June 25, 1957 A. M. ADAMS 2,797,102

COMBINATION PORTABLE CLOTHES BASKET AND STAND

Filed Oct. 11, 1955

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

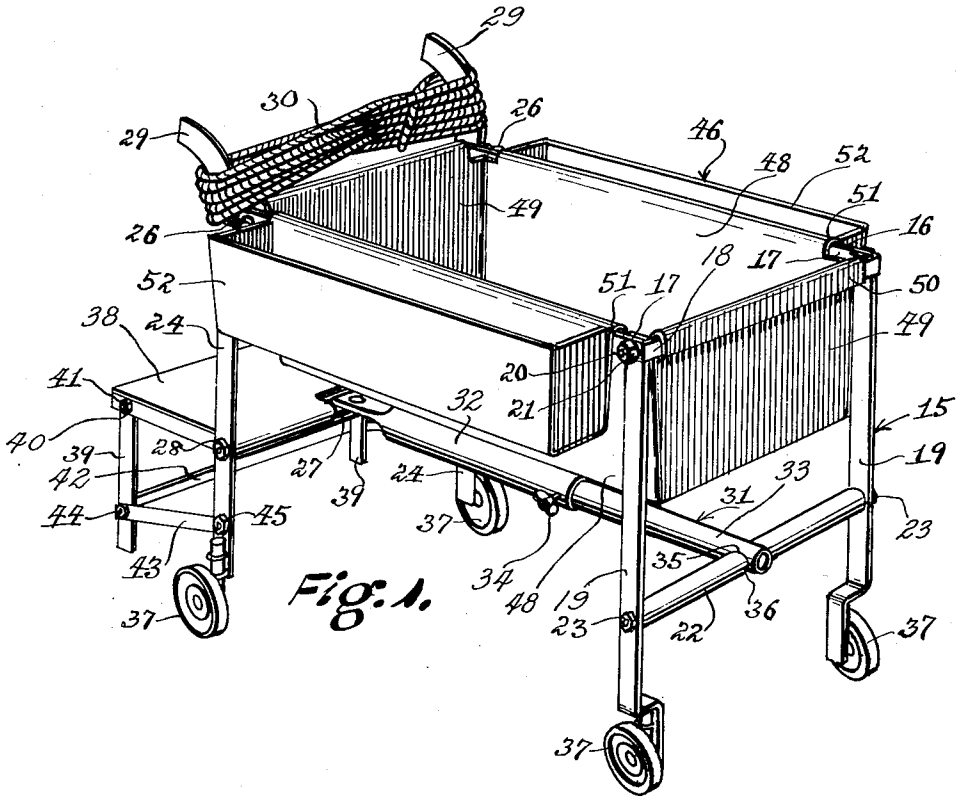


Fig. 1.

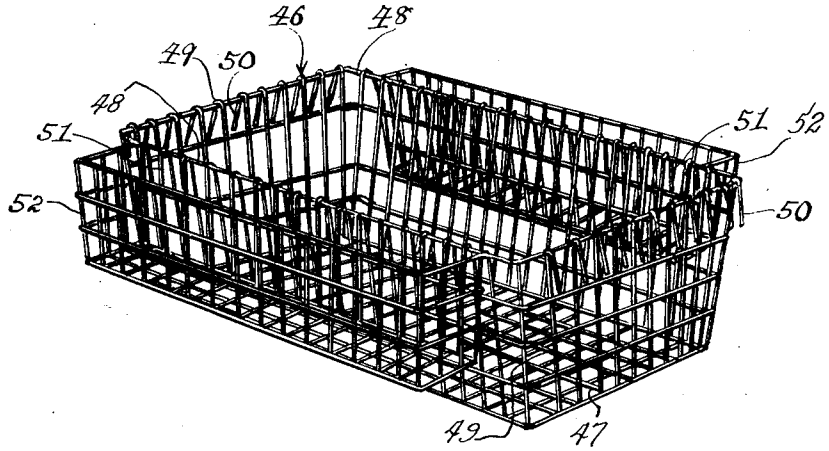


Fig. 2.

