

No. 694,289.

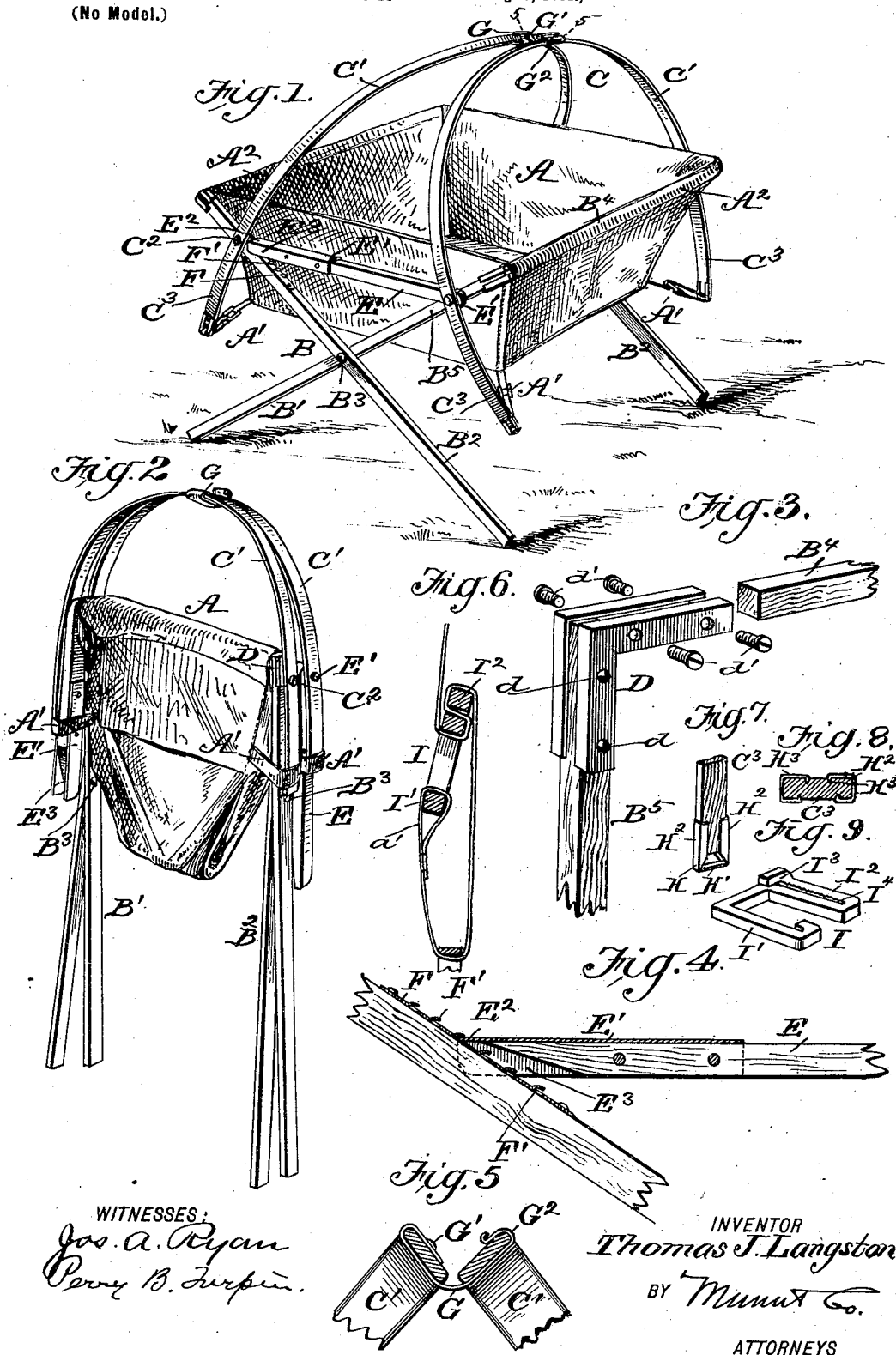
Patented Feb. 25, 1902.

T. J. LANGSTON.

BASKET.

(Application filed Aug. 9, 1901.)

(No Model.)



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. LANGSTON, OF JOHNSTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

BASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 694,289, dated February 25, 1902.

Application filed August 9, 1901. Serial No. 71,520. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. LANGSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Johnston, in the county of Edgefield and State of South Carolina, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Baskets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in baskets, being in the nature of a folding basket in which the body portion is supported by a frame, so it can be extended for use and compactly folded with the frame when not in use; and the invention consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the basket adjusted for use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the basket folded. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view illustrating one of the corners of the body-frames. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view illustrating the ratchet mechanism in connection with one of the cross-braces, and Fig. 5 is a detail cross-section on about line 5 5 of Fig. 1. Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9 are detail views.

