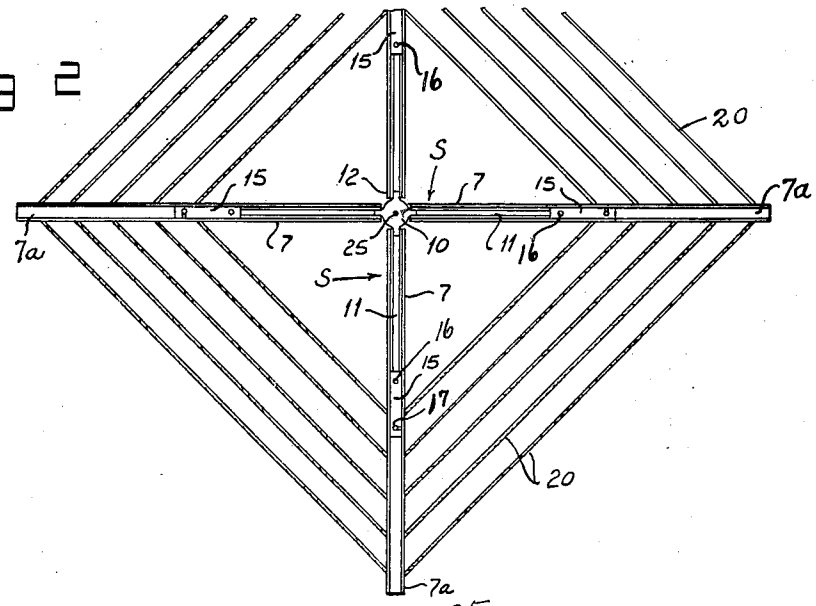
April 11, 1950 H. L. GRIFFIN 2,503,386

COMBINED CLOTHES DRIER AND SUNSHADE

Filed Sept. 10, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig 2



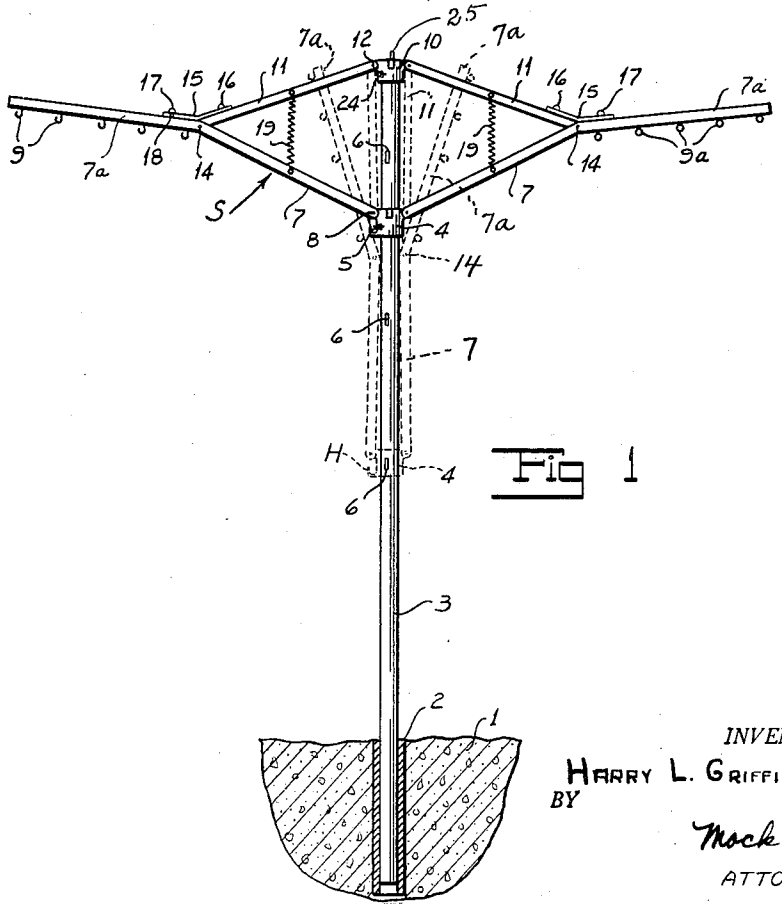


Fig 1

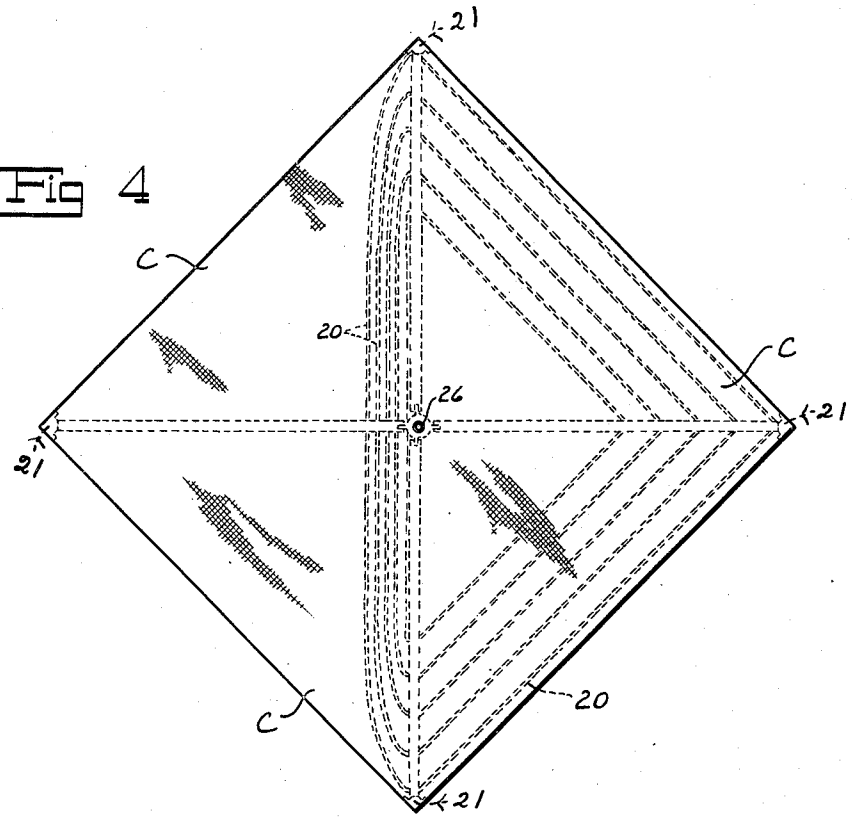
INVENTOR.
HARRY L. GRIFFIN
