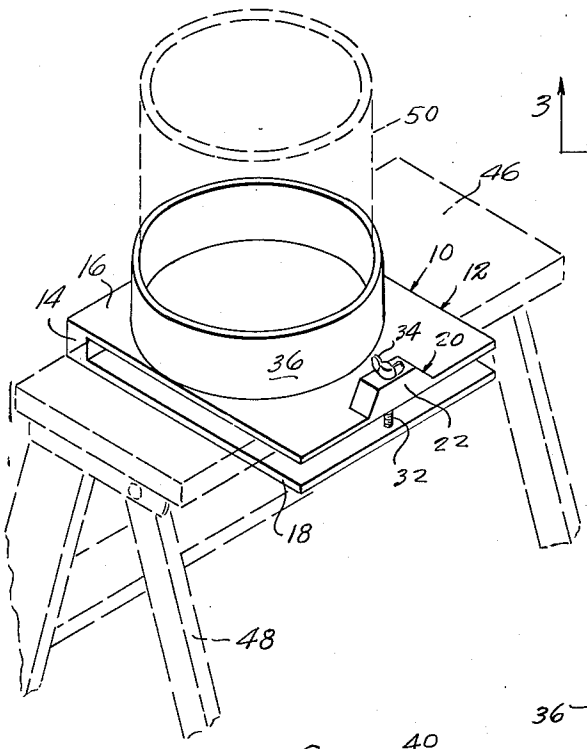
May 9, 1961 F. A. SWIFT, SR 2,982,982

CONTAINER SUPPORT INCLUDING ASSOCIATED TRAY ELEMENT

Filed Oct. 31, 1958

FIG. 1.



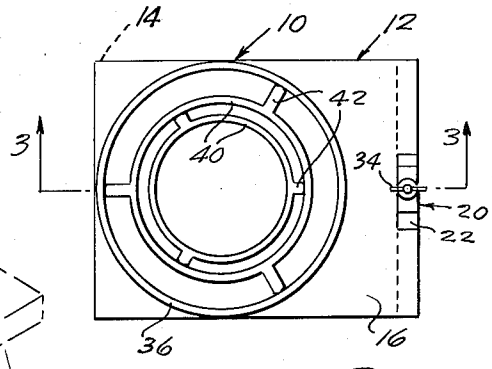


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

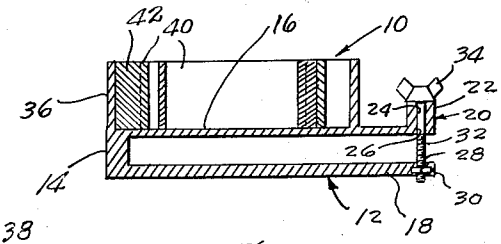
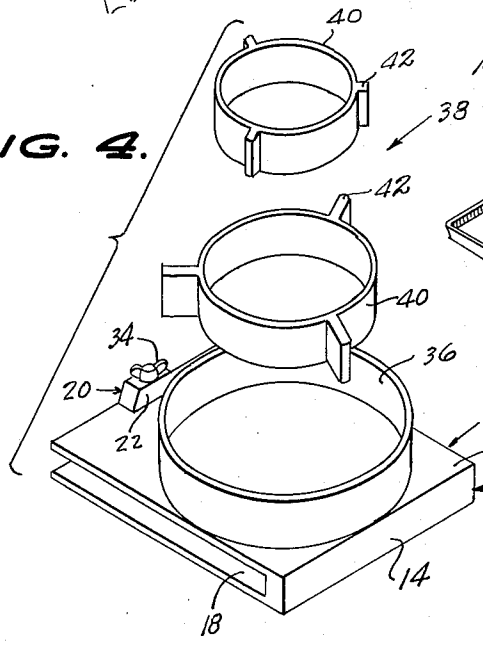


FIG. 4.



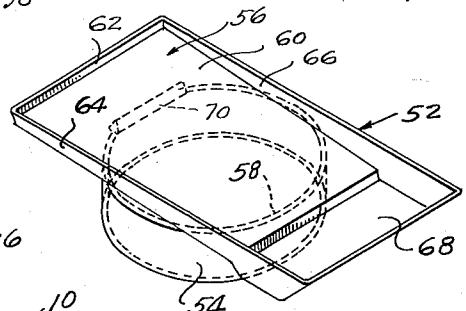


FIG. 5.

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2,982,982

CONTAINER SUPPORT INCLUDING ASSOCIATED TRAY ELEMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 15—257.06)

This invention is directed to article supports generally, and more specifically to an article support susceptible of varying utilizations including the support of paint containers, or the like.

One objective of the present invention is to provide an article support having means for the accommodation of containers of assorted sizes and shapes.

Another object is the provision of a paint container support for use in combination with a ladder, or the like. The utilization of the instant container support in the foregoing environment has been found to result in the following advantageous results. Among others, these include: Cans of paint are rendered less likely to accidentally or inadvertently fall from the ladder; the ladder may be readily moved from place-to-place without removal of the support and paint can therefrom; the painter has no need to hold the paint can and therefore has both hands free for use in painting and in holding the ladder, thereby lessening the danger of falls; and lastly, floors and carpets are protected from the spillage of paint thereon which often occurs when paint cans are accidentally displaced from ladders.

An object and advantage of the present construction is the provision of an accessory part therefor which may be operably connected thereto in order to adapt the support for reception of a paint roller tray or the like, or for the reception of paint directly therein for subsequent roller application.

An additional object and advantage of the present invention resides in the provision of an article support of the class described supra, the support being non-complex in construction and assembly, inexpensive to manufacture, durable in use, and easily installed and removed.

