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Rocquin

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[54] NO-TILT CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/48,** 248/174, 248/188.7

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47g 33/12**

[58] **Field of Search**.....287/189.36 H; 248/44, 46, 48, 167, 174, 188.7, 346

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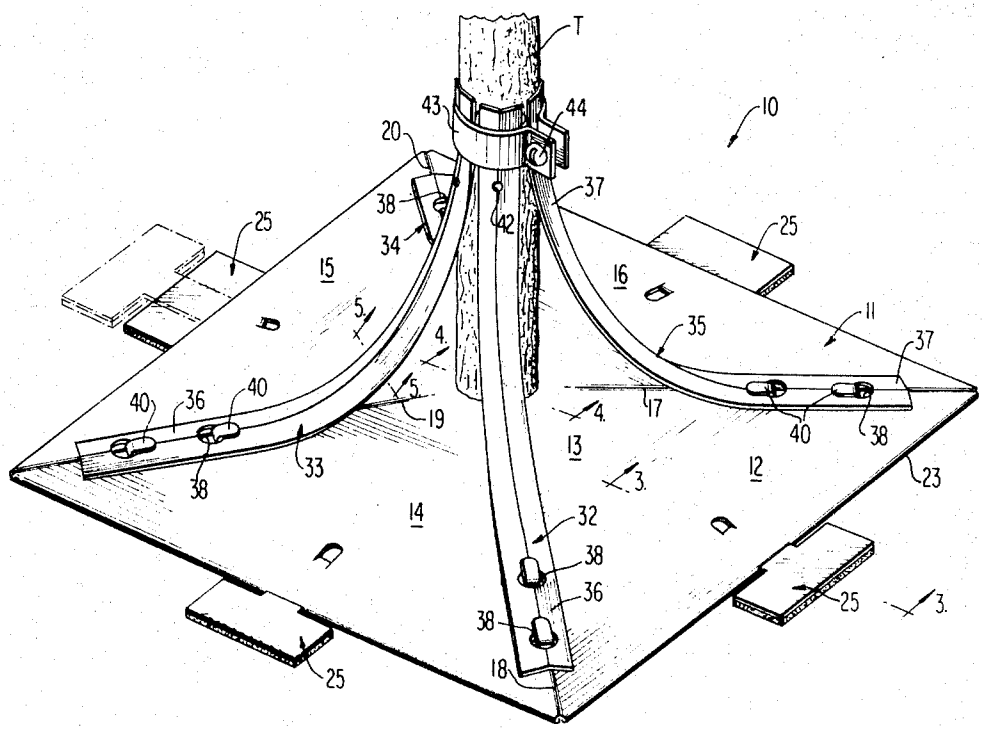
Primary Examiner—William H. Schultz

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This disclosure relates to a nontilting Christmas tree stand or the like which includes a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of the base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing the lower end portions of each support to the base, and second means for removably securing the upper end portions of each support to an associated tree. The first means are preferably in the form of a plurality of tabs formed in the base or in a plate sandwiched between the base and the support lower end portions which engage in slots formed in the support lower end portions. The second means are simply openings in the support upper end portions which receive nails, screws or the like and/or an adjustable clamping band which exteriorly surrounds the support upper end portions. Moreover, to impart stability to the stand the same is provided with outriggers or feet which are likewise interlockingly secured to the base by tabs and slots with the outriggers having arms which pass through openings formed in a peripheral reinforcing bead of the base in one embodiment of the invention.

