

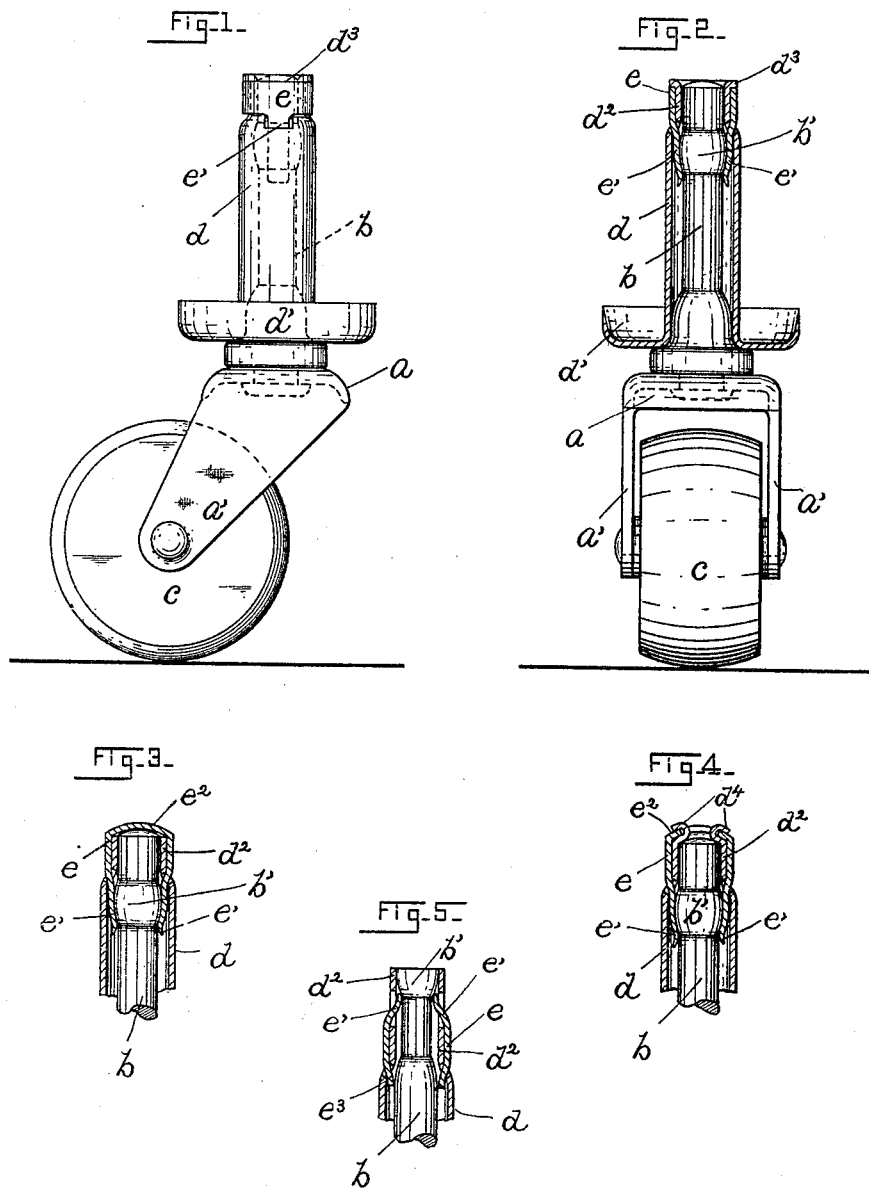
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Patented May 15, 1900.

G. D. CLARK.
FURNITURE CASTER.

(Application filed Mar. 3, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES

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FURNITURE-CASTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 649,506, dated May 15, 1900.

Application filed March 3, 1900. Serial No. 7,250. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE D. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Plainville, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Furniture-Casters, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The aim of this invention is to provide a cheap, yet strong and serviceable, means for separably connecting the pintle and socket of a furniture-caster.

My said invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a complete caster embodying said invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the socket and the pintle-retaining device (which latter is the essential feature of my present invention) in central vertical section. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 illustrate certain modifications of my said invention that are fully described hereinafter.

In the drawings the letter *a* denotes a caster-frame, *b* a pintle secured at its lower end to the said frame, and *c* the usual roller pivotally mounted in the horns *a'* of said frame.

d indicates a tubular socket having a flange or, as here illustrated, an enlarged cupped lower end portion *d'*, adapted to engage the leg of a table, chair, or other article of furniture, the inner diameter of the body of the socket being such as to easily receive the pintle *b*.

