July 14, 1953 W. M. GAUTHIER 2,645,439

ANGLE CONTROL FOR FISH POLE HOLDERS

Filed Sept. 28, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

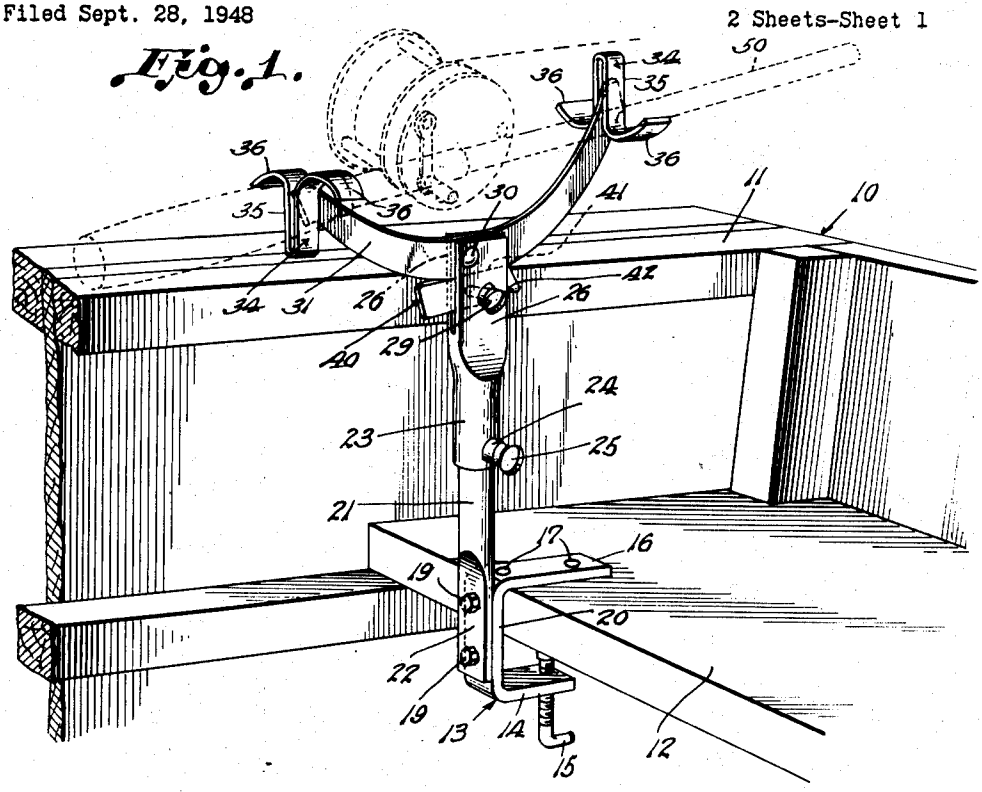


Fig. 6.

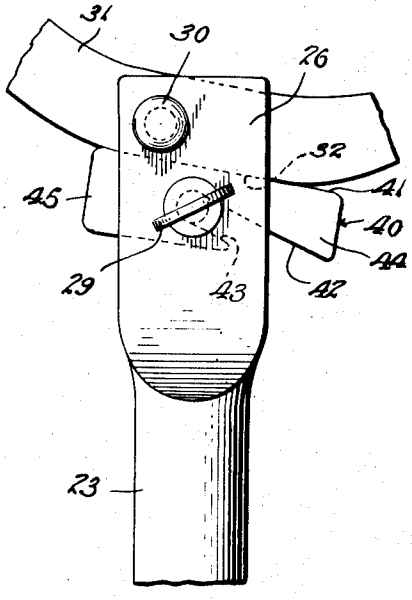
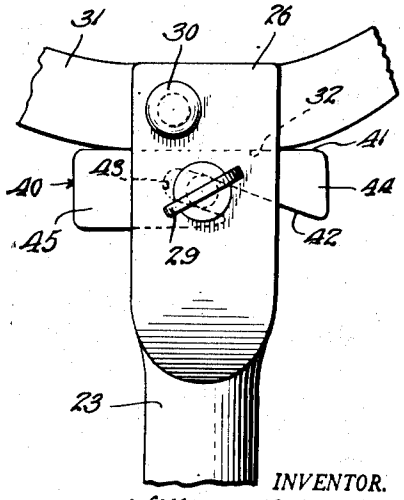


Fig. 7.



