W. W. WESTBROOK.

WIRE REEL.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 24, 1915.

1,182,124. Patented May 9, 1916.

Fig. 1

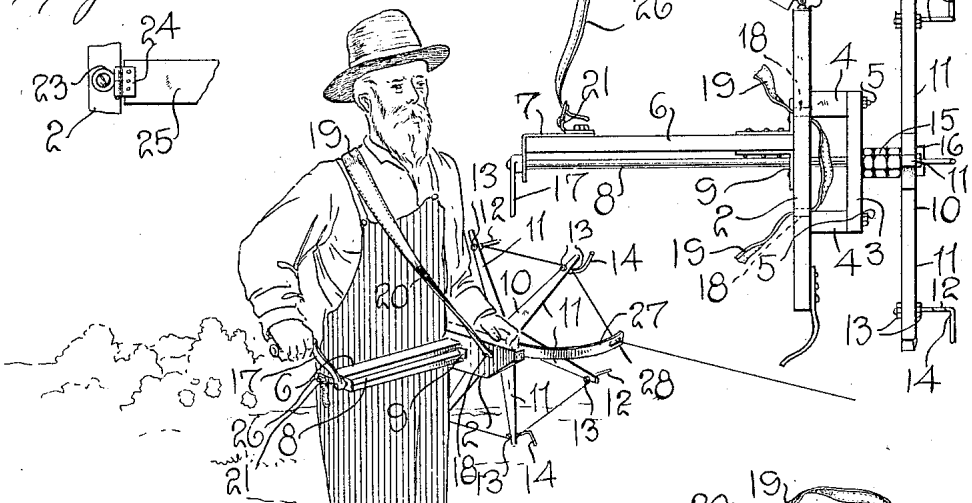


Fig. 2

Fig. 5

Fig. 3

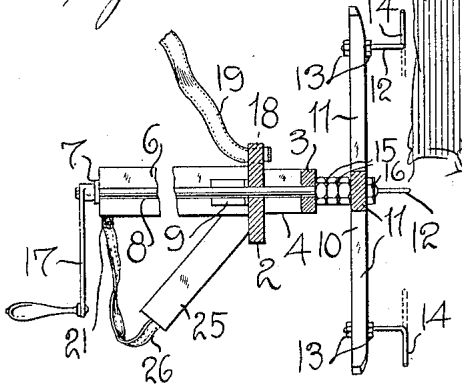
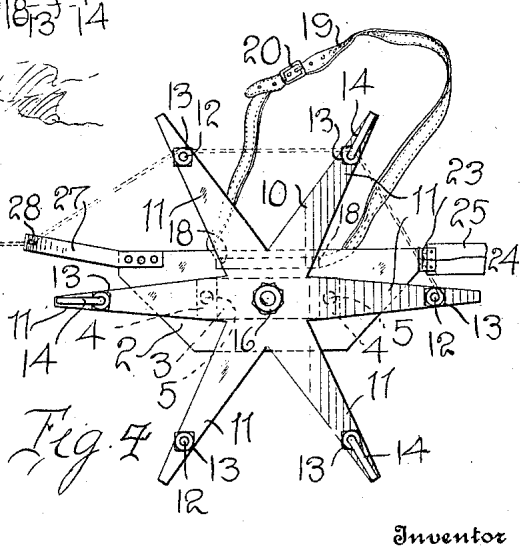


Fig. 4



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WIRE-REEL.

1,182,124. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 9, 1916.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER W. WESTBROOK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Messer, in the county of Choctaw and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Reels, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to wire reels and the object of the invention is the provision of a wire reeling device which may be supported by the shoulder of the operator and which may be manually operated to reel or unreel the wire.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a very simple mechanism of this character provided with straps whereby it may be carried from the shoulder of the operator and which is adapted either for unreeling barbed wire or plain wire and thus may be used either by electricians or by farmers in the building of fences or in other like situations.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my device in use; Fig. 2 is an elevation of the reeling device; Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the construction shown in Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a face view of the reel; and Fig. 5 is a detail fragmentary elevation, showing the manner of connecting the base 2 to the member 25.

Referring to these drawings, 2 designates a transversely extending base plate adapted, in the operation of the device, to bear against the hip of the operator and having spaced therefrom the plate or member 3 supported by means of blocks 4. The member 3 is held to the base plate by means of bolts 5 or like devices. Attached to the plate 2 and extending out at right angles thereto, is the supporting bracket 6, which is provided at its outer end with a plate 7, which extends around the end of the bracket and forms one bearing for the shaft 8. This shaft also passes through an angular bracing member 9 and also through the member 3. Rotatably mounted upon the end of this shaft 8, is the reel 10, which has a plurality of radially directed arms 11. Certain of these arms carry adjacent their extremities, the outwardly projecting pins 12 held in place by nuts 13 and every alternate arm carries upon it the curved pin 14, also held in place by nuts. Preferably the extremity of the shaft 8 is screw-threaded and the hub of the reel is held in place upon the shaft and held from rotation independent thereof, by means of nuts 15 and 16. The opposite end of the shaft carries upon it the crank 17, whereby the shaft may be rotated.