BY
Mock & Blum
ATTORNEYS

April 11, 1950 H. L. GRIFFIN 2,503,386

COMBINED CLOTHES DRIER AND SUNSHADE

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Fig 4



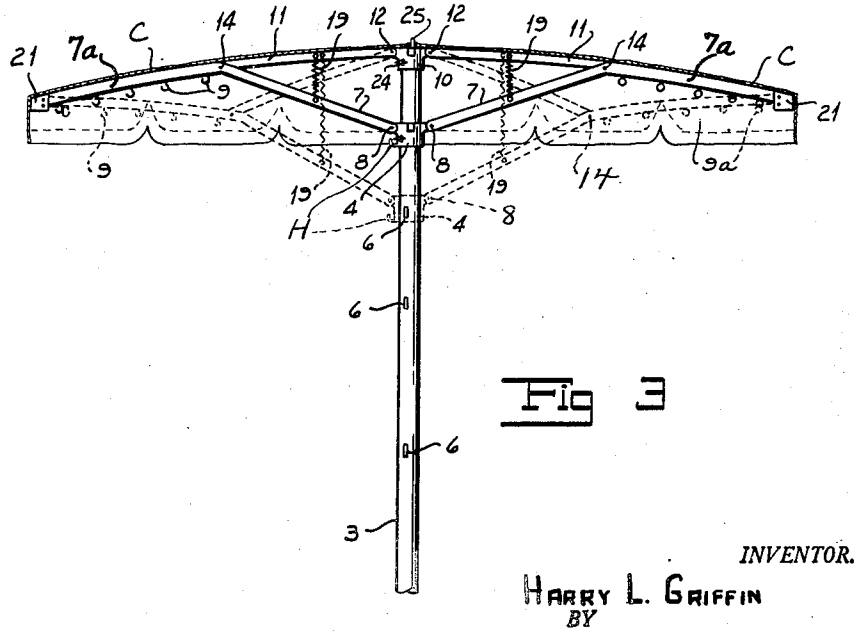


Fig 3

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COMBINED CLOTHES DRIER AND SUNSHADE

