A. ALBERTSON.

Candlestick.

No. 168,822.

Patented Oct. 19, 1875.

Fig 1.

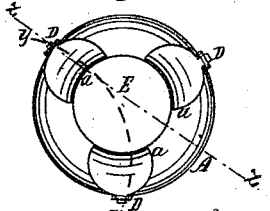


Fig 4.

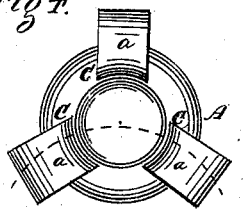


Fig 2.

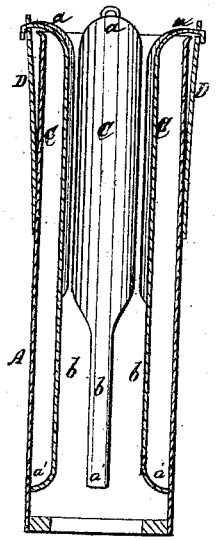


Fig 5.

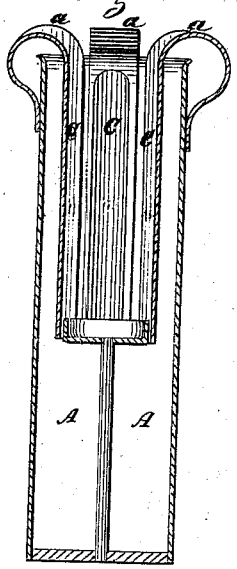
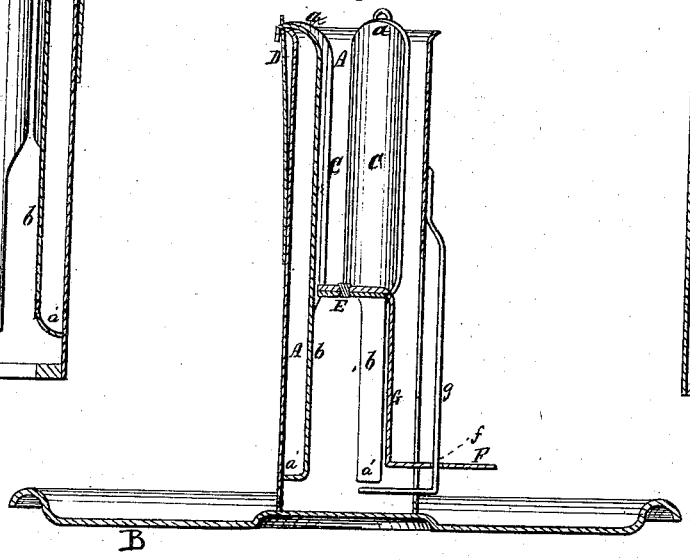


Fig 3.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT ALBERTSON, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CANDLESTICKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **168,822**, dated October 19, 1875; application filed March 31, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT ALBERTSON, of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain Improvements in Candlesticks, of which the following is a specification:

The object of this invention is to provide a candlestick which may be used indifferently with candles of the various sizes or diameters ordinarily found in the market or provided for use, and which will in all cases hold the candle firmly in the requisite vertical position, without the aid of wrapping or other adventitious devices. To this end the invention consists in the combination, with a candle-socket, of internal longitudinal springs constructed with outwardly-curved or flaring upper ends, whereby the springs may be automatically expanded to receive the candle, by the simple downward pressure of the latter when thrust into the socket, the said springs then serving to hold the candle, whatever its diameter, in the requisite vertical position.

The invention further comprises certain novel means whereby the combined socket and springs are brought within moderate compass, whereby the durability and efficient operation of the springs in such relation are increased, and due provision made for the requisite attachment and arrangement of the springs without interference with the usual movement of the bottom slide in the vertical adjustment of the candle within the socket.

Figure 1 is a top view of a candlestick made according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same, taken in the line *y y* of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a like view, taken in the line *z z* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a top, and Fig. 5 a vertical sectional view, showing a modification of my said invention.

