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CLOTHESLINE TIGHTENING APPARATUS

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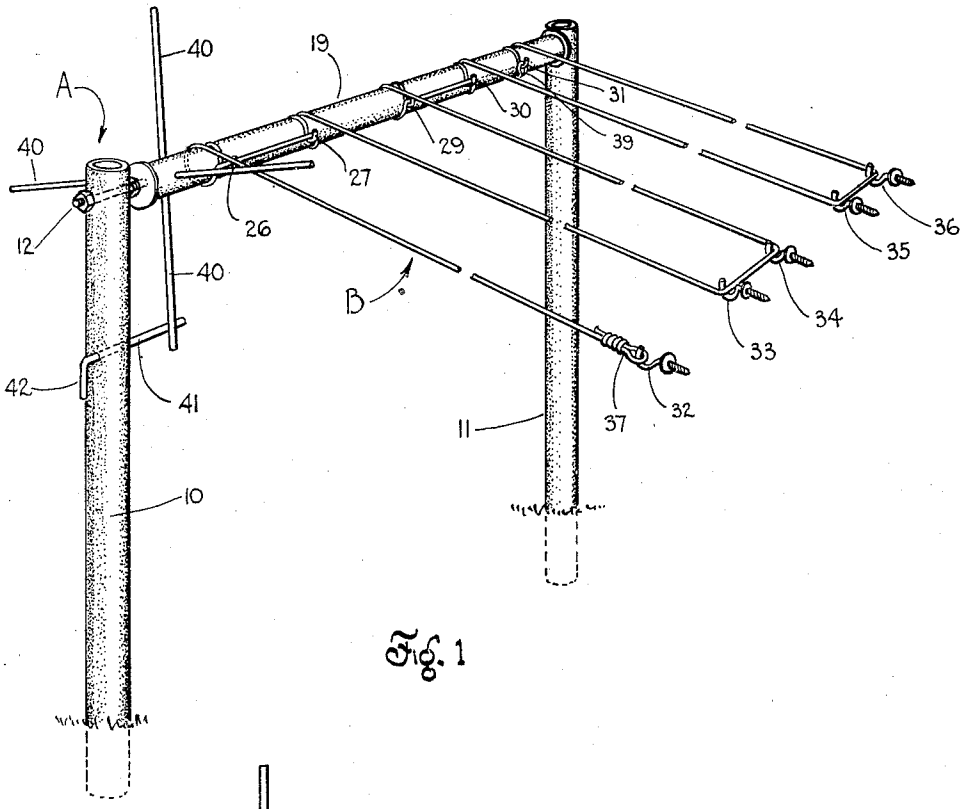


Fig. 1

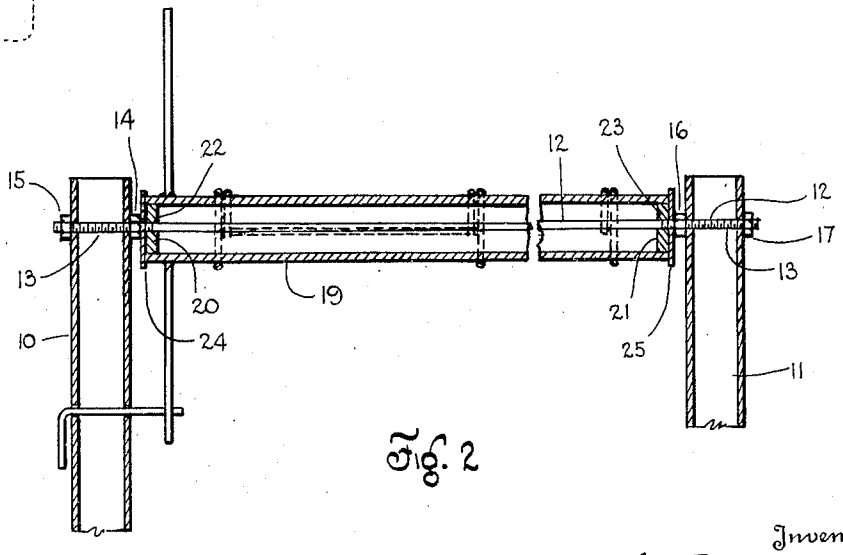


Fig. 2

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CLOTHESLINE TIGHTENING APPARATUS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211—119.15)

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My invention relates to an improvement in clothes line tightening apparatus, wherein it is desired to provide a simple and effective means for stretching a clothes line taut.

There are many advantages in being able to take down a clothes line when it is not in use. During periods of inactivity the lines often becomes soaked with rain and collects dust and dirt from the air. As a result when a line is left out from week to week, it is apt to soil clothes suspended therefrom, unless it is thoroughly cleaned before use. In view of the difficulty often experienced in stretching clothes lines they are often left up when not in use in spite of the difficulty involved.

The object of the present invention is to provide a means for supporting a clothes line which permits the clothes line to be quickly and easily stretched taut. My device can also serve to slacken the line when it is so desired. As a result the clothes line may be easily and quickly taken down when not in use.