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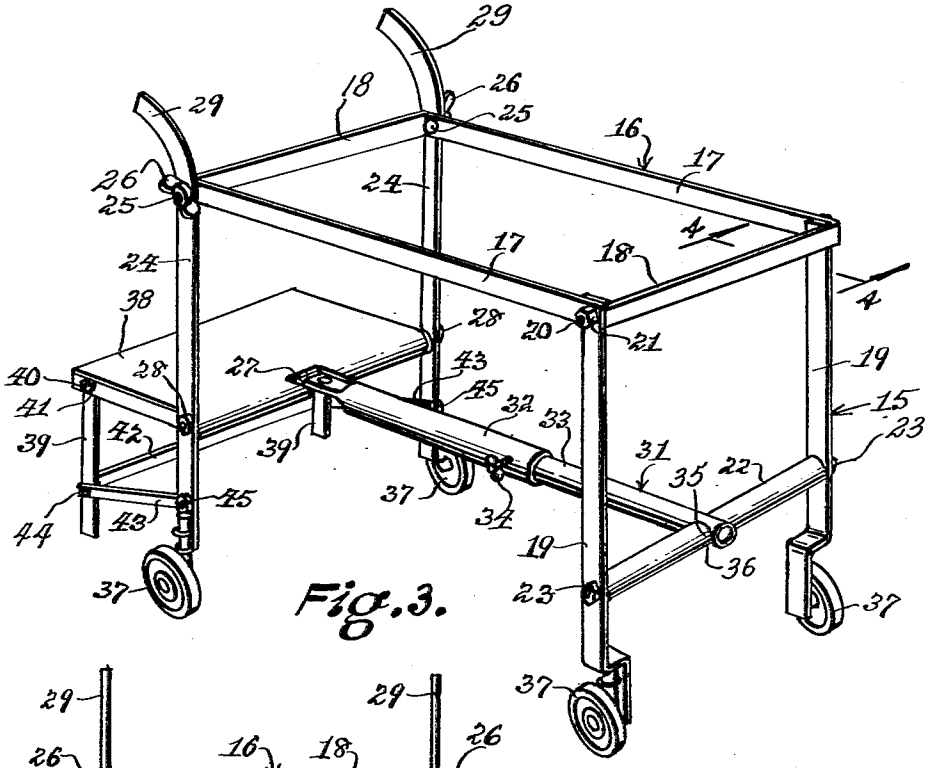


Fig. 3.

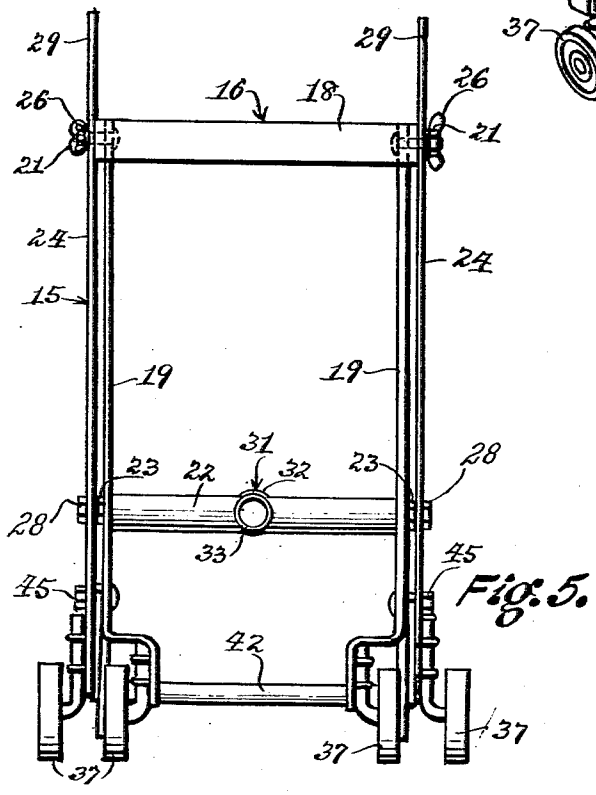


Fig. 5.

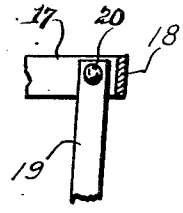


Fig. 4.

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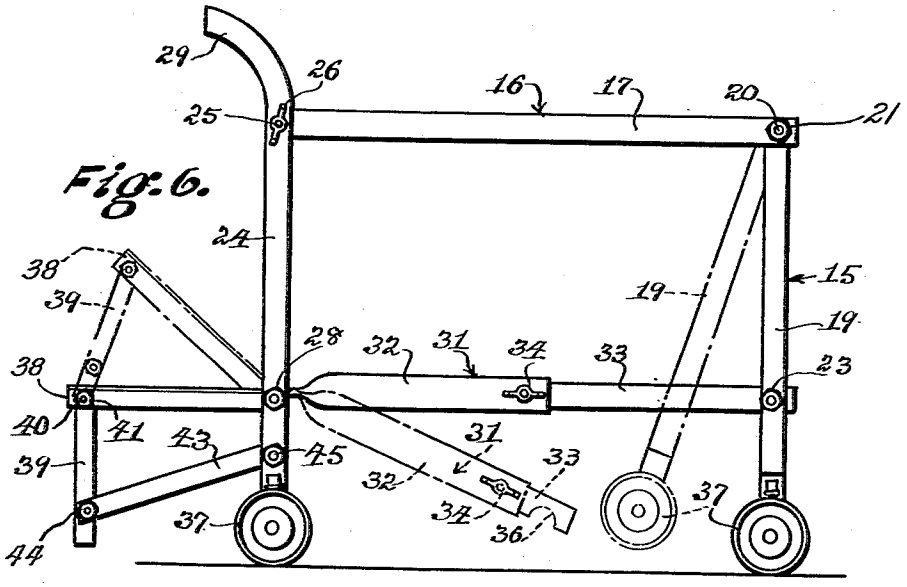


