

SPECIFICATIONS

Storage Device for Umbrella Sacks

Industrial Field

The present invention relates to a storage device for wet umbrellas that automatically wraps the umbrellas and places them in sacks. It can be used, for example, at an entrance of hotels, shops and department stores, so that when it is raining, the umbrellas can be adequately handled and stored.

Prior Art

When it is raining, synthetic resin sacks (plastic sacks) have traditionally been used to wrap wet umbrellas in order to avoid wetting clothes, floors or goods while the customers walk around carrying their wet umbrellas inside hotels, shops or department stores.

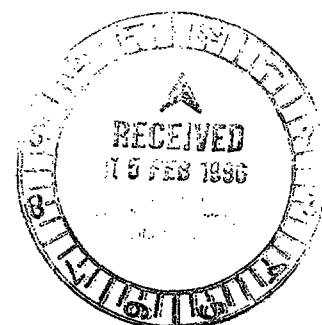
As shown in Japanese Patent Application No. 60-134817, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 62-125708 and Japanese Patent Application No. 4-31222, a variety of storage devices, that can open the storage sacks and store the umbrellas by just inserting them into the openings, have been proposed to ease the storage operation.

In the prior method, as mentioned above, there can be complex structure problems as a result of the negative pressure suction, as a means to open the storage sacks, with the number of links, or with the cam mechanism. In addition, since a vacuum pump or a motor is used, the production cost increases and such devices cannot be used where a power source is not available close to the devices. Besides, power cords are a hindrance and there is a danger of a short circuit, in a case that the devices are operated when it is raining.

In consideration of the above-mentioned problems, the present invention is proposed to solve said problems. With regards to the present invention, no power source is required. Besides, the object of the this invention is to provide a simple structured device so that umbrellas can easily be stored in storage sacks.

REPLACED SHEETS		SG
☒	Description : paged 1 to paged 11	
☒	Claim(s) : paged 12 to paged 13	
☒	Drawing(s) : paged 14 to paged 15	
☒	Abstract : paged 16 to paged 17	
DATE OF RECEIPT		

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



Abstract

The storage device for umbrella sacks of the present invention comprises: a body where a number of storage sacks are stored; a movable support base which is arranged to move vertically in the body; a wear plate that makes said movable support base lower when it contacts an edge of an umbrella; and open control levers that open the storage sacks in the descending motion of said movable support base. Therefore, the storage device is structured so that the umbrella can be automatically inserted in the storage sack when the open control levers open the storage sack in the descending motion of the movable support base by contacting the said wear plate with the edge of the umbrella, and then said wear plate simultaneously sweeps back by rotating downward.

As the storage sacks are used in the device, the upper open end and the upper fore side of the opening is folded and the upper rear side is projected above that of the fore side and locking holes are provided at the upper side of such projected portion.

In one of embodiments of the present invention, a number of storage sacks are charged in a storage device and the openings of said sacks are open so that each umbrella can be stored in such a sack. A box in which a number of storage sacks are stored is charged itself in the storage device. Such a structure is one of preferred embodiments of the present invention. In this case, the selected embodiment of said storage sack is that the sacks are retained in a said box by suspending it with a hanger.

In addition, according to the choice embodiments of said open control levers, a pair of open control levers are provided to move and rotate independently for the above-mentioned movable support member. In this case, with regards to the means (e. g. spring) which moves and rotates the open control levers in a certain direction to contact with storage sacks charged in the storage device, the preferred means is provided independently for each lever.

Besides, said open control levers can be comprised of a bucket-shaped member made with a slippery material (e. g. resin materials such as plastic). In this case, a structure of said device body is not limited to a casing structure. For example, it can be structured using only pillars. In this case, transparent members can be arranged between the pillars.



According to the above mentioned structure of the umbrella sack storage device of the present invention, the open control levers open the sacks by contacting each edge of umbrellas to be stored with said wear plate and by lowering the movable support base. Simultaneously, said wear plate sweeps back by rotating downward in order to insert each umbrella automatically into each storage sack. As a result, storing umbrellas into storage sacks is carried out without using a motor.

