Oct. 25, 1955 O. V. OLSON 2,721,365

CLOTHES PIN

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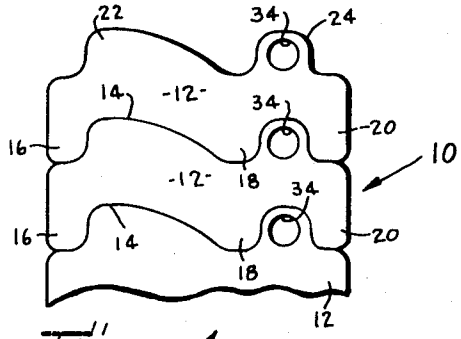


Fig. 1

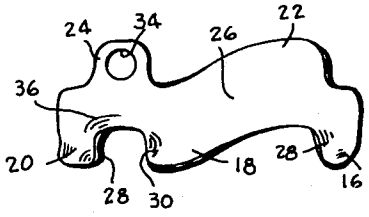


Fig. 2

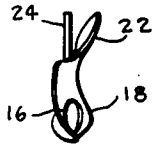


Fig. 4

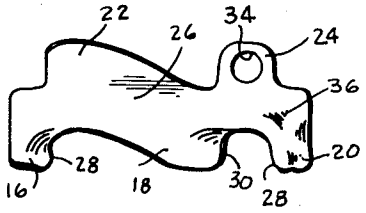


Fig. 3

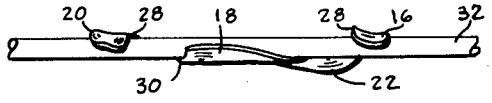


Fig. 5

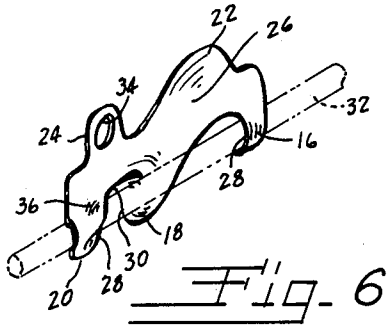


Fig. 6

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CLOTHES PIN

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2 Claims. (Cl. 24—137)

This invention relates to fasteners for securing clothing or the like to a clothes line, and has particular reference to a novel clothes pin which is simple and inexpensive to manufacture and yet has improved gripping characteristics.

In general, the clothes pin of the invention is formed from a single sheet material blank that is shaped in such a manner that a large number of such blanks may be cut or stamped from a single sheet material strip with substantially no waste of material. Each blank is provided with three prong elements which are formed so that they cooperate in engaging a clothes line and, in effect, encircle the line. This construction, as will be explained more fully hereinafter, enables the novel clothes pin described herein to fasten clothing or the like to a clothes line in a more secure manner than is possible with a conventional clothes pin. In addition, the clothes pin of the invention is small and light weight and, at the same time, strong and durable.

With the foregoing considerations in view, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a novel clothes pin which is relatively easy and economical to mass produce.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a clothes pin with improved fastening characteristics.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a clothes pin which is compact and yet can withstand a large amount of wear over a long period of time.

The invention consists in the novel features and in the combinations and constructions hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In describing this invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings in which like characters designate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is an elevation of a strip of sheet material illustrating the manner in which the blanks for the clothes pins of the invention are cut therefrom.

Figures 2 and 3 are elevations of the back and front sides, respectively, of the clothes pin of the invention.

Figure 4 is an end elevation of the clothes pin of Figures 2 and 3.

Figure 5 is a bottom view of the clothes pin illustrating the manner in which it engages a clothes line.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the clothes pin.

