Oct. 15, 1963 B. COOPER 3,106,931

PORTABLE TELESCOPIC ADJUSTABLE BOAT COVER RIDGE POLE

Filed April 17, 1961 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

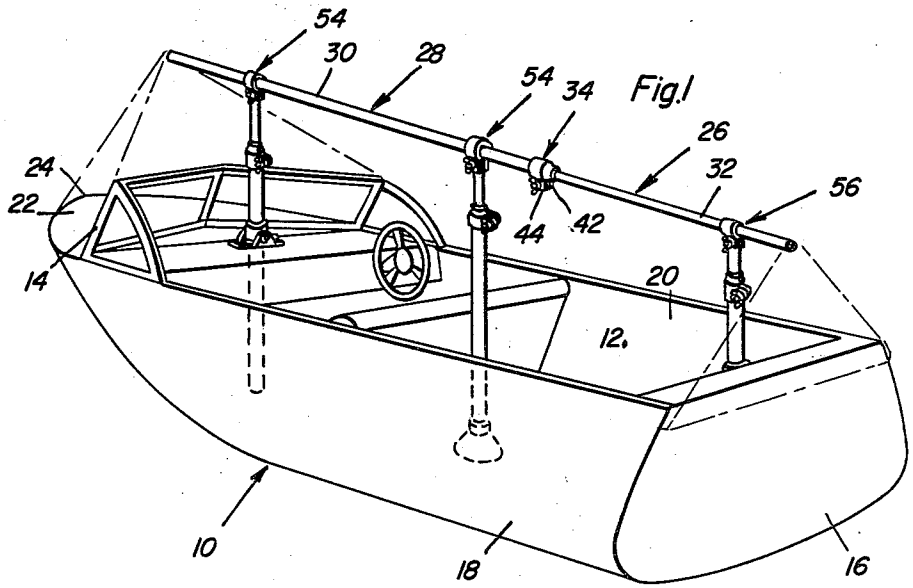


Fig.1

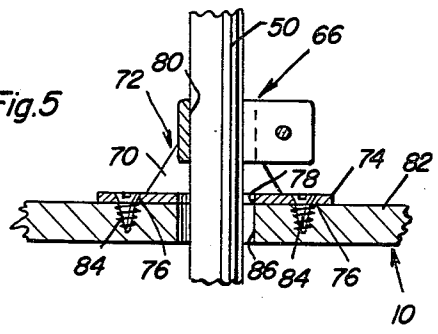


Fig.5

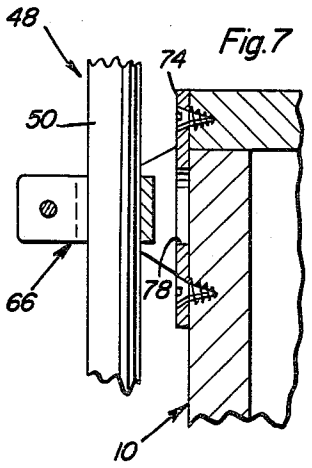


Fig.7

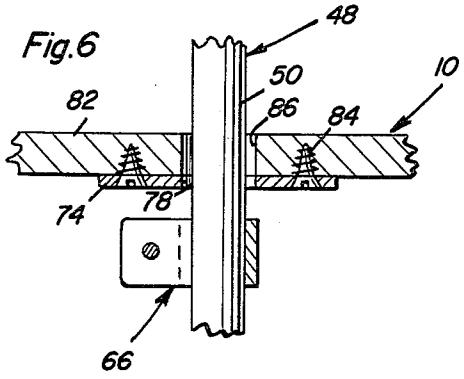


Fig.6

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Fig.2

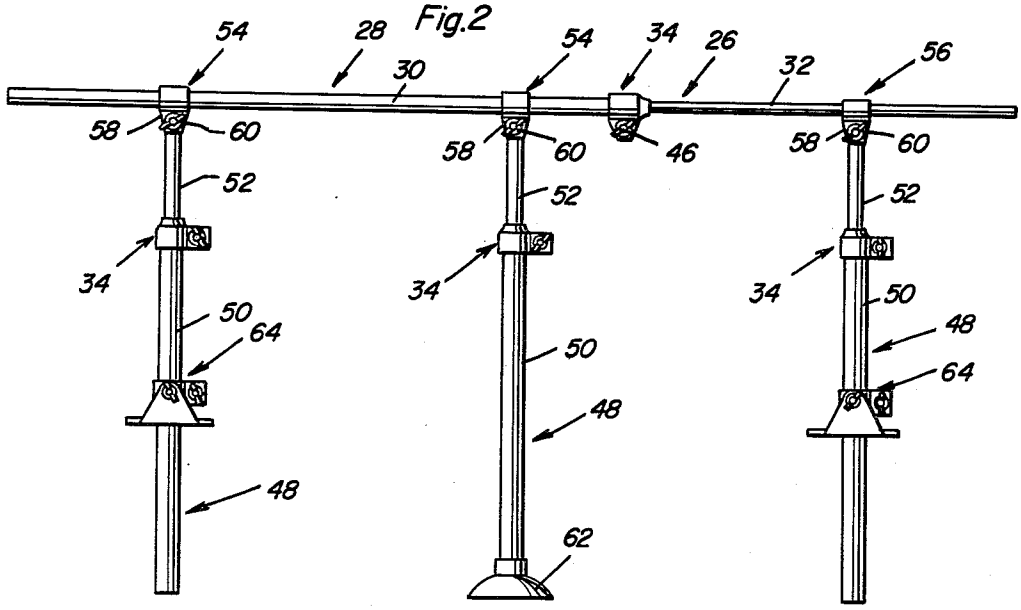


Fig.3

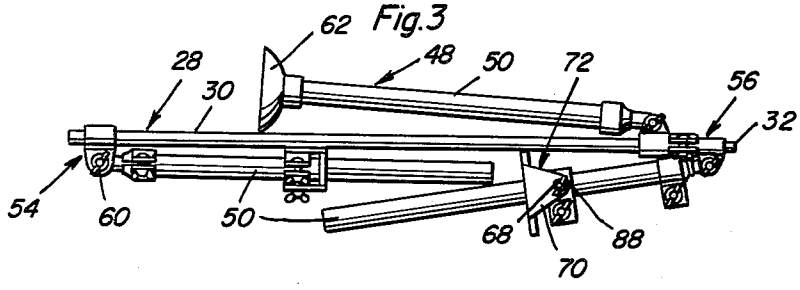
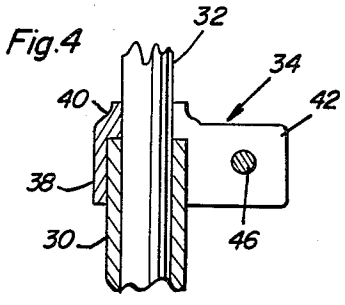


Fig.4



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PORTABLE TELESCOPIC ADJUSTABLE BOAT COVER RIDGE POLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 135—6)

This invention relates to a novel and useful portable telescopic adjustable boat cover ridge pole and more particularly to a ridge pole specifically adapted to facilitate the positioning and mounting of a cover over a boat.

Some types of boats, and particularly the more popular runabout type of boats are provided with boat covers which are fitted to an individual boat. If the boat is provided with a windshield the boat cover is usually secured to the upper edges of the windshield by means of suitable snap fasteners and along the upper edges of the sides of the boat by means of snap fasteners. Although this type of boat cover is useful in preventing rain from entering an open boat, it does not provide sufficient ventilation for the interior of the boat and condensation is quite often a serious problem when a tight fitting boat cover is used. Although the ridge pole of the instant invention is specifically adapted for use with boat covers fitted to a particular boat, it may also be used with generally rectangular boat covers specifically adapted to be maintained open at opposite ends in order to provide a maximum amount of ventilation. However, if the ridge pole of the instant invention is used in conjunction with a tight fitting boat cover, the ridge pole is specifically adapted to support a boat cover in an elevated position above the upper surfaces of the boat over which the cover is secured. In this manner, the boat cover does not rub the upper surfaces of the boat which are sometimes varnished and accordingly the boat cover is not positioned in a manner whereby wind will cause the boat cover to have an abrasive action with the upper surfaces of the boat.