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Filed Sept. 28, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

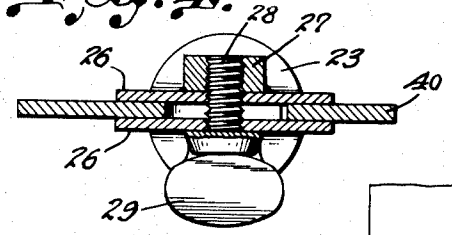
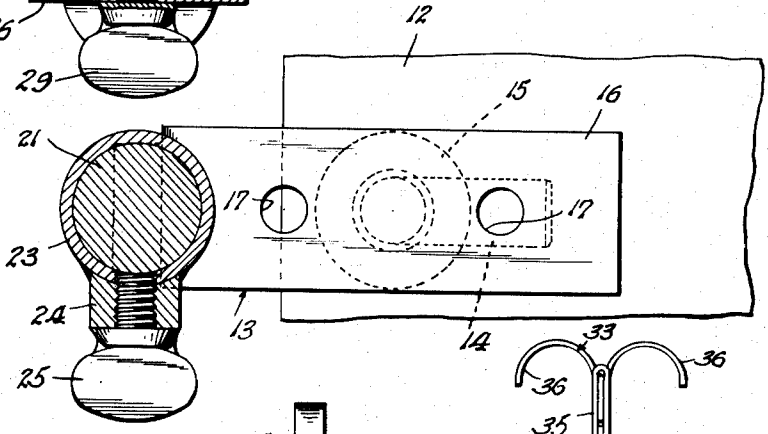


Fig. 5.



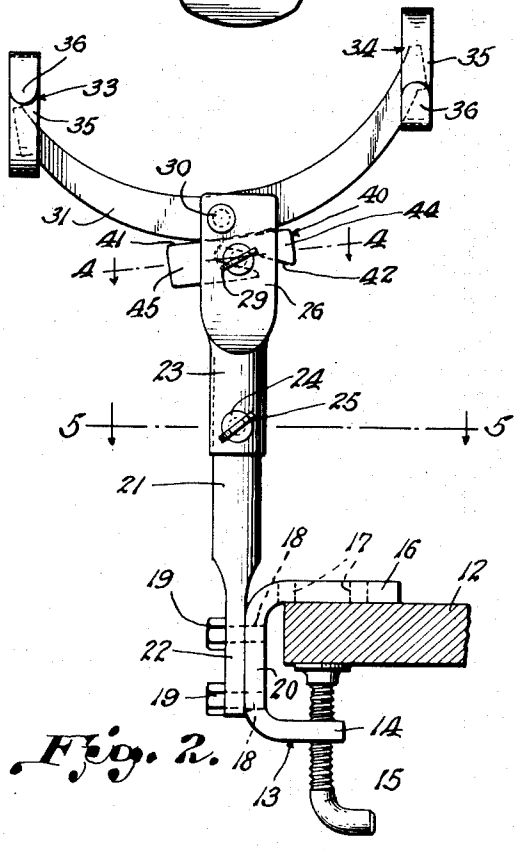


Fig. 2.

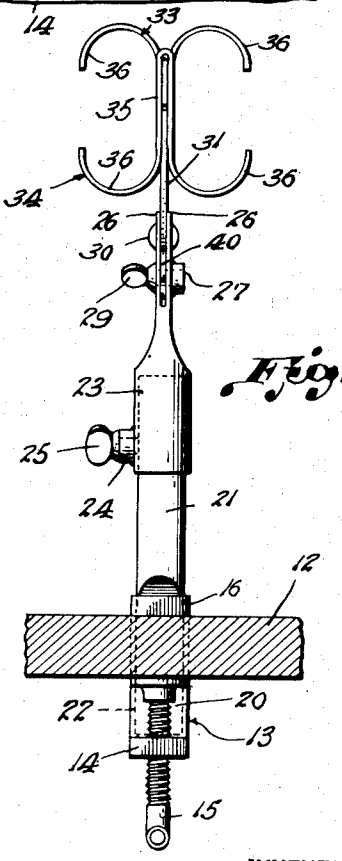


Fig. 3.

