

Aug. 12, 1952

J. C. OWENS
CARPET STRETCHER

2,606,743

Filed May 10, 1948

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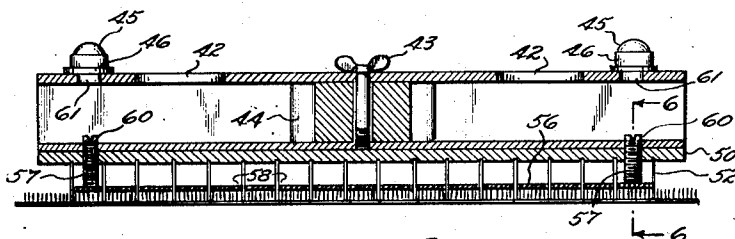
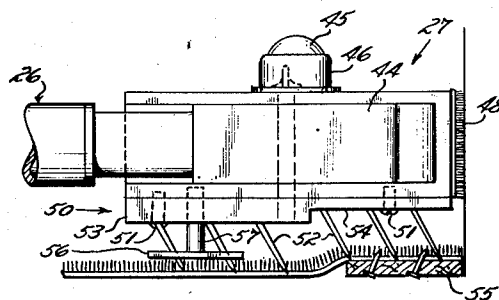
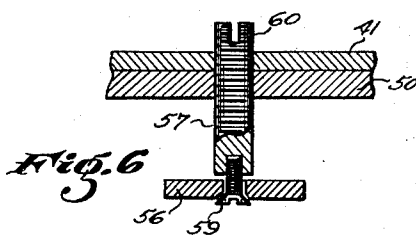
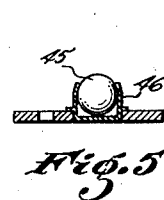
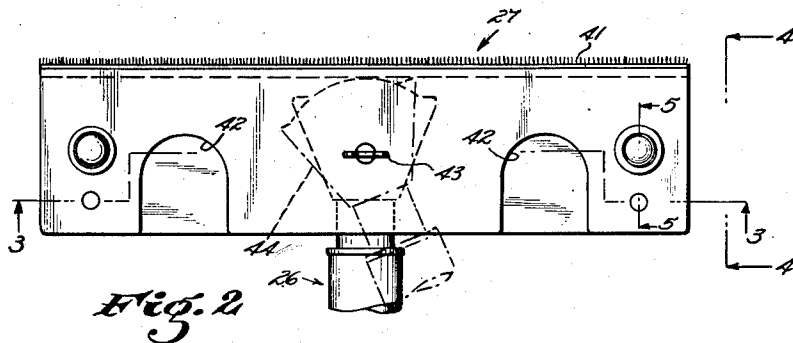
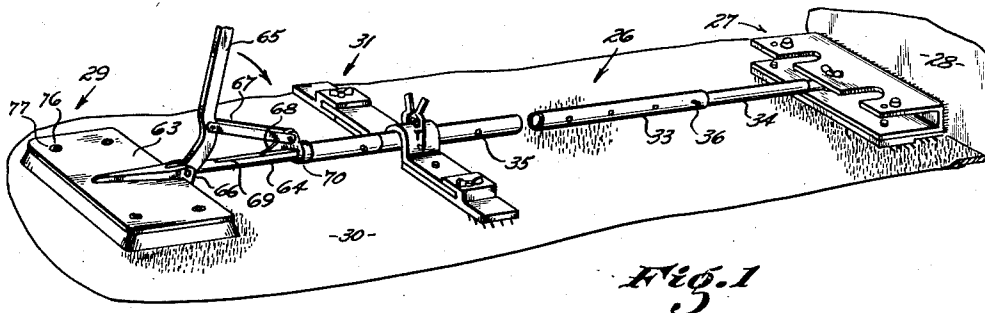


