

(No Model.)

D. W. AYRES.
CLOTHES LINE.

No. 559,925.

Patented May 12, 1896.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 1^a

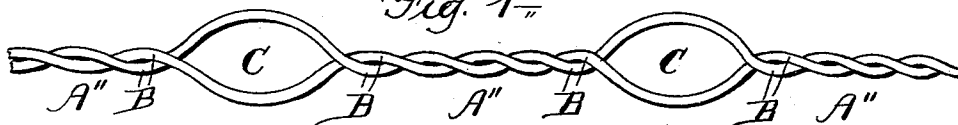
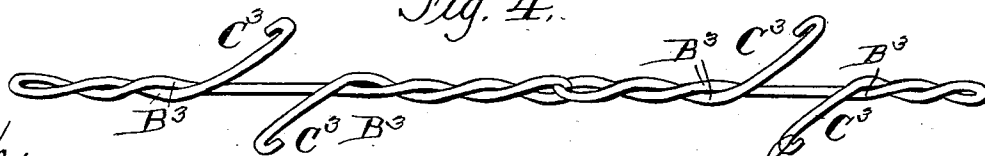


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CLOTHES-LINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,925, dated May 12, 1896.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL W. AYRES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Durango, in the county of La Plata and State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Lines; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has relation to clothes-lines.

The object in view is to provide a clothes-line which is adapted to firmly grip or nip various articles of clothing and to be readily operated to release the same, said line being composed of wire and having twists forming nipping-jaws between which the articles are nipped, and also having open or spread-out portions, which not only permit the entrance of the fabric into the twist of the nipping-jaws, but permit the separation of the jaws to release the articles; and with this object in view the invention consists in the novel construction of the line hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the drawings, and pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a portion of a clothes-line in its preferred form and showing the nipping-jaws spread apart for the purpose of more easily inserting articles of clothing between them, or for releasing said articles. Fig. 1^a is a view of the line in its normal position. Fig. 2 is a view of a portion of a modified construction of clothes-line in normal position, in which the twisted nipping-jaw is formed by twisting one of the strands around the other, which is comparatively straight or without twist, the spread-out portion being formed by the twisting strand. Fig. 3 is a view of a portion of another modified form of line, showing a slight change in the shape of the spread-out portion for separating the jaws. Fig. 4 illustrates a still further modified construction of the line.

My improved clothes-line consists, essentially, of nipping-jaws formed by twists in the line, of either or both of the strands, and open or spread-out portions formed at intervals, which are adapted to be partially forced together, to thereby cause the twists of the line to open, whereby insertion of the articles

between or disengagement of the same from the jaws is facilitated.

My construction differs, essentially, from the construction of clothes-lines wherein the jaws are formed by straight portions of the line and opened by pulling apart or opening certain other parts of the line.

The many advantages which my improved line possesses will be readily seen from the following description, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings.

In constructing my improved clothes-line I may employ but one strand of wire doubled upon itself, or I may employ two strands suitably secured at the ends.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 1^a of the drawings, the wires or strands are twisted or coiled together at intervals in the length of the line, as seen at A". Said twists or coils may be either long or short twists. I, however, prefer a reasonably long twist, as it facilitates the insertion and removal of the articles, and yet will firmly hold the same. The twists or coils of the line form nipping-jaws B, which thus present curved or twisted nipping-surfaces to the articles, which as inserted between the same are compelled to follow said twists or curves, and thus are held very securely. Intermediate the twisted portions or jaws of the line the strands are spread apart or separated, as seen at C. These open or spread-out portions serve as a means for readily opening or spreading apart the jaws B to facilitate the insertion of the articles of clothing between said jaws or the removal of said articles from between said jaws.

By my construction of the jaws B and the operating portions C it will be observed that by closing or forcing together to some extent the said portions C the nipping-jaws will be separated, and this operation of the parts C may be readily accomplished with one hand, while the other may be used for handling the articles. The nipping or holding power of the jaws is very materially increased by reason of the twist upon itself given to the fabric as it follows the line of the twist or coil as it is inserted therein, and this as well with the most delicate fabrics as with the heaviest, rendering it impossible for such fabrics to be blown from the line, while by drawing them lengthwise of the line toward C, and espe-

cially by the opening of the twist by pressure upon C, the fabric is easily withdrawn. It will be understood that in the case of coarse fabrics it is not necessary to spread the jaws apart by means of the portion C in the manner described, as such fabrics may be inserted between or removed from the jaws by drawing somewhat forcibly upon the same along the line of twist. In the case of fine or delicate fabrics it will be better to spread the jaws apart and thus avoid injury to the fabric.

Referring to Fig. 2 of the drawings, it will be seen that the twist is altogether in one of the strands, which strand is thus at intervals twisted or coiled around the other or straight strand, as seen at A'. The twisted strand forms nipping-jaws B', and at intervals the twisted strand is bowed or spread out, as seen at C', which spread-out portions serve as a means to readily open or spread apart the jaws B'.

In the construction seen in Fig. 3 the two wires or strands are twisted together, as seen at A², the twists forming nipping-jaws B², and the strands have spread-out portions C², the spread-out portions of one of the strands being bowed or curved, while the spread-out portions of the other strand are bent into angular shape.

In the construction seen in Fig. 4 the line consists of a number of links or sections, each

of said links comprising one or more twist or coil jaws B³ and one or more open or spread-out portions C³, as may be desired, which links may be suitably joined together to form a line of the desired length.

It will be noted that the general principles of construction and operation of the invention, as set forth relatively to the construction seen in Figs. 1, 1^a, 2, and 3, are embodied in the construction seen in Fig. 4.

It will be understood that the principle of construction of my clothes-line may be embodied in other devices for the purpose of holding or retaining various fabrics in lieu of the usual buttons, buckles, hooks, pins, &c., heretofore used for such purpose.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A clothes-line constructed of wire strands and comprising twisted or coiled portions, which form nipping-jaws having curved nipping-surfaces, and intermediate open, or spread-out portions adapted to spread the jaws apart when operated in the manner described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

DANIEL W. AYRES.

Witnesses:

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