8 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures



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SHEET 1 OF 2

FIG.1

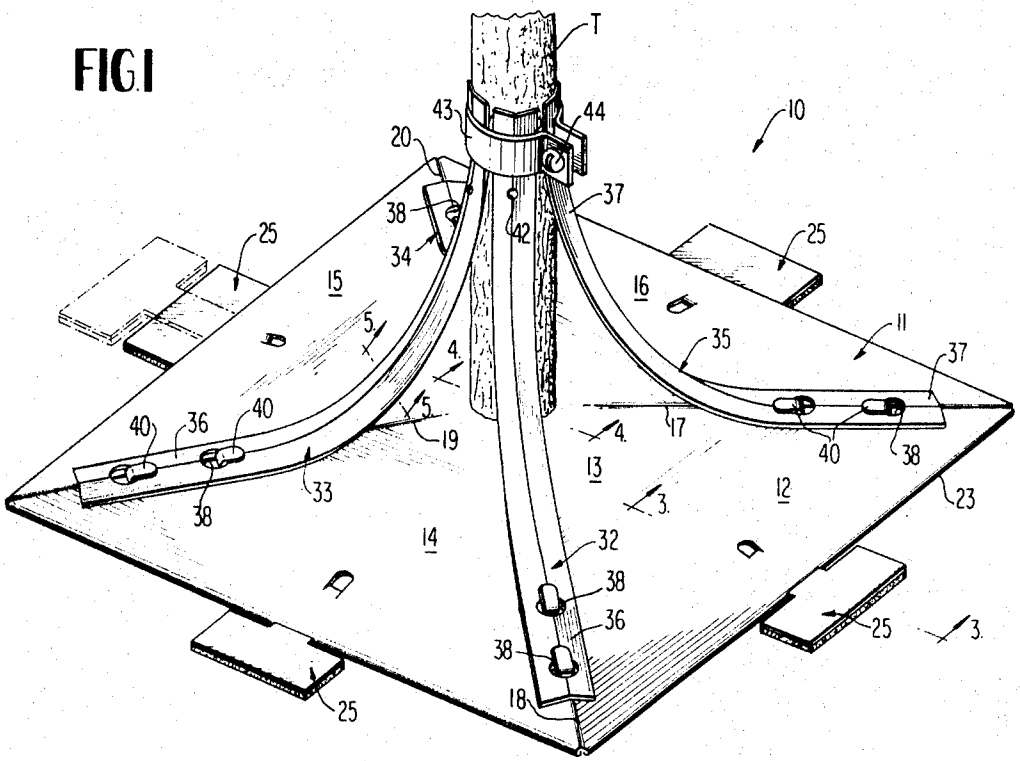


FIG.2

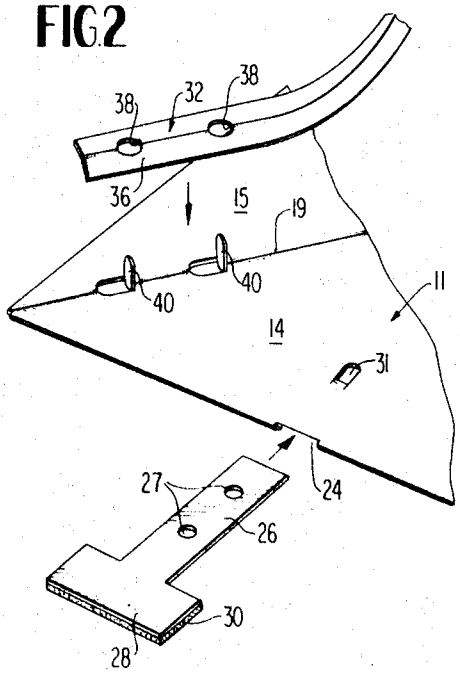
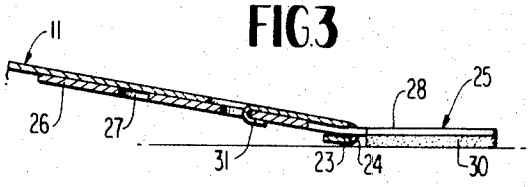


