

Aug. 14, 1923.

1,464,762

E. F. HAYWARD

SKIN OR HIDE STRETCHER

Filed March 22, 1922

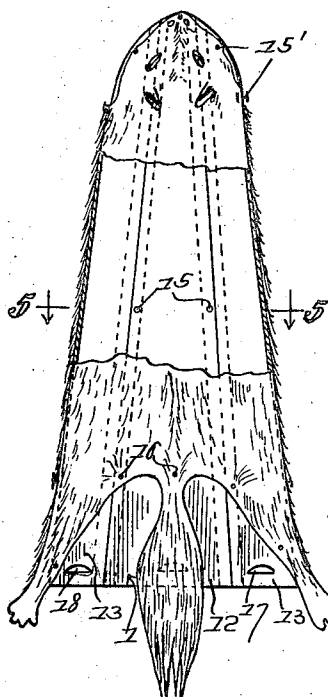


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

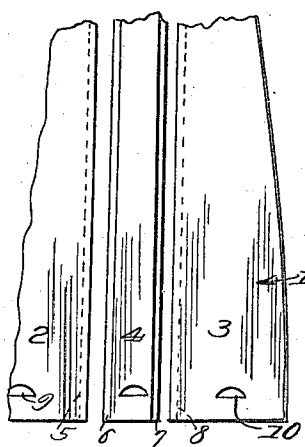


Fig. 7.

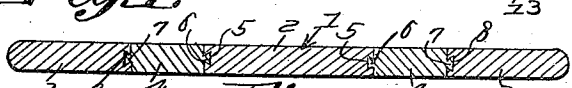


Fig. 6.

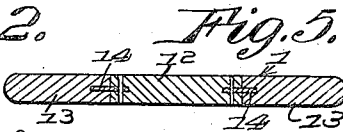


Fig. 5.

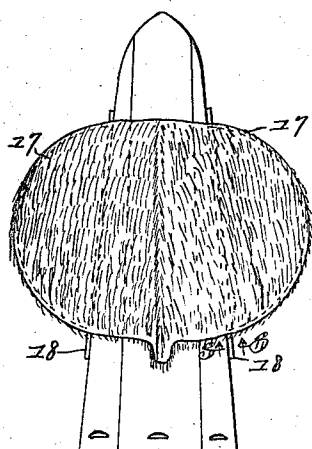


Fig. 3.

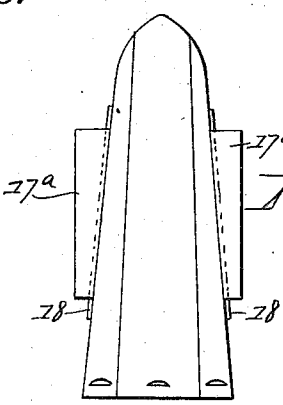


Fig. 4.

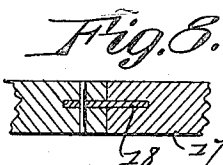


Fig. 8.

Inventor

E. F. Hayward,

By *Watson E. Coleman*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ENOS F. HAYWARD, OF CONOVER, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ROY O. DOBBERKE, OF CONOVER, WISCONSIN.

SKIN OR HIDE STRETCHER.

Application filed March 22, 1922. Serial No. 545,753.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ENOS F. HAYWARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Conover, in the county of Vilas and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Skin or Hide Stretchers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

Heretofore metal skeleton stretchers have been used for stretching skins and hides, therefore involving no means for adjustment, or for varying the size of the stretcher, in order to permit different size skins or hides to be stretched. In these stretchers there is no way for increasing the size to any great degree, and also no means for attaching the skins or hides to the stretcher, in order that the skin can be stretched taut.

It is the purpose of the present invention to provide a stretcher for skins and hides, and one which is very simple, efficient and practical in construction, and capable of overcoming the above inconveniences and disadvantages.

