H. C. McDONALD.

TOWEL HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 11, 1919.

1,374,595. Patented Apr. 12, 1921

Fig. 1.

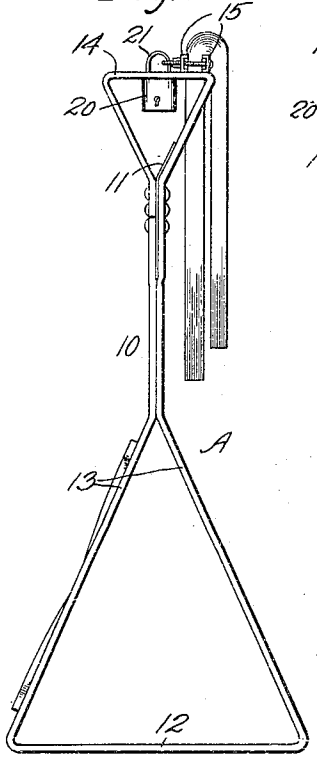


Fig. 2.

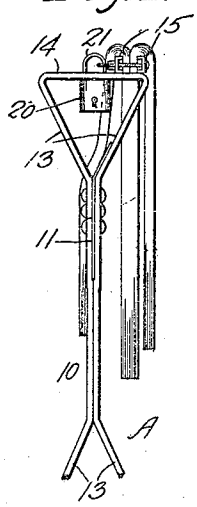


Fig. 3.

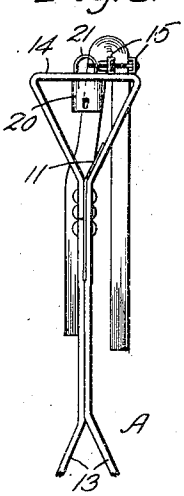


Fig. 4.

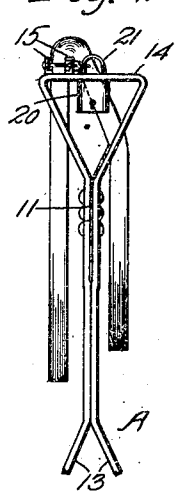


Fig. 6.

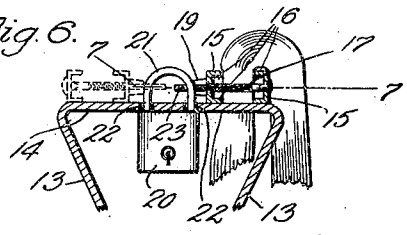


Fig. 5.

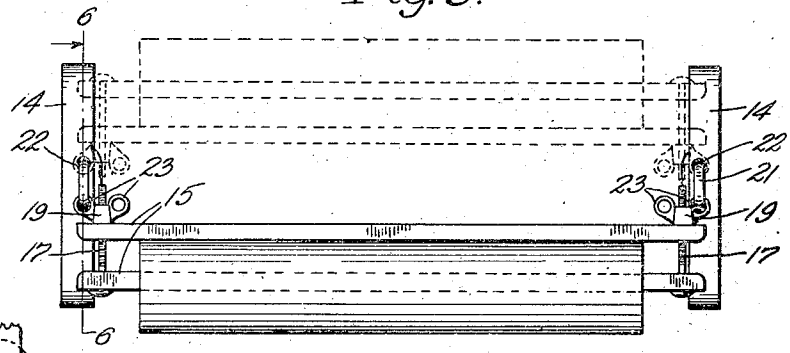
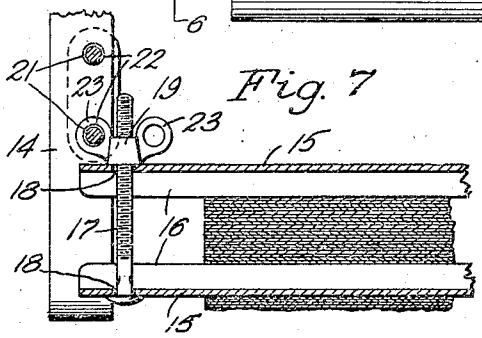


Fig. 7



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TOWEL-HOLDER.

1,374,595. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 12, 1921.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOWARD C. McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Towel-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to towel holders or devices of that sort which are used in public lavatories and other more or less public places, and in which a quantity of separate towels are locked or secured in such manner as to enable the individual use of the towels, while theft or misuse of the towels is prevented. More particularly this invention relates to devices of this sort in which the towels are secured in a pack or bundle of the required number at the laundry or supply house, so that a pack of soiled towels may be removed from the holder or device and replaced by a similar pack of fresh towels by the towel supply man expeditiously and with the minimum labor and handing of towels. The towels are preferably secured together midway between their ends, thus giving a double supply of half-length individual towels from a given number of separate towels which reduces the cost of laundrying and handling the towels.