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

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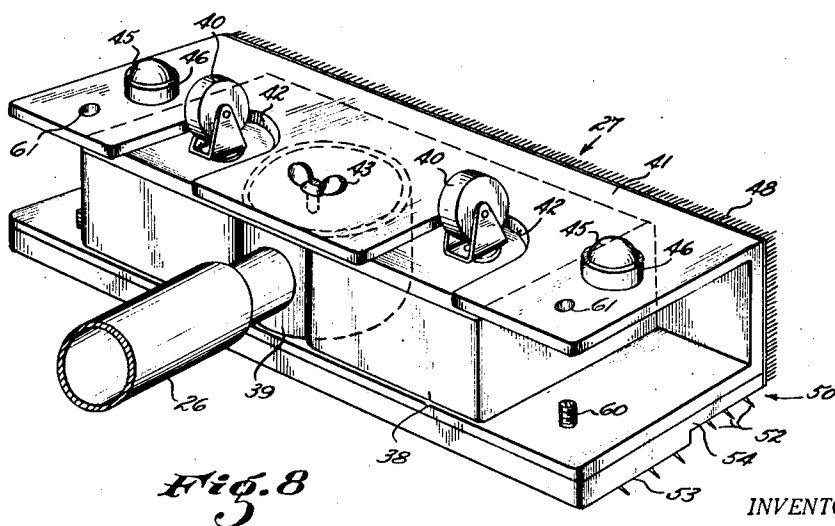
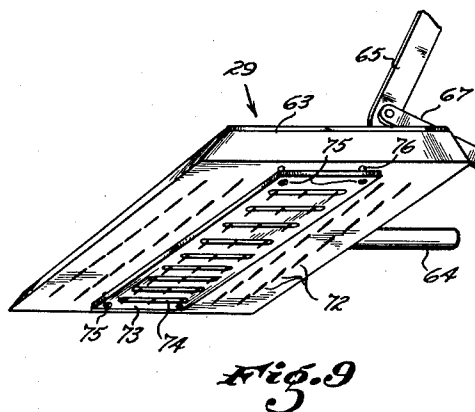
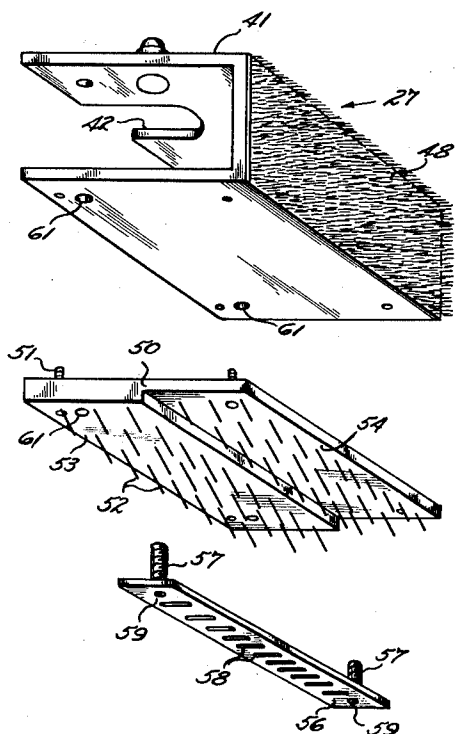
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5 Sheets-Sheet 2