For the purpose of supporting the reeling device from the shoulder of the operator, I form the base plate 2 with the slots 18, through which passes a strap 19, which is adapted to pass over the shoulder of the operator and which has a buckle 20, whereby the length of the strap may be adjusted. In order to hold the device steady and prevent any tendency of it to swing upon the operator's body, I attach to the bracket 6, a buckle 21. Mounted upon the extremity of the base 2, is a hinge leaf 23, having a pintle with which co-acts a hinge leaf 24 mounted upon the extremity of a bar 25. Attached to this bar 25, is a strap 26, whose extremity co-acts with the buckle 21.

For the purpose of guiding the wire as it leaves the reel, I attach to the base 2, the outwardly curved strip 27 which at its end is formed with an elongated eye 28 having a length approximately equal to the length of the pins 12 and 14. This strip projects downward and forward and guides the wire off from or on to the reel and prevents the wire from snarling.

Attention is called to the fact that the curved fingers 14 are rotatable so that their points may either be directed inward or directed outward, while the pins or fingers 12 extend straight outward. This permits a coil of wire to be easily slipped upon the fingers 12 and the fingers 14 then rotated, so that their points are carried outward, thus holding the wire in place upon the reel. The wire may be readily disposed upon the reel in the manner described or removed therefrom and any size roll not smaller in diameter than the distance between the fingers 12 and not larger in diameter than the length of the laterally directed portions of the fingers 14 may be placed upon the reel.

The bar 25 forms a back-board which extends across the back of the operator and not only affords a firm bearing against the operator's back but assists in balancing the weight of the reel of wire. It will be ob-

vious that when the device is carried by the operator, as shown in Fig. 1, with a considerable weight of wire upon the reel, the tendency will be for the base 2 to turn and act as a fulcrum and for the bars 6 and 25 to rise while the reel is depressed. This is prevented by the provision of the bar 6 and of the bar 25, the leverage exerted by these bars acting to resist any depression of the reel without the device being unduly clamped upon the operator. The weight of the entire device comes upon the shoulders of the operator, but the reel is counterbalanced by the bars 6 and 25 and the weight of the shaft 8. Furthermore, it is pointed out that the reel is disposed entirely on one side of the operator so that the reel may be made of any size desired without in any way coming in contact with the operator. By placing the reel on one side of the supporting frame and therefore on one side of the operator, the operator can walk beside a fence with the wire disposed in practical alinement with the fence posts so that the wire may be drawn off the reel and against the posts and the second workman may readily fasten the wire to the posts while it is being unreeled.

This invention is particularly designed for use in telephone work but it will be obvious that it is not limited to such use as it may be used by farmers in unreeling fence wire or any like situations and while I have illustrated what I believe to be the best form of my invention, I do not wish to be limited to this form, as it is obvious that various changes may be made, without departing in any way from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed, is:—

1. A wire reeling device comprising a base adapted to be disposed against the hip of an operator, a bar rigidly attached and extending at right angles thereto and adapted to extend across the front of the operator, a shaft operatively supported upon the bar and extending through the base and having a crank handle at one end, a reel mounted upon the other end of the shaft, a flexible connection extending from the rear end of the base to the end of the bar opposite the reel, and connections from the base adapted to pass over the shoulder of an operator.

2. A wire reeling device comprising a rigid base member adapted to extend across the hip of an operator and project beyond the front and rear of the operator, a bar extending at right angles thereto and adapted to extend across the front of the operator, a shaft operatively supported upon the bar and passing through the base and having a crank handle at one end, a wire supporting reel mounted upon the other end of the shaft, a rigid member hingedly mounted upon the rear end of the base for movement in a horizontal plane, a flexible connection between the free end of said hinged member and first named bar, and a flexible connection extending from the base over the shoulder of an operator.

3. A wire reeling device comprising a rigid member adapted to rest upon the hip of an operator and extend beyond the front and rear of the operator, a front bar rigidly attached to said member and extending at right angles thereto and adapted to be disposed against the front of the operator, a shaft operatively supported upon said bar and passing through said member, a crank handle mounted upon one end of the shaft, a wire supporting reel mounted upon the other end of the shaft, a rigid back member hinged to the first-named member at its rear end for movement in a horizontal plane, a strap adjustably connecting the free end of the back member with the first-named bar, and a shoulder strap operatively connected to the hip engaging member and adapted to extend over the shoulder of an operator.

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

WALTER W. WESTBROOK.

Witnesses:
HENRY W. BAILEY,
CLONA PRICE.