(No Model.)

E. W. LEACH.

EXTENSIBLE RACK.

No. 526,450. Patented Sept. 25, 1894.

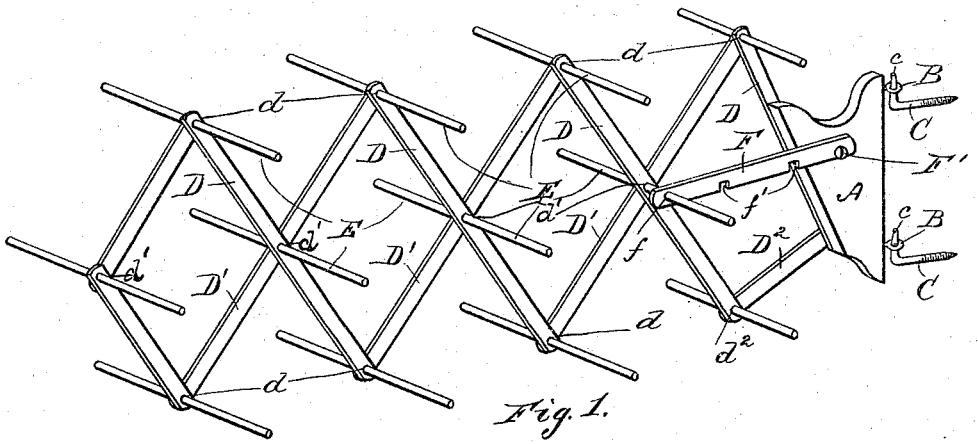


Fig. 1.

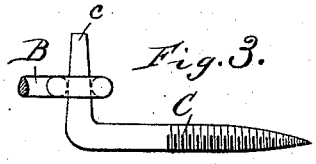


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

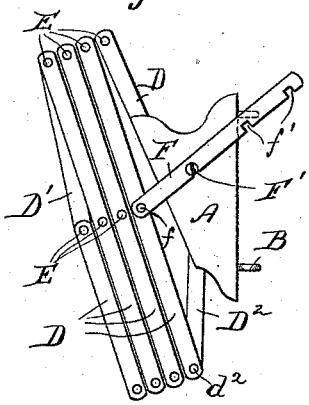


Fig. 4.

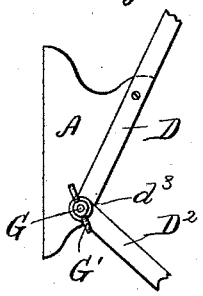


Fig. 5.

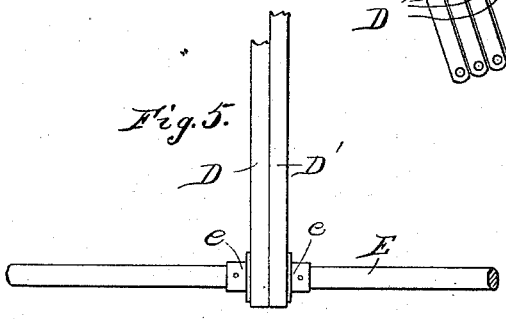
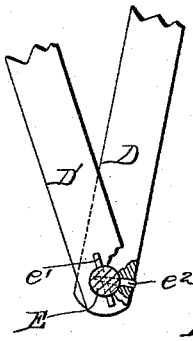


Fig. 6.



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EXTENSIBLE RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 526,450, dated September 25, 1894.

Application filed October 19, 1893. Serial No. 488,589. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, EUGENE W. LEACH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Racine, county of Racine, State of Wisconsin, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Extensible Racks; and I 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 pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in the construction of extensible racks for towels and analogous articles, and my said invention consists in the matters hereinafter described and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device showing the same in its extended position. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, showing it in its closed position. Fig. 3 is a detail view illustrating the construction of the friction hinge upon which my improved device is supported. Fig. 4 is a detail view illustrating a different form of device for locking the rack in its adjusted position. Fig. 5 is a detail view illustrating the connection between the towel rods or rungs and the frame. Fig. 6 illustrates still another form of connection.

Referring by letter to said drawings, A designates a suitable supporting block which is conveniently provided with a vertical rear face, and an oblique outer face, in the manner shown in the drawings. Suitable eyes are secured to the rear face of the block A and are arranged vertically in line with each other and adapted for engagement with suitable supporting hooks.

I find it convenient in constructing my device, to insert the screw-threaded shanks of ordinary screw-eyes B B in the rear edge of the supporting block A, and to arrange the eyes of the same horizontally for the reception of the supporting hooks. I also find it convenient to construct the hooks C C in the manner shown more particularly in Fig. 3, with screw-threaded shanks, and upwardly extending tapered extremities *c c* which are adapted to enter the screw-eyes and are made sufficiently large at their bases to wedge themselves into the screw-eyes by the weight of the rack carried thereby, and thus form a friction hinge between the block A and the supporting hooks.