Fig. 6.

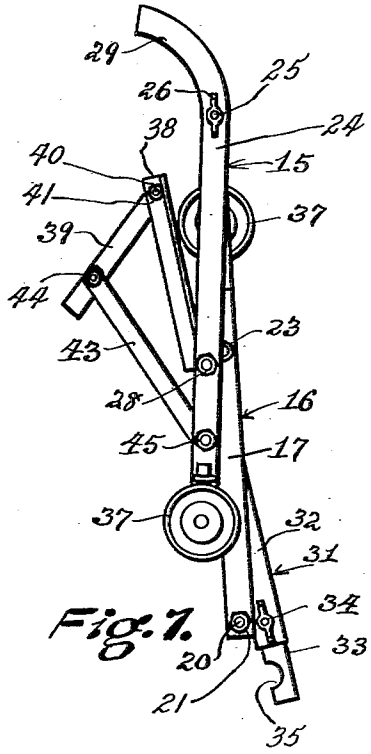


Fig. 7.

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2,797,102

COMBINATION PORTABLE CLOTHES BASKET AND STAND

Aaron M. Adams, Philadelphia, Pa.

Application October 11, 1955, Serial No. 539,788

4 Claims. (Cl. 280—30)

My invention relates to a new and useful combination portable clothes basket and stand has for one of its objects to provide a wheeled and foldable stand collapsed into a relatively small parcel for storage purposes and readily and quickly extended for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide the stand with an adjustable step to be used by a person for reaching clothes line supports, such as hooks, and the clothes line itself, if desirable, which are normally beyond the reach of the user.

Another object of this invention is to mount the stand on casters and to so arrange the step that its own legs are normally out of contact with the ground or other equivalent supporting surface and which legs are caused to contact the ground when a person mounts the step, said step legs being devoid of casters whereby movement of the stand will substantially be prevented while the step is occupied.

Another object of the invention is to detachably connect the frame elements whereby they may be disconnected and the whole device packed, stored in a warehouse, shipped and delivered in a knocked down condition.

Another object of this invention is to construct certain elements of the frame so they may be utilized as a clothes line holder.

A further object of the invention is to provide a clothes basket constructed for cooperative removable connection with a portion of the stand.

A still further object of the present invention is to construct the clothes basket in a novel manner in order to provide a primary receptacle or compartment for clothes and secondary receptacles or compartments for clothes pins and the like, said secondary receptacles partly constituting the clothes basket hangers for supporting the basket on the movable stand when the latter is set up for use.

With the above and other objects in view this invention consists of the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same I will describe its construction in detail referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the combination portable clothes basket and stand showing one style of the device constructed according to my invention and illustrating the clothes basket constructed of sheet material, such as metal, plastic and the like.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of a clothes basket of wire screening, woven material, lattice work and the like.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the stand with the basket removed.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is an end view of the stand looking at the right

hand end of Fig. 3 which, for purposes of description, will be considered as the front end.

Fig. 6 is a side view of the frame and showing in dotted lines some of the initial positions of certain elements during the folding operations.

Fig. 7 also is a side view of the frame substantially completely folded for storage purposes.

In carrying out the invention as herein embodied there is provided, primarily, a portable and movable stand **15** including a top frame **16** consisting of a pair of parallel side rails **17** and parallel end rails **18** at right angles to said side rails. The side and end rails integral with or separate from one another.

On one end of the frame **16** at both sides thereof are swingingly and detachably mounted, what is termed for convenience of description, the front legs **19** by means of appropriate bolts or screws **20** passing through the upper ends of the legs and the side rails and suitable nuts **21**. In order that both front legs **19** shall move in unison they are braced by a cross piece **22** detachably secured in place to said legs by appropriate means indicated by the nuts **23**.