A feature of the present invention resides in the speed with which the line may be tightened. A rotatable support is horizontally mounted as a support for one end of the line. Spaced hooks are provided on this rotatable support. The line is so attached to these hooks that the rotatable member may be rotated to tighten the line. As the line is simultaneously tightened adjacent each hook or the rotatable member, a minimum of time is required to tighten the line.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a means of tightening the line so that the strain on all portions of the line will be equalized. As a result one portion of the line will not be stretched tight while another section of the line will be relatively loosely supported.

These and other objects and novel features of my invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings forming a part of my specification:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clothes line showing my line tightening device in use thereupon.

Figure 2 is a sectional view through the line tightening device showing the construction thereof.

The clothes line support A is used for tightening the clothes line B. In the drawings a single support is provided for supporting one end of the various parallel portions of the clothes line. The other ends of these individual line portions may

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be held by any suitable horizontal support at a point spaced above the ground and accordingly for the purpose of illustration I have shown merely a series of spaced hooks about which the line may be engaged. The clothes line support A includes a pair of substantially parallel standards 10 and 11 which may be anchored in the ground or may be held in upright position in any suitable manner. These standards 10 and 11 are connected at their upper extremities by a horizontally extending connecting bolt 12 which holds the standards in properly spaced relationship. The connecting bar 12 may be provided with a threaded portion such as 13 at each end thereof. A nut 14 is provided on the threaded portion 13 to bear against the inner surface of the standard 10 and a second nut 15 is provided on the threaded portion 13 to engage on the opposite side of the standard 10.

Similarly a spacing nut 16 is provided on the threaded portion 13 to bear against the inner side of the standard 11 and a similar nut 17 is provided to bear against the outer side of the standard 11. The nuts 14, 15, 16, and 17 hold the standards properly spaced and provide the necessary room therebetween for supporting the tubular rotary sleeve 19.

The member 19 comprises an elongated tubular sleeve having end closure plates 20 and 21 closing opposite ends thereof. The closure plates 20 and 21 are provided with axial apertures 22 and 23 respectively extending therethrough, the apertures 22 and 23 being of proper size to fit about the rod 12 so as to form a bearing for the sleeve 19.

Washers 24 and 25 may be provided between the ends of the sleeve 19 and the nuts 14 and 16, respectively. These washers 24 and 25 are of slightly larger outer diameter than the sleeve 19 to prevent the line B from extending over the end of the sleeve.

A series of spaced hooks 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31 are provided on the sleeve 19. These hooks are designed to support one end of the individual parallel portions of the line B. Opposed hooks 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 are provided on a fixed horizontal support at a point spaced from the sleeve 19. These latter hooks may be supported by the cross arm of a clothes pole, by the side of a house or building, or any other suitable horizontal support.

The line B is provided with a loop 37 at one end thereof which may be attached to an end hook of the fixed series of hooks, such as the hook 32. In applying the line, the sleeve 19 is rotated until the hooks thereupon are in opposed

relation to the fixed hooks. The line B is threaded from the hook 32 through the hooks 26 and 27 on the sleeve 19 through the fixed hooks 33 and 34, through the hooks 29 and 30 on the sleeve 19, through the fixed hooks 25 and 36 and is anchored to the hook 31. A loop 39 is preferably provided at the end of the line which may be merely looped about the hook 31. When thus applied the line is slack and need not be pulled taut during the mounting thereof. When the line is in place the sleeve 19 is rotated so as to tighten the entire line simultaneously. The line B is freely slidable through the various hooks so that the tension on the various parallel portions of the line may be equalized during the tightening operation. In order to aid in the tightening of the line B, I provide a series of angularly spaced radially extending spokes 40 which are attached to the sleeve 19 near one extremity thereof. The spokes 40 may be welded at their inner end to the surface of the sleeve 19 or radially extending holes may be drilled in the sleeve near one extremity thereof and the spokes threaded or forced into these holes.

In order to hold the sleeve 19 from rotation I provide an L-shaped catch 41 which is transversely slidable through the standard 10. This catch 41 is provided with a handle end 42 which limits the movement of the catch through the standard in one direction. When in one extreme position the catch 41 extends in the path of the spokes 40 so as to engage against the same to hold the sleeve 19 from rotation. As the catch 42 is retracted the spokes 40 may rotate freely without interference therewith.

In accordance with the patent statutes, I have described the principles of construction and operation of my clothes line tightening device, and while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that obvious changes may be made

within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A clothes line tightening device comprising a pair of substantially vertical spaced standards, a cross member connecting said standards, means on said cross member holding said standards in properly spaced relation, a tubular member encircling said cross member, spaced hook means on said tubular member, a series of angularly spaced radially extending arms on said tubular member adjacent one end thereof, and means engageable with any of said arms to hold the tubular member from rotation.

2. A clothes line tightening device comprising a pair of substantially vertical spaced standards, a cross member connecting said standards, means on said cross member holding said standards in properly spaced relation, a tubular member encircling said cross member, spaced hook means on said tubular member and a series of angularly spaced radially extending arms on said tubular member adjacent one end thereof, and trigger means supported by one of said standards and movable into and out of the path of movement of said arms to hold the tubular member from rotation.

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