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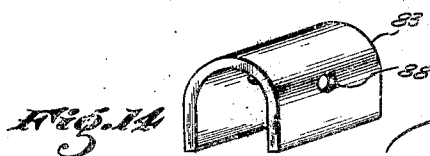
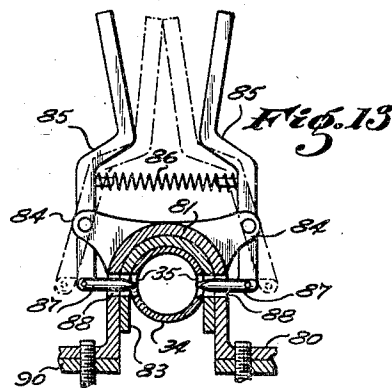
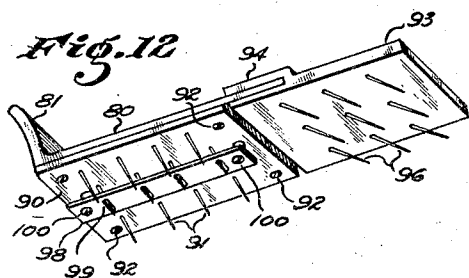
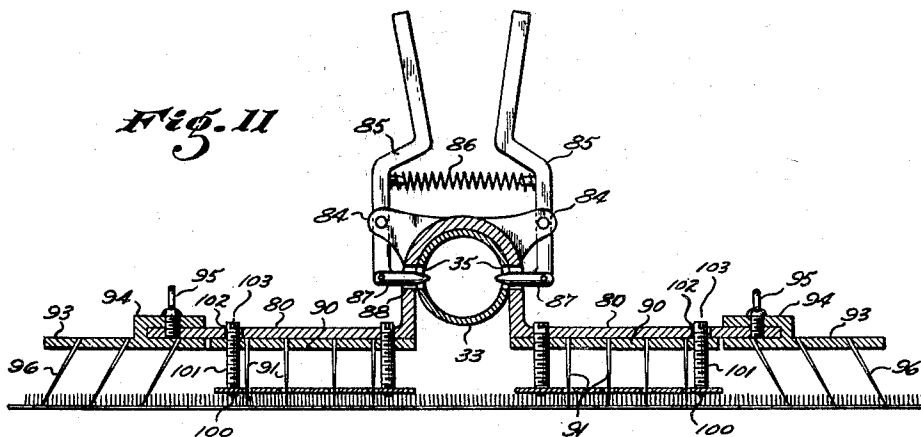
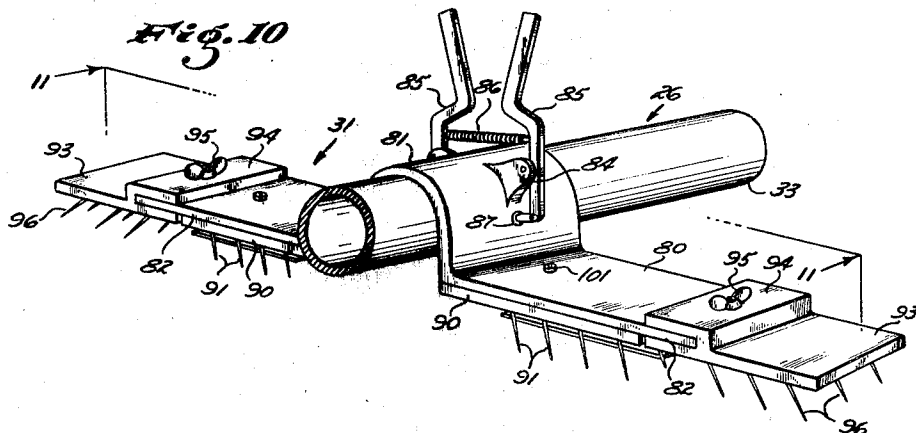
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5 Sheets-Sheet 3



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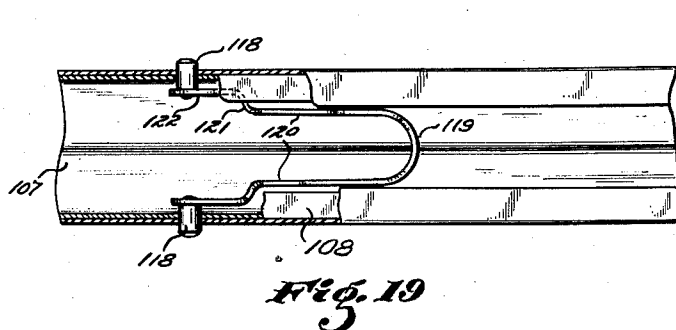
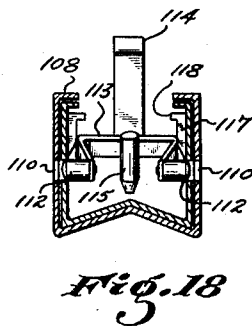
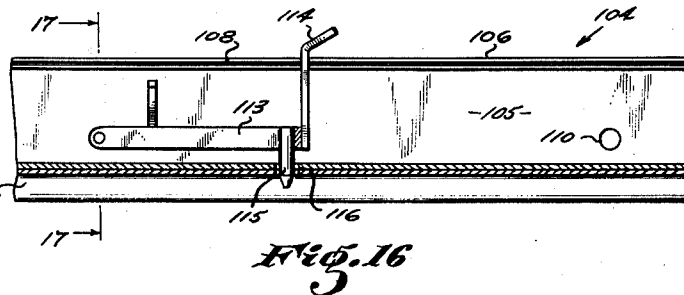
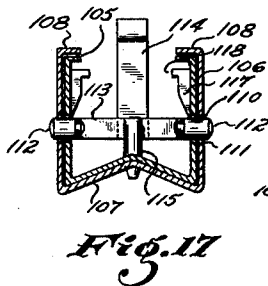
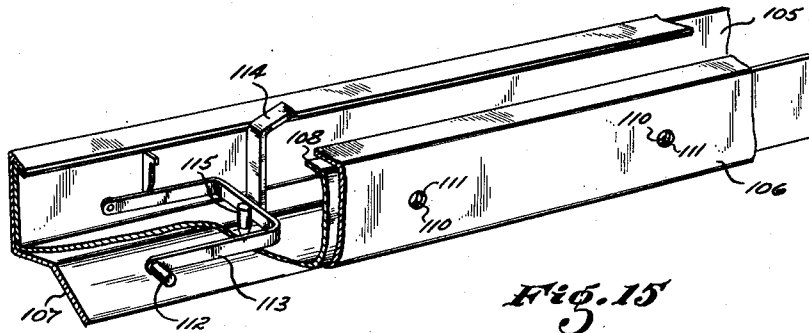
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CARPET STRETCHER