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Fig 5

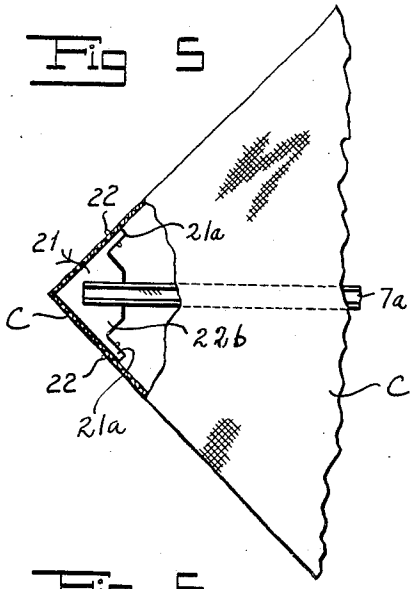


Fig 6

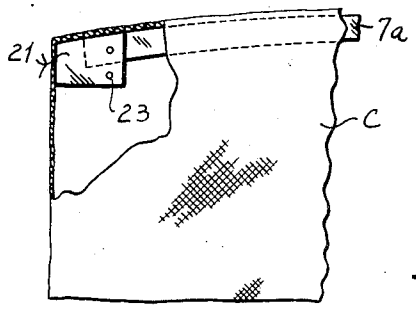


Fig 7

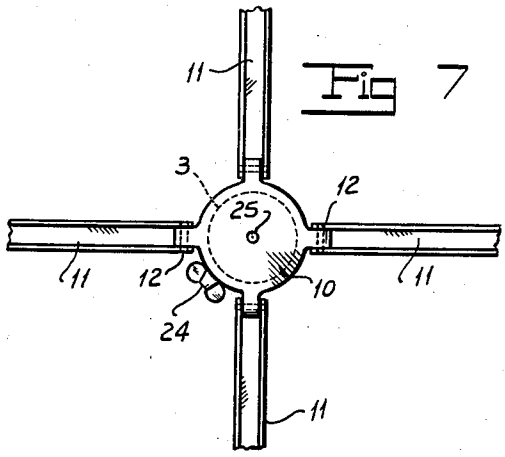


Fig 8

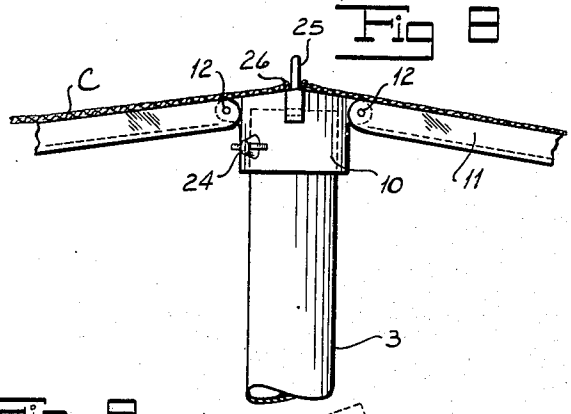
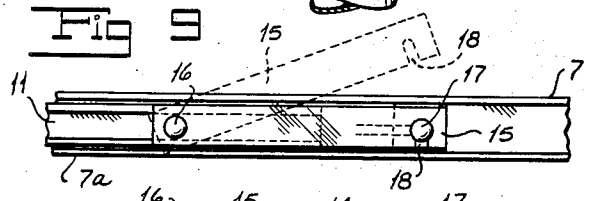