It is another purpose to provide a stretcher, which is capable of adjustment to fit and stretch any size animal skin or hide. In order to accomplish this result it is the aim to provide a stretcher comprising a plurality of removable sections, a body section (which may consist of more than one piece), and two side sections, and which are tapered, so that the central body section may be removed by imparting to it movement in one direction, or either of the side sections may be removed by imparting to it movement in the opposite direction, or in the same direction as the movement imparted to the central body section.

It is still another purpose to provide a stretcher which may be constructed of any suitable wood, fibre or the like, and which has the special advantage over the metal stretchers, in that the central front portion, the central back portion, or the tail-piece of the hide or skin may be stretched taut and tacked or otherwise fastened to the stretcher, whereas in using the metal stretchers, the skin or hide cannot be tacked or otherwise similarly fastened in any location. In order to fasten the skin or hide to the metal stretchers it will be necessary to provide special fasteners or attaching de-

vices, and in this case, unless the attaching or fastening devices are adjustable, the hide or skin cannot be fastened in any location. Obviously a metal stretcher with complicated fasteners or attaching devices would be very expensive, whereas a wood or fibre stretcher can be very easily and cheaply constructed, and sold reasonably.

While the design and construction at present illustrated and set forth are deemed preferable, it is obvious that as a result of a reduction of the invention to a more practical form for commercial purposes, the invention may be susceptible of changes, and the right to these changes is claimed, provided they are comprehended within the scope of what is claimed.

The invention comprises further features and combination of parts, as will be hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawings and claimed.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view of the stretcher showing the hide applied, and illustrating the back thereof, and wherein the stretcher is composed of three sections;

Figure 2 is a view in elevation of the stretcher, wherein the stretcher is composed of four sections, but showing the stretcher practically the same size as the stretcher in Figure 1, and showing the hide applied, illustrating the belly portion thereof;

Figure 3 is a view of a modified form of stretcher, wherein the main portion of the stretcher is composed of three sections as in Figure 1, and illustrating semi-circular sections connected to the remote outer edges of the outer sections of the main body, whereby beaver skins or hides may be stretched in circular shape;

Figure 4 is a view of a modified form of stretcher, wherein angular extra sections are attached or connected to the remote outer edges of the main body, whereby a hide may be stretched in rectangular form;

Figure 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a sectional view on line 6—6 of Figure 2;

Figure 7 is an enlarged detail view in elevation of the sections 2, 3 and 4, which are shown in Figure 2; and

Figure 8 is a sectional view on line 8—8 of Figure 3.

Referring to the drawings, especially Fig-

ures 2 and 6, 1 designates the stretcher as a whole, and which comprises a central body section 2, and the two side sections 3. It will be noted that the central body section 2 in Figures 2 and 6 consists of the three parts, the main central part, and the side parts 4, which may also be termed as intermediate side sections. As shown in Figures 1 and 4 the central body section may consist of one piece. The stretcher may be constructed of any suitable material, such as wood of any kind, fibre or the like.

In Figures 2 and 6 the innermost central body part is tapered as shown, and has its side edges provided with dovetailed grooves 5, which receive the correspondingly shaped tongues 6 of the sections 4. The opposite edges of the sections 4 have dovetailed tongues 7, which enter the correspondingly shaped grooves 8 of the outermost sections 3. It is obvious that the arrangement of the tongues and grooves of the various sections may be transposed. In other words the central part of the body section may have tongues instead of grooves, while the sections 4 may have grooves instead of tongues, whereas the outermost sections 3 may carry tongues instead of grooves.

The central body section or in fact its main central portion may be removed by imparting to it movement in one direction. In fact the sections 4 may be removed with the main part of the body section at the same time. After the main part of the body section singly, or together with the sections 4 are removed, the outermost side sections may be moved toward each other, allowing the entire stretcher to be easily removed from the hide. The sections of the stretcher are provided with kerfs or finger engaging recesses 9, 10 and 11, by engaging the finger in any one of them, the section which carries the kerfs or recesses may be extracted, allowing the entire stretcher to be easily and very quickly disassembled. After any one of the sections of the stretcher is removed, the parts of the stretcher are allowed to be moved toward each other, allowing the skin or hide to be easily detached or removed.