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



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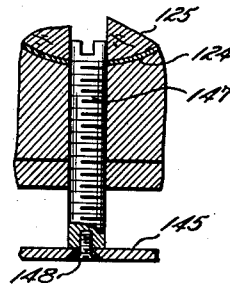
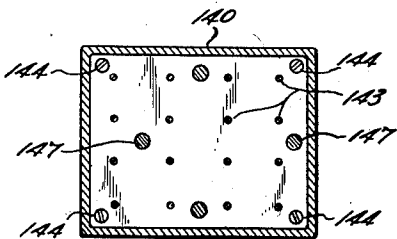
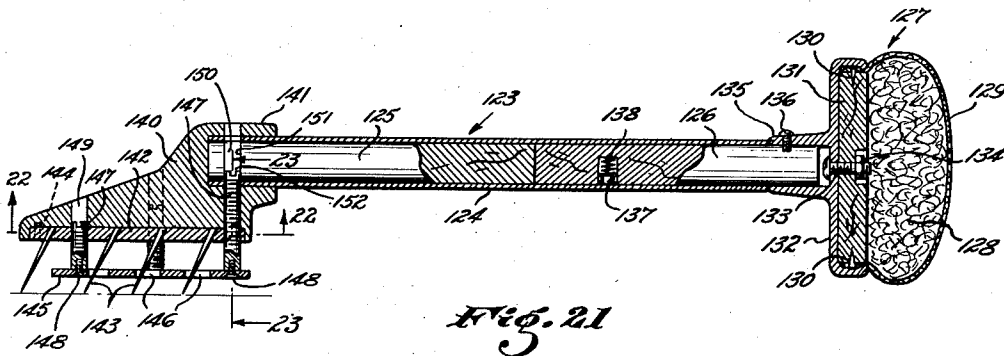
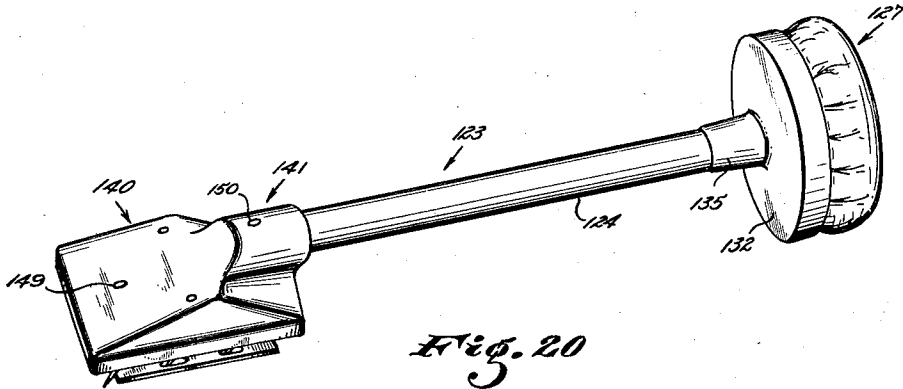
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5 Sheets-Sheet 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,606,743