FIG.3



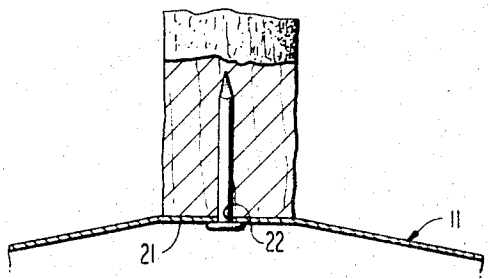


FIG.4

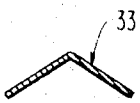


FIG.5

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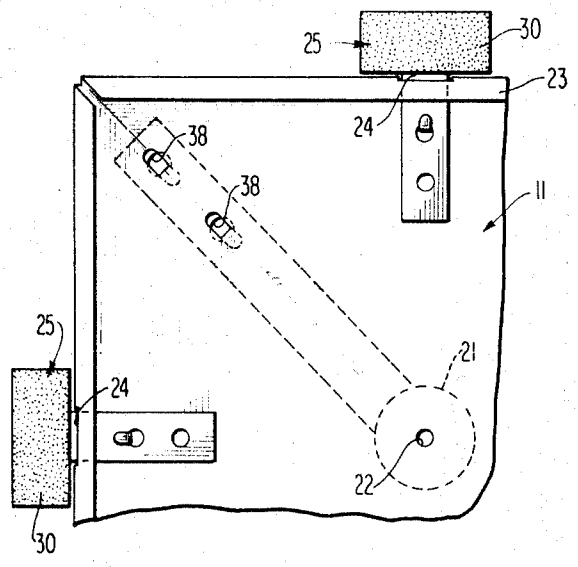


FIG.6

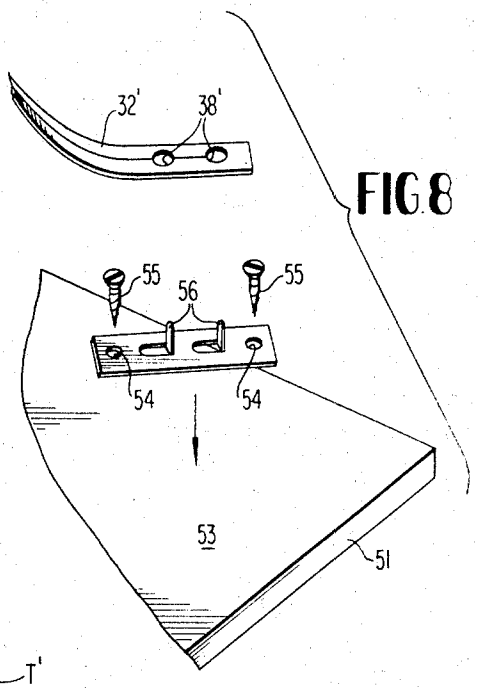
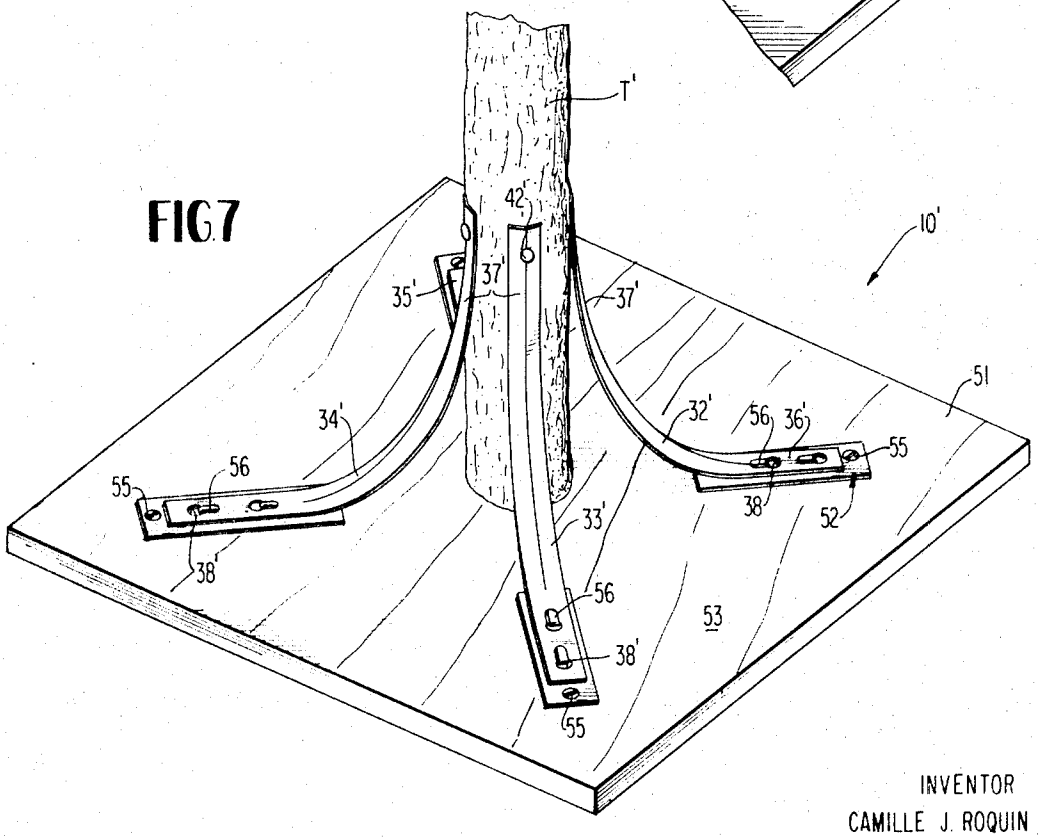