A is the vertical tubular socket of a candlestick, having the usual cylindrical form, and attached at its lower end to any suitable base, as indicated at B in Fig. 3. C are springs made of thin sheet metal, and preferably three in number. These springs are arranged within the socket, concentric with the axis thereof, and their upper portions *a* are curved in their cross-section on the arc of a circle, as shown more plainly in Fig. 1. The lower portions C f the springs are of much less width than the upper portions *a*, and are proportionally weaker or more yielding. The springs are situate a small space—say, one-eighth of an inch—from the inner surface of the socket. Their lower ends, being curved outwardly, are soldered to the just-mentioned surface of the socket at *a'*, while their upper and broader ends are flared outward, as represented in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, to facilitate the insertion of the candle downward between the same. D are flat external springs, attached at their upper extremities to the extremities of the outwardly-flaring end portions of the springs C, by solder or otherwise, and at their lower extremities to the outer circumference of the socket. E is the bottom slide of the socket, capable of a vertical movement for the vertical adjustment of the candle within the socket. In order to insure the requisite guiding of this slide, (which, if accomplished in the ordinary manner, would interfere with the hereinbefore-described arrangement of the springs C,) its thumb-piece F, attached to its standard G, in the usual manner, and, as in the common candlestick, projecting laterally through a slot in the socket, is formed with a hole, *f*, through which is passed an elastic guide stem or spring, *g*, soldered externally to the socket. By thus dispensing with the usual guiding device the requisite attachment of the spring C is provided for without interference with the use or operation of the aforesaid bottom slide E.

In the use of the candlestick, made as represented in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and just hereinbefore described, the candle, of any desired or requisite size or diameter, is thrust base end downward into the socket, between the springs C, the flaring upper ends of the latter facilitating the entrance of the candle, being, in fact, inclined planes, which enable the downwardly-forced candle to push the springs C aside to the requisite extent. The upper ends of the springs C are enabled to yield the more readily by their attachment to the external or supplemental springs D, while the narrowed lower portions *b*, yielding more readily than the broader and stiffer upper portions *b*, enable the latter to yield at bottom in the same manner that the external springs D enable them to yield at top. By this means

the parts *a* are enabled to fit closely along and upon the inserted portion of the candle, and, whatever the diameter of the latter, hold it firmly in place, with its axis coincident with that of the socket, so that the candlestick, as thus constructed, is adapted for use with candles of any diameter commonly sold or used. Of course the candle may be adjusted vertically in the socket as it burns away by moving the bottom slide by means of its laterally-projecting thumb-piece, which, as hereinbefore set forth, in addition to its normal function, serves, in connection with the stem *g*, to guide and sustain the said bottom slide in proper position within the socket.

In the modification shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the internal springs, also marked C as in the other figures, are loose or free at their lower ends and bowed or curved at their upper ends, where they are attached to the top of the socket, the bowed upper ends being of such size and curvature as to give considerable freedom of outward movement when the same are pushed radially from the axis of the socket by the insertion of a candle, the freedom of the lower ends permitting them to accommodate themselves to the position of the upper ends, so that the main length or internal portions of the springs fit snugly and continuously upon the inserted portion of the candle, whereby, whatever its diameter, is thus firmly held in place. This modification of my invention may be used, either in connection with the fixed bottom plate or cup *c*, as shown in Fig. 5, or with a bottom slide fitted within the socket, as represented in Figs. 2 and 3, and provides a cheap method of applying to use the principle of my invention. The bowed upper ends of its springs C occupy an amount of space that is frequently objectionable, and the construction shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, and hereinbefore first described, is, therefore, as a rule, to be preferred.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The internal longitudinal springs C, constructed with the outwardly-curved or flaring upper ends *a*, in combination with the socket A, whereby the said springs are caused to automatically receive the candle when thrust into the socket, and to hold the same in an upright position, whatever the diameter of the candle, substantially as herein set forth.

2. The combination of the external supplemental springs D with the internal springs C, having their lower portions *b* narrower and more yielding than their upper portions *a*, the whole arranged in relation with the socket A, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the elastic guide stem or spring *g*, with the thumb-piece F, of the bottom slide E, whereby provision is made for the arrangement of the springs C within the socket A, without interference with the vertical movement of the slide, substantially as herein set forth.

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Witnesses:
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