Dec. 20, 1927. 1,653,225

C. E. A. O'LOUGHLIN

CHRISTMAS TREE SUPPORT

Filed March 17, 1926

Fig. 1.

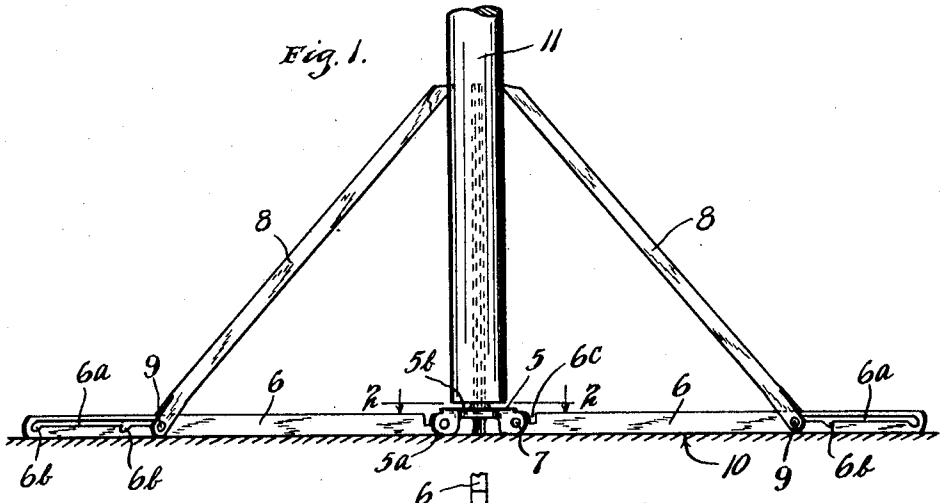


Fig. 2.

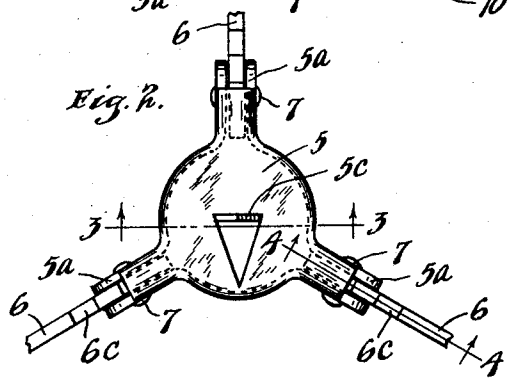


Fig. 3.

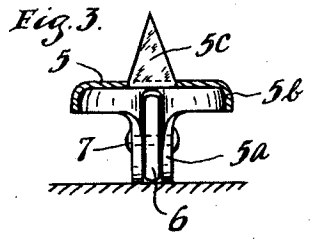


Fig. 4.

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CHRISTMAS-TREE SUPPORT.

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This invention relates to a support for an upright article, and while the invention may have various applications, it particularly is designed for holding a Christmas tree. As is well known, Christmas trees, both natural and artificial, are used in immense numbers, and it is desirable to have a simple and efficient support for holding the tree in erect position. It is also desirable to have a support which can be collapsed and stored in a small space when not in use.

It is an object of this invention, therefore, to provide a very simple and efficient Christmas tree support, one comprising very few parts and which can be easily placed in operative position and easily collapsed into a compact position.

It is more specifically an object of the invention to provide such a support comprising a central member having means for engaging the tree trunk, a plurality of supporting members pivotally connected thereto and extending therefrom, together with arms connected respectively to said supporting members adapted to be held at one end thereby and to engage the side of the tree with their other end.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be more fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views and in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation of the device, showing a portion of the tree held therein;

Fig. 2 is a partial plan view as seen from line 2—2 of Fig. 1 as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on line 3—3 of Fig 2, as indicated by the arrows; and

Fig. 4 is a vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2, as indicated by the arrows, and shown on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the drawings, the device comprises a central member 5. While this member may be variously formed, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as made from a piece of sheet metal material having circumferentially spaced and radially extending pairs of ears or lugs 5^a. Between the pairs of lugs 5^a the member 5 has a short downwardly extending and substantially cylindrical flange 5^b thereabout. The pairs of ears 5^a project beyond the flange 5^b and form the supports for the member 5. Said member also has a pointed tongue 5^c struck upwardly from its top surface, which point has its central axis substantially with the central axis of said member. Pivoted between each of the pairs of ears 5^a is a supporting bar 6 of simple flat shape rectangular in cross section, which bars are adapted to extend outwardly and radially from the member 5 and to have one of their longitudinal edges rest on the supporting surface 10, on which rest the ears 5^a, the bottom edges of said ears and bars 7 thus being in the same plane. Adjacent their inner ends the bars 6 are provided with a slot 6^c having a bottom surface 6^d, said bars being pivoted to the ears 5^a by the pivot members 7. Each of the bars 6 has an elongated slot 6^a adjacent its outer end and adjacent its top edge, which slot has downwardly extending spaced notches 6^b in its lower side. An arm 8 forming a brace arm is provided for each of the bars 6, which arms 8 are of channel shape or U-shape in cross section, having their open sides directed downwardly or inwardly. Said arms 8 have their top portions cut away at their lower or outer ends to form a fork, the arms of which are connected by a pivoted member 9 illustrated as a headed rivet, which rivet passes through the slot 6^a, the sides of said fork thus being disposed respectively at each side of the bar 6. Pivot 9 is of a size conveniently to be received in the notches 6^a. The arms 8 have their inner ends formed on an incline, so as to form sharp points.

