This invention relates to decorative illuminating devices, for use for example during Christmas and other festive occasions.

One object of the invention is to provide a decorative device of the character described wherein a novel skeletal frame structure is employed which may be given a desired ornamental shape such as one simulating a Christmas tree and having means for holding in desired spaced relation decorative lamps to give the decorative illuminated effect.

Another object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described which shall be the least attractive in appearance, rugged and compact in construction, easy to assemble and economical to manufacture.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter described, and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, in which are shown various possible embodiments of this invention and in which like numerals refer to like parts,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an illuminating decorative device embodying my invention, simulating a Christmas tree;

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view in partial section showing one of the steps in assembling the tree shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the skeletal structure;

Fig. 4 is a wiring diagram for the tree;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail showing a husk and husk holding member;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail in perspective of the trunk member;

Fig. 7 is an elevational view of the skeletal structure of a modified form of my invention; and

Fig. 8 is a wiring diagram for use with the skeletal structure shown in Fig. 7.

Referring now in detail to the drawings and more specifically to Figs. 1 through 8, I have there shown a decorative illuminated device embodying my invention, simulating a Christmas tree supported on a stand 11.

The device 10 comprises a skeletal structure or frame 12 of generally triangular outline. The frame 12 may be fabricated from a single piece of relatively rigid wire, the ends thereof being suitably joined as by soldering or welding at 13, centrally of the base portion 14 of the triangular frame 12.

In accordance with my invention, the apex 15 and two inclined side arms 16 are provided with a plurality of husk holding members 17, which may be formed integrally with the frame 12. The husk holding members 17 may be formed at the same time that the frame 12 is made.

Each of the husk holding members 17 comprises a helical loop of more than one turn, being preferably one and one-half turns in length. A substantial portion 19 (Fig. 5) of the first turn of the loop facing outwardly of the frame 12 lies in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the helix, in order to facilitate positioning of a miniature lamp husk 20 to be held therein. The inside diameter of the loops should be slightly smaller than the outside diameter of the husk 18 which it is designed to receive, for reasons which will become apparent as the description proceeds. The husk 18, which is of the usual type well known to the art, may comprise a tapered or rounded base 21, a straight walled shank 22 terminating in a shoulder 23 above which the husk is enlarged and flared out to form a socket receiving portion 24. Of course, the husks may be of any other desired configuration, and any other husk having a portion adapted to be engaged by a loop may be employed.

To support the frame 12 in an erect position when assembled, I may provide a U-shaped wire member 25 attached as by soldering or welding to the center of the frame base 14 and disposed in the plane of the triangle.

The frame 12 is held to the stand 11 by means of a tubular trunk member 26 having diametrically opposed slots 27 in the lower portion thereof adapted to receive the frame base 14 and engage the legs 23 of the U-shaped member 25.

The base may be provided with a well 28 into which the lower portion of the trunk is frictionally inserted. An inwardly turned marginal flange 29 may be formed at the base of the well to limit the insertion of the trunk 26 and U-shaped member 25.

A Christmas tree lighting outfit comprising, in the embodiment herein shown, nine husks containing series connected sockets is employed for illuminating the side arms 16 and apex 15 of the tree.

The various elements of the tree may be assembled in the following manner: Each husk 18 of the Christmas tree outfit is inserted in sequence into a husk holding member by placing the base 21 of the husk in the helical loop and pushing on the flared top 24, thus forcing the shank 22 into
the loop until the shoulder 23 abuts the portion 19 of the loop. During this operation the helix is slightly expanded. In such expanded condition, the loop exerts a uniform constructive and binding force about the circumference of the shank, firmly holding the husk against angular and axial displacement except when the husk is urged outward by pressure on its base 21.

The mid-portions of the electrical connecting cord 31 between consecutive husks 18 may then be wrapped as far as they will go around the portions 32 of the side arms 16 between consecutive husk holding members 17. A part of the free end of the connecting cord may also be wrapped around the lower end of the side arms 16 and 18 base 14, as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

The slotted trunk 26 may then be slipped over the frame base 14 and the U-shaped member 25, the legs 28 of said member 25 being received within the slots 27. The free ends of the wire 31 are introduced into the slots 27, where they may be caught between the frame base 14 and upper ends 27 of the slots 27. The slotted portion of the trunk 26 and the U-shaped member 25 may next be wedged into the base wall 29 up to the 25 flat 30.

If desired, the U-shaped member 25 may be wedged into the base well 28 up to the flat 30 and the trunk 26 subsequently forced into the well 29, the legs of the U-shaped member being received within the slots 28.

A husk 33, housing a 110-volt socket having connecting wires 34, may be frictionally received in the open free end of the trunk 26.

The wires 31 of the Christmas tree set and the wires 34 leading to the 110 volt socket may then be connected in parallel, as indicated in Fig. 4, and a switch 35 in the base 11 may be inserted in the supply circuit.

Suitable ornamentation such as ruching 38 may be employed to decoratively cover the frame 12, husks 18 and 33 and trunk 26. The ruching 38 may comprise a core 39 and decorative material, suitable to the occasion, which may be attached by the core 39 by any of the various means well known to the art.