In the variations of my invention illustrated in the several figures the upper end portion *d²* of the socket is contracted to a somewhat less diameter than the body portion, and upon this contracted end portion *d²* I mount a ring or collar *e*, having one or more spring-tongues *e'*, that extend through the circumferential wall of the socket and lie in the path of the pintle *b* when the latter is inserted in the socket.

b' is a bulbous enlargement at or near the free end of the pintle *b*, which when the pintle and socket are being assembled engages the spring-tongues *e'* and forces them outward until the said bulbous portion has passed the said springs, when the latter return to their normal positions and underlie the bulbous

head, engaging the same sufficiently to prevent the accidental separation of the pintle and socket. The particular manner of securing the socket and collar together is, however, not material, since the engagement of the spring-tongues with the socket is sufficient. Neither does it matter how many of the spring-tongues *e'* are provided.

In order to additionally secure the socket and collar together, I may (as shown in Figs. 1 and 2) head over or "spin out" the thin upper end of the socket, as at *d³*.

In Fig. 3 the collar *e* is capped over, as at *e²*, thus closing the otherwise open upper end of the socket and excluding dirt, &c. In Fig. 4 I have illustrated the collar *e* as similarly capped over, the said cap being perforated to receive one or more lips *d⁴*, extending upward from the socket, the said lips being headed over or "clenched," as seen in said Fig. 4, to additionally lock the collar and socket securely together.

In the variation of my invention illustrated in Fig. 5 the reduced socket portion *d²* is of considerable length. The collar *e* is mounted thereon and has the spring-tongues *e'* extending upward instead of downward, as hereinbefore described. The collar in this construction is additionally retained in place on the socket by short spurs or lips *e³*, that extend inward through the wall of the socket, as seen in the said view, Fig. 5.

In practice it will be observed that when the pintle is inserted into the socket and is in the normal position—as, for example, as shown in the drawings—the lower portion of the pintle is afforded a firm unyielding bearing and the upper portion of the pintle is also afforded a firm unyielding bearing. In this way the correct alinement of the pintle is always maintained, and the upper end cannot be pushed laterally independently of the socket, so as to press back the spring-tongues *e'*, or either of them. This is an advantage, because were not the pintle thus supported the spring-tongues might be pressed back and after a time become "set" in such a position as to render them practically inoperative and useless for the purpose of retaining the pintle. The collar or cap which takes onto the

reduced portion of the upper end of the socket is preferably made seamless—that is, solid—so that it acts as a reinforce to prevent the spreading of the socket or the permanent spring-tongues.

5 The momentary spreading of the socket would tend to split the furniture, while the permanent spreading of the spring-tongues would render them ineffective. Both of these
10 dangers are provided against by the reinforcing-collar.

My described device is strong, cheap, and serviceable, and the collar *e* not only serves to support the spring-tongue, but it also
15 serves when the socket *d* is formed as a two-part tube or as a sheet-metal rolled tube with a single seam to prevent the undue separating of the two-part tube or the spreading of the rolled tube.

20 Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In combination, a tubular caster-socket, a reinforcing-collar, a spring-tongue carried by the collar and extending into the upper
25 end portion of the said socket securing the said collar to said socket and also serving as a pintle-retainer.

2. In combination with a tubular socket, a spring-tongue extending into the said socket
30 and supported by a reinforcing-collar surrounding the latter, and a pintle formed with

a bulbous portion adapted to be engaged by the said tongue, substantially as set forth.

3. In combination, a tubular socket having a reduced upper end, a collar mounted upon
35 the said reduced portion and having spring-tongues that extend inward through the wall of the socket, and adapted to engage a pintle having a bulbous enlargement.

4. In combination, a socket with reduced
40 upper end, a collar mounted on the said reduced portion and formed with integral tongues that extend into the socket, said tongues securing the collar to the socket, the ends of said tongues being adapted to engage
45 a pintle having a bulbous portion.

5. In combination, a socket with reduced upper end, a collar mounted on the said reduced portion and formed with integral
50 tongues that extend into the socket, said tongues securing the collar to the socket, the ends of said tongues being adapted to engage a pintle having a bulbous portion, and means whereby said collar is additionally secured to
55 said socket.

Signed at Plainville, Connecticut, this 19th day of February, 1900.

GEORGE D. CLARK.

Witnesses:

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