In some devices of this sort now in use the towels have to be carried from the laundry to the holder in a loose condition and there secured together and locked in the holder. This method is unsatisfactory on account of the possibility of error, the misuse, and injury of the towels, the additional labor required on the part of the supply man and the possible annoying discussions between the customer and the towel supply house as to the number of towels supplied. Much time is also lost in this way and the towels are often inserted carelessly, which results in an untidy and inconvenient condition of the holder. Other devices, wherein the pack of towels is secured in a clamp or the like at the laundry, require a lock on the clamp that has to be locked at the laundry and an additional lock for locking the clamp or pack of towels in the holder. This adds to the cost and complication of the device.

One object of this invention is to produce a practical and desirable towel holder of this sort which enables the required number of towels to be secured together at the laundry in a quick and simple manner by means of an adjustable clamp of inexpensive construction, which can be then quickly and easily locked in place with its contained towels in the holder. Another object of this invention is to so construct this clamp that it may be easily and quickly locked in the holder by means of ordinary padlocks which also serve to lock the towels in the clamp. Another object is to so construct the device that the same locking devices not only lock the towels in the clamp and the clamp in place on the holder, but in addition form connections on which the clamp can be turned or inverted in the stand or holder to facilitate the use of the towels.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a towel holder embodying the invention and showing the pack of towels in position for the first one to be used.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary similar view thereof, showing the towels when a portion of the first half of the pack has been used.

Fig. 3 is a similar view thereof when one half of the pack of towels has been used.

Fig. 4 is a similar view thereof showing the reversed position of the clamp on the holder for properly presenting the second half of the pack of towels for use.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view thereof on an enlarged scale with the parts in the position shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional elevation thereof on line 6—6, Fig. 5, showing the means for locking the towels in the clamp and locking the clamp on the holder.

Fig. 7 is a horizontal sectional view thereof on a still larger scale on line 7—7, Fig. 6.

The towel holder comprises a clamp in which the towels are secured, preferably midway between their ends, and a stand or support in which the clamp is mounted so that it can be turned or inverted to facilitate the use of the towels, but so as to prevent the misuse or unauthorized removal of the towels. The stand may be of any suitable construction, but preferably consists of a skeleton metal frame A having side uprights 10 connected by suitable cross braces and by a dividing plate 11 for separating the used from the unused towels. Each of the uprights 10 is made of a metal bar bent to form a horizontal bottom rail 12 and upwardly converging legs 13 between which the dividing plate 11 is secured, and having out-

wardly diverging upper portions which are connected by a horizontal top bar or rest 14. The clamp for the towels B is preferably of the following construction:

Two clamping bars 15 of equal length and of channel or U-shaped cross-section are disposed on opposite sides of the pack of towels with their flanges 16 facing and adapted to engage with the outer towels on opposite sides of the pack. The bars 15 are connected and adapted to be forced toward each other to clamp and securely hold the towels between them by bolts 17 which pass through holes 18 near the ends of the bars and are engaged by nuts 19 screwed tightly on their threaded ends in contact with the back of one of the bars. The bolt-holes 18 are preferably made square and the bolts 17 have square shank portions which fit in the square holes and thus hold the bolts from turning when adjusting the nuts 19. The clamp bars preferably consist of suitable lengths of ordinary commercial metal channel bars. These bars, though light, are rigid enough to prevent undue springing thereof when clamping them on the pack of towels, and the towels being gripped between the opposite inwardly facing flanges are held so firmly that they cannot be removed without first loosening the clamp nuts.

The pack of towels is secured in the clamp above described at the laundry or supply house where the towels are properly counted and neatly arranged in proper order for use before sending them out, and the towel supply man does not have to do this when delivering the towels, but only has to secure the clamp containing the pack of towels in the stand A.

The half length towels, provided by securing the double towels in the clamp between their ends, will hereinafter be referred to as towels.