In addition, according to the storage sacks of the present invention, a number of storage sacks can be retained in the device by providing a cylindrical hanger to suspend them through the locking holes provided upper edge of the said projected portion. Besides, the open control levers can be inserted into the openings reliably in order to open them by folding the upper end of the fore side opening.

According to the prior art, a number of storage sacks are simply piled up to charge them in the storage device, it is often difficult to store them due to the dispersion. Besides, it is not easy to store or carry a number of such storage sacks before they are charged in the storage device completely. However, according to the storage device for umbrella sacks of the present invention, in which a number of storage sacks are stored, they can be charged in the storage device. In this case, it is possible to charge a large number of storage sacks at once, easily and rapidly. Besides, it is easy to store or carry many sacks before they are charged in the storage device since they are packed in one box.

In the present invention, when the said open control levers are structured as a pair of open control levers and move and rotate independently for said movable support member and when the means are structured independently for each lever as it makes said open control levers move and rotate in the direction to contact with the storage sacks charged in the storage device, said opening will be certainly open despite the misregistration that can be generated around said opening.

On the other hand, when the said open control levers are structured by bucket-shaped members formed with slippery materials such as resin materials e.g. plastic, integrally, it is preferred because the insertion of umbrellas can be done easier and with greater certainty.



Brief Description of the Drawings

The following explain the present invention on the basis of the embodiments as shown in the drawings of Figs. 1-16.

Fig. 1 is an oblique section view showing a preferred embodiment of the storage device for umbrella sacks of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view showing the embodiment in Fig. 1 in an opening state the upper cover.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal front view of the embodiment in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal side view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal side view showing the arrangement structure of a plumb that allows the movable support base to ascend.

Fig. 6 is a deal oblique section view of a pivot.

Figs. 7(a) and 7(b) are a front view and a section view respectively of the storage sack.

Figs. 8(a) to 8(c) are explanatory drawings of storing operation.

Figs. 9(a) and 9(b) are a front view and a section view respectively of the storage sack.

Fig. 10 is a visual oblique section view.

Fig. 11 is an oblique section view of the member suspending the storage sacks in order to retain them in a box.

Fig. 12 is an oblique section view showing the state of a box charging in the storage device.

Fig. 13 is an oblique section view showing the other states of the box charging in the storage device.

Figs. 14(a) and 14(b) are a plan view and a front view of a bucket-shaped member respectively.

Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 are explanatory drawings showing different phases of the storing operation.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



Preferred Embodiments

In Fig. 1 to Fig. 8, the character (1) is a quadratic prism-shaped device body in which the central front face is grooved; the case (1) is situated on a bed plate (2); a closing cover (3) is installed on top of the case (1). As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, a fixed support base (4) is mounted inside of the upper case (1); a hanger (6), which is suspended to retain storage sacks (5) formed from synthetic resin film and the like, is set on the fixed support base (4).

As shown in Fig. 2, the box type hanger (6) is comprised of a bar and the like to be formed in box type (top-open rectangle-shaped); and as shown in Fig. 5, said cover (3) is opened; a base (6a) of the box type hanger (6) is anchored to a hook (7) being mounted on the fixed support base (4); and the hanger (6) is removably installed by hitching both removable ends (6b, 6b) to the anchor holes (8a) of a support member (8) which member is fixed to the fixed support base (4).

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 7, the upper part of a storage sack (5) has an opening (5a); the upper end (51a) of the fore side (51) of the opening is folded forward or backward in a U-shape; the upper end (52a) of the rear side (52) is projected above the upper edge of the fore side (51); and a pair of locking holes (5b) are provided at the upper end of the projected portion of said rear end (52a).

As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, a number of storage sacks are suspended in order to retain them by inserting each opposing arm of the aforementioned box type hanger (6) into each locking hole (5b).

A pressure plate (9) is movably installed along a pair of guide bars (10, 10) on the rear face of storage sacks (5) and the pressure plate (9) is constantly pressed to the rear face of storage sacks (5) by a coil spring (10a) penetrating into each guide bar.

As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, a box type guide rail (13) is installed at one horizontal end of the front face of the said fixed support base (4); a support member (14) is installed at the other horizontal end of the front face of the said base (4); and a movable support base (11) is arranged on the front face of the fixed support base (4).