Fig 9



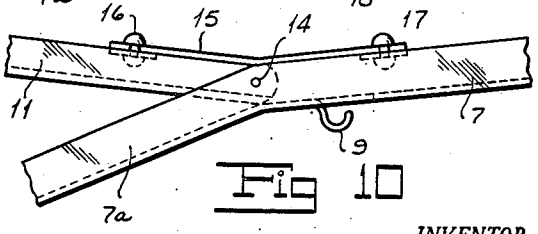


Fig 10

Fig 11

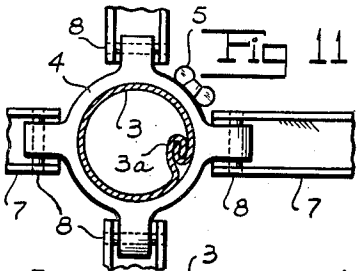
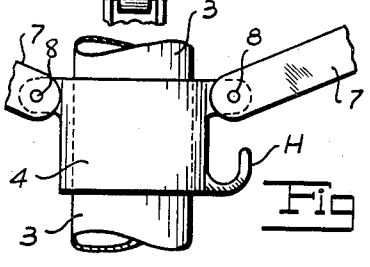


Fig 12



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Patented Apr. 11, 1950 2,503,386

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,503,386

COMBINED CLOTHES DRIER AND SUNSHADE

Harry L. Griffin, Rockville Centre, N. Y., assignor to Dry-Or-Shade, Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application September 10, 1946, Serial No. 695,997

6 Claims. (Cl. 211—178)

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My invention relates to a new and improved device, which can be used as a clothes drier, and also as a sunshade or sun umbrella.

It is well-known to provide a clothes drier which consists of arms which radiate from a vertical column. Cords or ropes are diagonally connected to said arms and the clothes are fastened to said cords or ropes.

Such known devices are unattractive and they cannot be used for any other purpose.

According to my invention, I provide a collapsible device which can be shipped in closed position, and which can be easily opened to drier position or to umbrella position so that it can be used as a drier or sunshade. I provide a cover which can be releasably connected to the device.

For these purposes, I provide numerous improvements and special features of construction, which are set forth in the annexed description and drawings, which disclose preferred embodiments of my invention.

Fig. 1 is an elevation of certain parts of the first embodiment of the improved device. The runner and lower rib-members and upper rib-members are shown in drier position in full lines, and in closed or collapsed position in broken lines. In this embodiment, the lower ribs, their rib-extensions, and the upper ribs are straight.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the parts of Fig. 1, in drier position, also showing the cords in drier formation.

Fig. 3 is an elevation of another embodiment, in which the rib-extensions of the lower ribs are convexo-concave, and the upper ribs are of the same shape. The lower ribs are straight. In Fig. 3, the broken-line position of runner 4 is the drier position, and the upper full-line position of runner 4 is the umbrella position. The shapes of the upper ribs and of the extensions of the lower ribs can be varied. Preferably, when the frame is in the umbrella position, each upper rib and its associated lower rib-extension have the same longitudinal contour. However, the invention is not limited to this, because the upper ribs may be straight, and their associated lower rib-extensions may be curved downwardly. It is sufficient if there is no sharp change in contour at adjacent ends of the upper ribs and their associated lower rib-extensions.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of either embodiment in umbrella position, the cords being shown in broken lines in umbrella formation.

Fig. 5 is a detail top plan view which shows the construction at a corner of the cover C.

Fig. 6 is an elevation of Fig. 5.

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Fig. 7 is a detail top plan view, showing the the cap at the top of the pole, and parts of the upper ribs.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a detail top plan view which shows the leaf spring which releasably connects each upper rib to its respective lower rib-member. The use of such leaf springs is optional.

Fig. 10 is a side elevation of Fig. 9.

Fig. 11 is a detail view, partly in horizontal section and partly in horizontal plan view, showing the construction of the hollow pole, the runner and the rib-members.

Fig. 12 is an elevation of Fig. 11.

Foundation 1 is provided with socket 2. The pole or column 3 is held vertically in socket 2. Runner 4 is a ring which is slidable on pole 3. Said runner 4 is releasably fixed to pole 3 by wing-screw 5, whose point enters a selected recess 6 of pole 3.