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ANGLE CONTROL FOR FISH POLE HOLDERS

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8 Claims. (Cl. 248—42)

1

My invention relates to holders for elongated articles such as poles whereby the article or pole is supported in proper angular relation relative to a base and maintained so supported without the use of clamps or the like. The holder is particularly adapted to holding fishing poles, flag staffs and the like.

Devices such as these are very useful when one fisherman utilizes a plurality of poles at the same time and is unable, therefore, to have his hand on more than one of them at a time. Likewise, such holders are very useful in a boat when the boat is being moved to and from the fishing grounds whereby to support the poles out of the way of the oarsman and at the same time in a position safe against being knocked overboard and lost.

With the foregoing in view, it is an object of my invention to provide an improved pole, staff or rod holder.

A further object is to provide an improved holder which includes means whereby the angular relation of the pole to a support may be readily varied as desired.

A further object is to provide in a holder such as that last described, sensitive finger tip control means for adjusting the angle of the pole holder and/or the pole supported thereby relative to the body of the holder and/or the support.

A further object is to provide an improved fish pole holder wherein a relatively stationary portion of the holder has mounted thereon a pair of vertically spaced and laterally offset pivot-providing means upon one of which is pivoted a movable fish pole holder and on the other of which is slidably and pivotally mounted means providing a wedge surface, said last named means being engageable with the movable fish pole holder and adjusting the pivoted angle thereof relative to the stationary portion of the holder upon sliding of the wedge-providing portion in opposite directions.

A further object is to provide in a device such as that last described, means for locking the slidable and pivotal wedge-providing member in a slidable and pivoting adjusted position.

Other objects and advantages reside in the particular structure of the invention, combination and arrangement of the several parts thereof, and/or in the particular method or mode of operation, all of which will be readily understood by those skilled in the art upon reference to the accompanying drawing in connection with

2

the following specification, wherein the invention is shown, described and claimed.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the holder according to the invention showing the same applied to the seat of a boat;

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the holder of Fig. 1, the boat seat being shown in vertical section;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through the boat seat showing the holder according to the invention in end elevation looking from the right of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a substantially horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 5—5 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is an elevational view on a slightly enlarged scale and in fragment, similar to Fig. 2 but showing the parts in a slightly different position; and

Fig. 7 is a view like Fig. 6 but showing the parts in a still further position.

Referring specifically to the drawing, wherein like reference characters have been used throughout the several views to designate like parts, 10 designates generally any suitable boat such as a rowboat including a gunwale 11 and any suitable horizontally disposed seat 12.

The device according to the invention comprises a C-clamp generally indicated at 13 which comprises a lower leg 14 provided with a threaded aperture for threaded reception therein of any suitable clamping screw 15. The clamp includes an oppositely disposed leg 16 which is preferably slightly longer than the leg 14 and formed with a pair of longitudinally spaced threaded apertures 17 therethrough, the purpose of which will be apparent later.

The legs 16 and 14 are connected together by a web 20 which is likewise provided with a pair of longitudinally spaced threaded apertures 18 therethrough. Suitable screws 19 are adapted to be threadedly engaged in either the apertures 18 or 17 in the web 20 or leg 16.

A cylindrical stud 21 is provided with a flattened lower end 22 which is formed with a pair of longitudinally spaced apertures therethrough corresponding in spacing to the space between the apertures 18 and 17 aforesaid. Thus, the screws 19 are passed through the apertures in the flattened lower end 22 of the stud for attaching the same to either the web 20 of the C-clamp when the same is clamped to the seat 12 or, when it is desired to clamp the C-clamp to the gunwale

11, the flattened lower end 22 of the stud is detached from the web and attached to the long leg 16 of the C-clamp so that in either instance the stud extends vertically of the C-clamp.