A rotating roller (12) , which is rotatably arranged at one end of the movable support base (11), is positioned in the guide rail (13) ; as shown in Fig. 3, a pair of long holes (16, 16) are vertically formed on the box type guide member (15) mounted on the other end of the movable support base (11) ; and the movable support base (11) is retained vertically to the fixed support base (4) by hitching a grooved roller (17) to the said support member (14).

Additionally, a pair of pulleys (18, 18) are installed vertically on said support member (14) in front of the said guide member (15) as shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 5 ; the plumb (20) is mounted by screws (20a, 20a) on one side of the tense belt (19) and rotated with both pulleys (18, 18) ; and the movable support base (11) constantly moves vertically by connecting the other side of belt (19) with connecting member (21) that is fixed to said guide member (15) using screws (21a, 21a). A stopper, which is mounted on the fixed support base (4) for anchoring the movable support base (11) at the fixed position (ascending position) as shown in Fig. 3 so as to limit the ascending motion of said movable support base (11), is not shown in the attached drawings. In Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, characters (13a) and (14a) represent stoppers respectively, which are formed by bending one end of the guide rail (13) and support member (14) in a forward direction so as to limit the descending motion of the movable support base (11).

As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, a pair of supporting shafts (23, 24) are provided on the upper central front face of the movable support base (11) through a bearing (16) . A wear plate (25), which lowers the movable support base (11) by contacting with a shoe at the edge of umbrella, is provided on a supporting shaft (23).

Concave (25a), which contacts with the shoe at the edge of the umbrella, is formed on the upper central face of the wear plate (25) ; as shown in Fig. 4, a curvature (25b) is suspended vertically from a position between the movable support base (11) and the fixed support base (4), and said curvature (25b) is provided at the rear part of the wear plate (25).

At the bottom of the curvature (25b), a roller (27) is provided through an shaft (26) anchored by welding and the like. The upper face of the wear plate can be retained horizontally by contacting the roller (27) with the front face of the fixed support base (4).



Besides, a pair of open control levers (28, 28), which open the openings by entering into the opening (5a) of the said storage sack (5), are provided on the other supporting shaft (24) to be movable in both sides of the wear plate (25); the both levers (28, 28) are connected by means of a connecting arm (29), which is fixed to upper ends of said levers by welding and the like; in addition, the pair of open control levers (28, 28) can be made as independently movable relative to the arm (29), however, an embodiment of such the movable levers (28, 28) is not shown in the present application.

As shown in Fig. 2, the structure is such that one end of the connecting arm (29) bends forward; and by mounting a plumb (30) at the end of the curvature (29a), the open control lever (28) rotates in counterclockwise direction in Fig. 4; the lower end of the lever (28) is pressed to the front face of fore-front storage sack suspended by hanger (6).

In lower curvature (29a) of said connecting arm (29), a connecting plate (31), which rotates the open control lever (28) in a clockwise direction in Fig. 4, is integrally provided on the front face of said guide rail (13).

In the aforementioned structure, upon storing an umbrella (U) in the storage sack (5), as shown in Fig. 8(a), press the umbrella (U) downward by contacting the shoe (U1) of the edge of umbrella (U) with the upper face of the concave part (25a) of the wear plate (25); and the roller (27) provided on the curvature (25b) of the wear plate (25), as shown in Fig. 8(b), moves downward together with the movable support base (11) against the ascending force power with the plumb (20), while contacting the roller (27) with the front face of the fixed support base (4) keeping the upper face of the wear plate (25) horizontal.

Accordingly, the open control lever (28) moves downward while pressing the end (28a) on the upper front face of the opening (5a) of the forefront storage sack (5); and then the end (28a) of the open control lever (28) enters the opening (5a) of the storage sack (5); in this case, should the upper part (51a) of the fore side (51) be folded as mentioned above, the end (28a) of said lever (28) can definitely enter into the opening (5a).

When the open control lever (28) further moves downward and the end (28a) is entering into the opening (5a), the front side (51) of the storage sack (5) is gradually pulled outward and forward and the upper part (51a) of the front side (51) enters into the concave area (28b) on the open control lever (28), as shown in Fig. 8(b). Simultaneously, the curvature (29a) of the connecting arm (29) contacts with the connecting plate (31).