There are four such recesses 6, corresponding respectively in upward succession to closed position of the device, a next position in which the canopy or cover is applied or removed, drier position, and umbrella position. However, the drier position may also be the umbrella or sunshade position shown in full lines in Fig. 3.

The device has spreaders or stretchers S. Each spreader S has an inner spreader-section 7 which is integral with an outer spreader-section 7*a*, or which is otherwise in fixed angular relation to outer spreader-section 7*a*. There is an obtuse angle between each inner spreader-section 7 and its outer spreader-section 7*a*. This obtuse angle is less than 180° at the under side of each spreader S. The spreaders S are of identical cross-sectional shape and width. Their longitudinal shapes may be the same or different. Thus, the spreaders S are of identical straight longitudinal shape in Fig. 1. In Fig. 3, the inner spreader-sections 7 are longitudinally straight and the outer spreader-sections are longitudinally arched. Said spreaders S are made of metal or other suitable material. Said spreaders S are stiff and they are not bent out of normal shape in any position of the runner 4 in the normal operation of the device. Said spreaders S have channel-shaped cross-sections in this example.

In this embodiment, there are four spreaders S, whose horizontal projections make respective angles of 90° with each other, as shown in Fig. 2. I can use any desired number of spreaders S, whose horizontal projections make equal angles with each other.

If I use four lower spreaders S, one of the

spreader-sections 7a is provided with hooks 9, and the other spreader-sections 7a are provided with closed eyes 9a. The cords 20 are endless, because the ends of each cord 20 are tied or otherwise secured to each other.

In drier position, and as shown in Fig. 2, each cord 20 has the shape of a parallelogram. The closed eyes 9a support each cord 20 at three corners of said parallelogram. Each hook 9 supports a respective cord 20 at the remaining corner of the respective parallelogram.

By removing the cords 20 from hooks 9, said cords 20 may be positioned in substantially triangular formation in umbrella position, as shown in Fig. 4. The part of each cord 20 which is then free from hooks 9, is then supported in hook H of runner 4.

If I use more than four lower spreaders S, I can provide a plurality of spreader-sections 7a with said hooks 9, and I can provide runner 4 with a plurality of hooks H.

Each lower spreader S is associated with an upper rib 11 which is made of metal or other material. These upper ribs 11 are not bent out of normal shape in any position of the frame, as they are stiff. The upper ribs 11 may have the same cross-sectional channel-shape as spreaders S, but upper ribs 11 are narrower than spreaders S. These parts of the frame may be made of wood and of any cross-sectional shape.

A cap 10 is releasably fixed to the top of pole 3 by a releasable holding member 24, which can be a wing-nut screw.

Each upper rib 11 is pivoted to cap 10 by a respective pivot pin 12, and to the associated spreader S by a pivot pin 14 which is located at the junction between the respective spreader-sections 7 and 7a.

In the broken-line lower position of runner 4 in Fig. 1, which corresponds to the closed position of the frame, the inner spreader-sections 7 and ribs 11 are vertically alined and parallel to pole 3. The outer spreader-sections 7a are then inclined outwardly and make acute angles with the vertical axis of pole 3.

Fig. 1 also shows that when runner 4 is in its upper and drier position which is shown in full lines, each upper rib 11 makes an obtuse angle of less than 180° with the respective outer spreader-section 7a, as viewed from above. In said drier position, each spreader-section 7a is inclined upwardly relative to the horizontal plane of pivot pin 14. In the drier position, spreader sections 7 and 7a and upper ribs 11 are straight and unflexed. As previously noted, said parts 7, 7a and 11 remain unflexed in all positions of the frame.

When runner 4 is pushed to its umbrella position, the outer spreader-sections 7a are downwardly inclined relative to the horizontal plane, thus reversing their drier positions shown in full lines in Fig. 1, relative to the horizontal plane. However, the device can be used as a drier, when runner 4 is in its umbrella position.