In Figures 1 and 5 the stretcher consists of three sections, the central body section 12 and the two outermost side sections 13. In this form of the invention, the side edges of the central body section have metal strips 14 fastened therein in any suitable manner, either forced or pressed into the section, or may be riveted centrally of the section as shown at 15, so as to prevent movement of the metal strips. The adjacent or inner edges of the side sections are provided with grooves 16 to slidably receive the metal strips 14, so that the side sections may be connected to the central or body section. Like the sections in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the

central body section 12 and the two side sections 13 are tapered in the same general direction, or wedge-shaped as shown, so that by the removal of either one of the sections, the stretcher can be removed from the hide or skin. The corresponding ends of the sections 12 and 13 are provided with kerfs or finger engaging recesses 17 and 18, by which either one of the sections may be slidably removed from the stretcher.

By means of the dovetailed tongue and groove connections between the sections, or by means of the metal strips engaging the grooves, the stretcher is assured of stability and rigidity, and the tighter the sections are wedged in place, the greater the skin or hide can be stretched.

It will be noted that the central front portion and the central back portion, or the tail-piece of the hide or skin can be stretched taut, and tacked or otherwise similarly fastened to the stretcher. Since the stretcher comprises a plurality of sections, and since other sections may be added, it is obvious that any size animal skin or hide can be easily stretched.

Another advantage claimed for this wood structure over the metal stretchers, is that it stretches the skin or hide sidewise or laterally or the full length from the head of the skin or the top of the stretcher, to the tail of the skin or to the base of the stretcher. Furthermore the skin or hide is tensioned uniformly from the top to the bottom, while stretching, thereby making a limited size and shape for each fur. In Figures 1 and 2 it will be observed that the fur, which is stretched, is tacked or otherwise secured at 15 and 16 at the top, base and center, at the front and back adjacent the base, which is not possible with metal stretchers now in practical use.

In Figure 3 the body of the stretcher, which comprises the three sections similar to 12 and 13 in Figure 1, has semi-circular pieces 17 fastened to the remote outer edges of the body of the stretcher by means of metal strips 18, similar to the strips 14, and which are fastened in a manner similar to the fastening of the strips 14. By means of these semi-circular pieces 17 the hide or skin can be stretched in circular form. In other words the circular pieces 17 are placed inside the skin, then the sections 13 may be connected to the circular pieces, after which the central wedge 12 may be inserted, for the purpose of stretching beaver skins or hides in circular shape. Obviously these pieces 17 may be made in other contours, such as indicated at 17^a in Figure 4, so that the hide can be stretched to assume a rectangular formation, or substantially so. It is immaterial, how the sections are joined, whether they are tongue and grooved, or whether they are connected by

metal strips, or otherwise slidably united, just so long as it is possible to slide the sections together, for the purpose of obtaining a wedging action, and thereby gradually stretch the skin or hide.

The invention having been set forth, what is claimed is:—

A hide stretcher comprising a central body member longitudinally tapered to provide a wedge, the longitudinal edges of said body member having dove-tailed grooves, intermediate longitudinally tapered wedge strips disposed on each side of the central body member, each of said strips having dove-tailed tongues projecting from their longitudinal edges, the inner tongue of each strip being

adapted to enter the adjacent groove of the central body member, and outer longitudinally tapered wedge strips disposed adjacent the outer edge of the intermediate strips, each of said outer wedge strips having a dove-tailed groove in its inner longitudinal edge adapted to receive the tongue of the adjacent intermediate strip, the central, intermediate and outer strips having their tapered end portions extending in the same direction whereby the outer wedge strips may be adjusted relative to or with the intermediate strips.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ENOS F. HAYWARD.