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(54) **BUILDING-SIDING HANGER AND SUPPORT DEVICE**

**Publication Classification**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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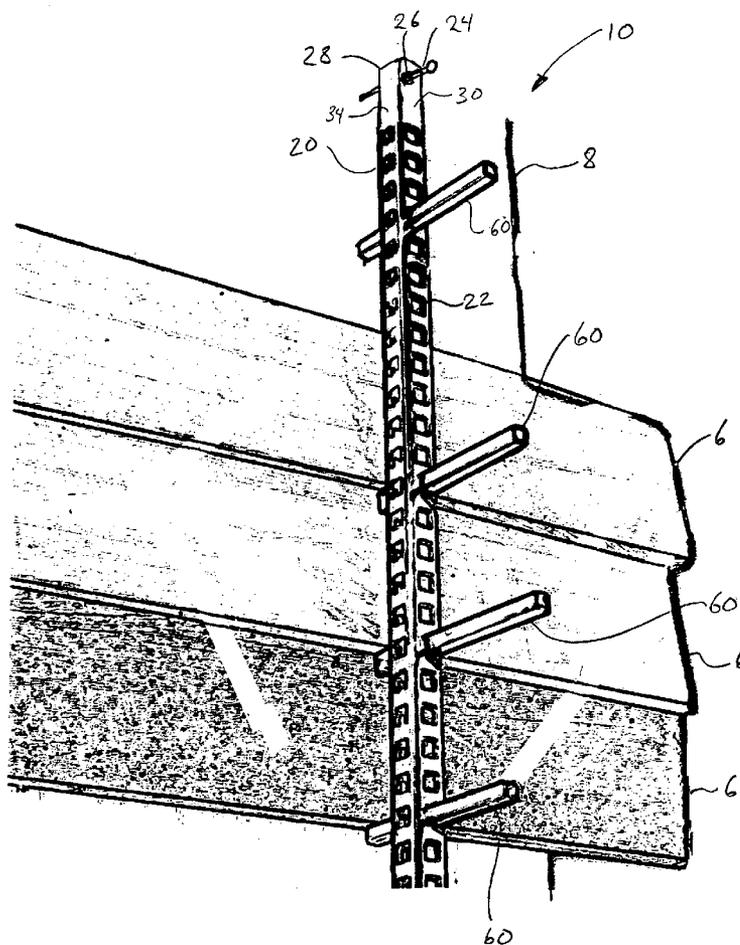
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Apparatus for supporting an object for attachment to a substantially vertical surface. The apparatus comprises at least two elongate columns having a plurality of apertures. The columns are securable in parallel, spaced apart relation to the surface. Support members are insertable through the apertures of each of the columns, the support members being operable to receive and support the object for attachment to the surface between the columns and the surface. The apparatus finds particular application in supporting siding for installation on a building. The apparatus allows for a single worker to perform the installation and is capable of reliably handling newer, heavier fiber-cement composite material siding. The apparatus also finds application in the installation of drywall panels. The apparatus can also be used as a modular shelving system.

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/154,411, filed on Jun. 15, 2005, now abandoned.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/600,361, filed on Aug. 11, 2004.



