

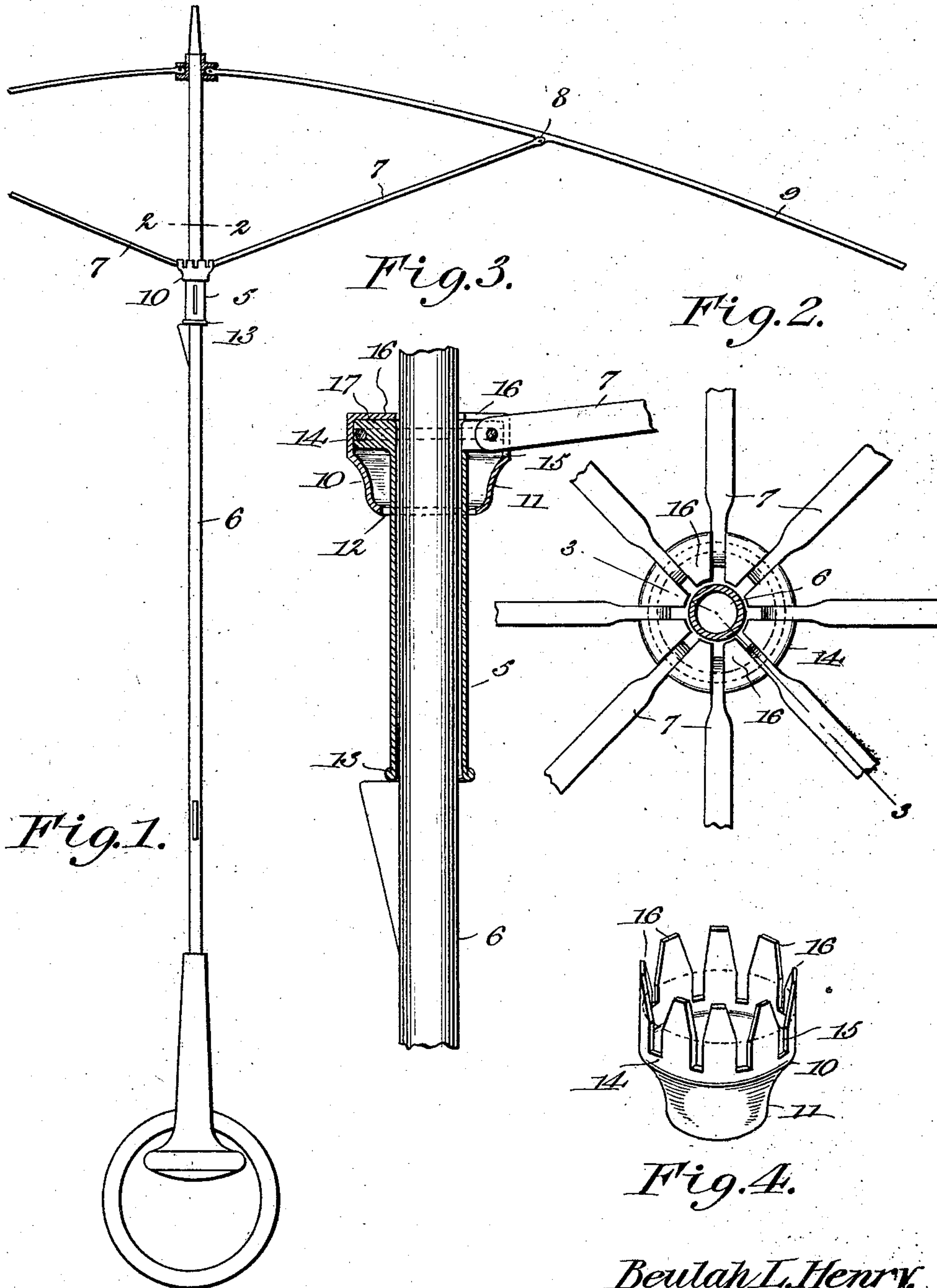
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RUNNER SHIELD ATTACHMENT

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WITNESS: Fred. W. Ely.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## RUNNER-SHIELD ATTACHMENT.