In Fig. 3, the inner spreader sections 7 are straight as in Fig. 1, but outer spreader-sections 7a and upper ribs 11 are curved, so that their top faces are convex. In the umbrella position of Fig. 3 which may also be a drier position, the parts 7, 7a and 11 are unflexed and they have the same shape as in other positions of the frame. Fig. 3 shows that each upper rib 11 and its associated spreader-section 7a are continuous in curvature or longitudinal shape, so as to directly abut the bottom face of cover C. The invention is not

limited to this. As an example, the longitudinal curvature of upper ribs 11 may be less than the longitudinal curvature of the spreader-section 7a. The upper ribs 11 may be longitudinally straight as in Fig. 1, and the spreader-section 7a may curve longitudinally downwardly from pivots 14. It is preferred in each case to have each upper rib 11 and the respective spreader-section 7a, abutting the bottom face of the cover C.

Fig. 3 shows another important feature of my invention, which also applies to Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 3, the tips of spreader-sections 7a are substantially at the same height when the frame is in drier position and in umbrella position.

As an example, the height of the tips of spreader-sections 7a may be about 6.0 to 6.5 feet above the ground, when the frame is in drier position. This height of said tips is substantially maintained when the frame is in umbrella position, so that the device can be used as a drier when the frame is in umbrella position, by omitting the cover C, or by folding back a part of cover C. For this reason, each pivot 14 is located at the junction between an inner spreader-section 7 and its outer spreader-section 7a, and the parts have the proportions and longitudinal shapes shown substantially to scale in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3.

Also, Fig. 3 shows that when the runner 4 is in umbrella position, the height of said runner 4 is substantially the height of the tips of spreader-sections 7a. By making the inner spreader-sections 7 shorter than in the proportion shown in Fig. 3, the runner 4 can be located at a higher level than the tips of spreader-sections 7a, when the runner 4 is in umbrella position. I prefer this, so that the level of the runner 4 is above the level of the bottom edge of the canopy C, to provide abundant head-room in umbrella position.

A resilient leaf spring 15 is optionally pivotally connected to each upper rib 11 by a pivot pin 16. Each spring 15 has a lateral notch or recess 18. A stud 17, which has a shank and a head, is fixed to each spreader-section 7a. Each spring 15 can be turned from its non-operating position shown in broken lines in Fig. 9, to the operating position there shown in full lines. In such operating position, the shank of each stud 17 is located in the respective notch 18, and the head of each stud 17 overlies the respective spring 15.

It is clear from the drier position of runner 4 in Fig. 1, that if runner 4 is moved downwardly from said drier position, the angle between the legs of spring 15 is decreased, as viewed from the side.

When the spring 15 is in its normal unstressed shape, it may have the angularity shown in the drier position of Fig. 1. In such case, the springs 15 act as resilient connections for the upper ribs 11 and spreaders S, and said springs 15 also resiliently resist the movement of runner 4 below drier position. If runner 4 is moved to bottom closed position and runner 4 is then released, springs 15 act as automatic opening devices to move runner 4 to drier position.

In the umbrella position shown in full lines in Fig. 3, the springs 15 are substantially flat, and they may follow the longitudinal contour of each upper rim 11 and its associated outer spreader-section 7a, at opposite sides of the respective pivot 14.

If desired, the normal unstressed shape of each

spring 15 may be its shape in said umbrella position, so that said springs 15 urge runner 4 upwardly to its umbrella position, until runner 4 has reached said umbrella position.

Also, if desired, the normal unstressed shape of each spring 15 may be more convex, as viewed from above, than in said umbrella position.

In order further to facilitate the opening of the device and the movement of runner 4 to umbrella position, which also may be drier position, I optionally provide each upper rib 11 and its associated inner spreader-section 7 with a tension spring 19, whose ends are fixed respectively to an upper rib 11 and an inner spreader-section 7. Each spring 19 may be under initial tension in the umbrella position. I can use springs 19 alone, or leaf springs 15 alone, or both said types of springs, or I may omit said springs.

Cover or canopy C is made of any flexible material which may be somewhat stretchable and elastic. If I use four lower spreaders S, cover C has a rectangular shape, part of which is shown in Fig. 5.