In carrying out my invention I provide the body A in the form of a flexible collapsible bag-like construction, which may be of canvas or other suitable material and can be distended for use, as shown in Fig. 1, or folded when not in use, as shown in Fig. 2. In connection with this body A, I provide what for convenience of reference I term a "body-frame" B and a "handle-frame" C, each of said frames being constructed of two substantially similar sections, as will more fully appear hereinafter. One of these frames B and C is arranged to stretch the mouth of the body A, while the other one of said frames is arranged to stretch the bottom of the body A when the basket is adjusted for use, as shown in Fig. 1. In the specific construction shown the body A is provided at its bottom at its several corners with straps A', by which it is connected to the free ends of the members of the handle-frame C, and the sections B' and B² of the body-frame are pivoted together at B³ and are each provided with a cross-bar B⁴, connecting its side arms, as will be understood from Figs. 1 and 3. The cross-bars B⁴ are preferably connected with the

side arms B⁵ of the frame-sections B' by means of the joint-pieces D, (shown in detail in Fig. 3,) each having members formed at right angles to each other to complete the corner and channeled on their inner sides to fit the bars B⁴ and B⁵ and secured to the said bars B⁴ and B⁵ to form a rigid corner. Ordinarily I secure the joint-pieces D at one end of each cross-bar B⁵ permanently upon each of the said bars B⁴ and B⁵, while the joint-pieces at the opposite end of said cross-bar B⁴ are secured permanently at d by rivets or otherwise to the side bar B⁵ and detachably by screws d' or other suitable means to the cross-bar B⁴, so the latter can be detached whenever it is desired to remove the body portion A and replace it by another body portion, the body portion being provided at its ends at A² with casings in which the arms B⁴ may be slipped, as will be understood from Fig. 1. By this construction it will be noticed that when the body-frame is opened, as shown in Fig. 1, it will stretch the body A and will form a support therefor. To hold the body open, I provide cross-braces E, which are pivoted at E' at one end and are arranged at their opposite ends to engage a ratchet F, supported on one of the side bars of the body-frame, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4. By preference the ratchet consists of a strip of plate metal secured upon the upper face of the frame-bar and slitted to free the teeth F', which are struck up, as best shown in Fig. 4, to form a bearing for the end of the brace-bar E. Such brace-bar E is also provided at its ends with a channeled plate E', which projects at its extremities at E² beyond the bar E, forming an edge to engage with the teeth F', the plate E' being also provided with wings E³, which overlap the bars of the frame, as shown in Fig. 4. By this construction the upper ends of the bars of the body-frame can be securely held apart to any desired degree, stretching the basket-body at its top and holding the same open for use.

The bars of the handle-frame are constructed in the form of bows C' C' and are pivoted at C² to the side bars of the body-frame and have extensions C³ below the said pivots C², the extremities of which extensions C³ are secured to the outer ends of the straps A', as

shown in Fig. 1. At their upper ends the bows C' may be brought close together in the adjustment of the basket for use, as shown in Fig. 1, and are connected when in such position by a clasp G, secured at G' to one of the bows and having a hook G² at its other end, which may engage the other bow to secure the bows in position. It will be noticed that not only operate to stretch or distend the bottom of the body A, but they also form a convenient handle for carrying the basket as desired.

It will be noticed that the bottom of the basket forms a yielding cushion for any articles of fruit or the like that may be placed in the basket, preventing the bruising of same. When the basket is not in use, the cross-braces E may be freed from the ratchet F and the parts compactly folded to the position shown in Fig. 2, in which position they will occupy but a small space in storage or during transportation, and when ready for use can be quickly adjusted to the position shown in Fig. 1 and will be securely maintained in such position by the devices before described.

As best shown in Fig. 2, the straps A' are the projecting ends of straps which extend diagonally across the bottom of the body A of the basket and may be secured to said body throughout the extent to which they underlie the same, and thus form braces for the said bottom. It is preferred to provide for adjusting the straps A'. To this end I provide on the ends of the extensions C³ of the handles loops H, which are preferably formed by bending from suitable strips of sheet metal to form the lower cross-bar H' and the side boxes H², which are provided at H³ with spurs to bite into the extensions C³ of the handles so the loops H may be secured to the extensions C³ without the necessity of any separate fastenings. I also provide a buckle I for adjusting the straps A'. These buckles may be of the construction shown in detail in Figs. 6 and 9, having a cross-bar I', to which one end of the strap A' may be secured by a loop a', as shown in Fig. 6, so the strap can be readily secured to and detached from the cross-bar I' of the buckle, the opposite end of the buckle being provided with the guide-slot I², having a guarded opening I³ at one end and roughened or toothed, as shown at I⁴, to prevent the slipping of the strap through it when adjusted for use, as shown in Figs. 1 and 6.

