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C. STURTZ

2,163,989

FUR STRETCHING DEVICE

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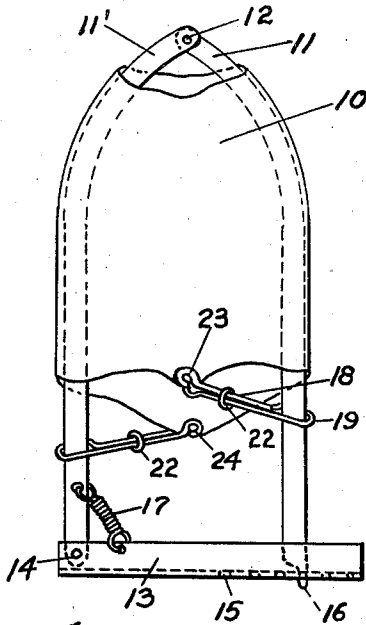


Fig. 1

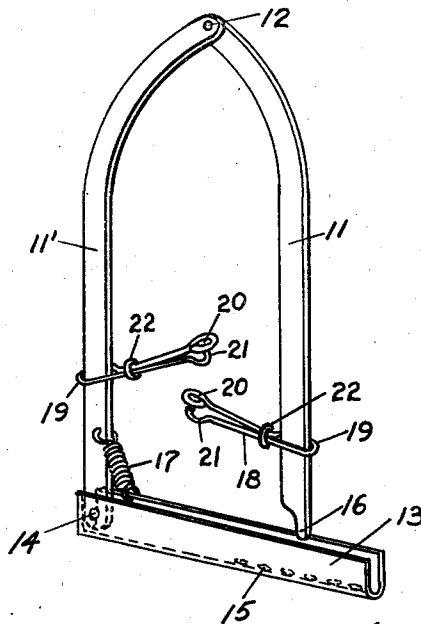


Fig. 2

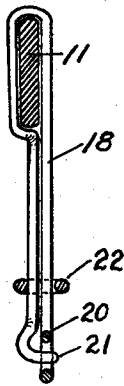


Fig. 3

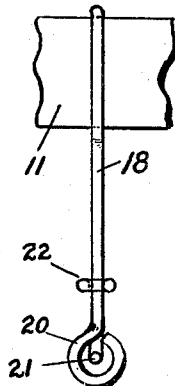


Fig. 4

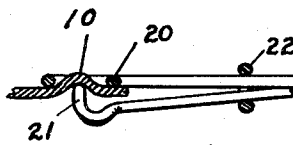


Fig. 5

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FUR STRETCHING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 149—21)

My invention relates to fur stretchers and more particularly to the type of stretcher that is used by trappers for stretching the pelts of small animals, such as muskrats, or the like.

It is obvious to anyone familiar with the art that the prime requisite of a stretching device is to rigidly support the pelt in a manner that will cause it to be spread out and stretched to the proper proportions without causing wrinkles or folds in the pelt and without puncturing the pelt, or in any other manner, injuring it.

The object of my invention is to produce a device that will accomplish the aforesaid requirements in an efficient manner so that the operator may easily adjust the device to its required position without any tools or the knowledge of mechanics.

The invention consists of the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts heretofore described, claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the said drawing Fig. 1 is an illustration of a pelt in its stretched position applied to the device.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device showing the arrangement and operation of the various parts.

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of an adjustable clamp as applied to the device showing the manner in which the clamp functions.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the clamp showing the arrangement of parts, and

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view of a part of an adjustable clamp showing the method employed for contacting and holding the pelt.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views and referring now to the same, the character 10 represents a pelt applied over the side members 11 and 11'. These members 11 and 11' are pivotally joined at 12 by means of a rivet, or the like. There is a hinged member 13 of channelled construction pivotally mounted at 14 on the side member 11' by means of a rivet, or the like. There are apertures 15 in the lower wall of the channelled member 13 and the side member 11 has a projecting prong 16 which engages the apertures 15 when the side member 11 is guided by the channel of the hinged member 13. A spring 17 is shown engaging the side member 11 and the hinge member 13 and functions as a means to keep the projecting prong 16 in engagement with the aperture 15.

There are adjustable clamping members 18 provided with a looped section 19 which engage

the side members 11 and 11'. The adjustable clamping members 18 consist of a pair of projecting arms, one of which is provided with an eyelet 20, the other with an engaging member 21, the engaging member 21 being positioned at a point central to the eyelet 20. The slidable loop 22 encircles the projecting members of the adjustable clamps 18 and when brought forward to the eyelet 20, causes the engaging member 21 to engage the eyelet 20.

In operation the hinged portion 12 of the device is inserted into the pelt 10 and the pelt 10 itself is brought down its entire length. The operator then spreads the side members 11 and 11' to the proper adjustment allowed by the pelt 10 and the projecting prong 16 is entered into one of the apertures 15 in the member 13.

The spring 17 being of sufficient tension affords permanent engagement of the prong 16 in one of the apertures 15. Next, the adjustable clamps 18 are brought into engagement with the ends of the pelt at 23 and 24 respectively. In Fig. 5 is shown the manner employed for clamping the ends of the pelt at 23 and 24 by means of the eyelet 20 and the engaging member 21 in the adjustable clamps 18. After this engagement on the pelt has been made, the operator slides the adjustable clamps downward on the members 11 and 11' toward the member 13 by means of the loop 19 on the member 18, engaging the side members 11 and 11'. These loops 19, being of a slightly larger diameter than the size of the material constituting the members 11 and 11' will cause the same to produce a clamping action which will retain them in a fixed position due to the coefficient of friction of the loop 19 and the members 11 and 11'. In this manner as the pelt dries and cures, it will be prevented from wrinkling or pulling out of shape by the stretching action of the side members 11 and 11', and the adjustable clamps 18.

In the chosen embodiments of my invention exemplified by the accompanying drawing there are present certain novel refinements and improvements not heretofore disclosed in the prior art and which will be hereinafter more fully referred to and specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent in the United States, is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising in combination a pair of side members pivotally connected at one end, a U shaped cross member pivotally supported by one of said side

- members, a plurality of engaging means on said hinged cross member for contacting the other of said side members, a resilient means for retaining the depending end of said cross member in engagement with one of the said side members, and adjustable clamping members slidably engaging said side members for retaining a pelt or the like in a stretched position on said device without piercing holes into the pelt.
- 5 2. A device of the character described, comprising in combination a pair of side members pivotally connected at one end, a U shaped hinged cross member pivotally connected to one of said side members, said cross member provided with a plurality of engaging indexes, a projecting member on the end of one of said side members for engagement with said indexes, a resilient support for retaining said cross member in direct engagement with said projecting member, and clamping members for slidable contact with said side members, said clamping members provided with an eyelet on one end and projecting contact member on the other end for clamping the end of a pelt or the like when stretched over same without piercing said pelt.
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