In the past various types of ridge poles for boat covers have been devised but the ridge pole of the instant invention is constructed in a manner whereby it may be used to support a boat cover over boats of various sizes and shapes. The ridge pole of the instant invention is longitudinally extensible and it includes a plurality of ridge pole standards which are specifically adapted to support the ridge pole in an elevated position above the upper surfaces of a boat in order that the cover for the boat may be maintained in spaced relation relative to the upper surfaces of the boat. In addition, the ridge pole standards are secured to the ridge pole in a manner whereby they may be adjustably positioned longitudinally of the ridge pole and the standards themselves are extensible in length. In addition, the upper ends of the standards are pivotally secured to the ridge pole for movement about axes extending transversely of the ridge pole whereby the standards may be inclined relative to the ridge pole if it is so desired.

A main object of this invention is to provide a portable telescopic and vertically adjustable boat cover ridge pole which will be capable of supporting boat covers over boats of various types and sizes with the boat cover maintained in spatial relation relative to the upper surfaces of the boat.

A further object of this invention is to provide a portable telescopic and vertically adjustable boat cover ridge pole which may be adjusted vertically and inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of the boat after the ridge pole has been erected and the boat cover has been partially secured thereover.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a ridge pole having a plurality of support standards provided with means on their lower ends enabling the standards to be secured to various portions of a boat disposed immediately beneath those standards.

