Oct. 10, 1961 H. E. WOOLBRIGHT 3,003,725

MOUNTING PLATE FOR OUTBOARD MOTORS

Filed May 18, 1959

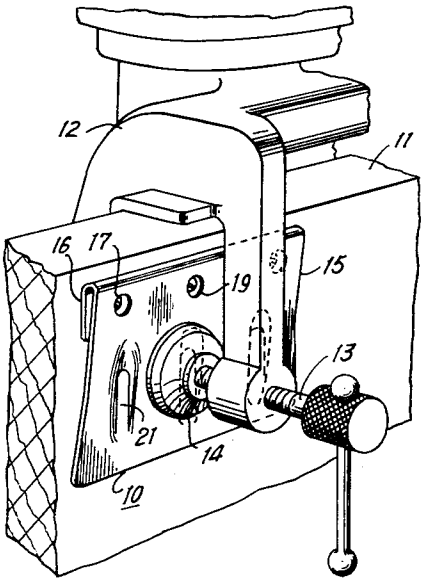


Fig. 1

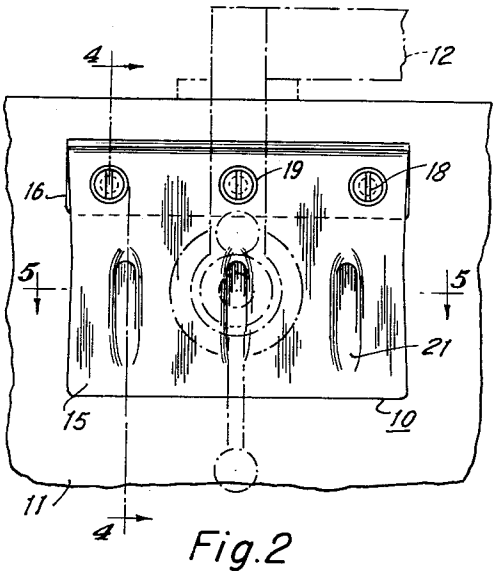


Fig. 2

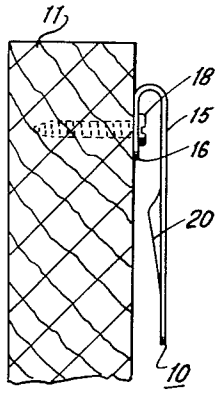


Fig. 3

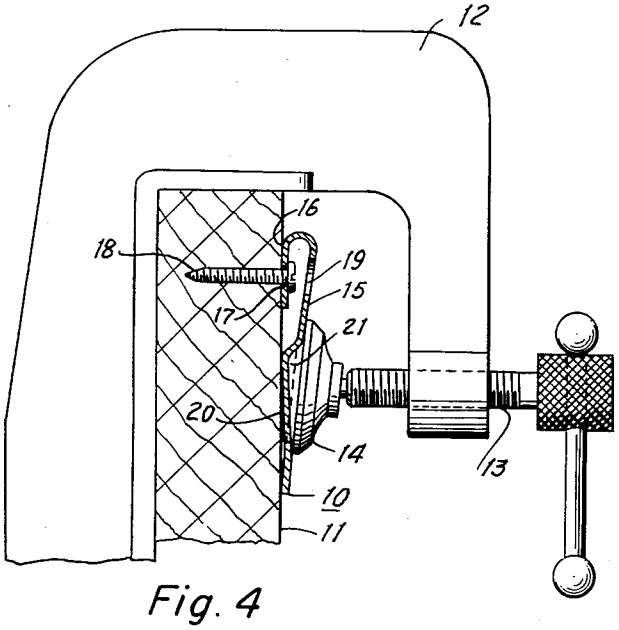


Fig. 4

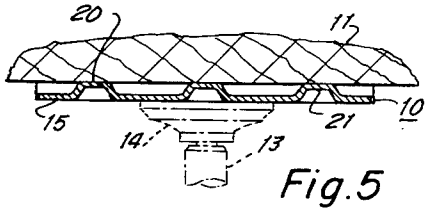


Fig. 5

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MOUNTING PLATE FOR OUTBOARD MOTORS

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in mounting plates for outboard motors.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved plate for mounting an outboard motor on the transom of a boat which is adapted to coact with the mounting clamp of the motor for preventing accidental dislodging and loss of the motor.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved mounting plate, of the character described, which is so constructed that upward movement of the secured clamp is resisted by increasing the frictional engagement of the plate with said clamp.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved mounting plate, of the character described, which has its major portion spaced from a boat transom by its upper portion being offset toward and secured to the transom whereby the major portion of the plate is inclined relative to the transom when frictionally engaged by the clamp and constantly exerts tension against the clamp as well as present a wedge surface thereto for resisting upward displacement thereof.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved mounting plate of the character described, wherein its major portion has upright protuberances which project from its inner side for engagement with the boat transom and the projection of which increases upwardly to reinforce and prevent flattening of the major portion of the plate.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described, together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein an example of the invention is shown, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a mounting plate, constructed in accordance with the invention, secured to the transom of a boat and engaged by one of the clamp screws of an outboard motor,