The means for securing or locking the clamp with its contained pack of towels in the stand are preferably constructed as follows: Each of the horizontal rests or top bars 14 of the stand A has attached thereto a locking device preferably consisting of an ordinary pad-lock 20, the U-shaped shackle 21 of which passes through holes 22 in the rest 14 and extends above the top surface thereof. The bars 15 of the clamp are of such length that their opposite ends are adapted to rest on the horizontal bars or rests 14 and the nuts 19 are provided with perforated thumb wings 23 and are located so that each of the upwardly extending shackles 21 of the locking devices 20 is adapted to pass through one of the perforations of the adjacent nut 19, thus securely locking the clamp to the stand or holder. Since the lock shackles pass through the perforations of the thumb nuts, they prevent the nuts from being turned on the clamp bolts and therefore prevent the loosening of the clamp bars and removal of the towels from the clamp. The holes 22 in the horizontal rests 14 are disposed so that the shackles 21 of the locks are parallel and directly opposite to each other and perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the clamp. The shackles therefore form curved bails or swivels which permit the clamp with the towels therein to be swung or turned over from the position shown in Figs. 1 to 3 to the inverted position, shown by full lines in Fig. 4 and by dotted lines in Figs. 5 and 6.

In the use of the towel holder, the clamp is first placed so that it occupies a position on the rests 14 in front of the locks with the towels depending therefrom in front of the dividing plate 11, see Figs. 1, 5 and 6. When an individual desires to use a towel he picks up the towel at the front of the pack and after use throws it over to a position where it depends in rear of the dividing plate 14. The soiled towels are thus effectively separated and held from contact with the clean ones, see Fig. 2. When half of the towels in the pack have been used and thrown over as described, the device will appear as shown in Fig. 3. If, however, some of the remaining clean towels were used while the clamp remained as before, these towels, when used and thrown over to the rear of the holder, would pile up on or form a thick bunch around the clamp which would interfere with the proper and ready use of the remaining towels and detract from the neat appearance of the device. When, therefore, one-half of the towels have been used, the clamp is bodily turned or swung over on the lock shackles to the inverted position on the horizontal rests 14, when the remaining clean towels will be properly presented for use, as shown in Fig. 4, and in this position they may be readily thrown over to the rear and hang downwardly, neatly at the rear of the pack, until they are all used.

A towel holder constructed as described enables the towels to be quickly and easily secured in a clamp at the laundry and when taken to the stand or holder the one operation of locking the clamp in the holder also locks the towels in the clamp and the shackles provide a swivel or turning connection on which the clamp may swing to properly present all the towels for use. Moreover, the holder is very simple in construction and economical to manufacture as the parts of the stand and clamp are all made from ordinary stock material and the bolts and locking means are standard commercial articles, so that none of the parts require special machine work or other expensive operations to produce and assemble.

I claim as my invention:

1. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels

together, and locking means which lock the towels in said clamp and also lock said clamp on said support while permitting said clamp to move to different positions on said support, whereby unauthorized removal of the towels is prevented.

2. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together, means on said support for locking the towels in said clamp and forming a connection on which said clamp is movable to different positions on said support, whereby unauthorized removal of the towels is prevented.

3. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together, means for locking said clamp on said towels, said means also locking said clamp on said support and forming a connection permitting said clamp to move to different positions on said support, whereby unauthorized removal of the towels is prevented.

4. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together, a single means which locks said clamp on said towels and also locks the clamp on said support, said means also forming a connection permitting said clamp to occupy one position on said support while one portion of said pack of towels is in use, and to be moved to another position on said support while the other portion of said pack of towels is in use.

5. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together, a locking device having a shackle passing through apertures in said support and engaging a portion on said clamp, said shackle locking the clamp on said support and also locking the towels in said clamp and permitting the movement of said clamp from one position to another on said support.

6. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together and arranged to rest by its opposite ends on said support, locking means on said support which engage said clamp and lock the towels in said clamp and lock said clamp on said support, said locking means also permitting said clamp to rest in different positions on said support.

7. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for securing a plurality of towels together and arranged to rest by its opposite ends on said support, locks having shackles which pass through apertures in said support and engage said clamp, whereby said clamp is secured on said support and the towels are locked in the clamp, and said shackles also forming connections permitting said clamp to move to different positions on said support.

8. A towel holder comprising a support, a clamp for a plurality of towels having apertured screw devices for securing the clamp on the towels, locks connected to said support and having curved shackles passing through said apertured screw devices, whereby said clamp is movably locked on said support and said screw devices are prevented from turning to release the towels in the clamp.

Witness my hand, this 9th day of September, 1919.

HOWARD C. McDONALD.

Witnesses:
M. J. PITMAN,
S. L. McGEE.