June 20, 1933. U. L. LARSON 1,914,440

COMBINATION TREE HOLDER AND GENERAL UTILITY STOOL

Filed March 17, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

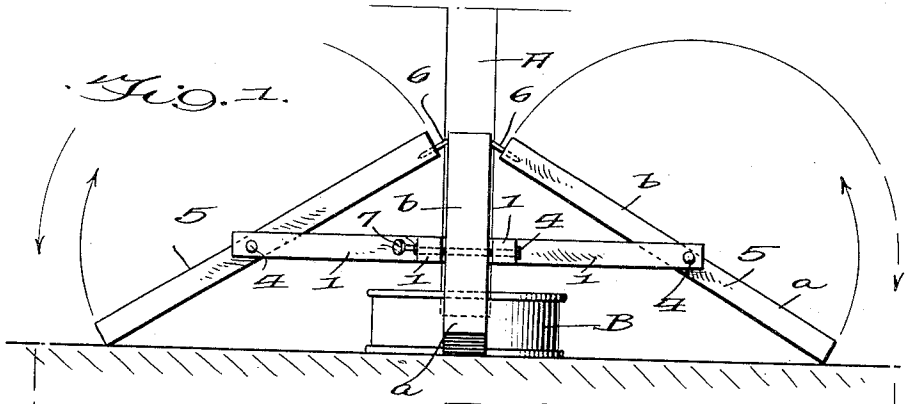


Fig. 2.

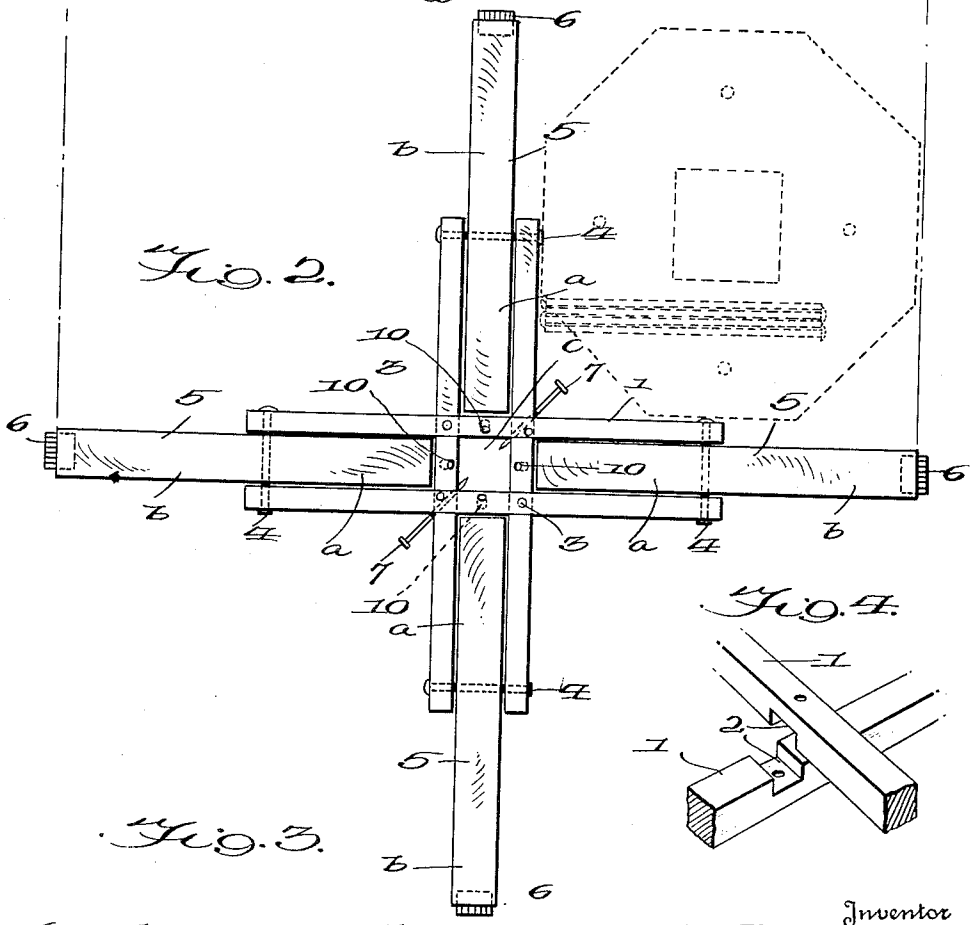
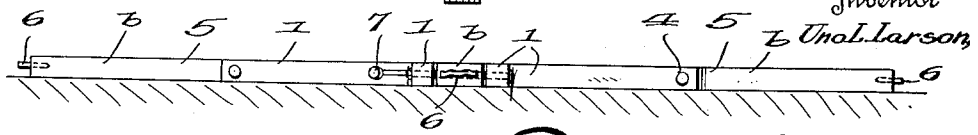