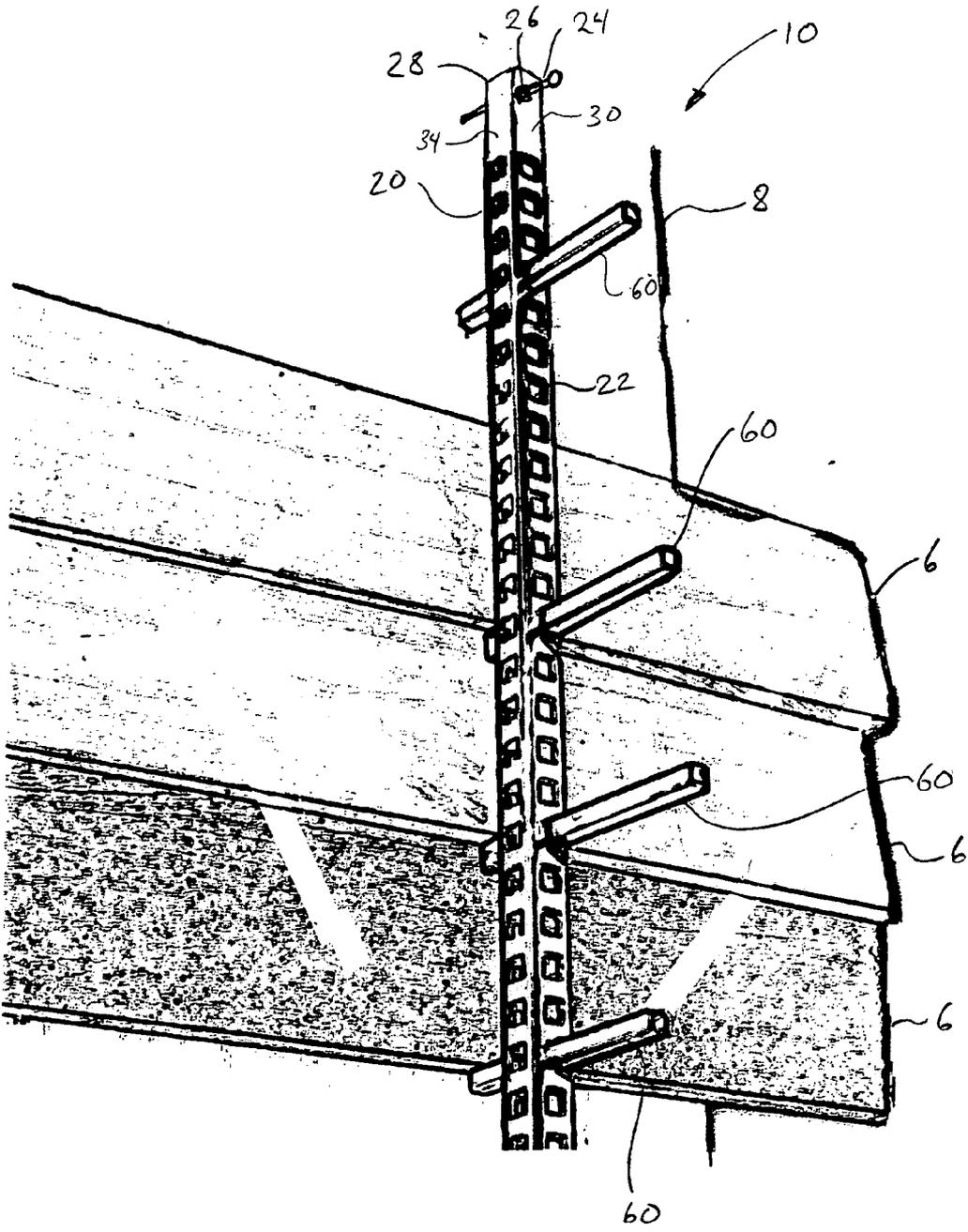


Fig. 1

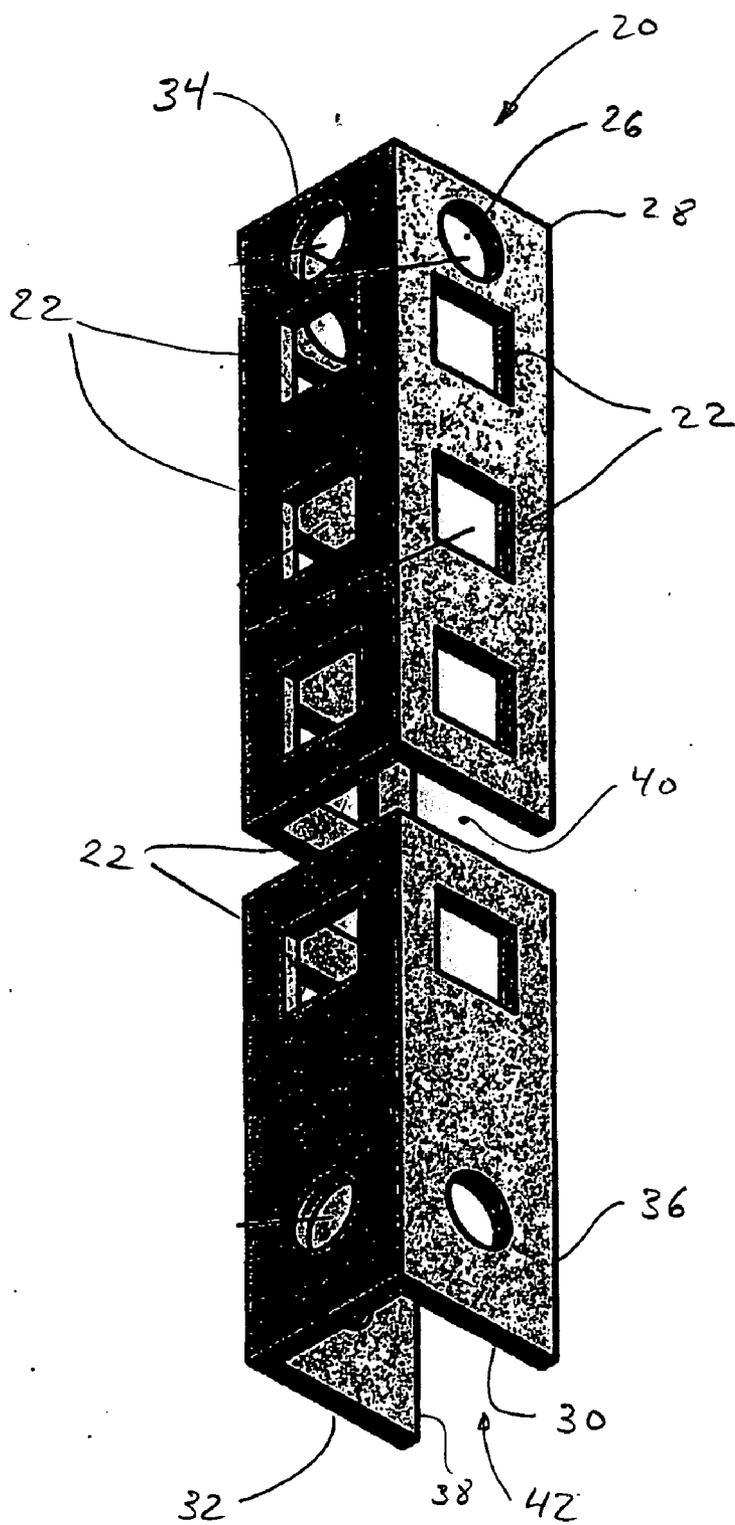


Fig 2.