In Figs. 1 and 2 the decorative material is shown as comprising a plurality of narrow paper strips 45 held between a pair of twisted members forming the core 39. It is to be understood, however, that other decorative materials such as slitted or unlapped paper, cloth or Cellophane webs, or real or artificial leaves, berries and the like may also be employed without departing from the spirit of my invention.

The ruching 38 is wound helically around the frame 12, adjacent turns of the core 39 being relatively closely spaced so that covered portions of the frame appear to be solid cylinders of the decorative material comprising the ruching. The winding may start at any point of the frame such as 41 (Fig. 2) on a side arm section 32 between husk holding members 17, and proceed helically about the axis of the arm until it reaches a husk 18. The ruching is then wrapped in a cylinder about the husk 18 to present a halo-like effect around the socket receiving portion 24. The winding may then proceed alternately about the side arms sections 32 and husks 18. Ruching may also be wrapped helically about the trunk member 26 to complete the covering of the tree skeleton.

Miniature 15-volt electric lamps 42 are inserted in the frame sockets, and a 110-volt electric lamp 43 inserted in the socket in the trunk husk 33, whereupon the tree is ready for use.

In Figs. 7 and 8 I have shown a modified form of my invention employing a reinforced wire framework 50 having parallel connected electric lamps 64 held therein. The frame 50 may be fabricated from a length of wire, these ends may be permanently joined as at 51 by soldering or welding centrally of the frame base 52. The side arms 53 and apex 54 are provided with integrally formed husk holding members 55 having a configuration similar to that described with reference to Figs. 2, 3 and 5. The frame 50 is of triangular outline, as indicated in Fig. 7, the husk holding members 55 being disposed at uniformly spaced intervals along the side arms 53.

In this form of my invention, I provide a reinforcing member 56 which comprises a U-shaped pendant member 57 whose legs 58 adjoin their upper ends in deep grooves formed in the frame base 52. The wire forming the reinforcing member 56 is bent outwardly from the upper end of the U-shaped member 57 to form the base 59 of the reinforcing member. The bases 52 and 59 of the frame and reinforcing member may be juxtaposed as indicated in Fig. 7. The reinforcing member 56 is also provided with a pair of side arms 60 parallel to and spaced from the side arms 53 of the frame 50. If desired, a pair of out-turned legs 61 may be provided at the upper ends of the side arms 59. To brace the apex 54 of the frame 50 and tie the upper ends of the side arms 59, a strut 62 may be provided abutting the legs 61 and bridging the side arms 53. Struts 63 may also be used to space the side arms 53 and 60 of the frame and reinforcing member. The struts 62 and 63, the frame 59 and reinforcing member 56 may be permanently joined to each other in any suitable manner, as by welding or soldering at their several points of contact.

The reinforced framework may be mounted in the base, provided with illuminating means and ornamented in a manner the same as that described with reference to Figs. 1 to 6. The electric lamps 64, in this form of my invention, may be connected in parallel, as indicated in Fig. 8. A switch 65 may be employed to control the lights 64.

Although I have shown and described my invention as applied to a decorative illuminated device in the form of a symbolic Christmas tree, it is to be understood that the skeletal structure may assume other shapes, such as for example that of a circle or a star.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a device in which the several objects of this invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiments above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter hereinafter shown or in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new a feature hereinafter to secure by Letters Patent:

A decorative illuminating device including a tubular member having axial diametrically opposed slots extending inwardly from one of the ends thereof, a base having a well to frictionally receive the slotted end portion of said tubular member, a terminal flange on said well, a skeletal wire structure comprising a triangular frame, a
plurality of spaced helical loops integral with the side arms of said triangular frame, means to hold said structure rigidly and erect in said base, said means comprising a U-shaped member depending centrally from the base of said triangular frame, the legs of said member contacting the walls of said slots and the base of said member contacting said terminal flange, and a plurality of husks disposed in said helical loops, said husks having shank portions whose outer diameter is slightly larger than the inner diameter of said loops.

2. A decorative illuminating device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the legs of said U-shaped member frictionally engage the walls of said well.

3. A decorative illuminating device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the axes of said loops are transverse to the axes of said side arms and wherein a winding of ruching covers said side arms and said husks, the axis of the winding covering the side arms being coincident with the axis of said side arms, and the axes of the winding covering the husks being coincident with the axes of said husks, whereby halos of ruching surrounding the husks are provided which are transverse to the ruching surrounding the side arms.

4. A decorative illuminating device as set forth in claim 1, wherein means are provided to reinforce said triangular frame.

5. A decorative illuminating device comprising a base, a skeletal wire structure, and an elongated member having an elongated slot substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said member, said member connecting said wire structure and said base, said base having a well within which the slotted portion of said connecting member is received, said skeletal structure having a projecting portion with an edge disposed in said slot, said edge being substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said member and contacting the walls of said slot.

6. A decorative illuminating device comprising a base, a skeletal wire structure, and a slotted member having a pair of oppositely disposed slots substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said member, said member connecting said wire structure and said base, said base having a well within which the slotted portion of said connecting member is received, said skeletal structure having a pair of spaced rigidly interconnected portions disposed in said elongated member and bridging said slots, said portions contacting the walls of said slot.

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