G. WHEELER,
Hammock-Support.

No. 201,074. Patented March 5, 1878.

Fig: 1.

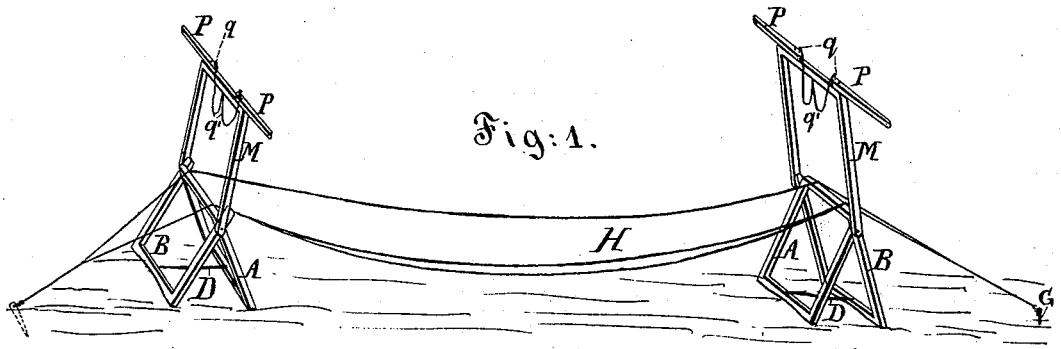


Fig: 3.

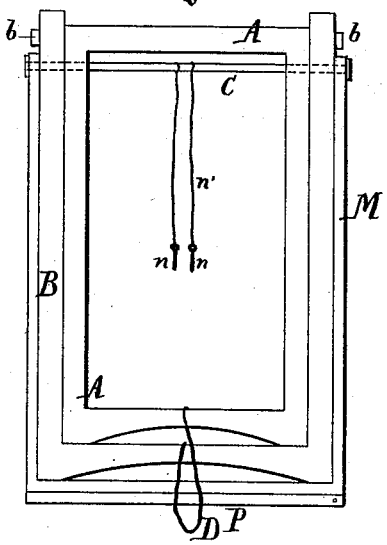
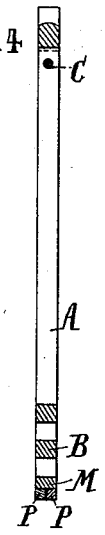


Fig: 4



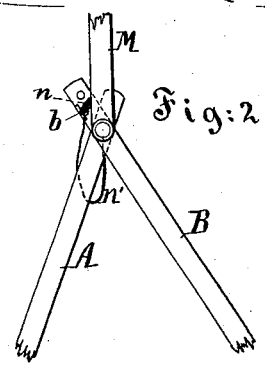
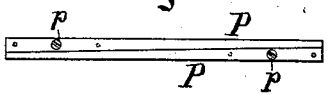


Fig: 2.

Fig: 6.

Fig: 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE WHEELER, OF NEW SPRINGVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAMMOCK-SUPPORTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **201,074**, dated March 5, 1878; application filed August 14, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE WHEELER, of New Springville, Richmond county, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements relating to Hammock-Supports, of which the following is a specification:

I have devised a construction of folding frames adapted to stand independently on the ground or on the floor, to form supports for the hammock along two transverse lines considerably inward from the ends, but sufficiently far apart to receive the occupant between them, and which are capable, when not wanted for use, of being folded into a perfectly flat condition. It may be carried very easily with ordinary baggage. The ends of the hammock being held by pins driven in the ground, or by screw-hooks, or analogous fastenings, put into a floor, these frames serve at the proper positions not only to hold up the central and useful portion of the hammock, but also to hold it better extended, and to counteract, in part, the tendency of the hammock to draw together laterally.

I have also devised additional frame-work in connection with the above, which is adapted to support a mosquito-netting or shade of suitable construction, and to hold it amply extended. This additional framing folds also into the same plane with the other parts, and adds but little to the weight or bulk.

The following is a description of what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention:

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a general perspective view, showing a pair of my frames extended for use, with a hammock stretched thereon. Fig. 2 is an edge view, representing the upper part of one of the frames on a larger scale. Fig. 3 is a face view of a frame folded. Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal section, corresponding to Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a bottom view, corresponding to Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

The frame which is to stand nearest the head of the occupant should be a little higher than that which is to stand at the foot. In other respects they are alike, and a description of one will suffice for both.