FIG.8

FIG.7



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NO-TILT CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

A primary object of this invention is to provide a novel stand for Christmas trees or the like which includes a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of the base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing the lower end portions of each support to the base, second means removably securing the upper end portions of each support to an associated tree, and the first means being in the form of interlocked tabs and slots of the supports and the base.

In accordance with a further object of this invention, the tabs and slots are preferably formed in pairs with the tabs being formed in the base and projecting upwardly therefrom for interlocking engagement with pairs of slots in the support lower end portions.

In an alternate form of the invention, another object is to provide the first means in the form of an independent plate adapted for sandwiched securement between each lower support end portion and each plate includes at least one or more of the tabs associated for receipt within a like number of openings formed in the support lower end portions.

In keeping with a further object of this invention, the stand preferably includes outrigger means for stabilizing the base, the outrigger means including arms receivable through openings formed in a peripheral reinforcing bead surrounding the base with the outriggers and base preferably being interlockingly secured together by means of locking tabs and slots.

With the above and other objects in view that will hereinafter appear, the nature of the invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description, the appended claimed subject matter, and the several views illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of a novel stand for Christmas trees or the like constructed in accordance with this invention, and illustrates a base stabilized by four outriggers, four supports having slotted lower end portions secured to the base by pairs of bent tabs, and upper end portions of the base secured to and supporting a tree by means of fasteners passed through openings of each support and an exteriorly expandable and contractable clamping band.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary exploded view of a portion of the stand of FIG. 1 prior to being assembled, and illustrates the manner in which tabs are bent upwardly from the plane of the base for passage through openings of one of the supports, and the manner in which an outrigger is passed through an opening in the reinforced peripheral bead of the base incident to being secured thereto by a cooperative tab and either of a pair of slots formed in the outrigger or stabilizing foot.

FIG. 3 is a slightly enlarged sectional view taken generally along line 3—3 of FIG. 1, and illustrates the manner in which one of the feet or outriggers is interlockingly secured to the base.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken generally along line 4—4 of FIG. 1, and illustrates the manner in which a nail or similar fastening device is driven through the underside of the base and tree to assist in maintaining the same in assembled relationship.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken generally along line 5—5 of FIG. 1, and illustrates the manner in

which the supports are formed of a generally downwardly opening V-shaped cross-sectional configuration to rigidify the stand.

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary bottom plan view looking upwardly at one of the corners of the stand, and illustrates the manner in which the outriggers or feet and the supports are secured to the base by interlocked tabs and slots.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of another stand constructed in accordance with this invention, and illustrates the manner in which the stand is constructed from as large a piece of wooden material or the like with the four supports of the stand of FIG. 1 being adapted to be secured thereto by intervening plates provided with tabs adapted for securement to the slots of the supports.

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary exploded view of one of the corners of the stand of FIG. 7, and illustrates the manner in which each plate is first secured to the base prior to the tabs being passed through the openings of the supports and bent to interlock the components to each other.

A novel stand for Christmas trees or the like is best illustrated in FIG. 1 of the drawings, and is generally designated by the reference numeral **10**. The stand **10** includes a base **11** which is shown to be of a generally polygonal or rectangular configuration, although the particular outer contour of the periphery thereof is of no consequence insofar as this invention is concerned. However, it will be noted that an upper surface **12** of the base **11** is set off into generally four triangular panels **13** through **16** by virtue of bend lines **17** through **20** which extend from each corner (unnumbered) of the base **11** toward but terminate short of a central circular portion **21** (FIG. **4**) having an axial aperture **22**. The triangular panels **13** through **16** thus impart a gradually upwardly and inwardly inclined contour to the base **11** such that except under extreme loads, as would result if an extremely heavy tree were supported thereby, the support of the base **11** is affected substantially entirely through a peripheral reinforcing bead **23** thereof which is curled downwardly and inwardly, as is best illustrated in FIG. **3**. However, at four points each of which is generally equidistant between two corners, the reinforcing bead **23** is provided with openings or slots **24** (FIGS. **2** and **3**) to receive outriggers or stabilizing feet **25**.