In the same state, when the open control lever (28) further moves downward together with the movable support base (11), the open control lever (28) and the connecting arm (29) rotate in clockwise direction in Fig. 8(b) around the supporting shaft (24) against the descending force of the plumb (30); the opening (5a) of the storage sack (5) opens wide as shown in Fig. 8(c), while entering the upper part (51a) of the front side (51) of storage sack (5) into the concave area (28b) of the open control lever (28).

Simultaneously, the wear plate (25) lowers; the roller (27) provided on the curvature (25b) of the wear plate (25) is removed from the central convex (4a) (See Fig. 3) of the fixed support base (4); as shown in Fig. 8(c), the wear plate (25) sweeps back by rotating in counterclockwise direction around the supporting shaft (23); as a result, the shoe (U1) of the edge of umbrella (U) enters the storage sack (5) by slipping on the upper face of the wear plate (25) from the concave area (25a) of the wear plate (25); and finally, the umbrella (U) is automatically stored in the storage sack (5) by further lowering the umbrella (U).

The sack (5) in which the umbrella (U) is stored can easily be taken out together with the umbrella (U) by pulling it out while lowering the device body (1) to remove the upper locking holes (5b) of the storage sack (5) from the hanger (6).

Additionally, the movable support base (11) and the open control lever (28) automatically return as they are with plumbs (20, 30) by removing the umbrella (U) stored in the sack (5) forward; the roller (27) provided on the curvature (25b) of the wear plate (25) moves in front of the fixed support base (4); and the wear plate (25) returns horizontally being in a standby state.

As mentioned above, according to the present invention, umbrellas can easily be completely stored in each storage sack without using a motor or a vacuum pump to open the openings of the storage sacks.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



The aforementioned embodiment is just an example, therefore, and structural changes on the aforementioned members are possible within the purpose of the present invention. For example, in the above preferred embodiment, rollers (12, 17) and long hole (16) were applied as a means to movably retain the movable support base (11) vertically, however, there are no limits to these means. Besides, plumbs (20, 30) are applied as means to ascend the movable support base (11) and to press the open control lever (28) to storage sack (5), however, another member such as a spring can be used.

The other embodiment regarding the present invention is explained in the following, referring to Fig. 9 through Fig. 13:

Fig. 9 shows storage sack (104) applied in the embodiment. The storage sack (104) is formed from plastic film and the like to be flat cylinder-shaped; the opening (104a) is provided in the upper part of the sack. The upper part (141a) of the front side (141) of the opening (104a) is folded to the rear side in a U-shape; the upper part (142a) of the rear side (142) is projected further up than that of the front side (141); and a pair of locking holes (104b) are provided on the projected portion.

On the other hand, the aforementioned box (105), as shown in Fig. 10, is formed from corrugated fiberboard and the like and is longitudinally rectangular-shaped; a pair of bar-shaped hangers (107) are provided in the upper part inside the box (105).

A number of storage sacks (104) are suspended facing the fore side (141) on the left-hand side in Fig. 11 to retain them by mounting the hanger (107) penetrating the locking holes (104b) of said storage sacks (104) on the supporting plates (108a, 108b) anchored on the upper face inside the box (105). A pressure plate (109) is arranged on the rear side of the storage sacks (104); the pressure plate (109) presses a number of storage sacks (104) on the left-hand side in Fig. 11 by elastic members. In Fig. 11, rubber bands (110) are applied as elastic members; both ends of the rubber bands (110) are anchored to hook (181) provided horizontally at both sides of said supporting plate (108a).



As shown in Fig. 10, an opening (151) which can open along with perforating scores (105a) is provided on the front face of the box (105); the box can be transferred and stored without opening the opening (151) when it is not used. When it is used, as shown in Fig. 12, after the opening (151) is open along with the perforating scores (105a), open the switch door (106) provided on the rear side of the device body (101) to fill the box (105) which opens the opening (151) into the device body (101).

An unillustrated fixed support member is provided inside the device body on the upper part of the box (105) placed in this device body (101); the box is set in a fixed position by contacting the front side of the fixed support member with the front face of said box (105).