Application filed December 3, 1921. Serial No. 519,671.

This invention relates to the class of umbrellas or parasols and particularly to runner attachments.

In the manufacture and construction of umbrellas and parasols, it is customary to provide the runner with a fabric or leather shield, the same being sewed or otherwise secured to the runner so as to conceal the points of connection of the stretchers at the runner.

The operation of applying these fabric or leather shields is both laborious and costly and in many instances, these shields are extremely unsightly.

It is an object of my invention to provide a shield which can be exteriorly slipped over the runner and bent into position thereon so as to conceal the points of connection between the runner and the stretchers and at the same time to give to the runner a smooth exterior gripping surface with which the fingers of the operator can be engaged during the act of manipulating the runner.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this kind that can be applied to the runner by unskilled help, thus materially reducing the cost of manufacture.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device of this kind that can be produced at small cost, and one that can be applied to the runner without use of permanent fastenings.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the improved construction and novel arrangements of parts which will hereinafter be fully described and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, has been illustrated, a single and preferred form of the invention it being, however, understood that no limitations are necessarily made to the precise structural details therein exhibited, but that changes, alterations and modifications within the scope of the claim may be resorted to when desired.

Figure 1, is a side elevation of my invention applied to the umbrella.

Figure 2, is a horizontal sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3, is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4, is a perspective view of my invention per se.

In carrying the invention into practice,

use is made of a runner 5 which may be of the usual well known construction, adapted to slide on the customary stick 6. This runner is also connected in any suitable well known manner with the inner ends of stretchers 7, the outer ends of which are connected at 8 with the ribs 9.

In order that the runner will be housed at its joinder with the inner ends of the stretchers 7, I provide a housing shield 10, which is preferably formed of metal or some other suitable well known material which is sufficiently rigid to maintain a given form and to be held against accidental breakage or collapse. This shield is provided with a lower reduced neck portion 11 having a central aperture 12, adapted to freely permit the base 13 of the runner to be extended therethrough and the parts positioned as shown in Figure 3. The upper enlarged portion 14 of the shield is provided with a circular series of equi-distantly spaced recesses 15 which accommodate the inner ends of the stretchers. At points normally extending in an upward vertical direction from these recesses are bendable tongues 16 as shown in Figure 4. When the shield is adjusted to its intended position as shown in Figure 3, these tongues are bent down against the flange 17 of the runner as also shown in Figure 3.

It will be observed from this construction that the shield conceals the runner at its juncture with the inner ends of the stretchers 7; that the parts are associated with each other so that the runner of the umbrella or parasol presents an extremely neat appearance; that by curving the walls of the neck 11, as shown in Figure 3, so that they terminally merge into a smooth annular surface 18, this surface acts to receive the fingers of the hand of the operator so as to facilitate adjustment of the runner on the stick and without possible injury to the fingers.

It will be further observed that no changes whatever are made in the construction of the runner and that my improved shield can be conveniently slipped into position upon the runner and the tongues 16 bent down to their retaining positions as shown. All of this can be accomplished in very short time and with minimum labor and a material reduction in cost.

While I have herein fully shown and described and have pointed out in the append-



ed claim certain novel features of construction, arrangement and operation which characterize my invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the forms, proportions, sizes, of the materials used, and of their operation, may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

10 What I claim as new is:—

A runner shield comprising a comparatively short tubular body of relatively rigid material adapted to encircle a runner at the top thereof and having an arcuately reduced neck portion at one end conforming to the contour of the fingers of a hand and termi-

nating in an inwardly projecting annular flange for co-action with the runner for preventing lateral movement of the shield, and the said body at its other end terminating in a series of spaced tongues tapered outwardly from midway of their length and bendable inwardly therefrom at right angle to the longitudinal axis of the body to substantially form a flange interrupted by the resultant radial slits between said tongues due to their taper and which slits receive the ends of stretcher bars of an umbrella for concealing the same.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

BEULAH LOUISE HENRY.