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TOBACCO CURING STICK

Filed April 18, 1946

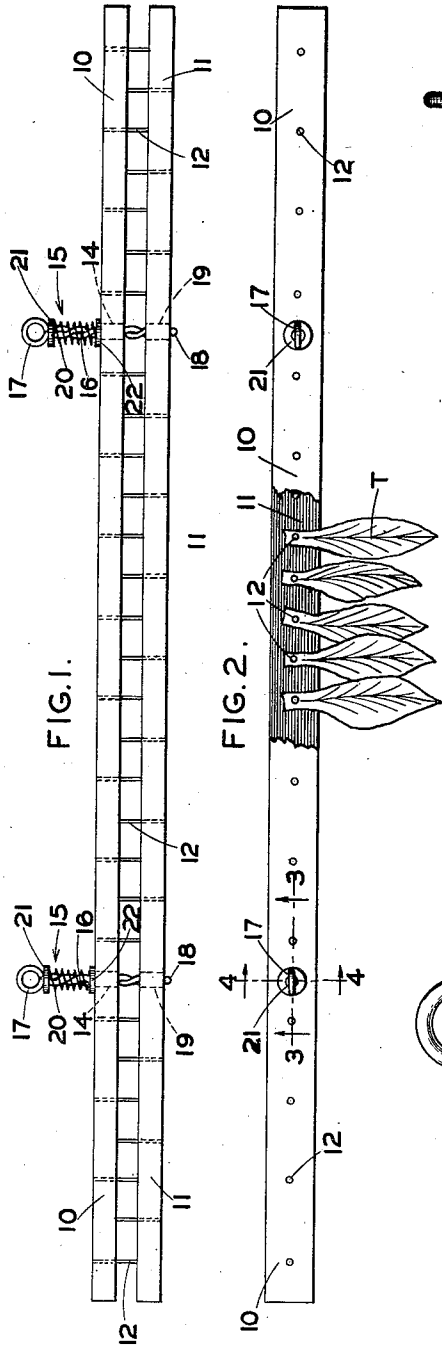


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

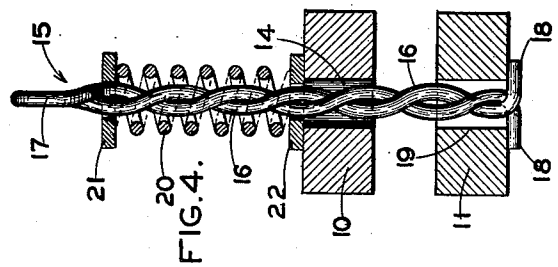


FIG. 4.

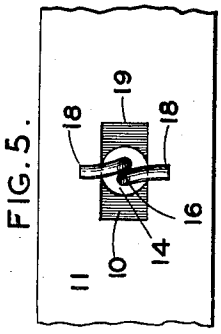


FIG. 5.

FIG. 3.

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TOBACCO CURING STICK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 294—5.5)

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My invention relates to a tobacco curing stick, for use in connection with flue cured tobacco or the like.

An important object of the invention is to provide a device of the above mentioned character which will save a great deal of hand labor in connection with flue cured tobacco.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the above mentioned character which is simple in construction, cheap to manufacture and may be used by unskilled labor.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a tobacco stick embodying my invention,

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same,

Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a transverse vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2, and,

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary side elevation of the tobacco stick, viewed from the opposite side of Figure 2.

In the drawings wherein for the purpose of illustration is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention the numerals 10 and 11 designate bars or rods, preferably formed of wood, and formed in any suitable length, depending upon the number of leaves to be supported. Secured to the bars or rods 10 and 11 are leaf penetrating and holding elements or pins 12, which may be in the form of nails. These nails are driven through the bars 10 and 11 from the outer sides and project inwardly beyond the same. These nails carried by each bar are arranged in a longitudinal group, at the central longitudinal axis of the bar. The nails in one longitudinal group are staggered with respect to the nails in the other longitudinal group, and the nails in one longitudinal group engage the inner face of the companion bar, and their pointed ends are slightly embedded therein, as shown at 13.

Yielding devices are employed to detachably connect the bars 10 and 11 and hold them in the assembled condition. Two of these yielding devices are shown, while any suitable number may be employed. The yielding devices are spaced from each other and from the ends of the bars 10 and 11. The bar 10 is provided at points near and spaced from its ends with horizontal openings 14 which are preferably cylindrical. These

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openings are at the central longitudinal axis of the bar 10. Each holding device comprises a holding member 15, preferably formed of wire, bent to form a shank 16. This shank comprises two strands of wire which are twisted upon each other, to provide a stiff construction. At the outer end of the shank, the wire is bent to form an eye or loop 17. At the inner end of the shank the wire is bent to form oppositely extending radial tines 18, as shown. The shank extends through the cylindrical opening 14 and is loose and rotatable therein, and also extends through a horizontally elongated rectangular opening or slot 19, formed in the bar 11. When the tines 18 are vertical they project radially beyond the opening or slot 19, but may be withdrawn through the slot 19 when turned to a horizontal position. The tines cannot pass through the openings 14. Surrounding the shank 16 is a stiff compressible coil spring 20, engaging outer and inner washers 21 and 22, carried by the shank.

The operation of the device is as follows:

The bars 10 and 11 are separated, and the tobacco leaves T are mounted upon the elements or nails 12, which penetrate butt ends of the leaves. The bars 10 and 11 are then brought to the opposed assembled position, Figures 1 and 3, and the holding devices 15 are manipulated so that the tines are passed through the openings or slots 19, and then turned for 90°, to bring them to the vertical holding or locking position. The springs 20 function to yieldingly press the bars 10 and 11 toward each other, the elements or nails 12 engaging the inner faces of the bars 10 and 11, as shown. When assembled, with the tobacco leaves supported thereby, the bars 10 and 11 are horizontally or otherwise supported in a tobacco curing house, by any suitable means.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention herewith shown and described is to be taken as a preferred example of the same and that various changes in the shape, size, and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

A tobacco curing stick, comprising a bar having longitudinally spaced substantially circular transverse openings therein, a companion bar having longitudinally spaced elongated transverse openings therein and arranged in opposed relation to the circular openings, at least one bar having transversely inwardly projecting pins, and holding devices to be passed through the opposed

openings in the bars, each holding device comprising a wire twisted upon itself for providing a shank and a loop at one end of the shank, the free ends of the wire being bent laterally in opposite directions to provide tines forming an elongated head, the elongated head having a greater length than the diameter of the substantially circular openings and a shorter length than the length of the elongated openings, and a compressible coil spring carried by the shank and arranged between the loop and the outer face of one bar, the arrangement being such that the shank is permanently carried by one bar and adapted to be turned upon its axis so that the head may be arranged longitudinally of the elongated opening, the spring pressing the washer against the adjacent bar and resisting improper turning of the shank.

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