On the opposite or rear end of the frame **16** at both sides thereof also are swingingly and detachably mounted the rear legs **24** by means of appropriate bolts or screws **25** passing through the frame side rails and said rear legs adjacent their upper ends and suitable nuts **26**. The rear legs **24** are also tied together and braced by a cross piece **27** which is detachably secured at opposite ends to said rear legs by suitable means represented by the nuts **28**. The upper portions of the rear legs **24** are fashioned into arcuate extensions **29** to constitute holders for a clothes line **30**, Fig. 1, which can have one end tied to one extension holder and then wrapped back and forth around both of the extension holders.

Both pairs of legs **19**, **24** are temporarily held in their adjustments, wherein they are perpendicular to the frame, by their respective fastening devices including the nuts **21** and **26** and are further supported and braced by the collapsible or contractible connecting member **31**. The connecting member **31** comprises telescoping outer and inner tubes **32** and **33**, respectively, the latter sliding within the former and being held in the retracted and extended positions by a set screw **34** having threaded connection with the outer tube **32** and projecting through the same for contact with the inner tube **33**. The outer end of said outer tube **32** is attached to the cross piece **27** and designed to rotate about the axis of said cross piece **27** for a purpose to be later described. The inner tube has a notch **35** adjacent its outer or free end to engage a portion of the cross piece **22** which also has a notch **36** to receive the notched out portion of the connecting member, particularly the inner tube thereof.

One pair of legs, as the forward legs **19**, are pivoted inside of the top frame while the other pair of legs, as the rear legs **24**, are pivoted outside of said top frame. By this arrangement one set of legs occupies less transverse space than the other set of legs and therefore the sets of legs can pass each other when swung up underneath of the top frame and nest together when the stand is folded. All of the legs of the stand are provided with casters **37** or wheels whereby the apparatus may conveniently be moved or wheeled about.

A step **38** is swingingly mounted on the cross piece **27** for rotation approximately ninety degrees about the axis of said cross piece **27** whereby said step may be swung into a substantially horizontal position or raised to a location between the pair of rear legs **24** and under certain conditions depressed below the horizontal position or folded into intermediate positions. A pair of legs **39** are detachably hingedly connected at their upper ends to the outer or free end of the step by fastening means such

as screws **40** and nuts **41**. The legs **39** of the step are joined and braced by a cross piece **42** to prevent spreading thereof. Means is provided to normally hold the legs **39** of the step **38** out of contact with the ground or slightly elevated relative to the surface on which the casters **37** rest and said means may include side rails **43** detachably pivotally connected to the step legs **39** and to the adjacent rear legs of the stand as indicated at **44** and **45** respectively. These side rails **43** are oblique relative to the respective legs to which they are attached and hold the legs **39** in an elevated position, as shown in full lines in Fig. 6, but permit said legs **39** to be depressed for contact with the ground when a person mounts the step. That is, the linkage defined by the step **38**, step legs **39**, rails **43**, and relatively fixed stand legs **24** is freely movable upon oscillation of the step and rails between the upper phantom position of Figure 6 and its lower solid line position with the lower step leg ends spaced slightly above the supporting floor surface. However, upon the application of a downward force on the step, as by the foot of a user, the rails **43** will be placed under sufficient tension to allow the lower ends of the step legs **39** to engage with the supporting floor surface and prevent movement thereon of the entire device. Since the legs **39** do not have casters or wheels the stand and step will not move about while said step is occupied. This permits a relatively short person to reach clothes line supporting hooks or hangers located at a considerable height as well as the line attached thereto without the necessity of employing a chair or stool and because of the relatively large ground area occupied by the complete apparatus the chance of tilting which might result in injury is reduced to a minimum.