A is a complete rectangular framing of tough wood or other suitable material. B is a frame, forming three sides of a rectangle sufficiently larger than the frame A to inclose it. C is a bolt of metal traversing the two, and serving as an axis, on which they may turn relatively to each other, being extended for use and folded for stowage at will. D is a small cord or other tie, which limits the amount of the extension.

When the hammock-support is in use the side pieces of the frame A support a considerable load, the strain being compressive or thrustwise. The top cross-piece of this frame A also supports a considerable load, the strain being transverse. The other frame B is much less strained, and may be of smaller stuff.

The lower cross-piece of each frame A and B is subjected to little strain, and may be quite slender. I prefer to make them hollowed out, or each of less thickness in the middle than at and near each end, as shown. The hollow in the cross-piece of the framing A can receive the string D when the parts are folded together.

A light additional frame, M, forms three sides of a rectangle sufficiently larger than B to inclose it. This frame is also pivoted on the same axial bolt C, and when in use is thrown up into a nearly vertical position, resting against stops *b*, one of which stops is strongly fixed on each side of the frame B, as shown. These allow the frames M to pitch considerably inward or toward each other; but I provide removable pins *n*, which can be inserted in holes provided in the frames B, and serve as earlier stops to hold the frames M in more upright positions, if desired in any case. These pins *n* are confined by strings *n'*, so that they cannot be lost. These frames support a mosquito-net, (not represented,) which may be easily applied and removed in the obvious manner.

P P are light tapering levers pivoted on the cross-bar at the end of the frame M, at the points *p*. When folded they lie very compactly, as shown in Fig. 5. When extended, they overhang the sides of the frame M, and serve to hold the mosquito-net out wider. I provide removable pins *q*, confined by strings

q', which may be inserted through holes in the levers P and in the frame M, to hold the levers P stiffly extended.

I do not attach any particular importance to the construction of the hammock. It may be of any of the approved materials. I prefer a netting for the body, and a series of converging cords at each end, terminating in a hook.

To extend the hammock in a building, I screw into the floor eyebolts G G, adapted to receive the hooks or other fastenings of the hammock at each end.

To use the hammock with my supports on a lawn or beach, or on the ground generally, I provide stakes, which may be anchored strongly in the ground by simply driving.

Fig. 6 shows one of the stakes formed with a loop of metal or cordage, which allows the stake to be driven deeply, and, at the same time, to form a strong and convenient means of engagement for the hook or analogous fastening means at the end of the hammock H.

Various modifications may be made in the details by any good mechanic. I believe that the frames may in some cases be made in whole or in part of metal, using tubing or analogous light forms of metal therefor; but for economy and general convenience I prefer hard wood.

Certain parts of the invention may be useful without the others; thus I can dispense with the pins n and q, and with their accompanying fastenings, and still make the framing very serviceable.

I can serrate or otherwise roughen the bearing edge of the top cross-piece of each frame A to allow it to better hold the hammock H extended; or I can, if desired, make a second, and even a third and fourth cross-bar in the frame A, at different heights, so that with the same frame the hammock may be held at different elevations by simply passing the end of the hammock through, and causing it to bear on a second or third bar (not represented) instead of the top cross-bar, as shown. I can, of course, employ a dense canopy in lieu of the mosquito-net (not represented) in cases where defense is wanted against the sunshine at noon.

In regions where little inconvenience is experienced from flies and mosquitoes, I can use the lower parts of the apparatus without the frames M and their attachments. In such case the axial bolt C may be made shorter. In any event the ends of the bolts should be secured by riveting upon washers, or otherwise, to avoid any liability of the parts to become disengaged by slipping off the ends.

When made of wood, as shown, my frames are very simple in construction, and may be operated with a very small amount of skill. They are, in a high degree, light and portable.

I esteem it an important feature that the construction allows each of the compound supporting-frames A B M to be folded into the same plane, the whole, when folded, being the thickness of each one of the slender parts.

I claim as my invention—

1. In combination with a hammock, H, and means G for fastening the ends to the floor or ground, the frames A B, lying one within the other, and connected by an axis, C, as and for the purposes herein specified.

2. In combination with the frames A B, having stops b, the frame M, turning on the same axis C, and adapted to support a mosquito-net, or analogous canopy, as herein specified.

3. The folding levers P, in combination with the frames M A B and axis C, and adapted to serve as and for the purposes herein specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of August, 1877, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEO. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

CHAS. C. STETSON,

WM. E. MOWBRAY.