The outriggers or stabilizing feet **25** are each of a generally T-shaped configuration as viewed in top plan and are defined by a relatively elongated leg **26** having slots **27** and a cross arm **28** having adhesively or otherwise secured to a lower surface (unnumbered) thereof a cushion **30** of rubber or some other conventional nonmarring and low friction-like material. Edges (unnumbered) of the openings **24** cooperate with edges (also unnumbered) of the legs **26** to assure that the legs **26** are accurately guided through the openings **24** with the slots **27** in alignment with a tab **31** which is bent downwardly and then outwardly against the underside (unnumbered) of the leg **26**, as is best illustrated in FIG. **3**, to assure that the leg is secured in a stabilized condition relative to the base **11**. It should be noted that if the outrigger **25** is to be positioned further away from the reinforcing bead **23**, it is simply necessary to withdraw the tab **31** from the position shown in FIG. **3**, slide the outrigger **25** outwardly until the next slot **27** is in general alignment with the tab **31**, and then fold the tab **31** once again to the position shown in FIG. **3**.

In this manner, the outriggers or stabilizing feet **25** are accurately positioned with either of the slots **27** interlocked with the tab **31** and, depending upon which of the slots **27** is employed, the particular spacing of the outriggers **25** and particularly the arms **28** thereof with respect to the perimeter of the base **11** can be adjustably controlled.

Associated with the base **11** of the stand **10** are three supports or legs **32** through **35** having identical lower end portions **36** and upper end portions **37.** Each of the supports **32** through **35** is of a generally V-shaped cross section opening in a downward direction, the purpose of which is to mate the cross-sectional configuration of the lower end portions **36** with the cross-sectional configuration of each adjoining panel as, for example, the V-shaped cross section of the adjacent panels **14, 15** (FIG. 2) and the apex thereof defined by the fold line **19** matches the cross-sectional configuration of the lower end portion **36** of the support **32.** Accordingly, due to this matching cross section between the lower end portions **36** of the supports **32** through **35** with respect to adjoining panels and each bend line **17** through **20,** the supports are maintained in a stable condition and will not rock due to the weight of a tree T carried by the stand **10.**

The supports **32** through **35** have at the lower end portions **36** thereof a pair of slots **38** which are aligned with and receive a pair of tabs **40** (FIG. 2) which can be deflected out of the plane of the base **11** (FIG. 2), passed through the openings **38,** and then bent as shown in FIG. 1 to interlock the base **11** to each of the supports **32** through **35.** Moreover, though both tabs **40, 41** and the slots **38, 38** at each fold or bend line **17** through **20** are shown in interlocked relationship, it is to be noted that by employing but one or the other of the tabs **40** at each bend line **17** through **20** and one or the other of the slots **38,** the supports **32** through **35** can be moved one increment closer toward or one increment more removed from the center of the base **11,** thus adapting the stand **10** to accommodate trees of different diameters more readily than heretofore available.

The upper end portions **37** of the legs **32** through **35** are secured to the tree T by one or both of two means, the first of which is simply an opening or slot **42** formed in the apex (unnumbered) of each upper end portion through which a nail or screw can be inserted to penetrate the trunk of the tree T. With or without the use of such fastening means a clamping band **43** may be positioned in exterior telescopic relationship to the upper end portions **37** of the supports **32** through **35** and by tightening a suitable bolt or screw **44** and an associated nut (not shown) the trunk of the tree T is readily secured and maintained in the position shown best in FIG. **1** of the drawings.

