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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 7.
My invention relates to improvements in folding flags and staffs for the same.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a signal flag with a staff for planting in the ground in road construction work, along the right of way of railroads, or on the highway for general signalling purposes, and which is especially designed for rolling up the flag, housing the same in a part of the staff and shortening the staff all so as to arrange the flag and staff in a small compact bundle for easy carrying with the flag protected against damage.

Another object is to provide for displaying the flag so that it is always completely visible and will not become torn or raveled by whipping in strong breezes.

Still another object is to provide a flag and staff in which the above objectives are attained and which is simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, and well adapted to withstand rough and prolonged use.

Other and subordinate objects, within the pur-view of my invention, together with the precise nature of my improvements will be readily understood when the succeeding description and claims are read with reference to the drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification.

In said drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my invention in a preferred embodiment thereof with the flag unrolled and unfolded;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view in longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 and drawn to a larger scale;

Figure 3 is a view in perspective of the flag housing section of the flag staff with the flag rolled up and folded therein, and also drawn to a larger scale;

Figure 4 is a view in longitudinal section of the same, partly in side elevation;

Figure 5 is a view in transverse section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4 and drawn to a still larger scale;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view in side elevation with the flag unrolled and unfolded;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view in perspective of the flag housing section of the flag staff;

Figure 8 is a detailed view in section of the flag taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 6 and drawn to a larger scale.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, according to my invention, as illustrated, a flag staff 1 is provided comprising a hollow, cylindrical, flag housing section 2 of any suitable metal having closed upper and lower ends 3, 4 and a substantially smaller diameter rod section 5 with a sharp pointed anchoring end 6 for driving into the ground, or the like, to arrange the staff 1 in upright position. The other end of the rod section 5 is threaded, as at 7, for turning into a nut 8 suitably fixed, as by welding 9, in the lower end portion of the flag housing 2 in alignment with an axial hole 10 in the lower end 4 of said section 2 through which said rod section may be inserted for turning said nut for detachably connecting said sections 2, 5 together. A longitudinal slot 10 is provided in the flag housing section 2 which terminates short of the ends of said section a distance suitable for a purpose presently clear. The rod section 5 is of a length such that one end thereof may be entered into the flag housing section 2 by inserting said end through said slot 10 and then manipulating the rod section 5 endwise and laterally to pass the other end through said slot into said section 2. Thus the flag staff 1 may be shortened and the rod section 5 stored in the flag housing section 2.

A flag supporting, metal, arm 11, in the form of a flat bar is pivoted at one end thereof in the flag housing section 2 adjacent the upper end of the slot 10 by means of a cross bushing 12 on said arm 11 rotatable on a diametrical pivot pin 13 fixed in said section 2 in any suitable manner. The flag supporting arm 11 is of a length to be swung through the slot 10 into the flag housing section 2, into folded position, and is adapted to swing out of said section 2 by way of said slot 10 to extend at a right angle to said section 2 into unfolded position.

A catch 14 is provided for maintaining the flag supporting arm 11 in unfolded position and which has the form of a flat bar hook pivoted at one end, as at 15, on the flag housing section 2 adjacent to the upper end of the slot 10 to be swung into aligned overlapping relation to said end of said slot and hooked under the flag supporting arm 11. The catch 14 frictionally engages the flag housing section 2 for swinging over the upper end of the slot 10 into friction locking engagement with said section to block swinging of the flag supporting arm 11 out of said section 2 when said arm 11 is folded.

The flag 16 is rectangular and of any suitable fabric material with an upper edge hem 17 which is sleeved over the flag supporting arm 11 and
suitably secured thereto so that in the unfolded position of said arm 11 the flag 16 hangs pendent and clears the flag housing section 2 to prevent interference of the same with said section.

A metal flag stiffening strip of flat form is provided for the lower edge of the flag 16 in a lower edge hem 19 on said flag in which said strip is suitably secured. The stiffening strip 18 forms a weight tending to hold the flag 16 straight.

A flexible hook 20 for anchoring the lower edge of the flag 16 is provided and which extends from one end of the stiffening strip 18 to be hooked around the rod section 5 when the flag 16 is unfolded. The hook 20 is of the snap fastener closing type.

Strips of luminous, adhesive tape 21, 22 are provided along the upper and lower edges of the flag 16 and similar strips 23 along the horizontal center thereof to render the flag visable at night.

A cross bar 24 is provided on the flag housing section 2 with apertured ends for securing said section by nails, or the like, not shown, in upright position to a wall, or the like, when it is desired to use the flag on a base instead of planted in the ground.

With the rod section 5 stored in the flag housing section 2, in the manner described, the hook 20 may be disengaged from the rod section 5, the flag 16 rolled up around the flag supporting arm 11, and the flag supporting arm 11 then swung into slightly raised position so that the catch 14 may be swung into releasing position relative to said arm. Then the flag supporting arm 11 with the rolled up flag 16 thereon may be swung into the flag housing section 2, as shown in Figures 4 and 5. Thus the flag 16 may be folded with the flag supporting arm 11 with the rod section 5 stored in the manner described. With the flag 16 thus folded, the catch 14 may then be swung into aligned overlapping relation to the upper end of the slot 10 to confine the folded flag with the flag supporting arm 11 in the flag housing section 2. The manner in which the flag 16 and the flag supporting arm 11 may be unfolded, and the rod section 5 removed from the flag housing section will be obvious and requires no explanation.

As shown in Figure 5, when the flag 16 and flag supporting arm 11 are folded into the flag housing section 2, said flag and arm confine the stored rod section 5 in said section 2 against accidentally falling out of the slot 10.

The foregoing will, it is believed, suffice to impart a clear understanding of my invention, without further explanation.

Manifestly, the invention, as described, is susceptible of modification, without departing from the inventive concept, and right is herein reserved to such modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claim.

Having described my invention, what is claimed as new is:

In a device of the class described, a flag staff including a hollow cylindrical section for housing a flag and having a longitudinal slot therein, a rod section detachably attached to one end of the cylindrical section for supporting the same and adapted when detached to be inserted through said slot into the cylindrical section for storage therein, a flag, a flag supporting arm to which one edge of the flag is attached and about which said flag is adapted to be rolled, means swingably mounting said arm at one end in said cylindrical section for swinging into and out of the same through said slot with the flag rolled thereon, said arm with the flag rolled thereon and when swung into said cylindrical section confining said rod section in the cylindrical section, and a catch on said cylindrical section swingable thereon to hold said arm in outswung suspended position.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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