The upper cylindrical end of the stud 21 slidably and rotatably receives thereon the lower tubular end 23 of a vertically disposed stem. Such tubular end 23 is provided with a radially directed boss 24 which is formed with a radially inwardly directed threaded bore for the threaded engagement with a thumb screw 25. Thus, with the thumb screw 25 loose, the stem is freely rotatable on the cylindrical upper end 21 of the stud, but the stem may be locked against sliding and pivotal movement relative to the stud by tightening the thumb screw 25 in a well-known manner.

The upper end of the stem is flat and longitudinally split to provide a pair of laterally spaced ears 26. Such ears are provided with a pair of laterally aligned apertures therethrough and a boss 27 is formed on the outer surface of one of the ears around one of the apertures. Such boss 27 is provided with an internally threaded bore for threadedly receiving the threaded stem 28 of a thumb screw 29, the head of which bears against the outer surface of the opposite ear 26. Thus, by tightening the thumb screw 29 the ears may be clamped together as desired. In this connection, it should be noted that the thumb screw 29 may be dispensed with and the ears spanned by any suitable pin, as it will be apparent soon that the clamping feature is auxiliary to the main feature of the device.

The ears 26 are likewise connected by any suitable pivot 30 which is in vertically spaced and laterally offset relation to the pin-providing member 29. As shown, the pin 30 is upwardly of the pin 29, but it is to be understood that under certain circumstances the pin 30 might be downwardly of the pin 29.

It is, however, essential that the pin 29 and the pivot 30 be vertically spaced and laterally offset for proper functioning of the parts.

A flat pole holder 31 is pivoted on the pivot 30 between the arms 26. The holder 31 is of plate-like material and substantially U-shaped in elevation. A central portion of the under edge thereof is straight as at 32 as best seen in Figs. 6 and 7, for a purpose to be described later.

A pair of substantially identical pole holders 33 and 34 are fixed to the upper free ends of the plate 31 in any suitable manner as by being welded thereto. Each of the pole holders 33 and 34 is identical except that one is inverted relative to the other.

Each holder 33 or 34 includes a bifurcated stem 35 straddling a free end of the holding plate 31, and each stem 35 is closed at one end to provide a bight and the opposite ends are diverged to form a pair of laterally oppositely directed hooks 36 for engaging a fish pole.

In the case of the rear pole holder 33, the hooks 36 are downwardly directed, while the hooks 36 of the forward holder 34 are upwardly directed. Thus, the holder according to the invention supports the under side of a pole by the upwardly directed forward hooks 36, while the downwardly directed rear hooks 36 rest atop the rear portion or butt of the pole to prevent same from being dislodged in an upward direction upon a pull of the fish upon the fish line in a well-known manner.

By providing a pair of hooks 36 on each holder 33 or 34, the device is enabled to receive either

two poles at the same time when the same are being transported to and from the fishing ground, or the device may be positioned on either side of the boat with a single pole positioned on the outboard side of the device irrespective of which side of the boat the holder is mounted.

As aforesaid, the holder mounting plate 31 is pivoted on the pivot 30 for vertical pivotal movement. In all forms of fishing from a boat, it is frequently desirable that the pole extend from the boat at a suitable vertical angle. Moreover, it is frequently necessary during the actual fishing to vary the angle slightly from time to time and/or to move the pole up and down to impart movement to the bait. To so control the angle of the holder-providing plate 31 I have provided an angle control plate 40 having a straight upper edge 41 which slidably engages the straight under edge 32 of the plate 31. A portion of the under edge of the control plate 40 is provided with an inclined edge 42 providing a wedge surface defining the upper edge of a wedge slot 43. Such wedge slot is best seen in Figs. 6 and 7 and is slidable and pivotal on the pin 29. The lower end of the wedge slot is open, as shown, but the angle control plate 40 cannot escape from its position between the holder-providing plate 31 and the pin 29 because of the particular spacing of the parts. Obviously, the closed upper end of the slot 43 prevents escape of the angle control plate 40 from its position in one direction, and the wedge surface 42 engages with the pivot 29 to prevent disengagement of the plate 40 upon sliding movement in the opposite direction. Likewise, it should be noted that the opposite ends 44 and 45 extend forwardly and rearwardly respectively of the ears 26 to provide finger grips for manipulating the device.