Reference is now made to FIG. **7** of the drawings which illustrates another tree stand which, since similar to the stand **10,** has been provided with the reference numeral **10'** as have been all components similar to those heretofore described with respect to the stand **10.** However, the stand **10'** includes two notable differences from the stand **10,** namely, a base **51** thereof and an identical metallic plate **52** sandwiched between an upper surface **53** of the base **51** and each lower end portion **36'** of each support **32'** through **35'.** In this case it is to be appreciated that though the stand **10** of FIG. **1** can be formed in a variety of sizes to accommodate a variety of size trees, a stand could be purchased which might not be of the particular size desired, and thus in keeping with this invention, the base **11** may be eliminated and in lieu thereof the base **51** is provided which may be formed from wood or most any suitable material which can be cut to a particular size and shape desired. Obviously, for larger trees T' the base **51** is of a larger external peripheral dimension, while for smaller trees (not shown) the size of the base **51** might be reduced. With this in mind, it need be noted that upon securing each of the plates **52** at accurate positions relative to the base **51,** each of the supports **32'** through **35'** can be utilized in the manner heretofore described relative to the stand **10.** In this embodiment of the invention, each plate **52** is preferably provided with a pair of openings **54** through which may pass wood screws **55** or similar fastening devices for securing the plate **52** in sandwiched relationship between the upper surface **53** of the base **51** and each support lower end portion **36'.** In addition, each plate **52** has a pair of upwardly directed tabs **56** (FIG. **8**) which pass through the openings **38'** of the legs **32'** through **35'** and are bent down in the manner best illustrated in FIG. **7** to secure the supports **32'** through **35'** to the base **51.** Nails or screws are then used to fasten the upper end portions **37'** of the supports to the tree T' through the openings **42'.**

From the foregoing it will be noted that the components of the stand **10** are of a universal construction and though preferably arranged as indicated in FIG. **1,** the base **11** thereof may be eliminated and the supports **32'** through **35'** utilized with any type base whatever by providing the intervening adapted plates **52.**

While preferred forms and arrangements of parts have been shown in illustrating the invention, it is to be clearly understood that various changes in details and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure.

I claim:

1. A stand for Christmas trees or the like comprising a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of said base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing said lower end portions of each support to said base, second means removably securing said upper end portions of each support to an associated tree, said base includes a peripheral reinforcing bead, means defining openings through said bead, and outrigger means passed through said openings for stabilizing said base.

2. A stand for Christmas trees or the like comprising a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of said base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing said lower end portions of each support to said base, said first means being in the form of interlocked tabs and slots of said supports and base, said tabs and slots being formed at least in pairs associated with each support, said tabs are formed in said base and said openings are formed in said support lower end portions, outrigger means for stabilizing said base, second means removably securing each outrigger means to said base, said tabs project above and toward the center of said base, said outrigger means are of a generally T-shaped configuration, and said support lower end portions have a generally V-shaped transverse cross-section opening in a direction toward said base.

3. The stand as defined in claim 2 wherein said base at each portion thereof underlying said support lower end portions has a transverse cross-section mating said V-shaped transverse cross-section.

4. A stand for Christmas trees or the like comprising a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of said base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing said lower end portions of each support to said base, said support lower end portions have a generally V-shaped transverse cross-section opening in a direction toward said base, said base being defined by a plurality of panels each inclined in a direction inwardly and upwardly, adjacent pairs of said panels at portions thereof underlying said support lower end portions having a transverse cross-section mating said V-Shaped transverse cross-section thereby lending stability between the base and the supports thereof.

5. The stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said first removable securing means is located at each of said base panel portions.

6. The stand as defined in claim 5 wherein said first removable securing means are in the form of interlocked tabs and slots.

7. The stand as defined in claim 6 wherein said tabs are struck from the material of said base panel portions.

8. A stand for Christmas trees or the like comprising a base, a plurality of supports carried by an upper surface of said base, each support having terminal upper and lower end portions, first means removably securing said lower end portions of each support to said base, said base opening concavely downwardly, outrigger means for stabilizing said base, said outrigger means being variably projectible beyond a periphery of said base, said outrigger means include a plurality of outriggers spaced from each other about said base periphery, each outrigger having a first end adapted for projection beyond said periphery for rest upon a support surface, and means holding a second end of each outrigger to said base and in a plane generally parallel thereto whereby said base may be adjustably tilted by varying the degree of projection of said outriggers beyond said periphery.

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