A clothes basket **46** either of foraminous material, as in Fig. 2, or of sheet material, as illustrated in Fig. 1, includes a bottom **47**, opposed side walls **48** and opposed end walls **49** and these side and end walls may be formed rigid as integral parts of the bottom **47** or hinged thereto in order to be folded inwardly upon said bottom to form a small parcel. Each end wall **49** has an outwardly extending return bend along the top edge constituting a flange or hanger **50** which engage and rest upon the respective end rails of the top frame of the stand to assist in supporting the basket on said stand. To further assist in supporting the basket on the stand the side walls **48** of the basket also have outwardly extending return bends along their top edges which constitute flanges or hangers **51** to engage and rest upon the respective side rails **17** of the top frame of the stand. Certain of the basket hangers, preferably one or both of the side hangers **51**, are extended and fashioned into the form of relatively small receptacles **52** for clothes pins or other articles which it may be desirable to keep separated from clothes in the main basket compartment.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that on a day when washing is to be done the stand is set up outdoors and the step used to fasten the clothes line on hangers at considerable height and, if desirable, also utilized for reaching the clothes line while hanging out washed clothes to dry. The basket with the wet clothes therein is carried out and placed on the stand which can readily be moved about for the convenience of the user and the basket being in an elevated position the clothes can easily be handled without the person having to stoop to pick them up. Likewise the clothes pins, if in the receptacles **52** are easy of access as needed. After the clothes are dry the appliance can be moved from place to place as the clothes are taken down and put into the basket and the stand with the filled basket thereon rolled to a door of or through a door into the house where the basket can be removed from the stand. Subsequently, if desired, the stand can be folded into a compact parcel for storage by detaching the connecting member **31** from the cross piece **22** and telescoping the inner tube **33** into the outer tube **32**, then loosening the nuts **21** and **26**, then swinging the front leg structure inwardly against the top frame **16** and finally swinging the rear leg structure inwardly towards said top frame and the folded front leg structure with the step swung into position against the rear leg structure which can be accomplished before or after said rear leg structure is swung into folded position. The collapsed condition of the frame can be maintained by merely tightening the nuts **21** and **26**. The folded stand, Fig. 7, then can be stored in a small space until such time as it is to again be used.

It is to be particularly noted that this device is especially useful for persons of short stature since it provides an elevated platform with the clothes line and contents of the basket within easy reach of the user.

By substituting a panel, table top, tray and the like for the basket the apparatus may be employed as a tea wagon or similar device.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction herein shown and described as these may be varied within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having described my invention what I claim as new and useful is:

1. A stand for a clothes basket comprising an oblong frame including side and end rails, a pair of front legs detachably and pivotally secured to the insides of the side rails at one end of the frame, a cross piece detachably secured to said front legs adjacent the bottom ends thereof, a pair of rear legs detachably and pivotally secured to the outsides of the side rails at the other end of the frame, a cross piece detachably secured to said rear legs adjacent their lower ends, an adjustable extensible and retractable connecting member having one end secured to the cross piece of the rear legs leaving the other end free, said free end having a transverse notch to engage a portion of the cross piece of the front legs which also has a notch to receive a portion of the connecting member at the back of its notch whereby said legs are held perpendicular to the frame, the front legs being foldable inwardly against the frame when the connecting member is detached and said rear legs then being foldable inwardly against the frame outside of the front legs in nested relation, upwardly and outwardly projecting curved extensions on the upper ends of the rear legs to function as holders for a clothes line wrapped thereabout, casters on the lower ends of the individual legs whereby the device may be rolled about on the ground, a step hingedly mounted on the cross piece of the rear legs whereby it may be moved into a substantially horizontal position, depressed and raised to a position in proximity to the rear legs, step legs pivoted to the outer free end of the step and out of contact with the ground while said step is in the horizontal or raised position and contacting the ground when the step is depressed due to the weight of a person standing thereon, and oblique side members pivoted to the step legs and the stand rear legs to normally retain the step in the substantially horizontal lowered position.

2. The structure in claim 1, in combination with a rectangular clothes basket fitting inside of the frame and provided with hangers engaging the side and end rails of said frame to removably mount the basket on the stand.

3. The structure defined in claim 1, in combination with a rectangular clothes basket fitting inside of the frame of the stand and including side and end walls, return bend flanges on said side and end walls to engage the side and end rails respectively of said frame to removably mount said basket on the stand, and receptacles formed with the side flanges and positioned outside of the frame side walls.

4. In a device of the class described, an oblong frame including side and end rails, a pair of front legs pivotally secured to the insides of the side rails at one end of the frame, a crosspiece secured to said front legs adjacent

to the bottom ends thereof, a pair of rear legs pivotally secured to the outsides of the side rails at the other end of the frame, a crosspiece secured to said rear legs adjacent to their lower ends, a connecting member having one end secured to the crosspiece of the rear legs and having its other end detachably interengageable with the crosspiece of the front legs whereby said legs are held perpendicular to said frame, the front legs being foldable inwardly against the frame when the connecting member is detached and said rear legs then being foldable inwardly against the frame outside of the front legs in nested relation, upwardly and outwardly projecting extensions on the upper ends of the rear legs to function as holders for a clothesline wrapped thereabout, castors on the lower ends of the individual legs whereby the device may be rolled about on the ground, a step hingedly mounted on the crosspiece of the rear legs whereby it may be moved into

a substantially horizontal position, depressed and raised to a position in proximity to the rear legs, and step legs pivoted to the outer free end of said step and out of contact with the ground while said step is in the horizontal or raised position and contacting the ground when the step is depressed due to the weight of a person standing thereon.

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