A rigid corner member 21, made of metal or other rigid material, is fixed at each corner of cover C by stitches or rivets 22 which pass through holes 23 of such corner members 21.

Each corner member 21 has outer faces or legs 21a, which are flat and perpendicular to each other, and a horizontal transverse shelf 22b which is between the tops and bottoms of legs 21a.

As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, when the cover C is assembled with the frame, the top face of the outer end-part of each spreader-section 7a directly abuts the lower face of cover C. The lower face of said end-part of spreader-section 7a rests in a depression which is provided in shelf 22b. As shown in Fig. 6, the contour of the depression of shelf 22b follows the contour of spreader-section 7a, so that spreader-section 7a remains unflexed. The top of each corner member 21 has the same shape as the abutting part of the applied cover C and of the upper edge of spreader-section 7a. This applies whether spreader-section 7a is curved or straight.

Cover C has a central ring 26, which fits on the vertical lug 25 of cap 10.

The metal pole 3 may be hollow and rolled into shape so as to provide a longitudinal rolled seam 3a.

The frame of the device is shipped in closed shape, with cover C separate from said device. If the frame is self-opening by the action of springs 15 and 19 or either of them to drier position or to umbrella position, runner 4 is held in closed position by member 5 or any suitable means. The pole 3 may be solid or hollow and made of any material. The endless cords 20 may be assembled with the frame at the factory, if such endless cords are used.

Upon moving the runner 4 into drier position by hand or by the opening springs, the endless cords 20 become taut or substantially taut, so that if said endless cords 20 are held in hooks 9 and closed eyes 9a, runner 4 cannot be moved above drier position, if it is desired to have a single drier position below the umbrella position. If desired, the force of the opening springs may be insufficient to open the frame. In such case, such springs are sufficiently strong so that the frame can be opened to drier position or umbrella position by very slight force.

When it is desired to use the device as a sunshade, the endless cords 20 are released from hooks 9a, if the drier position is below the umbrella or sunshade position. The removal of the cords from hooks 9a is optional, if the drier position is the umbrella position. The runner 4 is moved to the position indicated by recess 6 which is next above bottom recess 6, either by hand, or by springs 15 and 19, or either of said sets of springs. The runner 4 is held in such cover-applying position. The corner members 21 are interfitted with the free ends of spreader-section 7a, while runner 4 is held in such position.

The runner 4 is then moved to umbrella position, so that cover C is spread into smooth shape and said cover C is held firmly in taut condition on the frame. When runner 4 is moved to umbrella position, the tips of outer spreader-section 7a thrust laterally outwardly against the corner members 21, thus tightening the cover C, which assumes the contour of the upper ribs 11 and outer spreader-sections 7a. To remove cover C, the runner 4 is held in the same position as when the cover C is applied, and the cover C is then detached from the frame.

The springs 15 may be interlocked with studs 17 at the factory, so that such springs 15 are in operating position when the device is closed. If desired, the device may be shipped with springs 15 free from studs 17, and the user can then turn the springs 15 into operating position.

For convenience, the device is defined in the claims with reference to its upstanding position shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

While I prefer to locate the pivot pins 14 at the junctions between inner spreader-sections 7 and outer spreader-sections 7a, the invention is not limited to this feature.

The invention also includes the sub-combinations disclosed herein.

If the endless cords 20 have separable ends, it is not necessary to provide holding means 9 from which the endless cords 20 can be released. Hence such releasable holding means 9 are not essential, although their use is preferred.

For convenience, the ends of inner spreader-sections 7 and of upper ribs 11 which are respectively pivoted to runner 4 and cap 10 are designated as their inner ends, and the outer spreader-sections 7a are designated as outer extensions of inner spreader-sections 7. In effect, the inner ends of upper ribs 11 are pivotally connected to pole 3, since cap 10 is merely a convenient way of securing such pivotal connection.