Numerous other and further objects and advantages will become more readily apparent from a consideration of the following specification when read in conjunction with the annexed drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the article support of the present invention illustrating a portion of a ladder and a paint can in phantom lines;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the holder, having means for adjusting the size of its article holding capacity included therein;

Figure 3 is a detail cross-sectional view of the holder taken substantially along the vertical plane of the section line 3—3 of Figure 2, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the article support; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of an accessory portion of the device.

Proceeding now to a more detailed description of the invention, and with more specific reference to the accompanying drawing, general reference character **10** denotes an article support constructed and assembled in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The support **10** has a substantially U-shaped main

body member **12** formed of an inherently resilient material such as plastic or metal, and includes a bight or web portion **14** with spaced apart, confronting, substantially rectangular parallel arm plates **16** and **18** extending therefrom. As seen in Figure 1, the arm plates **16**, **18** are spaced a sufficient distance apart to receive therebetween a ladder step, or the like, and have releasable locking means **20** positioned adjacent the free outer ends thereof.

The locking means **20** include a block **22** secured to the outer free end of the arm plate **16**, a transverse bore **24** being formed therein, and a coaxial bore **26** being formed in the aforesaid end of the plate **16**. The outer free end of the plate **18** also has a transverse bore **28** formed therein, and a nut **30** of conventional configuration is embedded in the plate and has its threaded opening in co-alignment with the bore **28** thereof. A cylindrical screw **32** is passed through the bores **24** and **26** for threaded engagement in the nut **30** and has a wing type actuating element **34** secured or formed at the outer end thereof.

A cylindrical outer holder **36** is integrally formed, or fixedly secured, to the arm plate **16** and extends upwardly therefrom. As seen in Figure 1, the outer holder may be specifically formed of proper size to accommodate a customary one gallon cylindrical container, or a container of any other given size or shape. Any number of adaptor rings **38** may be additionally provided in order that the device **10** may be utilized with containers of varying sizes and shapes. The adaptors **38** shown here each have cylindrical bodies **40** and a plurality of substantially rectangular spacer ribs **42** of substantially equal size extending radially therefrom, the purpose of the ribs **42** being to place the bodies **40** in substantially concentric relationship relative to the holder **36**.

In use, the screw **32** is manually removed from the lock assembly **20** and the arm plates **16** and **18** receive a chosen step **46** of a ladder **48** therebetween, the bight **14** bearing against the leading end of the step **46**. The screw **32** is then reinserted through the bores **24** and **26** and into threaded engagement with the nut **30** whereupon it is tightened until the element **34** bears against the block **22** thus drawing the outer ends of the plates **16** and **18**, which are, as stated above, formed of a resilient material, toward one another and securing the device **10** firmly in place on the ladder **48**. A can of paint **50** or the like, is fitted into the holder **36** and is frictionally held therein against accidental or inadvertent displacement therefrom.

When cans or containers of smaller circumference are to be used, the device **10** is equipped with the adaptor ring or rings **38** appropriate thereto. For example, if the container **50** is taken as representing the customary one gallon container, then the next smallest one of the rings **38** might be of proper size and scope to accommodate a one quart container, and the following one of the rings **38** might be fitted to a one pint can. It is obviously within the scope of this invention to vary the foregoing sizes in accordance with the needs of the users of this device.

The accessory part referred to supra is concerned with the utilization of the holding device **10** when it is desired to apply paint, or the like, with a roller apparatus. To this end the accessory, identified here as **52**, is provided. The accessory **52** includes a hollow cylindrical base **54** which is of proper size to be removably press-fitted into the holder **36** of the device **10**. A substantially rectangular tray **56** is secured to the base **54**, as at **58**, on one side of the upper rim thereof, and includes a substantially rectangular tray base **60** having an end wall **62**, side walls **64**, **66**, and a depressed container **68** at

the opposed end thereof. A substantially triangular block **70** is also secured to the base **60** and to the opposed side of the rim of the base **54** in order to incline the tray **60** in the direction of the end container **68**.

In using the accessory **52**, the base **54** is substantially press-fitted into the holder **36** of the device **10**. Paint, or the like, may be placed directly into the tray **56** if desired, or a conventional paint roller tray (not shown) may simply be placed in the aforesaid tray **56**, and will be held therein.

The foregoing description and illustration of an exemplary embodiment of this invention in use as a paint container support has been chosen as merely illustrative of the wide range of applicability of this device. Therefore, this description should not, in any way, be construed as a limitation on the scope of the invention, and such invention is to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An article support adapted for releasable engagement with a generally rectangular member, said article support comprising a main body portion which includes a bight portion and a pair of spaced apart, substantially parallel arm plates, said arm plates being of a length such that they project outwardly of said rectangular member; a substantially cylindrical, hollow holder secured to one of said arm plates and projecting outwardly thereof; adjustable means adjacent the outer free ends of said arm plates for moving said ends toward one another whereby said arm plates clampingly engage said

member; and at least one annular adapter ring having a plurality of substantially rectangular spacer ribs extending radially therefrom, said ribs being of a length such that the adapter ring is uniformly spaced interiorly of the holder.

2. An article support as defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of said adapter rings are provided, each of said rings being of a reduced diameter whereby the holder is selectively usable to support containers of varying sizes.

3. An article support as defined in claim 1, and a tray support assembly adapted for releasable engagement in said holder, said tray support assembly comprising a substantially cylindrical base which is adapted to be substantially press-fitted into said holder; a generally rectangular tray secured to one end of said base, said tray being inclined from end to end with respect to the base and having a depressed portion extending the full width of its downwardly inclined end.

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