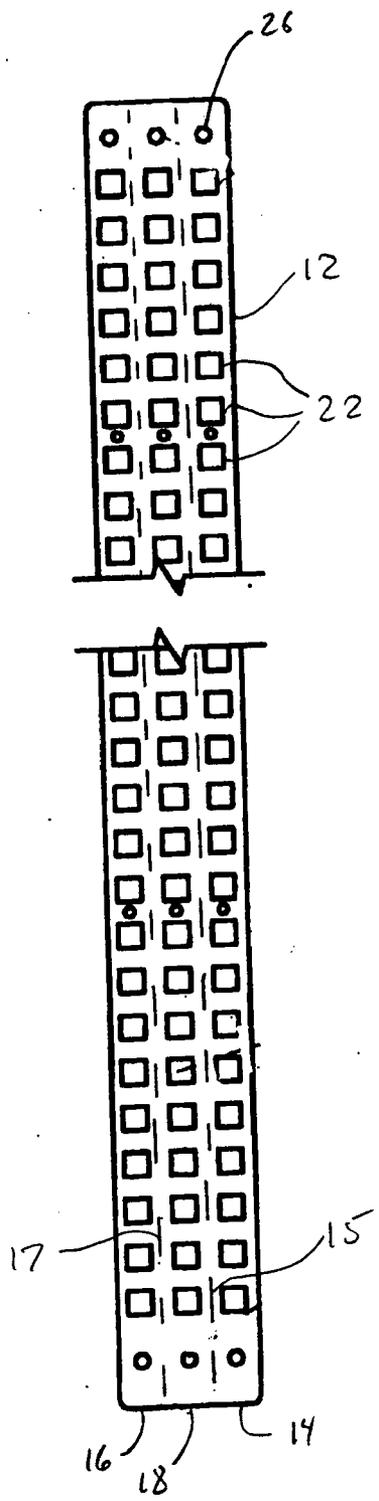


Fig. 3

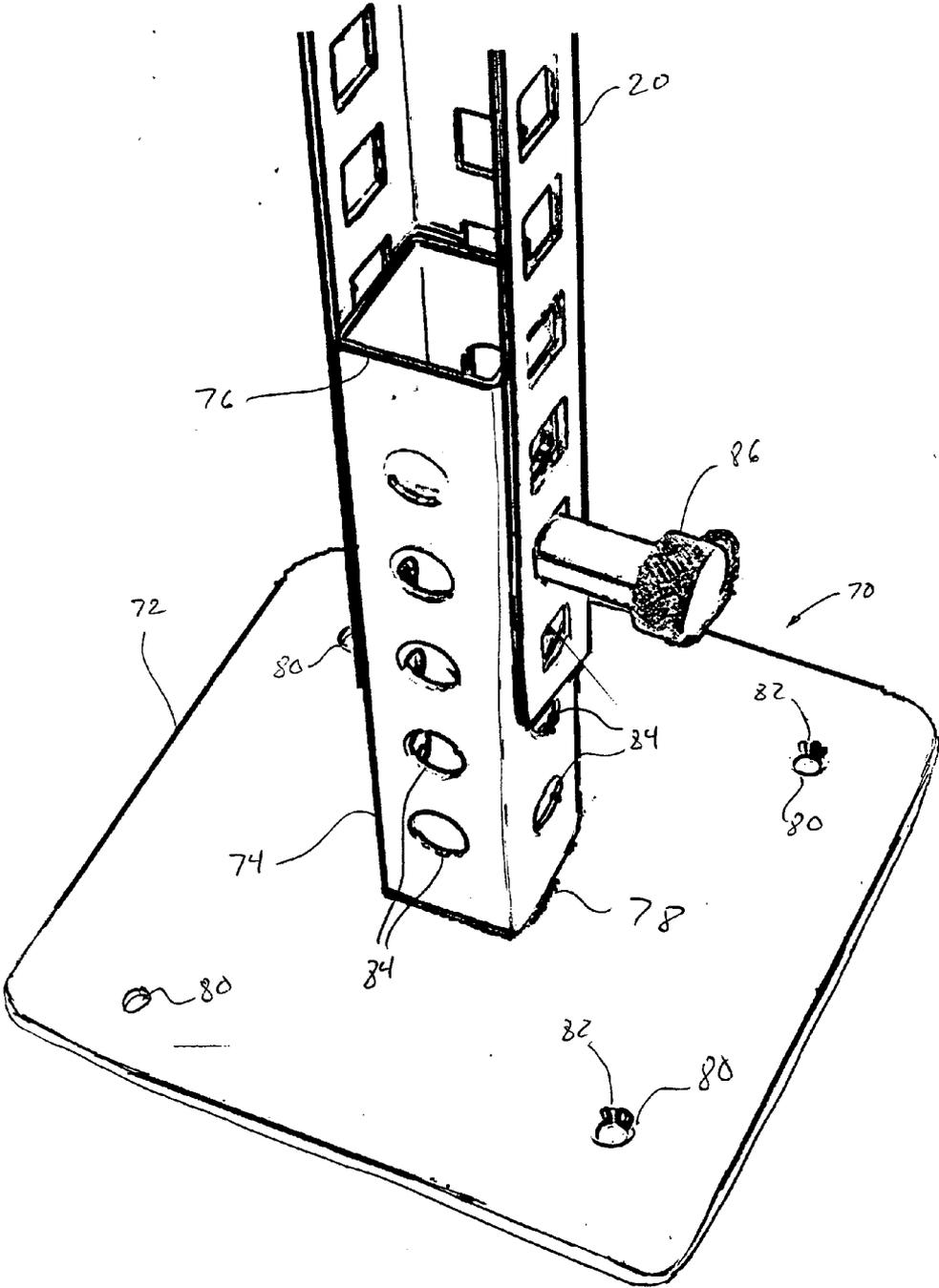


Fig 4

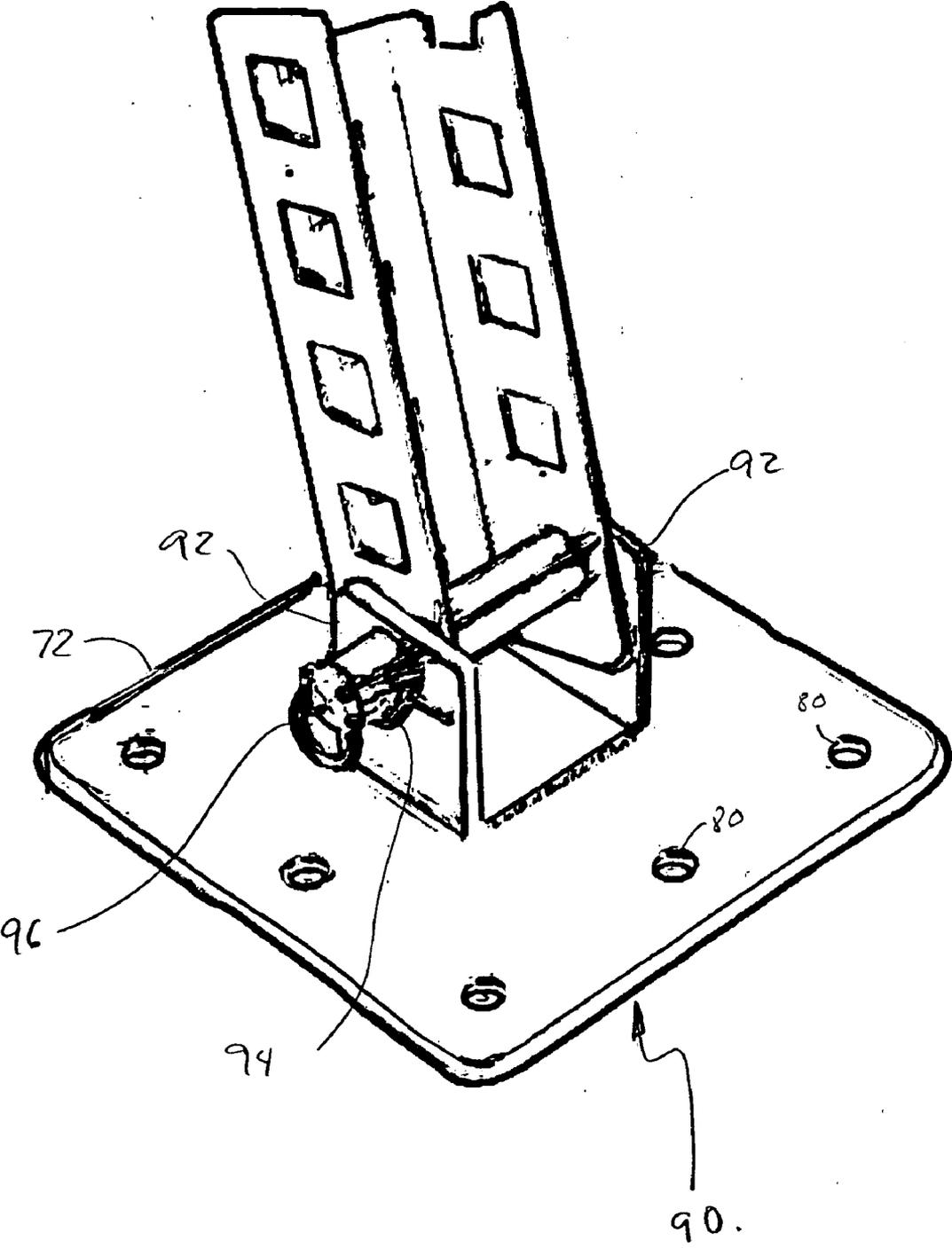


Fig 5

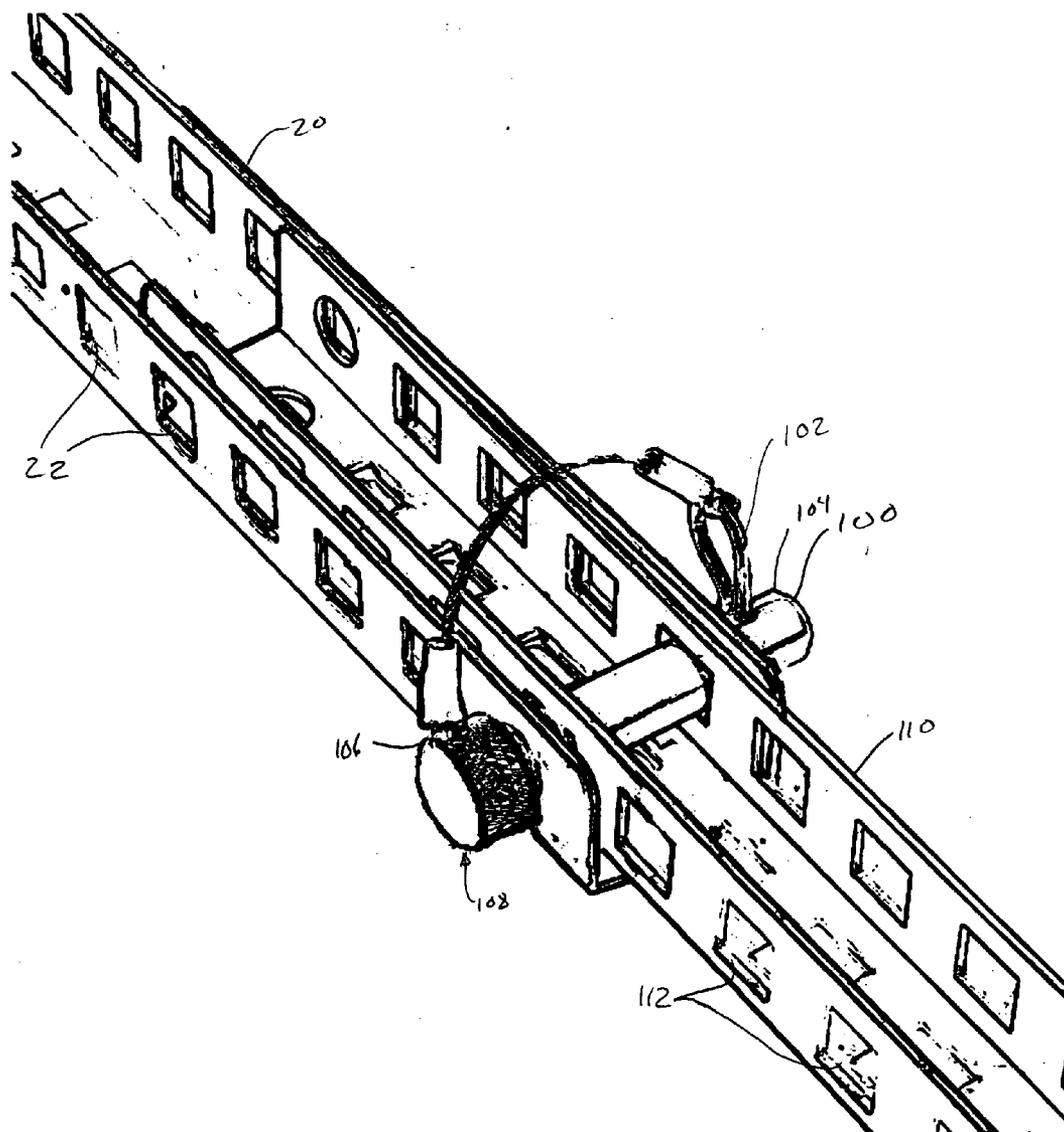


Fig 6

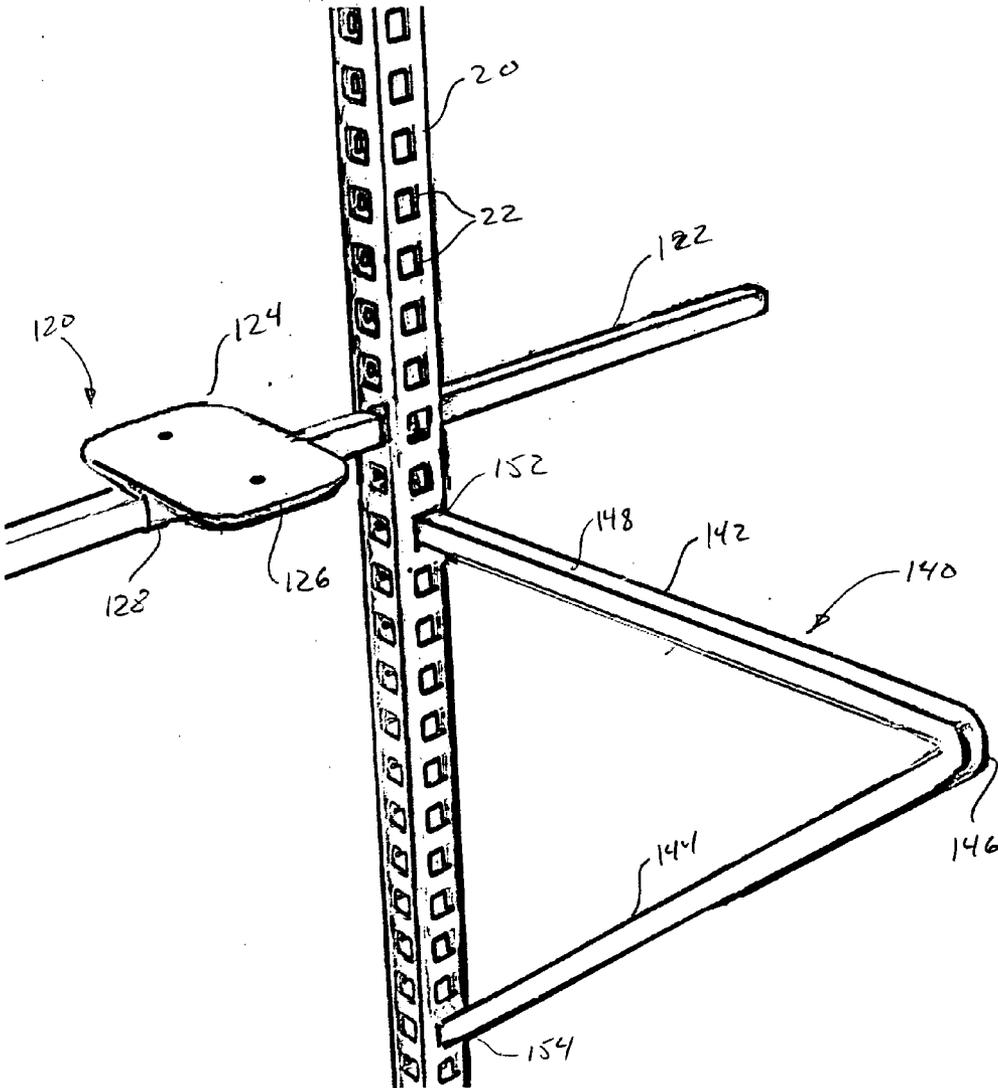


Fig 7

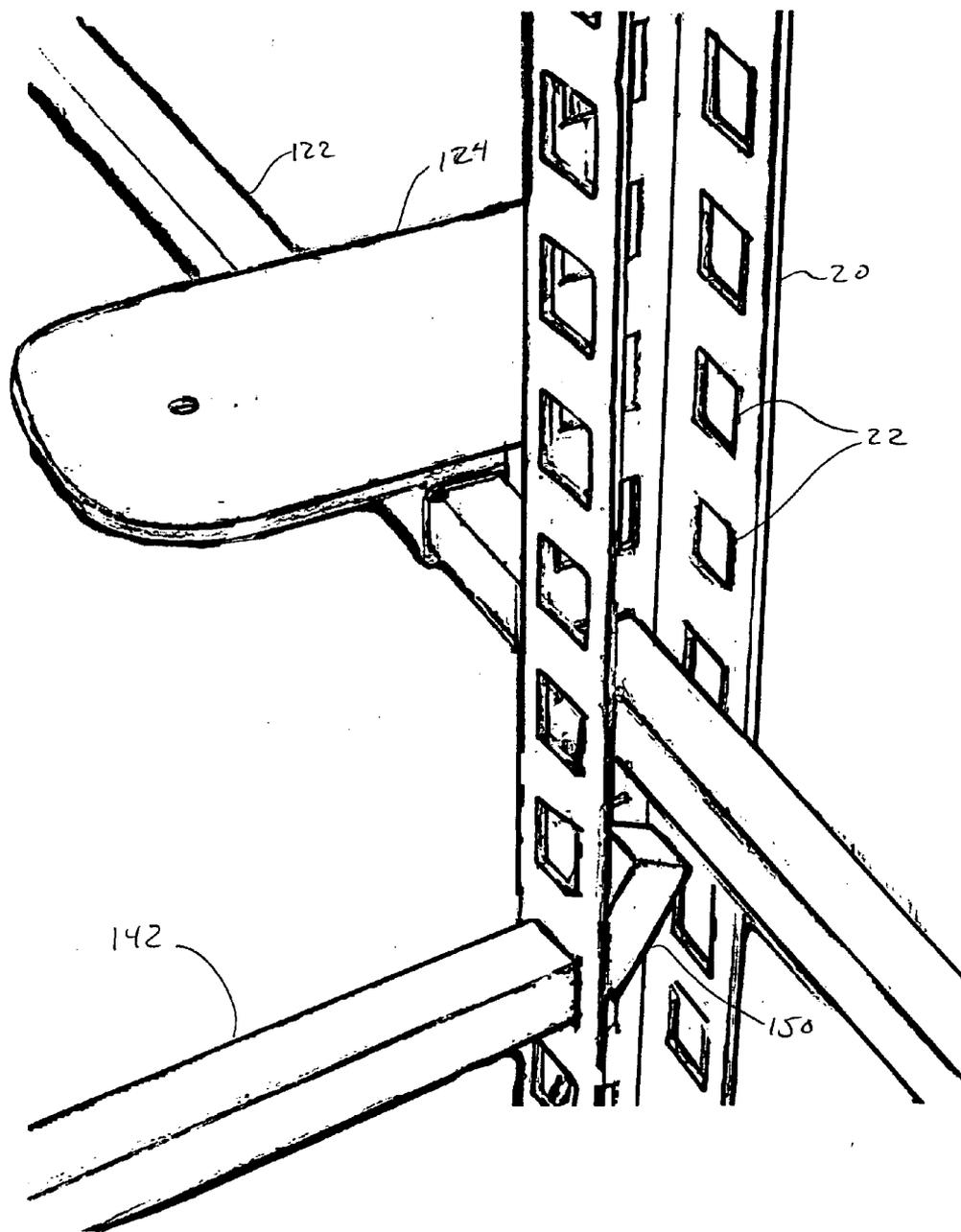


Fig. 8



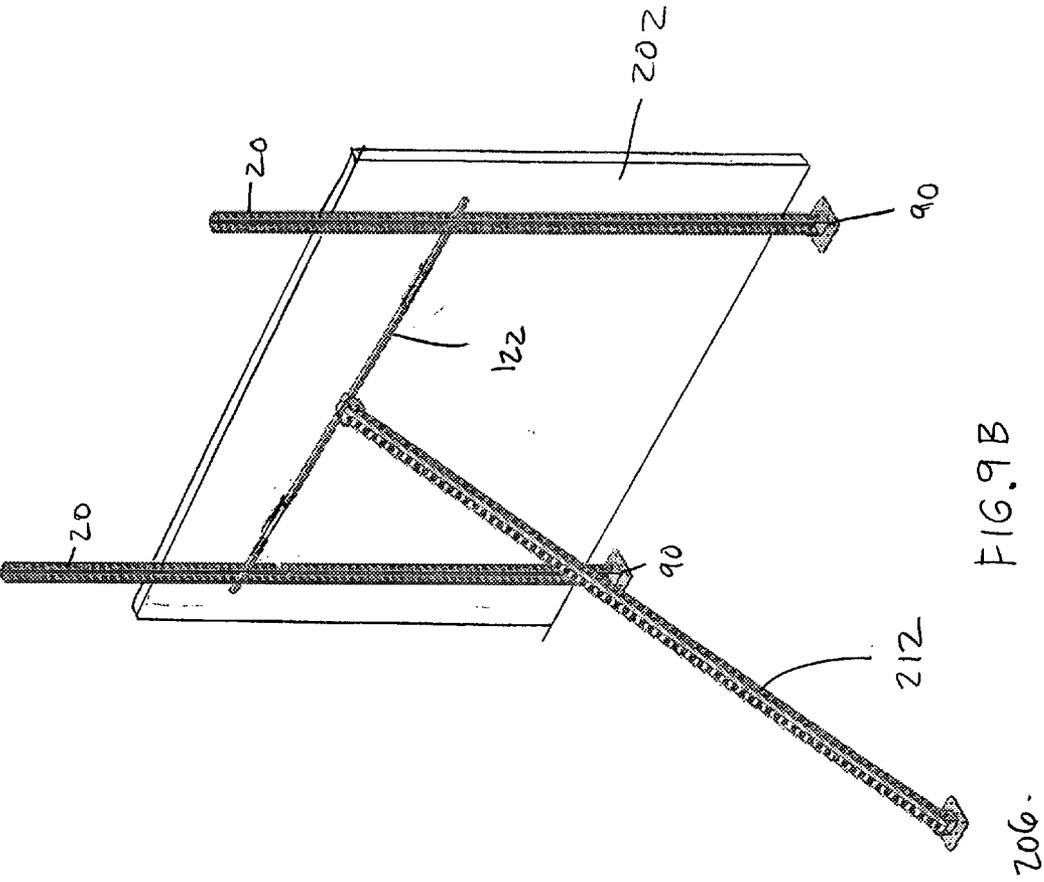


FIG. 9B

## BUILDING-SIDING HANGER AND SUPPORT DEVICE

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of prior application Ser. No. 11/154,411 filed on Jun. 15, 2005 which claims priority to prior provisional application Ser. No. 60/600,361 filed Aug. 11, 2004 both of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### [0002] 1. Field of Invention

[0003] The present application relates to an apparatus for supporting an object, and in particular, to a method and apparatus for supporting a construction element such as a drywall panel or a siding member for application to a mounting surface. The apparatus of the present invention also finds use as a free-standing or hanging shelving unit.

#### [0004] 2. Description of Related Art

[0005] Siding is typically applied to a building for the purposes of protecting the building from the environment as well as for aesthetic reasons. Many types of siding are provided in the form of sheets or strips that must be secured to the exterior surface of the building, typically by lapping successively higher sheets or strips above corresponding lower sheets or strips. Newer types of siding have been introduced comprised of a fiber-cement composite material. These fiber-cement siding elements are typically heavier than traditional wood or vinyl siding elements.