As noted before, the angle control plate 40 is slidable and pivotable on the pin 29. At the same time, the flat upper edge 41 is in constant engagement with the flat under edge 32 of the holder 31, while the wedge surface 42 is in constant engagement with the pin 29. Thus, when the rear finger grip 45 is engaged and the control plate 40 is pressed forwardly from the Fig. 7 to the Fig. 6 position, the weight of the fish pole 50 loads the holder 31 for pivotal movement in a clockwise direction, Figs. 1, 2, 6 and 7.

At the same time, by reason of the fact that the pin 29 is approaching the upper end of the slot 43, the control plate 45 is permitted to pivot in a clockwise direction likewise. However, as soon as forward pressure is released on the control plate 45 the clockwise movement of the parts will cease and the holder 31 will be maintained in the desired angular position by virtue of the lateral offsetting of the pivot 30 and the pin 29.

In reverse, when the forward end 44 of the control plate 40 is engaged by a finger and the plate forced rearwardly, the wedge surface 42 rides upwardly to elevate the control plate 40 and cause the same to slide rearwardly and at the same time pivot in a counterclockwise direction on the pin 29. This pivotal movement is, of course, imparted to the holder 31 by virtue of the constant engagement of the surfaces 41 and 32 of the parts, as aforesaid.

At the same time, when the holder 31 has been forced into the desired vertical angular position, a release of pressure on the forward end 44 of the control plate will prevent further movement of the parts and maintain the holder 31 in the selected angular position.

It is important to note in this connection, that

the pin 29 as so far described need not be a thumb screw as shown. This is because the offset position of the pivot and pin is sufficient to maintain the holder 31 in a properly adjusted position without it being necessary to clamp the ears 26 together onto the control plate 40.

However, it is desirable to form the pin 29 in the form of a thumb screw so that when the pole 50 is not being used for fishing, as when the boat is being moved to and from the fishing grounds, and/or in the case of an inexperienced fisherman who is quite likely to get the holder 31 at an incorrect angle, the thumb screw 29 is tightened so as to clamp the ears 26 into clamping engagement with the control plate 40 and prevent accidental or intentional longitudinal movement of the same whereby to vary the angle of the holder 31.

Thus, it is useful to have the pin 29 in the form of a clamping thumb screw, but it is not necessary for the proper operation of the parts.

While I have shown a particular C-clamp, stud 21 and stem mounting the parts, it is to be understood that the same may be changed as these devices are well-known and there are a wide variety of equivalent structures. Likewise, it is to be understood that the particular mounting for the control plate 40 may be varied from the precise structure shown and described. Also, although the holder of the invention has been shown as a fishing pole holder, it is obvious that the same is equally useful for holding flag staffs, rods or any other elongated articles. Moreover, the angle adjusting means may be utilized wherever a support is pivotally connected to a base for angular adjustment relative thereto and is not limited to any specific support, pivot or base. Thus, while I have shown and described what is now thought to be a preferred embodiment and use of the invention, it is to be understood that the same is susceptible of other forms, expressions and uses. Consequently, I do not limit myself to the precise structure and use shown and described hereinabove except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A fish pole holder comprising a bifurcated stem providing a pair of laterally spaced flexible ears, a pin connecting said ears, a pivot connecting said ears in vertically spaced laterally offset relation to said pin, a yoke including a web pivoted on said pivot between said ears, said yoke including fish pole holding means, a pole angle control plate between said ears between said web and said pin, said plate being formed with a cam slot slidable and pivotable on said pin, said plate and yoke including slidably abutting straight edges, said plate comprising means maintaining said yoke against pivotal movement, and said plate being operative upon sliding movement on said pin in opposite directions to tiltably adjust said yoke in opposite directions.