The basket may be used for any desired purpose and will be found useful for carrying water for campers or others, being especially adapted for such purpose.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The basket herein described, consisting of the flexible collapsible body, the body-frame composed of two members each having side bars and cross-bars at one end and the

side bars of the two members being pivoted together between their ends, and the cross-bars thereof being connected with the opposite ends of the body at the top thereof, the bows constituting the handle-frame having their arms pivoted to the side bars of the body-frame and extending beyond said pivots, the straps connecting the extremities of such extensions with the bottom of the basket-body, a clasp connecting the handle-bows at the crown thereof, and the cross-braces pivoted at one end to the side bars of one member of the body-frame, and ratchets on the side bars of the other member of the body-frame for engagement by the free end of said brace-bars, substantially as set forth.

2. A basket having a collapsible body, and a body-frame and handle-frame, one of said frames being connected with the top of the body at the opposite ends thereof only, the sides of the top of the body being free and flexible and the other frame being connected with the bottom of said body whereby said frames may distend the body at the top and bottom thereof in the adjustment of the basket for use, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination with the collapsible basket-body, of the body-frame composed of members pivoted together and having their cross-bars connected with the top of the basket-body at the ends thereof, and the handle-frame having its sections pivoted to the members of the body-frame and extended below said pivot outside of the basket-body and connected with the lower portion of the body, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination with the body, of the body-frame composed of members pivoted together and connected with the body at the top thereof, and the handle-frame composed of sections pivoted to the members of the body-frame, and straps connecting the body at the several corners thereof with the handle-frame, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination with a collapsible body and a body-frame for distending the same at its top, of a handle-frame connected with the body-frame and extending along the outside of the basket-body and arranged to distend the body at its bottom, substantially as set forth.

6. The combination with the body and the body-frame composed of members pivoted together, of the brace-rods operating between the members of the body-frame, the handle-frame having its sections pivoted to the members of the body-frame, and connections between the body-frame members and the sections of the handle-frame and the body, substantially as set forth.

7. The combination with a collapsible basket-body and the frame therefor, of a handle-frame composed of sections having portions extending along the outside of the basket-body to points approximately opposite the bottom of the body, and means connecting the said outside portions of the handle-frame

with the basket-body whereby the handle can operate to distend the bottom of the basket-body, substantially as set forth.

5 8. A basket comprising the basket-body and the body-frame composed of members having side bars and cross-bars, and the angular joint-pieces connecting the side bars and cross-bars at the corners of the body-frame members and channeled to receive the said
10 bars, substantially as set forth.

9. A basket having a collapsible body composed of flexible material, a frame for supporting said body from its top, a frame for distending said body at its bottom, and flexible
15 connections or straps between the bottom of the body and the frame, substantially as set forth.

10. A basket composed of a flexible collapsible body and body-frame therefor composed
20 of folding members, and the handle-frame for said basket projecting above the basket-body and also composed of folding members and extending along the outside of the basket-body, substantially as set forth.

25 11. The combination in a folding basket, of the collapsible body, the body-frame composed of members pivoted together and connected with the top of the basket at its opposite ends, and the handle-frame composed of
30 members pivoted to the members of the body-frame and having portions extended outside of and connected with the bottom of the basket-body, and means for bracing the members of the body-frame apart, substantially as set
35 forth.

12. The combination of the collapsible basket-body, a body-frame therefor, a frame for distending said body at its bottom, straps

between the bottom and distending-frame, and buckle devices for adjusting the said
40 straps, substantially as set forth.

13. A basket composed of a flexible collapsible body, a body-frame, a distending-frame having portions extending outside of the basket-body, and straps connected with the
45 basket-body at the opposite corners thereof and extending thence diagonally outward and secured to the distending-frame substantially as set forth.

14. The combination in a folding basket of
50 the flexible collapsible body, the handle-frame composed of the members pivoted between their ends and having portions extending above the basket-body to form a handhold and portions extending along the outside of
55 the basket-body, and devices connecting the latter portions with the bottom of the basket-body substantially as set forth.

15. A basket composed of a flexible body, a distending-frame having portions extending
60 along the outside of the body and straps connecting the basket-body with the distending-frame substantially as set forth.

16. The combination of the flexible basket-body, a body-frame, a handle-frame composed
65 of bows pivoted to the body-frame and having their upper bow portions arranged to jointly form a handhold and their lower portions extended outside the flexible body and connections between the said lower portions and the
70 flexible body substantially as set forth.

THOMAS J. LANGSTON.

Witnesses:

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PERRY B. TURPIN.