When the device is to be used to support a tree such as tree 11 shown in Fig. 1, the bar 6 will be folded out as shown in said figure to rest on the supporting surface shown as 10. The bottom of the trunk of tree 11 will now be set down firmly on the tongue 5^c, so that said tongue is embedded in the bottom of said trunk centrally thereof. The trunk thus cannot move relatively to the member 5. The arms 8 will now be inclined upwardly and the pivot members 9 will be engaged in one of the notches 6^b. The arm 8 will then be pressed inwardly at its inner and upper end so that the point thereof will sink into the side of the trunk of the tree 11. The arm will then be held in its upwardly inclined position and its supporting bar thus

will be held down against the supporting surface. When all of the arms 8 are thus secured, the tree will be rigidly and firmly held in upright position and cannot move or swing downwardly in any direction.

When the device is not in use and is to be stored, the tree may be removed by disengaging the arms 8 and lifting the trunk from the member 5. The arms 8 will then be lifted slightly to disengage the members 9 from the slots 6^b and said pivot members may be moved outwardly in the slots 6^a to the ends thereof. Arms 8 will then fold downwardly on top of the bars 6, the channel shape of the arms 8 enabling the same to fit over the bars 6 with the sides of said channel at each side of said bar as shown in Fig. 4. When each arm 8 has been thus disposed, the bars 6 and arms 8 may be swung upwardly or inwardly relatively to member 5 to the dotted line position shown in Fig. 4. When the members 6 are thus swung inwardly, the surface 6^d will engage the edge of member 5 and form a stop. When the members 6 are in their inner position, it will be seen that the outer or bottom edges thereof are substantially flush with the outer edges of the ears 5^a. All of the members 6 are thus disposed in a relatively small space and the device is in a very compact position, occupying very little space. The point 5^e is disposed between the bars 6 and the arms 8 and the points on arms 8 are disposed inwardly adjacent member 5, so that none of these points are apt to catch on any object. The device can now be stored away in a very small space until its use is again desired.

From the above description it is seen that applicant has provided a very simple and efficient tree holder. The device comprises very few parts and these parts are easily and quickly made from standard material. The device can be very quickly placed in operative position and very easily and quickly collapsed into compact and inoperative position. The device has been amply demonstrated in actual practice and found to be very successful and efficient.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, proportions and arrangement of the parts, without departing from the scope of applicant's invention, which, generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth, in the novel parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A tree stand having in combination, a central member having means for holding a tree trunk thereon, a plurality of circumferentially spaced supporting bars pivoted to said member and extending radially therefrom, an arm for each bar having a forked end embracing and movable along its respective bar, a member connecting said arm and bar movable in the latter, said bar having a plurality of means holding said arm in different fixed positions relative thereto, each of said arms having a pointed end whereby it may be engaged in the tree trunk to hold the same in erect position, said arms also being adapted to be collapsed into substantially parallel relation to said supporting bars when the device is in folded or collapsed condition.

2. A tree stand having in combination, a central member having means for centering and holding a tree trunk thereon, a plurality of circumferentially spaced supports pivoted at their inner ends to said member and extending radially therefrom, said supports having elongated slots adjacent their outer ends, an arm for each of said supports, having a pivot at its outer end traversing said slot in said support, said support having means for holding said pivot in different positions in said slot, said arm having a sharpened inner end whereby all of said arms may be fixed in their support and have their sharpened ends engaged in the sides of the trunk supported on said central member.

3. A tree stand having in combination, a central member of sheet metal material having a plurality of circumferentially spaced pairs of ears extending radially therefrom and having a central pointed tongue struck upwardly from its top surface, a supporting bar pivoted between each pair of ears and extending outwardly therefrom, said bar having an elongated slot adjacent its outer end having downwardly and outwardly extending notches therein, a channel shaped arm for each of said supporting bars having a forked end embracing said bar and a pivot member in said forked end traversing said slot and adapted to be received in any one of said notches, said channel shaped arm having its inner end pointed and adapted to engage in the trunk of a tree supported on said central member, said channel shaped arms also being open at their bottoms so as to swing down and fit over the top of said supporting bars and said bars being adapted to swing upwardly and inwardly about said central member.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES EDWARD ALLAN O'LOUGHLIN.