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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Filed March 17, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5.

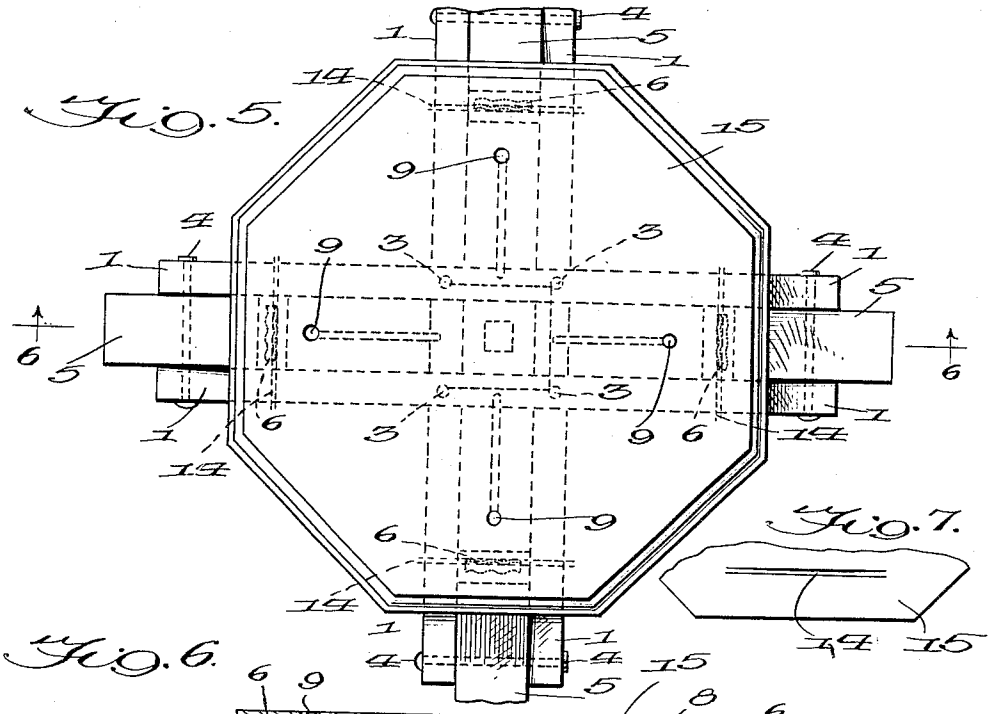
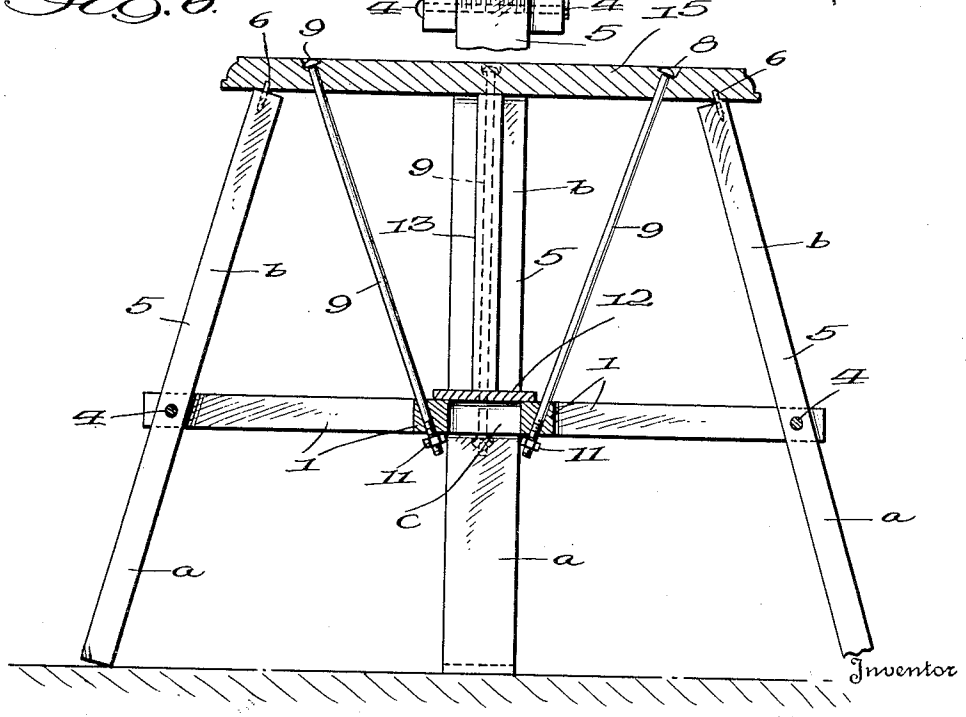


Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

UNO L. LARSON, OF GARY, INDIANA

COMBINATION TREE HOLDER AND GENERAL UTILITY STOOL

Application filed March 17, 1932. Serial No. 599,575.

This invention relates to a combination Christmas tree holder and general utility stool.

The primary objects of this invention are to provide a household article normally to be used as a stool while at the same time capable of use as a Christmas tree or staff holder by the removal of several parts and without need for the addition of parts; to provide in such a dual use article a construction facilitating the easy and quick removal or replacement of parts in preparation for use of the article in either alternate use; to provide in such an article a special construction for tying the seat of the stool and the cross bars of the holder together and simultaneously securing the legs of the device to the stool head to produce a very rigid and strong stool; to provide legs pivotally mounted in the holder frame and having arms of unequal length, whereby when said legs are turned in one direction about their respective pivotal points they will exert a gripping cam action against the tree trunk intervening between the adjacent upper ends of said legs and whereby when said legs are turned in the reverse direction about their respective pivots the said legs may lie parallel to, and in the same plane with, said holder frame, to lie perfectly flat therewith; to provide a holder frame with its associated legs and a stool top and associated securing truss bolts and central bracing and supporting block so related as to size that the complete article as arranged for shipment will not extend beyond a square area having its center at the center of said holder frame and will not be of greater thickness than the thickness of said holder frame, whereby said complete article may be readily shipped in a flat knocked down condition, and to provide the ends of the longer arms of the legs with simple permanently mounted means having the dual functions of biting into the trunk of the tree or staff when the device is used as a holder and of extending into the lower portion of the stool seat and interlocking therewith when the device is used as a stool.

In this application I show and describe only the present preferred embodiment of my invention simply by way of illustration of the practice thereof, as by law required. However, I am well aware that my invention is capable of a number of other and different embodiments and that the several details thereof may be modified in various ways, all without departing from my said invention. Therefore, the drawings and description herein are to be considered as merely illustrative and not as exclusive.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 represents a front elevation of the Christmas tree holder element of my invention, when used as a tree or staff holder;

Figure 2, a top plan view of my invention in knocked down shipping condition;

Figure 3, an edge elevation of my invention in its condition illustrative in Fig. 2;

Figure 4, a detail fragmentary superposed perspective view illustrating the interlocking notched construction of the frame bars 1 at their points of intersection with each other;

Figure 5, a top plan view of my invention assembled for use as a stool;

Figure 6, a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5, the truss screws 9, central brace block 13 and legs 5 being shown in elevation; and