A final object to be specifically enumerated herein is to provide a boat cover ridge pole which will conform to conventional forms of manufacture, be of simple construction and easy to erect so as to provide a device which will be economically feasible, long lasting and relatively trouble free in operation.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a boat on which the ridge pole of the instant invention is mounted, a cover for the boat being shown in phantom lines;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the ridge pole;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevational view of the ridge pole in a collapsed position for storage;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view showing the manner in which one ridge pole section is mounted for extension relative to the other ridge pole section;

FIGURES 5 through 7 are fragmentary enlarged vertical sectional views showing various manners in which the securing means carried by the lower ends of the standards of the ridge pole may be utilized to secure the standards of the ridge pole to various portions of a boat.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings the numeral **10** generally designates an open runabout type boat provided with a cockpit **12** and a windshield **14**. The boat **10** includes a transom **16**, opposite sides **18** and **20** and forward deck **22** terminating at its forward end at the bow **24**.

The ridge pole of the instant invention is generally designated by the reference numeral **26** and includes a ridge pole member generally referred to by the reference numeral **28**. The ridge pole member includes a large diameter forward portion **30** which is generally cylindrical and hollow and a rear portion **32** which is snugly and slidably receivable within the rear end of the forward portion **30**. A clamp assembly generally referred to by the reference numeral **34** comprises a split clamp including a large diametered portion **38** and a small diameter portion **40**. The small diameter portion **40** snugly and slidably receives the rear portion **32** of the ridge pole member **28** and the large diameter portion **38** snugly receives the rear end of the forward portion **30**. The free ends **42** and **44** of the clamp assembly **34** are secured together by means of a threaded fastener **46** and in this manner the clamp assembly **34** preferably engages the forward and rear portions **30** and **32** to maintain these portions in position relative to each other. Accordingly, it may be seen that the ridge pole member **28** may be extended to the length desired and maintained in that extended position.

The ridge pole **26** includes a plurality of support standards **48** and each support standard **48** includes a large diameter lower portion **50** and a small diameter upper portion **52**. The large diameter lower portion **50** is cylindrical and hollow and the lower end of the small diameter portion **52** is snugly and slidably received therein. Each support standard is also provided with a clamp assembly **34** and in this manner the support standards **48** may be retained in their adjusted extended positions. The upper ends of the small diameter portions **52** are flattened and are pivoted between the ends of the split clamp assemblies **54** and **56**. The split clamp assemblies **54** and **56** are identical with the exception that the split

clamp assembly **56** is smaller than the split clamp assembly **54** and is disposed about the rear portion **32** of the ridge pole member **28**. The split clamp assemblies **54** and **56** each include pairs of apertured free end portions **58** which may be drawn together by means of suitable fasteners **60**.

The center support standard **48** has a suction cup **62** secured to its lower end and each of the opposite end support standards **48** has a mounting clamp assembly generally referred to by the reference numeral **64** mounted thereon. Each of the mounting clamp assemblies **64** includes a split clamp assembly generally referred to by the reference numeral **66** and substantially identical to the split clamp assemblies **54** and **56** with the exception that the opposite sides of the portion of the split clamp assemblies **66** disposed about the lower portions **50** of the standards **48** are provided with outwardly directed threaded pins. The threaded pins **68** are disposed through the apertured furcations **70** of a bifurcated mounting generally referred to by the reference numeral **72** carried by the base **74**. The base **74** is apertured as at **76** and is also provided with a central aperture **78** between the furcations **70** registrable with the passage **80** defined by the portion of the clamp assemblies **66** disposed about the lower sections **50** of the opposite end support standards **48**. In this manner, the base **74** may be secured to a portion **82** of the boat by means of fasteners **84** secured through the apertures **76** and the lower section **50** may pass through the apertures **78** formed between the furcations **70** and an aperture **86** formed in the portion of the boat **82** for the purpose. Additionally, it will be observed from FIGURE 7 of the drawings that the split clamp assemblies **66** may be pivoted relative to the bifurcated mount **72** so that the lower portion **50** of the standard **48** extends transversely of the aperture **78** formed in the base **74**.

The free ends of the threaded pivot pins **68** have wing nuts **88** threadedly engaged therewith and the wing nuts may be adjusted in order to frictionally maintain the bifurcated mount **72** in adjusted position relative to the corresponding split clamp assembly **66**.

Accordingly, it may be seen that the over-all length of the ridge pole member **28** may be adjusted, the length of the support standards **48** may be adjusted, the ridge pole member **28** may be inclined relative to the support members **48** and the bifurcated mount **72** may be pivoted relative to their split clamp assemblies **66**.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

A portable telescopic and vertically adjustable boat cover ridge pole comprising a ridge pole member, a plurality of ridge pole standards secured to said pole at points spaced longitudinally therealong, means carried by the lower ends of said standards adapted for securement to selected surfaces of a boat, said attachment means each including a clamp member adjustable longitudinally of the corresponding standard and a mounting base pivotally secured to said clamp adapted to be secured to one of said boat surfaces, said mounting base including a mounting plate having a bifurcated mount, said clamp being pivotally secured between the furcations of said mount, said mounting plate having an opening formed therein, said clamp defining a passage for receiving said standard, said passage being registrable with said opening whereby said standard may project through said opening and an aperture aligned therewith formed through the boat surface to which said plate is secured.

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