2. A fish pole holder comprising a bifurcated stem providing a pair of laterally spaced flexible ears, a pin connecting said ears, a pivot connecting said ears in vertically spaced laterally offset relation to said pin, a yoke including a web pivoted on said pivot between said ears, said yoke including oppositely directed front and rear arms including free ends, a pair of substantially identical pole holders each including a pair of laterally oppositely disposed pole-engaging hooks and bifurcated stems straddling said free ends of said arms, said hooks on said front arm being upwardly directed, and said hooks on said rear arm

being downwardly directed, a pole angle control plate between said ears between said web and said pin, said plate being formed with a cam slot slidable and pivotable on said pin, said plate and yoke including slidably abutting straight edges, said plate comprising means maintaining said yoke against pivotal movement, and said plate being operative upon sliding movement on said pin in opposite directions to tiltably adjust said yoke in opposite directions.

3. A fish pole holder comprising a bifurcated stem providing a pair of laterally spaced flexible ears, a pin connecting said ears, a pivot connecting said ears in vertically spaced laterally offset relation to said pin, a yoke including a web pivoted on said pivot between said ears, said yoke including fish pole holding means, a pole angle control plate between said ears between said web and said pin, said plate being formed with a forwardly and diagonally downwardly directed cam slot including a closed upper end and an open lower end, said slot slidably and pivotally mounting said plate on said pin, said plate and yoke including slidably abutting straight edges, said plate comprising means maintaining said yoke against pivotal movement, said plate being operative upon sliding movement on said pin in opposite directions to tiltably adjust said yoke in opposite directions, said plate having front and rear ends extending respectively forwardly and rearwardly of said ears to provide finger grips, said pivot being upwardly of said pin, and said abutting straight edges of said plate and web comprising a lower edge of said web and an upper edge of said plate.

4. In a device of the class described a base, a support, a support pivot which pivotally secures said support to said base, a wedge action member carried by said base and engaging said support to hold the latter in a selected tilted position relatively of said base, cooperating pivot and cam-way means provided by said wedge action member and base and mounting said wedge action member for both sliding and pivotal movement relatively of said support pivot, the last mentioned pivot means being disposed in subjacent offset parallelism with respect to the axis of said support pivot, a lineal portion of said wedge action member making constant contact with a lineal portion of said support, said cam-way means extending lineally of said contacting portions of the wedge action member and support, whereby said wedge action member is operable upon sliding movement in opposite directions to tilt and to tilt said support in corresponding directions, and said wedge action member including means limiting the sliding movement thereof in both directions.

5. A fish pole holder comprising a bifurcated stem providing a pair of laterally spaced flexible ears, a pin connecting said ears, a pivot connecting said ears in vertically spaced laterally offset relation to said pin, a yoke including a web pivoted on said pivot between said ears, said yoke including fish pole holding means, a pole angle control plate between said ears between said web and said pin, said plate being formed with a cam slot slidable and pivotable on said pin, said plate and yoke including slidably abutting straight edges, said plate comprising means maintaining said yoke against pivotal movement, said plate being operative upon sliding movement on said pin in opposite directions to tiltably adjust said yoke in opposite directions, said pivot being upwardly of said pin, and said abutting

straight edges of said plate and web comprising a lower edge of said web, and an upper edge of said plate.

6. In a fish pole holder having a support including pivot means mounting said holder for tilting movement relatively of said support, a wedge-providing member carried by said support and having a lineal edge portion making constant engagement with a lineal edge portion of said holder, pivot-incorporating means mounting said wedge-providing member for sliding and pivotal movement, the pivot of said pivot incorporating means being disposed in subjacent offset parallelism to the axis of the holder-mounting pivot means, and said wedge-providing member being operable upon sliding movement in opposite directions to tilt itself and tilt said holder in corresponding directions.

7. The combination set forth in claim 6, and support carried means acting upon said wedge-providing member to retain the latter in a fixed position.

8. The combination set forth in claim 6, and support carried means acting upon said wedge-providing member to retain the latter in a fixed position, and said wedge-providing member having at least one exposed finger piece providing terminal.

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