Figure 7, a fragmentary detail bottom plan view of a portion of the stool seat to illustrate the sockets or kerfs therein.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the frame of the article consists of bars 1 arranged in pairs, the bars of each pair being arranged parallel to each other and at the same distance from each other as are the bars of the other pair, and said pairs of bars 1 are arranged at right angles to intersect each other at their common central point. Preferably each bar 1 is notched out for half of its thickness at the points where it intersects with the bars 1 of the other pair and at each point for a length equal to the widths of each of the bars of said other pair, said notches 2 being of course presented toward the opposing faces of each of the bars 1 of said other pair, so that each said notch 2 of the one bar 1 will snugly receive the reduced portion of the other bar 1 interlocking therewith, whereby the upper and lower faces of

said bars while extending at right angles to each other will lie flush in the same planes. When said bars 1 have been interlocked as above described nails 3 driven through the points of intersection of said bars 1 serve to hold said pairs of bars together in proper braced relationship.

Legs 5 are respectively mounted between the respective end portions of the respective pairs of bars 1 by means of tie rods or pivot pins 4 respectively passing through the respective outer end portions of each said pair of bars 1 and the respective intervening legs 5. Each said leg 5 has a short arm *a* slightly less in length than the distance between the axis of its corresponding tie rod or pivot pin 4 and the adjacent face of the adjacent rod 1 extending parallel to said pin or tie rod 4, whereby each said leg 5 may be turned about its pivot pin 4 to lie flat with the rods 1. Said rods 1 will preferably be of uniform thickness and said legs 5 will preferably be of the same thickness, but will not exceed the thickness, of said rods 1.

Said legs 5 will each have a long arm *b* appreciably longer than their respective short arms *a* and preferably of such length that they will overlap when turned so as to be adjacent the center of the frame, whereby the ends of said long arms *b* will exert a squeezing cam action effect against the intervening trunk of a tree or staff, with the weight of the tree sustained by the unit as a whole. Preferably the extreme end portion of the arm *b* of each leg 5 is provided with a serrated or undulating thin metal grip or shoe to dig or bite into the tree trunk so as to firmly hold and support the same.

When the invention is to be used as a tree holder, as illustrated in Fig. 1, the tree A will extend through the centering opening C of the frame defined by the two pairs of bars by their intersection, being supported by the engagement of the said shoes 6 therewith. If preferred, anchoring nails 7 may be driven diagonally through the intersecting portions of said bars 1 and into said tree A as illustrated, and a pan B may be provided to hold water in which to immerse the lower end of the tree A to keep the same fresh.

At points equi-distant from said points of intersection, the respective bars 1 are provided with outwardly and upwardly slanting bores or holes 10 adapted to receive long truss rods or screws 9 respectively extending through the seat 15 at points adjacent and respectively preferably in a line with the longitudinal center of each of the respective legs 5, when the article is assembled as a stool, the heads of said truss bars or screws 9 being preferably countersunk in the recesses 8 in the upper face of said stool 15 so as not to extend above the normal upper face thereof. Nuts 11 are respectively applied to the respective lower ends of said truss rods or screws 9, a cover plate or block 12 being laid over the central intersecting portions of the rods 1 to cover the centering opening C and being roughly centered thereon by the converging lower ends of the truss bars 9. A vertical bracing block 13 is disposed centrally or substantially centrally of the block 12 and extends vertically slightly beyond most of the area of the upper end of each of the arms 5 and presents a relatively broad flat face against the bottom of the seat 15, so that as the nuts 11 are turned up on the respective rods 9 the latter will hold the outer portions of the seat 15 down against the upper ends of the legs 5 against the opposition of the thrust of the bracing block 13 exerted against the central portion of the seat 15 resulting in a very rigid and strong stool construction.

The lower face of the seat 15 will be formed with four equi-distantly disposed kerfs, notches or sockets 14 extending at right angles to each other and preferably converging upwardly in a vertical direction, the respective notches or kerfs 14 being adapted to receive the corresponding metal pins 6 of the respective legs.