Referring now to the drawings, the reference numeral **10** indicates a strip of sheet material such as light metal or plastic from which the clothes pin blanks **12** are cut or stamped along lines **14**. It will be apparent from Figure 1 that the shape of the blanks **12** is such that they exactly interfit with one another thereby enabling the material of strip **10** to be utilized to the fullest extent and a large number of blanks to be derived therefrom. Extending from the lower edge of each blank **12** are a plurality of integral prong elements **16**, **18** and **20**, while projections **22**, **24** are integral with the upper edge of the blank. It will be seen that the shape of the upper peripheral edge of each blank **12** is identical to the shape of the lower peripheral edge thereof, permitting the interfitting of the blanks and utilization of material noted above.

Prong elements **16** and **20** are adjacent the ends of the blank **12** as shown, and are bent outwardly from the body **26** of the blank on the same side thereof. Thus, as seen in the front elevation of Figure 3, elements **16**, **20** are formed into hook-life projections extending out of the drawing sheet. Prong element **18**, located between elements **16**, **20**, is likewise bent outwardly from the body of the blank **12** but in the opposite direction from elements **16**, **20**. Element **18**, therefore, would extend into the drawing sheet in Figure 3. In addition to forming the main portions of prong elements **16**, **18** and **20** outwardly, as above described, the inner edges **28** of **16**, **20** are bent or turned slightly outwardly in a direction opposite to that in which the main portions of the elements are bent, and the edge **30** of prong element **18** is turned slightly outwardly in a direction opposite to that in which its main portion is bent. The particular conformation of the prong elements described may be best seen from Figure 5 wherein the formed clothes pin is shown gripping a clothes line **32**, looking from the bottom thereof. The prong elements **16**, **20** grip the line **32** on one side and the bottom, and the element **18** grips the line on the other side and bottom so that the body **26** and prong elements of the clothes pin, in effect, encircle the line and prevent the clothes pin from falling or being shaken off. The turned edges **28**, **30** permit the line **32** to pass through the clothes pin in a nearly straight path or, in other words, prevent excessive bending of the line when clothes pins are fastened thereto.

As is best shown in Figure 4, upper projection **22** is bent outwardly from the body **26** of the blank **12** in the same direction as prong elements **16**, **20**. This projection serves as a thumb grip or lever in securing the clothes pin to the line as will be explained. Projection **24** extends vertically, as shown in Figure 4, and is not bent out of the plane of the blank **12**. This projection is provided with a hole **34** therethrough which permits automatic carding of the pins during their manufacture, and also permits a large number of pins to be slipped onto a large hook (not shown) which can be positioned on the clothes line and slid therealong so that the clothes pins will always be within easy reach of a person hanging clothes along the full length of the line. While it is intended that the sheet material comprising the blanks **12** be of a strong and durable nature, a reinforcing rib, as indicated at **36** may, if desired, be formed in the body **26** of the blank to give it added strength and resistance to deformation.

The application of the clothes pin of the invention is as follows: Clothing or the like is hung over the line in the usual manner. The clothes pin is held with the thumb against projection **22** and is attached by positioning the line and a fold of clothing between prong elements **18** and **20**. The pin is then twisted so that the line and fold pass in front of element **20** and behind element **18**, as viewed in Figure 3. The pin is then lifted slightly and further twisted by bearing against projection **22** to position element **16** behind the line and fold so that the latter then pass in front of elements **16**, **20** and behind element **18**. In this manner, the clothing is securely attached to the line and, since the pin itself nearly encircles the line, the clothing will so remain until the pin is detached, in spite of the pull exerted by heavy winds.

What I claim is:

1. A clothes line pin formed from a single sheet material blank comprising a substantially rectangular body portion, first and second prong elements integrally formed with said body portion and being positioned at the ends of the body respectively and extending from one longitudinal edge thereof, said first and second prong elements

being curved to embrace one side of the clothes line, a third prong element extending from said edge of the body and being positioned in proximity to said first prong element and being spaced an appreciable distance from said second prong element, said third prong element being curved to embrace the opposite side of the clothes line, and a tab extending from the opposite longitudinal edge of said body portion and being positioned in proximity to said second prong element.

2. A clothes line pin as defined in claim 1, wherein said tab is curved in the direction of the curvature of said first and second prongs.

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