[0006] In the case of drywall panels, the panels are generally applied to the exterior of an internal open frame structure (often formed from wooden members) to quickly establish walls and ceilings.

[0007] Traditionally two installation workers have been required to position siding, boards, panels, or the like, on a building. One installer secures one end while the other levels to the first secure fixing. This process is repeated for each successive level or layer. Subsequent differential levels or layers of siding are determined and achieved through use of a level and rule. The use of two installation workers is both more inefficient and more expensive than using a single installation worker. The traditional process also requires that the position of each siding element be measured individually. This repetitive measuring is time consuming.

[0008] A similar situation arises in the installation of drywall panels. While drywalling does not generally involve the same attention to measuring and aligning, it often requires lifting and holding in place by one worker as another worker fastens the panel to the underlying frame structure.

[0009] In order to reduce inefficient use of manpower, various tools have been developed which allow a single installer to install a sheet of siding. Various other tools have also been designed which allow the support of multiple siding elements for attachment to the building. However, for various reasons, these tools have not gained widespread acceptance.

[0010] Some devices have been developed which support a siding element from a previously applied siding element.

Examples of such devices may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,522,149 to Meyer; U.S. Pat. No. 4,484,392 to Defino et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,848,192 to Partin; U.S. Pat. No. 4,159,029 to Matthews; U.S. Pat. No. 4,425,714 to Kelly, Jr.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,434,853 to Pyburn; U.S. Pat. No. 5,623,767 to Colavito; U.S. Pat. No. 5,370,377 to Van Der Meer; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,473,100 to Wheeler. These devices remove the need for a second installer but still requires the individual installer to return to the device in order to remove and reposition the device for each subsequent board.

[0011] Other tools have been developed which are limited by their requirement to either clamp to, abut to, or affix to existing boards, studs or panels that have already been fixed in position. Examples of such devices may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 6,705,021 to Nadal et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,311 to Paquin; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,155,175 to Stiles. These devices still require the individual installer to return to the device in order to remove and reposition the device for each subsequent board.