CARPET STRETCHER

Jesse C. Owens, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application May 10, 1948, Serial No. 26,220

18 Claims. (Cl. 254—62)

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This invention relates to carpet stretchers, and more particularly to improvements in carpet stretchers of the type having a prong-bearing head adapted to grip a carpet by insertion therein of a number of prongs, and having a telescopic body adapted to hold said head at a selected distance from a point of abutment, such as a wall or baseboard, and having leverage mechanism for moving said head in further extension of said body for stretching the carpet.

In laying a carpet it is common practice to anchor one edge of the carpet along one wall of a room by tacking down that edge and then stretching the carpet towards the opposite wall, using a carpet stretcher both for stretching the carpet and for holding it in stretched position while it is being tacked or cemented along its other edges. This, of course, places a strain upon the anchoring tacks along the first wall which are generally, and particularly in the case of cement or other hard floors, held in what is known as a tacking strip—that is, a special strip of tack-retaining material, laid along the base of the first wall. Not uncommonly, when the carpet stretcher merely abuts the wall adjacent to the tacking strip, the carpet may be pulled from the tacks or the tacks may be pulled from the tacking strip, as the leverage mechanism on a stretcher of the type described is capable of exerting a very considerable pull on the carpet.

Furthermore, when the carpet stretcher is extended telescopically so that its telescoping members no longer provide mutual support, the compressive force exerted by the leverage mechanism upon the telescoping members may cause them to buckle or bend, so that they are not only less efficient in their stretching function but become distorted so that they cannot telescope into each other again. The buckling may more easily occur if the telescoping members are weakened structurally by means employed for holding the members in adjusted relative position. Yet it is highly desirable to have such holding means readily accessible and easily releasable as well as efficient in their holding capacity. Of course, the three possibilities of the carpet stretcher letting go of the carpet, the carpet being pulled from the tacking strip, and the telescoping members buckling, are all mutually counter-active, the occurrence of one obviating the likelihood of the occurrence of the others, but obviously any of them is undesirable.

It is therefor an object of this invention to provide a carpet stretcher which will grip the carpet firmly at the anchored portion as well as at

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the advancing portion, which has simple and efficient means for releasably connecting the telescoping members of the body of the stretcher, and which includes means for preventing the telescopic body from buckling in either vertical or horizontal planes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a carpet stretcher having carpet gripping means at its anchored end adapted to cooperate with a tacking strip in holding that end of the carpet firmly in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide carpet-gripping means for the anchored end of a carpet stretcher which cooperate with the head of the stretcher normally placed in abutment with a wall surface in holding the stretcher posited with respect to the wall and to the carpet, and which form a detachable portion of the stretcher, dispensable when not needed and adapted to be attached to old-fashioned stretchers not provided with such means.

Still another object of the invention is to provide simplified and readily accessible means for adjusting the effective length of the carpet-gripping prongs of a carpet stretcher so as to accommodate the stretcher to use with carpets of diverse thicknesses, and to prevent damage to the floor and to the carpet pads ordinarily laid under carpets.

Another object of the invention is to provide a carpet stretcher suitable for use where no wall or other vertical surface is available for abutment of the stretcher, as for example where the anchored end of the carpet is adjacent to a hearth or door sill or in lengthy corridors or rooms of greater extent than the telescoping capacity of the stretcher.

A further object of the invention is to provide a carpet stretcher having telescoping members of a construction which permits more ready access to the means for releasably holding said members in selected telescopic formation.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide means for preventing buckling of said telescoping members, which may be posited at selected positions on said members to afford protection at the weakest point or at the point of greatest strain.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for preventing buckling of said telescopic members, which serve also as means for holding a carpet in extending position while the lever-actuated stretching head is being adjusted for initial or for further stretching operations.