As shown in the aforementioned embodiment, the box (105) storing storage sacks for umbrellas is filled from the rear side to the device body (101), however, the box can be filled from the top of the device body (101) by opening the aforementioned cover (103). In addition, with regard to said box (105), it is not necessary to cover up the all faces of the box by the device body (101), as shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 12; for example, as shown in Fig. 13, a frame body (101b) can be applied as a part of the device body to fill the box (105) into the frame (101b) to determine the specified position to retain the box.

Besides, in the aforementioned embodiment it is explained that the opening (104a) of storage sack (104) is open by operating the open control levers (122), however, it can be opened by actuating vacuum suction in said prior embodiment.

Figs. 14 to 16 show the other embodiments regarding the present invention. In Figs. 14(a) and 14(b), the character (128) shows a bucket-shaped member formed from plastic integrally. Umbrellas can be inserted smoothly thanks to the shape of this member. Opening storage sacks (5) by this bucket-shaped member is shown in Figs. 15 and 16, however, a detailed explanation is skipped because the state shown in Figs. 15 and 16 is almost the same as that in Figs. 8(a) to 8(c).

This Sheet Has Been Replaced



Furthermore, instead of the above illustrated embodiment, a pair of open control levers can be structured to independently move said movable support member; and means, which moves in the direction to contact said levers with storage sacks stored in the device body, can be structured to set independently to each lever. Thus storage sacks can certainly be open even if some misregistration occurs in the opening.

Effects of the Invention

As mentioned above, the storage device for umbrella sacks of the present invention comprises: the opening of the storage sack is opened by actuating open control levers by lowering the movable support base by contacting the edge of umbrella to be stored in a sack with said wear plate; simultaneously, the umbrella is automatically inserted in the storage sack by sweeping back by rotation of said wear plate downward. Therefore, in the present invention, umbrellas can be stored in sacks with one touch of a finger without using the motor applied in the prior art. Additionally, production costs can decrease and it can be used in locations where there is no nearby power source. Furthermore there is no problem of power cords causing hindrance and no danger of short circuit. Therefore, this device is remarkably practical.

In addition, the storage sacks of the present invention have openings in the upper parts; the upper fore side of each opening is folded in a U-shape; the upper rear side is projected further than that of fore side; the upper end of the projected portion area has locking holes; thus a number of storage sacks can be suspended to retain them easily in the storage device by the cylindrical hanger passing through the locking holes. Besides, the open control levers can be inserted into the openings reliably to open them by folding the upper end of the fore side of the opening in a U-shape.

Furthermore, in the present invention, the device is structured: a number of storage sacks are stored in the device body; the openings of such sacks are open in order to store umbrellas; in this case, if the number of storage sacks to be stowed in the device are stored in a box first and the box is put into the device body, many such storage sacks can easily be stored in the device rapidly. Additionally, since many such storage sacks are stored in a box, it is easy to carry and retain them conveniently even before placing the box in the device.





CLAIMS:

(1) A storage device for umbrella sacks comprising: a device body storing a plurality of storage sacks; a movable support base arranged in the device body so as to be vertically movable; a wear plate which allows said movable support base to lower by contacting the edge of the umbrella to be stored in the sack; open control levers which open the openings of said storage sacks in connection with the descending motion of said movable support base; It is structured when the open control levers open the opening of the storage sack by lowering the movable support base by contacting said wear plate with the edge of the umbrella, and simultaneously said wear plate sweeps back by rotating downward to allow the umbrella to be inserted automatically into the storage sack.

(2) Storage sacks according to claim (1) wherein said sack has an opening in the upper part; the upper part of the fore side of the opening is folded; the upper part of the rear side projects further than that of the fore side; and locking holes are provided on the upper edge of the projected portion.

(3) A storage device for umbrella sacks according to claim (1) wherein the openings of the storage sacks are open in order to store each umbrella; a number of storage sacks to be stored in the device body are firstly stored in a box; then the box is stored in the device body.

(4) A storage device for umbrella sacks according to claim (3) wherein said storage sacks are suspended to retain them by applying hanger in said box.

(5) A storage device for umbrella sacks according to claim (1) or (3) wherein said open control levers are comprised of bucket-shaped member integrally.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