[0012] Several devices have been developed which permit multiple siding panels to be positioned with a single application of the device. Examples of such devices may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,319,909 to Singleterry; U.S. Pat. No. 4,862,669 to Jacobsen and U.S. Pat. No. 4,899,459 to Taggart. The Taggart device affixes the supporting column to the building where the device remains, even after construction. This device is therefore wasteful as it is only intended to be used one time.

[0013] Many of these devices are also not readily adaptable for use with siding elements of varying widths or with heavier siding elements. For example, Singleterry includes fixed support surfaces and does not therefore permit the use with siding elements of differing widths. In addition, although Jacobsen allows for the siding supports to be adjusted, such adjustment is achieved with slots and thumb-screws. Such a method of adjustment suffers from the necessity and difficulties of accurate measurement when adjusting so as to ensure correct siding placement.

[0014] The device of Jacobsen which relies on thumb-screws to position the siding supports is not a secure support for heavier siding elements such as fiber-cement boards. The device of Jacobsen also requires an established board in order to be utilized. This device is held in place only by friction behind a first siding board which prevents its use for supporting heavy siding elements such as fiber-cement boards.

[0015] What is desirable is a method and apparatus for supporting construction elements such as siding or drywall panels for application to a building or other surface. The method and apparatus would preferably permit installation of the construction elements by a single user. The method and apparatus would desirably have the ability to support multiple siding elements and have the ability to support heavier siding elements such as fiber-cement siding. The apparatus would also be desirably useful as a modular shelving system.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0016] Accordingly, the present invention provides apparatus for supporting an object for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising:

[0017] at least two elongate columns having a plurality of apertures, said columns being securable in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface; and

[0018] support members passable through said apertures of each of said columns, said support members being operable to receive and support said object for attachment to the surface between said columns and the surface.

[0019] The present invention also provides apparatus for supporting siding for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising an elongate column being securable in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface, the column having a plurality of apertures for receiving a support member for supporting the siding.

[0020] The present invention also provides apparatus for supporting objects, the apparatus comprising an elongate column, the column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures for receiving a support member therethrough.

[0021] In a further aspect, the present invention provides apparatus for supporting siding for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising:

[0022] at least two elongate columns, each column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures therethrough; and

[0023] at least two support members receivable in said apertures.

[0024] The present invention also provides a modular shelving system comprising:

[0025] at least two elongates columns, each column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures;

[0026] an elongate bar extending between said at least two columns receivable in said apertures; and

[0027] at least one support plate pivotally fixed on said elongate bar.

[0028] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of attaching siding to a substantially vertical surface, the method comprising:

[0029] securing at least two elongate supports in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface, said elongate channels having a plurality of apertures;

[0030] passing a support pin through an apertures of each of said elongate supports; and

[0031] locating a siding element for attachment to the surface on said support pins between said elongate supports and the surface.

[0032] In a still further aspect, the present invention provides a method of attaching a sheet of material to a substantially vertical surface, the method comprising:

vertical position, said elongate support defining a support surface for the sheet of material;

[0034] loading the sheet of material onto the support surface when in the generally horizontal position;

[0035] pivoting the elongate support to the generally vertical position to position the sheet of material adjacent the substantially vertical surface; and

[0036] attaching the sheet of material to the substantially vertical surface.

[0037] Other aspects and features of the present invention will become apparent to those ordinarily skilled in the art upon review of the following description of specific embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0038] In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention,

[0039] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the present invention for supporting siding elements for securement to a surface;

[0040] FIG. 2 is a detailed perspective view of the column of FIG. 1;

[0041] FIG. 3 is a plan view of a sheet of material used to form the column of FIG. 1;

[0042] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a footing or bottom plate for use with the column of FIG. 1;

[0043] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a pivotable footing or bottom plate for use with the column of FIG. 1;

[0044] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a pin for connecting consecutively nested columns of FIG. 1;

[0045] FIG. 7 is a perspective view of shelving brackets for use with the column of FIG. 1;

[0046] FIG. 8 is a perspective view of shelving brackets for use with the column of FIG. 1 showing securing upturned portions; and

[0047] FIGS. 9A and 9B are schematic views showing an embodiment of the present invention being used to install drywall panels.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0048] Referring to FIG. 1, an apparatus according to a first embodiment of the invention for supporting siding elements 6 adjacent to a surface 8 is shown generally at 10. The apparatus comprises an elongate column 20 and a plurality of support members 60. The elongate column 20 includes a plurality apertures 22 through which the support members 60 extend for supporting the siding elements 6 between the column 20 and the surface 8. The column may be located relative to the surface and secured thereto by passing a spike 24 or other suitable fastener through a fastener aperture 26 at a top distal end 28 of the column 20.

[0049] Now turning to FIG. 2, there is shown a detailed perspective view of the elongate column 20. The elongate column according to a first embodiment of the present invention comprises an extended member having first, sec-

ond and third sides, **30**, **32** and **34**, respectively. First and second sides **30** and **32** each include a free distal edge **36** and **38**, respectively, and are connected to each other by the third side **34**. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the first, second and third sides **30**, **32** and **34** may form a c-shaped channel defining an interior region **40** and having an opening indicated generally at **42**. The first and second sides **30** and **32** may be parallel to each other where the interior region **40** may be rectangular or square in cross-section.

[0050] First and second sides **30** and **32** each include a plurality of apertures **22** adapted to receive support members **60**. The apertures **22** on the first and second sides **30** and **32** may be arranged to align with each other such that a single support member **60** may be passed through a pair of corresponding apertures **22** at a right angle to the column **20**. The third side **34** of the column may also include apertures **22** that are arranged in planar alignment with corresponding apertures **22** of the first and second sides **30** and **32**.

[0051] As shown in FIG. 2, the apertures **22** may be a substantially square shape. It will be appreciated that other shapes may also be used such as, for example, rectangular, circular, triangular or any other suitable shape. The apertures **22** may be regularly spaced along the length of the column **20** at distances corresponding to commonly used spacing for siding. For example, the apertures **22** may be spaced along the column at intervals of one inch between centers of adjacent apertures.

[0052] The column **20** may be formed from a sheet of material **12** as shown in FIG. 3. The sheet of material is an elongated rectangular sheet of material that may have apertures **22** stamped or cut out in a regular array. The sheet material may be a sheet metal, although it will be appreciated that the sheet may be formed from other materials such as, for example plastic for use with lighter types of siding. The sheet of material **12** generally consists of first second and third rectangular regions **14**, **16** and **18**, respectively, extending the length thereof. The first second and third regions **14**, **16** and **18** are defined by boundaries **15** and **17** as shown. The sheet of material **12** may be bent or folded along the boundaries **15** and **17** such that first, second and third regions **14**, **16** and **18**, respectively, of the sheet **12** form first, second and third sides **30**, **32** and **34**, respectively of the column. It will also be appreciated that first, second and third sides **30**, **32** and **34** of the column may be formed separately and connected to each other, for example by welding.

[0053] Referring back to FIG. 1, the support members **60** comprise an elongate bar adapted to be received through the apertures **22** of the column **20**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the support members **60** may include a square cross section corresponding to the shape of the aperture **22**. It will be appreciated, however, that other cross-sectional shapes of support members **60** will be appropriate for different shapes of the apertures **22**.