The invention possesses other objects and fea-

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tures of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred forms of my invention which are illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the showing made by the said drawings and description, as I may adopt variations of the preferred forms within the scope of my invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a carpet stretcher embodying the principles of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view on an enlarged scale of the wall-abutting head of the carpet stretcher shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view of the wall-abutting head of the carpet stretcher, the plane of section being indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 2, with the direction of view as indicated.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view on a further enlarged scale of the wall-abutting head of the carpet stretcher taken from the view point indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating one of the rollers on the wall-abutting head, the plane of section being indicated by the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view on a still further enlarged scale, showing the means for adjustably receiving a guard plate to a wall-abutting head, the plane of section being indicated by the line 6—6 of Figure 3.

Figure 7 is an exploded view in perspective of a wall-abutting head showing the constituent parts and illustrating the manner of their assembly.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a wall-abutting head according to the present invention, assembled upon a carpet stretcher having a conventional non-prong carrying head.

Figure 9 is an perspective view from below of the lever-actuated prong-carrying head of my carpet stretcher.

Figure 10 is a perspective view of the supporting and reinforcing prong-carrying member of my carpet stretcher, commonly called a "stay-tacker."

Figure 11 is a transverse vertical sectional view of the stay-tacker shown in Figure 10, the plane of section being indicated by the line 11—11 of Figure 10, with the direction of view as indicated.

Figure 12 is a fragmentary perspective view from below of one end of the stay-tacker shown in Figure 10.

Figure 13 is a detailed fragmentary sectional view of the clamping mechanism for securing the stay-tacker to a carpet stretcher, with the mechanism in its unclamped position being shown in broken lines.

Figure 14 is a perspective view of an auxiliary saddle used to fit the stay-tacker to the smaller, or interior element of a telescopically extensible carpet stretcher.

Figure 15 is a perspective fragmentary view of a modified form of the telescopically extensible member of my carpet stretcher.

Figure 16 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the form of telescopically extensible member shown in Figure 15.

Figure 17 is a transverse vertical sectional view showing the locking mechanism illustrated in Figures 15 and 16 in locked position, the plane of section being indicated by the line 17—17 of Figure 16.

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Figure 18 is a view similar to Figure 17, showing the locking mechanism in unlocked position.

Figure 19 is a top plan view of a modified form of locking mechanism, the telescopic elements locked thereby being shown partly in plan and partly in horizontal section.

Figure 20 is a perspective view of a modified form of my carpet stretcher.

Figure 21 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the carpet stretcher shown in Figure 20.

Figure 22 is a horizontal sectional view of the prong-carrying head shown in Figures 20 and 21, the plane of section being indicated by the line 22—22 of Figure 21.

Figure 23 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view on an enlarged scale showing the guard plate adjusting mechanism, the plane of section being indicated by the line 23—23 of Figure 21.

Specifically describing the preferred embodiment of my invention, as illustrated in Figures 1 to 13, my improved carpet stretcher comprises an elongated member 26, hereinafter called the pole, which carries at one end a head 27 adapted to abut against a resistance such as a wall, as indicated at 28 in Figure 1, and on the other end a prong-carrying head 29 for gripping a carpet 30. For the purpose of holding the carpet when the head 29 is disengaged therefrom and for preventing the pole 26 from buckling under the compressive strains to which it may be subjected, a prong-carrying member 31, usually termed the stay-tacker, may be secured to the pole 26.

The pole 26 may be formed of two or more elements arranged to slide one within another to permit telescopic extension of the pole, as for example an outer tube 33 and an inner tube 34. The tubes 33 and 34 are provided with holes 35, spaced at suitable intervals, and when holes of the inner tube are in register with holes of the outer tube at any selected degree of extension of the pole, the tubes may be temporarily locked in such a position by a pin or pins 36, which may be inserted in the holes from the outside or may be spring-actuated and mounted within the inner tube 34 as shown in U. S. Patent 2,353,436 to J. D. Bartlow.

