latter includes an ornament proper, as a colored glass ball, and a metal ferrule surmounting the same. To the enlarged part or loop of the hanger is to be attached any flexible expedient, as a wire or string, by which to hang the ornament from a limb of the tree. A fault with this construction is that, because the terminals of the hanger diverge downwardly within the ornament, the hanger becomes inadvertently detached; in short, their divergence invites their being cammed together when the ornament is subjected to an inadvertent pull independently of the hanger, as in attaching the ornament to a tree. My object here is to provide a decoration of the class set forth which will not be subject to this fault and which will be quite as inexpensive to manufacture as the conventional type of decoration first referred to.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 shows one form of the decoration, with the ornament in section and the hanger in edgewise elevation, and Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the hanger appearing in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 shows another form, appearing also with the ornament in section and the hanger in edgewise elevation, and Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the hanger appearing in Fig. 3.

The ornament may include any hollow body or ornament proper having an aperture of less diameter than its interior. Such body is here in the form of a ball 1 formed with an opening or hole 1*a* to its interior. 2 is the usual ferrule also included, in this example, in the ornament and seated on the ball with its passage 2*a* in registry with the hole. But whether the ornament is in one or more parts is not material so long as it is hollow and has an aperture to its interior (here formed by hole 1*a* and passage 2*a*).

The hanger is formed from an initially planiform strip 3 of sheet material, as metal, which, from a transverse line suitably remote from each end thereof, is slit toward but short of one such end along at least one longitudinally extending line 3*a*, though in this example (Fig. 2) it is slit on two such lines, such slitting lines here starting at the side edges of the strip. Each slit develops the strip with a tongue 4. Between the tongue or tongues and the end of the strip toward which they project a tongue 5 is cut from the strip, preferably so as to project toward the tongue or tongues 4.

Each tongue 4 is to be bent out of the plane of the body of the strip so as to lie in acute-angular relation thereto. If there is but a single such tongue it is bent off so that the distance between its free end and the plane of the body of the strip exceeds the diameter of the aforesaid aperture; if there are two such tongues they are permanently bent off so that the distance between their free ends is greater than such diameter. In short, the dimension of the hanger in a plane transverse thereof and coincident with the free end of a tongue 4 is greater than the diameter of the aperture. The strip, of course, and hence the tongue or tongues are resilient.

With each tongue thus bent off so that the lower part of the hanger exists as a downwardly tapering transversely collapsible fork, the hanger is introduced into the aperture of the ornament as shown in Fig. 1, during which operation the tongue or tongues forming such fork are cammed aside, thereupon springing back to the normal state shown to serve as a positive stop to removal of the hanger. The parts are thus capable of ready assembly but cannot be separated without destructively affecting one of them.

Tongue 5 is bent out as shown in Fig. 1 so that the hanger develops having greater transverse dimension in the plane of the free end of such tongue than the diameter of said aperture, whereby the hanger is formed above the tongue or tongues 4 with a rest by which it is supported by the ornament and so kept from falling thereinto. Incidentally, in forming the tongue a relatively narrow neck 6 is left at one side thereof around which the attaching wire or string may be looped.

In Figs. 3 and 4 the construction is essentially the same as above described excepting as to the tongues. The relatively lower tongue or tongues 8 are in this case formed spaced from both side edges of the strip, as by a transverse slit at 9 and three slits 10 extending from slit 9 lengthwise of the strip. The material of the strip is also here resilient and the tongues 8 exist permanently bent off as in Fig. 3 so as to function the same as the tongues 4. To afford the rest for the hanger in this case at least one tongue 7 cut from the side edge of the strip is provided.

The improved decoration may be manufactured without appreciably greater cost than the known type, first mentioned herein, and it has the advantages that once the parts are assembled they

cannot be separated except by destroying, say, the ornament part thereof.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is:

The herein-described decoration of the class set forth including a hollow ornament having an aperture extending to its interior and a hanger penetrating said aperture and formed of a substantially planiform strip of resilient material having one end portion thereof within and the other end portion exterior of the ornament and each end portion providing a tongue cut therefrom and bent out of the initial plane of the hanger, said hanger in a cross-section thereof coincident with the free end of either tongue having a dimension too great to permit the corresponding end portion to pass undistorted through the aperture and the tongue of the first-named end portion converging with the remainder of the latter relatively from the aperture.

HARRY GROOTHEDDE.