[0054] As previously described, the column **20** may be located and secured in parallel, spaced-apart relation to a surface **8** by passing a spike or other suitable fastener **24** through fastener apertures **26**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the column may be oriented such that opening **42** is oriented parallel to the surface **8** wherein second side **32** is positioned adjacent and parallel to the surface. In this orientation, the spike **24** will pass through the fastener apertures **26** of both the fastener apertures **26** of the first and second sides **30** and

**32**. Passing the spike **24** through a pair of spaced apart fastener apertures in the column **20** serves to limit rotation of the column relative to the surface and maintain the column in a parallel spaced-apart relation to the surface. In addition, when in this orientation, the support members **60** will pass through the corresponding apertures **22** of the first and second sides **30** and **32** of the column **20**. Passing the support members **60** through a pair of spaced apart apertures in the column serves to prevent rotation of the support members when a load of a siding element is applied to them.

[0055] Now referring to FIG. 4, a footing or bottom plate **70** for use with the column **20** is illustrated. The bottom plate **70** may comprise a plate portion **72** and a stand portion **74**. The plate portion **72** comprises a substantially flat plate affixed to the proximate end **78** of the stand portion **74**. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the plate portion **72** has a substantially square shape, although it will be appreciated that other shapes will be useful as well. The plate portion also includes bolt holes **80** through which bolts **82** or other suitable fasteners may be passed for securing the bottom plate **70** to a floor or other surface.

[0056] The stand portion **74** comprises an elongate member having a free distal end **76** and a proximate end **78** normally affixed to the plate portion **72**. Stand portion **74** is adapted to be received within the interior region **40** of the column. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the stand portion **74** has a square cross section to correspond to the interior region **40** illustrated in FIG. 1. It will be appreciated that for different shapes of interior regions, different shapes of stand portions will be appropriate. The stand portion **74** also includes a plurality of connecting holes **84** through which a pin **86** may be passed. The pin **86** may also pass through the apertures **22** of the column **20** so as to affix the stand portion **74** to the column.

[0057] Now referring to FIG. 5, an alternative pivotable embodiment **90** of the footing or bottom plate is shown. The pivotable bottom plate **90** comprises a plate portion **72** and a pair of spaced, parallel uprights **92**. The uprights **92** each include a bore **94** through which a pin **96** may be passed. The pin **96** may also pass through the bottom most apertures of the column so as to pivotally connect the column to the plate. Pivotable bottom plate **90** finds particular application in an arrangement of the column structure **20** that is useful for positioning and installing sheet material, such as drywall panels, to a surface as will be described in more detail below in conjunction with FIGS. 9A and 9B.

[0058] It will be appreciated that the footings or bottom plates described herein may also be used as top plates for securing the column to an upper surface, such as a ceiling, with the top plate anchored to the upper surface, and the column suspended below the top plate for pivotal movement about pin **96**.

[0059] Now referring to FIG. 6, first and second nested columns **20** and **110** are shown connected by a connecting pin **100**. The second column **110** may be sized such that it is receivable within the interior region **40** of the first column such that the apertures **112** of the second column align with the apertures **22** of the first column **20**. The connecting pin **100** may thereafter be passed through the aligned apertures so as to connect the first and second columns **20** and **110**, respectively. The connection illustrated in FIG. 6 may facilitate the creation of longer lengths of column from shorter

standardized lengths for use on higher surfaces. The connecting pin **100** may also include a cotter pin **102** at a distal end **104** and a flanged surface **106** at a proximate end **108** so as to retain the pin through all of the apertures. It will be appreciated that the pins **86** and **96** as illustrated in FIGS. **4** and **5**, respectively, may also include these features.

[0060] Now referring to FIG. **7**, an alternative embodiment of the present invention is shown in which the column **20** may be used as a modular shelving system. As illustrated in FIG. **7**, the shelving system may include an intermediate shelving element **120** or a shelving bracket **140**. Boards or other shelving surfaces, such as glass pieces, (not shown) may then be placed upon the intermediate shelving element **120** or shelving bracket **140**. The intermediate shelving element **120** comprises a spanning bar **122** and a shelving plate **124**. Spanning bar **122** comprises an elongate bar that extends between a first and second column between which the shelf is supported extend. Shelving plate **124** comprises a surface to provide additional lateral support to the shelving surface and to provide a location for anchoring of the shelving surface as described in more detail below. The spanning bar **122** has a cross section adapted to correspond to the opening shape of the apertures **22** of the columns **20**.

[0061] The shelving plate **124** comprises a substantially flat upper plate **126** and a sleeve portion **128**. The sleeve portion has an internal opening having a cross section corresponding to the spanning bar **122** so as to be slidably received thereon. The sleeve portion **128** is furthermore rotationally fixed relative to the spanning bar **122** to as to prevent rotation of the spanning bar. Upper plate **126** is secured to and above the sleeve portion **128** and thereby forms a flat upper surface on which shelves or other objects may be placed. The upper plate **126** may also include holes **130** through which fasteners may be passed to secure selves or other object to the upper plate. It will be appreciated that the holes **130** may be threaded so as to enable bolts connected to an object to be secured to the upper plate to be secured in to.

[0062] The shelving bracket **140** comprises a cantilevered member **142** and an angled member **144** each connected to each other at a distal end **146** thereof. The cantilevered member **142** and angled member **144** may be formed of a continuous element wherein the element is bent to form the distal end **146**. The cantilevered member **142** and angled member may also be formed of two separate elements and joined or fastened to each other at the distal end **146**, for example by welding. The cantilevered member **142** and the angled members each include a proximate end **152** and **154** respectively which may be received in the apertures **22** of the column. The cantilevered member includes an upper support surface **148** for receiving a shelf or other supported object. The cantilevered member and angled member may each also include an upturned portion **150** as illustrated in FIG. **8**. As illustrated in FIGS. **7** and **8**, the shelving bracket may have a cross section corresponding to the shape of the apertures **22**.

[0063] The modular shelving system as illustrated in FIGS. **7** and **8** may also include either of the bottom or top plates or both in accordance with the preceding description as well as a connecting pin to connect successive nested columns. In other words, columns **20** supporting shelf surfaces may be mounted to the floor via a bottom plate or

may be suspended from the ceiling. For the most secure and stable arrangement, columns **20** can extend between a lower floor surface and an upper ceiling surface with both ends of the columns being anchored by plates. The modular shelving system may also be used with the pivotable plates shown in FIG. **5** to permit the columns to be anchored to a non-horizontal top or bottom surface while maintaining a generally vertical orientation of the columns.

[0064] It will be appreciated that the shelving bracket **140** and the intermediate shelving element **120** may also be utilized with the column for supporting siding for attachment to a surface. In this use, the shelving bracket **140** and the intermediate shelving element **120** may be used to either support siding materials or to provide a surface for an installation worker to stand.

#### Operation

[0065] In use as a tool for putting up siding, the apparatus is aligned with the building surface **8** to be covered and a fastener **24**, such as a spike, is passed through the fastener apertures **26** of a top distal portion of column **20** into surface **8** such that the column is suspended in parallel, space apart relation out from surface **8**. As best shown in FIG. **1**, support members **60** are then positioned through the apertures **22** in readiness to receive and support building siding elements **6** or the like. The supported siding elements **6** may then be positioned between the column **20** and the surface **8** upon the support members **60**. Multiple support members may be passed through different sets of apertures **22** of the column **20** so as to permit the support of multiple siding elements **6** for securing to the surface **8** without requiring the removal or repositioning of the column **20**. Either a single column **20** may be used which will require support at the other end of the siding elements **6** being applied, or two columns can be used which will allow the siding elements **6** to be fully supported. The lower end of each column **20** may also be supported by a footing or bottom plate as illustrated in FIG. **4** or **5**.