The frame for the support of the towels or other articles is constructed somewhat on the ordinary lazy tongs principle, being composed of parallel bars D D and D′ D′ which are pivotally engaged with each other at their extremities *d d*, and at their centers as at *d′ d′*. Transverse rods or rungs E E are passed through the intersections of the bars D D and D′ D′ in the manner shown, and are arranged to extand equidistant upon both sides of said pivoted bars, said transverse rods or rungs forming supports for the towels or other articles, and also forming the pivotal connections between the bars D D and D′ D′.

The transverse rods E E may be held in engagement with the rack bars in any desired or convenient manner, as for instance, by means of suitable flanged collars *e e*, which are slipped over said rods and arranged with their flanges in engagement with opposite sides of the pivoted rack bars, as shown more particularly in Fig. 5. If desired, however, these transverse rods may be secured in position by means of suitable brads *e′* e^2 passed transversely therethrough and engaged with the outside faces of the pivoted bars, or as shown in Fig. 6, one of said brads e^2 may be passed through one of the bars and into the transverse rod so as to unite said rod and said bar, and the other brad *e′* simply passed through the transverse rod and arranged to bear against the outer face of the other pivoted bar. When the flanged collars *e e* are employed, they may be secured to the transverse rods by means of brads or tacks, or may be pricked onto the transverse rods, in a familiar manner.

The extensible rack composed of the bars D D and D′ D′ is secured to the supporting block A in any suitable or desired manner, conveniently in the manner illustrated in the drawings, one of the bars, D being secured rigidly to the oblique front edge of the supporting block A, and arranged to extend somewhat below the central part of the rack. A short bar D^2 is pivotally engaged at one end as at d^2 with the lower extremity of the inner-

most bar D, and extends obliquely upward and is pivotally engaged at d^3 with the lower end of the rigid bar D. It follows from this construction that the bar D which is secured to the supporting block A, being rigid, the upper end of said bar will remain always at the same level. When the device is folded up as in Fig. 2, said device occupies a generally oblique position, but when the rack is extended for use, the lower end of the bar D^2 describes an arc of a circle and as the rack is extended will tend to elevate the forward end of the rack, in an obvious manner, until said rack assumes a substantially horizontal position.

Any suitable means may be employed for locking the device in its extended position, as for instance, the device shown in Figs. 1 and 2, of the drawings, which comprises a bar F pivotally connected at f with one of the transverse bars E, and provided with one or more notches f' in its lower edge for engagement with a suitable stop screw or shoulder F' on the supporting block A.

When the rack is in its extended position, the appropriate notch f' in the bar F is engaged with the stop screw F' in the manner shown, and the bar F thereby serves to securely hold the rack in its adjusted position. When the rack is closed as in Fig. 2, the first one of said notches f' is engaged with the screw F' so as to prevent the rack from being extended.

As many intermediate notches f' may be employed as desired, so as to afford any desired adjustment of the rack between the extremes of its extension and compression. If desired, however, any other means for locking the rack in its adjusted position may be employed, as for instance, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, a bolt G may be passed through the pivotal connection between the bar D^2 and the rigid bar D said bolt being provided with a suitable washer g arranged to bear against said bar D^2, and a clamping thumb nut G' having screw-threaded engagement with said bolt whereby, by an adjustment of said nut, said parts may be clamped together so as to retain the extensible rack in any desired position.

By my improved construction I am enabled to provide a rack for towels and similar articles, which, by the double arrangement of the transverse supporting rods, has capacity, when extended, for holding a large number of articles, while said rack, when compressed together, is very compact.

By the described construction of the hinges, for supporting the block A and the parts carried thereby, the device is rendered sufficiently stable in any position to which it may be adjusted, by reason of the frictional engagement or wedging action of the tapered supporting hooks within the eyes B B, while by reason of said construction, the rack is rendered readily removable from the supports, when desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. A towel rack comprising a suitable supporting block, a lazy tongs having one of its end bars rigidly secured in an oblique position to said supporting block, and the other one of its end bars pivoted thereto, horizontal supporting rods or rungs extending transversely through the several intersections of the bars of said lazy tongs, suitable means for holding said transverse rods or rungs in engagement with said bars, and suitable means for locking said lazy tongs in its adjusted positions, substantially as described.

2. A towel rack comprising a suitable supporting block provided with a vertical rear face, and an oblique front face an extensible lazy tongs having one of its end bars rigidly secured to the oblique forward edge of said supporting block and extending below the center of the lazy tongs, a short bar pivotally secured to the lower part of said block, and to the lower end of one bar of the lazy tongs, horizontal supporting rods or rungs extending transversely through the intersections of the bars of said lazy tongs, and suitable means for pivotally engaging the vertical rear face of the supporting block with a wall or other support, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

EUGENE W. LEACH.

Witnesses:
L. E. HALL,
F. M. ROBERTS.