When the frame and legs are to be used as a tree holder, the seat 15, truss rods or screws 9, nuts 11, block or plate 12 and brace 13 are all removed, the frame 1 is turned upside down from the position shown in Fig. 6, and the legs 5 are turned about their respective pivot pins 4 in the direction indicated by heavy solid line arrows in Fig. 1, so as to bring the cleats 6 adjacent the tree trunk to readily bite into the same, whereas when the article is to be used as a stool the frame is turned back into the position illustrated in Fig. 6 and the legs 5 are turned about their pivot pins 4 in their direction indicated by the light broken line arrows in Fig. 1, so as to present the cleats 6 of the respective legs 5 at the upper and outer portions of said legs whereby the greater thickness of the upper portions of said legs will support the inward and downward pressures exerted thereon.

Thus, it will be noted that the cleats or plates 6 are offset with relation to the central portion of their corresponding legs 1 for definite purposes, one being to provide greater supporting thickness of material of the upper ends of the legs when used as a stool, and the other being to provide for better positioning and easy access when used as a gripping or penetrating element. However, while this relative arrangement is preferred, it is not essential that said cleats 6 shall be offset with relation to the center of the end portions of the respective plates 5.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the seat 15 will preferably be of such size and outline as to fit within the square of which each two adjacent legs 5 with their supporting end portions of rods 1 define the inner sides, to the

end that all parts of the article may be packed flat in a box or other container of such size as is capable of receiving the frame with its arms 5 in flattened condition illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A frame having a central portion defining a centering opening, and a plurality of legs equi-distantly disposed about a common central point and pivotally mounted in said frame, said frame and legs being adapted for use as a tree holder, in combination with a stool seat, and means for drawing said seat tightly against corresponding end portions of said legs to hold said seat against said ends, said legs being thereby maintained in approximately the same angular relation to said frame.

2. A frame having a central portion defining a centering opening, and a plurality of legs equi-distantly disposed about a common central point and pivotally mounted in said frame, said frame and legs being adapted for use as a tree holder, in combination with a stool seat, a plurality of annularly disposed screws repectively extending through the said seat from points in the outer portions thereof adjacent the respective legs to and through the adjacent parts of the central portion of said frame, and nuts turning on said screws to draw said seat firmly against the adjacent end portions of said legs.

3. A frame having a central portion defining a centering opening, and a plurality of legs equi-distantly disposed about a common central point and pivotally mounted in said frame, said frame and legs being adapted for use as a tree holder, in combination with a block adapted to be centrally disposed with relation to and supported by said frame, a vertically disposed central brace adapted to be supported by said block and of such length as to extend from the upper face of the latter upward slightly beyond the major portion of each of the respective upper end faces of each of said legs, a stool seat adapted to bear against the upper end of said central brace, a plurality of annularly disposed screws respectively extending through the said seat from points in the outer portions thereof adjacent the respective legs to and through the adjacent parts of the central portion of said frame, and nuts turning on said screws to draw said seat firmly against the adjacent end portions of said legs.

4. A frame having a central portion defining a centering opening, and a plurality of legs equi-distantly disposed about a common central point and pivotally mounted in said frame, said frame and legs being adapted for use as a tree holder, in combination with a block adapted to be centrally disposed with relation to and supported by said frame, a vertically disposed central brace adapted to be supported by said block and of such length as to extend from the upper face of the latter upward slightly beyond the major portion of each of the respective upper end faces of each of said legs, a stool seat adapted to bear against the upper end of said central brace, a plurality of equi-distantly disposed screws respectively extending through the said seat from points in the outer portions thereof adjacent the respective legs to and through the adjacent parts of the central portion of said frame, nuts turning on said screws to draw said seat firmly against the adjacent end portions of said legs, said seat being formed in its lower face with equi-distantly disposed sockets corresponding in number and in spacing to said legs, and gripping cleats respectively mounted in and projecting beyond the upper faces of the upper ends of the respective legs and serving the dual functions of biting into the tree trunk when said frame and legs are used as a tree holder and of interlocking with the respective sockets in said seat when said frame and legs are used to support said stool seat.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification at Gary, Indiana this 25 day of January 1932.

UNO L. LARSON.