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the secured plate with the engaged clamp being shown in broken lines,

FIG. 3 is a side elevational view of the secured plate without the clamp,

FIG. 4 is a transverse, vertical, sectional view, taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 2, with the engaged clamp being shown in full lines, and

FIG. 5 is a horizontal, cross-sectional view, taken on the line 5—5 of FIG. 20.

In the drawing, the numeral **10** designates a plate embodying the features of the invention for mounting an outboard motor on the transom **11** of a boat in coaction with the clamp **12** of the motor. The clamp **12** is of the usual construction and includes a pair of adjustable screws **13**, only one of which is shown, having enlarged heads **14** swiveled on their inner ends for clamping engagement with the transom **11**. One of the plates **10** is provided for each clamp screw **13** and is adapted to be engaged by its head **14**.

Each mounting plate is substantially rectangular and is formed of relatively thin metal having sufficient resiliency to resist permanent deformation. The plate includes a body or major portion **15** having an offset flange or portion **16** at its upper margin for fastening to the transom **11** and spacing the body therefrom (FIG. 3). Preferably, the flange **16** is provided by bending the entire upper margin of the body **15** upon itself whereby said flange underlies and is substantially parallel to said body and whereby the plate is substantially J-shaped. A plurality of openings **17** are formed in the flange for receiving screws **18** to secure the plate to the transom and the body has registering openings **19** to accommodate and permit access to the heads of the screws **18**. When the flange is fastened to the transom, the body is disposed in substantially parallel relation to said transom prior to engagement by the swivelled head **14** of the clamp screw **13** (FIG. 3).

In order to reinforce and resist flattening of the body **15** upon clamping engagement by the screw head **14**, a plurality of upright ribs or elongated protuberances **20** are provided on the inner or rear surface of said body by forming grooves or recesses **21** in its outer or front surface. The ribs **20** are disposed in parallel, spaced relation, being of much greater length than width and terminating above the lower margin of the body and below the lower margin of the flange **16**. Preferably, the ribs are three in number, have substantially flat surfaces and are of a width slightly less than the space between adjacent ribs. It is noted that the inward offset or projection of the ribs is less than the offset of the flange whereby said ribs are spaced from and do not contact the transom **11** until the body is engaged by the clamp screw head **14**. The projection of the ribs increases upwardly so that said ribs bear against the transom substantially throughout their lengths and the body is inclined relative to said transom with its lower margin in contact therewith when said body is engaged by the clamp screw head (FIGS. 4 and 5). Preferably, the dimensions and spacing of the ribs are such that the clamp screw head overlies at least one of said ribs or a portion thereof.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, the body **15** of the mounting plate is deformed inwardly relative to the flange **16** when clampingly engaged by the screw head **14**. The lower margin of the body and substantially the entire areas of the ribs **20** bear against the transom **11**. The remainder of the body is spaced from the transom and said body is inclined relative to said transom so as to present a wedge surface for resisting upward displacement of the clamp screw. Due to the deformation of the body, the plate is under compression and constantly exerts tension against the head of the clamp screw for maintaining said screw head in tight engagement with said body. The ribs provide a positive bearing for the body and prevent movement or other fluctuation thereof which might permit loosening and displacement of the screw as a result of vibration. In addition, the ribs exert a force which tends to straighten the deformed body. Although the plate is relatively stiff, its resiliency is sufficient to prevent permanent deformation of its body and said body resumes the position shown in FIG. 3 when the clamp is disengaged.

The foregoing description of the invention is explanatory thereof and various changes in the size, shape and materials, as well as in the details of the illustrated construction may be made, within the scope of the appended claim, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A plate for mounting an outboard motor on the transom of a boat and coacting with the clamp screws of the motor including a substantially flat relatively thin body, an offset flange at the upper portion of the body for fastening the plate to the transom with said body spaced therefrom, said body being inclined relative to the transom and having its lower portion in contact therewith when said body is engaged by one of the clamp screws of the motor whereby said body is deformed toward the transom upon tightening of the clamp screw and exerts a tension thereagainst to resist loosening thereof, a plurality of upright spaced ribs on the rear surface of said body for

bearing against the transom when said body is inclined relative to the transom and has its lower portion in contact therewith, the ribs increasing in projection upwardly so that substantially the entire length of said ribs bear against the transom, said ribs reinforcing said body and preventing flattening thereof by the clamp screw.

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