For convenience, the drier position of runner 4 is designated as a lower selected position if the drier position is different from the umbrella position, and in such case the umbrella position of runner 4 is designated as its upper selected position. Since the device could be made and sold, particularly for export, without the endless cords 20, which can be applied by the user, the invention is not limited to a device which includes such endless cords. Hence the user can apply the cords 20 when the device is in umbrella position.

The same applies to hooks 9 and eyes 9a, since they can be applied to spreader-sections 7a by a user, instead of being original parts.

I prefer to have the outer spreader-sections 7a downwardly inclined from inner spreader-sections 7, when runner 4 is in umbrella position, which may also be a drier position. However, the invention is not limited to this feature, because outer spreader-sections 7a could be horizontal or substantially horizontal in such umbrella or optional drier position, since upper ribs 11 may be substantially horizontal in such umbrella or optional drier position. The cover C could thus

have a flat horizontal shape or substantially such shape, when the frame is in umbrella position.

I have described preferred embodiments of my invention, but numerous changes and omissions and additions can be made without departing from its scope.

As shown in Fig. 3, when the frame is in umbrella position which may also be drier position, the tips of the outer spreader-sections 7*a* are below the upper ends of the inner spreader-sections 7. This results from the bent shape of the spreaders S. In such umbrella or optional drier position, the tips of the outer spreader-sections 7*a* should not be substantially higher than the upper ends of the inner spreader-sections 7, and preferably not higher than the inner ends of the outer spreader-sections 7*a*.

I claim:

1. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreaders, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, said spreaders being adapted to support clothes-supporting lines between said spreaders.

2. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreaders, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, said spreaders being adapted to support clothes-supporting lines between said spreaders, said outer face sections and said ribs being inclined downwardly relative to said pole when said runner is in said top position.

3. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreaders, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from

said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, said spreaders being adapted to support clothes-supporting lines between said spreaders, each rib being connected to the respective spreader at substantially the angular joint of said face-sections, each rib extending substantially only to said angular joint.

4. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreads, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, said spreaders being adapted to support clothes-supporting lines between said spreaders, at least one leaf spring being provided at the junction being a rib and the spreader to which said rib is connected, said leaf spring being connected to said rib and said spreader and being under stress to urge said runner upwardly.

5. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreaders, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, a series of endless clothes-supporting lines, one selected spreader having hooks for releasably supporting said endless lines at said selected spreader, the other spreaders having eyes in which said endless lines are slidably supported, each said endless line being in polygonal formation when it is supported on a respective hook, said runner having hook-means for supporting the parts of said endless lines which are released from said hooks of said spreaders.

6. A combined clothes drier and sunshade device which comprises a longitudinal pole which has a top end and a bottom end, a runner slidable on said pole to a bottom position and an intermediate drier position and a top sunshade position, means for fixing said runner to said pole in said intermediate position and in said top position, a plurality of rigid spreaders, the inner ends of said spreaders being pivotally connected to said runner, a plurality of ribs, each rib having a top end which is connected by a top pivotal connection to said pole above said runner and

said spreaders, each rib having a lower end which is pivotally connected to a respective spreader between the ends of the respective spreader, said ribs extending below said top pivotal connections and being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said ribs being downwardly inclined relative to said pole from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position, each spreader having a face which is its top face when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, each said face having an inner face portion and an outer face portion, said face portions of each spreader making an obtuse angle with each other, said inner face portions being close to and substantially alined with said pole when said runner is in its bottom position, said outer face portions diverging from said pole and making acute upward angles with said pole when said runner is in said bottom position, said inner face portions being inclined upwardly to said pole and making acute angles with said pole when said runner is in said intermediate and top positions, said outer face sections being inclined upwardly to said pole when said runner is in said intermediate position, each said outer face section being substantially a continuation of the top face of the respective rib when said runner is in said top position to provide supporting members which consist of said ribs and said outer face sections which are adapted to support a canopy which is connectable to said pole and to the said spreaders, the outer tips of said outer face sections being substantially not higher than the inner ends of said inner face sections where said runner is in said top position, said spreaders being adapted to support clothes-supporting lines between said spreaders, the outer tips of said spreaders being at substantially the same distance from said top pivotal connections when said runner is in said intermediate position and in said top position.

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