[0066] In use as a tool for applying sheet material, such as drywall panels, to a surface, the apparatus is most efficiently arranged and used in the following manner as best shown in FIGS. **9A** and **9B**. A support framework **200** for a drywall panel **202** to be installed on a surface, such as a conventional wood or steel framing structure **204**, is created from a pair of spaced columns **20** connected by a spanning bar **122** inserted through the apertures in the columns to co-ordinate movement of the columns. Each column **20** is connected to a pivoting bottom plate **90** as illustrated in FIG. **5**. Bottom plates **90** may simply rest on floor surface **206** in proximity to wood framing structure **204** or the plates may be anchored to the floor surface. The pair of columns define a surface which can be pivoted from a loading position with the columns parallel to the floor to an installation position with the columns at generally right angles to the floor. A drywall panel **202** can be readily maneuvered by a user on top of the columns when the columns are in the generally horizontal loading position parallel to the floor. Drywall panel **202** is illustrated in FIG. **9A** in dashed lines to show the orientation and details of the underlying support framework **200** in the loading position. A user then applies a lifting force to spanning bar **122** to lift framework **200** and supported drywall panel **202** up from panel loading position at the floor to the generally vertical installation position adjacent fram-

ing 204 by pivoting of the columns at bottom plates 90. This movement is shown by arrow 210 in FIG. 9A. As best shown in FIG. 9B, when in the installation position, the drywall panel 202 is held in place against the framing to allow conventional fasteners to be applied through the panel and into the framing to fix the panel in place. An anchoring member 212 in the form of a column can be installed between spanning bar 122 and floor 206 to ensure that the support framework is locked in the installation position.

[0067] Support bars 60 (FIG. 9A) inserted into column apertures may be used to support the lower edge of the drywall panel on the framework 200 so that the panel can be installed at a level higher than floor level.

[0068] In an alternative arrangement for installing smaller sheets of material, a single column 20 mounted to a single pivoting bottom plate 90 may be used to support the sheet. If necessary, at least one spanning bar 122 inserted through the apertures of the column to protrude from either side of the column can be used to define a larger surface to support the rear face of the sheet to stabilize the sheet on the column. In this arrangement, a lifting force is applied to the column directly to pivot between the loading and installation positions.

[0069] While the foregoing description of the structure and operation of support framework 200 deals with installation of a drywall panel, it will be readily apparent to a skilled worker that the framework may be used with any sheet material such as plywood, glass or the like.

[0070] While specific embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated, such embodiments should be considered illustrative of the invention only and not as limiting the invention as construed in accordance with the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for supporting an object for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising:

at least two elongate columns having a plurality of apertures, said columns being securable in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface; and

support members passable through said apertures of each of said columns, said support members being operable to receive and support said object for attachment to the surface between said columns and the surface.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a fastener, wherein said elongate columns further include a fastener apertures located at a top distal end through which said fastener may be passed to secure said column in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said fastener comprises a spike.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said column has a c-shaped cross section.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said c-shaped cross section defines a substantially rectangular region wherein said column has two opposed walls.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said two opposed walls are parallel.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said c-shaped cross section defines a substantially square region.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein each of said two opposed walls includes corresponding apertures adapted to receive a common support member therethrough.

9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein two opposed walls are joined by a connecting wall.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said connecting wall includes apertures in planar alignment with the apertures of said opposed walls.

11. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said plurality of apertures are substantially rectangular.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said plurality of apertures are substantially square.

13. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said apertures are regularly spaced along the length of said column.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 including a plate releasably securable to at least one end of said column to support said column.

15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support members comprise elongate bars having cross-sections corresponding to said apertures of said column.

16. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of nested columns securable to each other in a plurality of lengths.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein apertures of an inner nested column are alignable with apertures of an outer nested column such that said nested columns may be secured to each other by passing a pin through said aligned apertures.

18. Apparatus for supporting siding for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising an elongate column being securable in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface, the column having a plurality of apertures for receiving a support member for supporting the siding.

19. Apparatus for supporting objects, the apparatus comprising an elongate column, the column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures for receiving a support member therethrough.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 further including a fastener aperture located at a top distal end through which a fastener may be passed to secure said column in parallel spaced apart relation to a surface.

21. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said column has a c-shaped cross section.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said c-shaped cross section defines a substantially rectangular region wherein said column has two opposed walls.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said two opposed walls are parallel.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said c-shaped cross section defines a substantially square region.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein two opposed walls are joined by a connecting wall.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said connecting wall includes apertures in planar alignment with the apertures of said opposed walls.

27. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said plurality of apertures are substantially rectangular.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said plurality of apertures are substantially square.

29. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said apertures are regularly spaced along the length of said column.

30. The apparatus of claim 19 including a plate releasably securable to at least one end of said column to support said column.

31. The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising a plurality of nested columns securable to each other in a plurality of lengths.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein apertures of an inner nested column are alignable with apertures of an outer nested column such that said nested columns may be secured to each other by passing a pin through said aligned apertures.

33. Apparatus for supporting siding for attachment to a substantially vertical surface, the apparatus comprising:

at least two elongate columns, each column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures therethrough; and

at least two support members receivable in said apertures.

34. A modular shelving system comprising:

at least two elongates columns, each column having two opposed walls, each of said two opposed walls having a plurality of corresponding apertures;

an elongate bar extending between said at least two columns receivable in said apertures; and

at least one support plate pivotally fixed on said elongate bar.

35. The modular shelving system of claim 34 further comprising a cantilever bracket for supporting a shelf.

36. The modular shelving system of claim 35 wherein said cantilever bracket comprises a first portion having distal and proximate ends, said first portion being perpendicular to said column and a second portion angularly extending from said distal end of said first portion to said column.

37. The modular shelving system of claim 36 wherein said first portion includes an upturned portion at said proximate end operable to retain said first portion in engagement in one of said apertures of said column.

38. The modular shelving system of claim 37 wherein said second portion includes an upturned portion to operable to retain said second portion in engagement in one of said apertures of said column.

39. The modular shelving system of claim 34 further comprising bottom plates securable to a bottom end of said column.

40. The modular shelving system of claim 39 wherein said bottom plates include holes through which fasteners may be passed for securing said bottom plates to a floor surface.

41. The modular shelving system of claim 39 wherein said bottom plates are fixedly connectable to said columns.

42. The modular shelving system of claim 39 wherein said bottom plates are pivotally connectable to said columns.

43. The modular shelving system of claim 34 further comprising top plates securable to a top end of said column.

44. The modular shelving system of claim 43 wherein said top plates include holes through which fasteners may be passed for securing said top plates to a ceiling surface.

45. The modular shelving system of claim 43 wherein said top plates are fixedly connectable to said columns.

46. The modular shelving system of claim 39 wherein said top plates are pivotally connectable to said columns.

47. A method of attaching siding to a substantially vertical surface, the method comprising:

securing at least two elongate supports in parallel spaced apart relation to the surface, said elongate supports having a plurality of apertures;

passing a support pin through an apertures of each of said elongate supports; and

locating a siding element for attachment to the surface on said support pins between said elongate supports and the surface.

48. A method of attaching a sheet of material to a substantially vertical surface, the method comprising:

securing at least one elongate support adjacent to the substantially vertical surface, the elongate support having a base to permit pivoting of the elongate support between a generally horizontal position and a generally vertical position, said elongate support defining a support surface for the sheet of material;

loading the sheet of material onto the support surface when in the generally horizontal position;

pivoting the elongate support to the generally vertical position to position the sheet of material adjacent the substantially vertical surface; and

attaching the sheet of material to the substantially vertical surface.

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