In carpet stretchers heretofore in use, a wall-abutting head has generally been employed which consists of a rectangular block, as shown at 38 in Figure 8, mounted pivotally on a short vertical bearing 39 on the pole 26 and usually provided with casters 40 to facilitate moving the carpet stretcher from one location to another. To permit my improved head 27 to be used in connection with heretofore existing carpet stretchers, the head 27 is preferably formed of a channel shaped housing 41, adapted to be slipped over the block 38 and somewhat wider than the block 38 so as to extend laterally beyond the latter. Recesses 42 may be formed in the upper wall of the housing 41 to receive the casters 40 and the housing may be secured to the bearing 39 by a wing bolt 43. When used in connection with carpet stretchers not provided with a block 38, the head 27 may be secured by the wing bolt 43 to a bearing block 44, illustrated in Figures 2, 3, and 4, secured to the end of the pole 26. The inner margin of the block 44 is curved and bears against the inner surface of the housing 41 to relieve the wing bolt 43 of shearing stresses and to provide a bearing surface upon which the housing 41 may turn. To facilitate movement of the carpet stretcher when the casters 40 are not present, balls 45 are secured in recess 46 to the

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upper surface of the housing 41, as shown in Figure 5.

Preferably the head 27 includes a pad or surfacing of soft material 48 secured to the end surface of the housing 41 to provide a cushioned abutment to a wall surface or base board to avoid scratching or denting of the latter.

A plate 50 is secured to the lower face of the housing 41 by bolts 51, and carries a plurality of downwardly extending prongs 52 so arranged that prongs adjacent to the surfacing 48 are of lesser downward extension than prongs adjacent to the pole 26. This difference of downward extension could obviously be accomplished by shortening the prongs adjacent to the surfacing 48, but as it may be desirable to have all of the prongs capable of piercing a carpet to equal extents to avoid greater tearing stresses on one part of the carpet than on another, I prefer to form the plate 50 with a lower step 53 and an upper step 54 and to have all of the prongs 52 extend equally from their respective steps. In laying a carpet it is a common practice to place a tacking strip on the floor along the wall or base board, as shown at 55 in Figure 4, and to tack the edge of the carpet to the tacking strip before proceeding with the operation of stretching the carpet. The step 54 is accordingly raised above the step 53 to approximately the height of a tacking strip so that the prongs carried by the step 54 will normally pierce the portion of the carpet overlaying the tacking strip to the same extent as the prongs carried by the step 53 pierce the carpet laid upon the floor. The stepped construction of the plate 50 prevents the plate itself from resting upon the carpet if a tacking strip of greater than normal height is used, which would cause the prongs of the step 53 to pierce the carpet to a lesser extent than the prongs of the step 54.

To avoid scratching a floor or tearing the carpet padding often laid beneath a carpet, a guard plate 55 is adjustably secured to the housing 41 by bolts 57. Because of the possibility that no tacking strip may be used, the guard plate 55 is disposed to regulate the effective length of the prongs 52 carried by the lower step 53, having slots 58 through which these prongs extend. The guard plate 55 is secured to the bolts 57 by screws 59 which are bottomed in end holes in the bolts 57 and may turn freely in the guard plate 55. The bolts 57 are threaded in the plate 50 and extend upwardly through the lower wall of the housing 41, terminating in heads 60 adapted to receive a tool by which the bolts 57 may be adjusted vertically. As herein illustrated, the heads 60 may be slotted to receive a screw driver and the upper wall of the housing 41 is pierced by holes 61 to permit access from above to the heads 60 with a screw driver or similar tool. This construction permits an operator to adjust the guard plate 55 at any time, without having to raise the carpet stretcher from the carpet.

In Figure 9, I have illustrated a preferred form of the prong-carrying, carpet gripping head 29. This head preferably comprises a plate 63 mounted on a rod 64 which is slidable within the pole 26. Various forms of lever-actuated mechanism may be employed to cause extension of the head 29 relative to the pole 26 but the form herein illustrated is simple and practical, and is shown by way of example. A lever 65 is pivotally connected to the rod 64, as shown at 66, and a link 67 is pivotally connected to the lever and to a

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pawl 68 which is slidable in a groove 69 in the rod 64. The pawl 68 abuts the shoulder 70 formed by the end of the pole 26 so that downward movement of the lever, as indicated by the arrow in Figure 1, causes the pawl to push against the shoulder and the rod 63 to slide outwardly from the pole 26. It will be seen hereinafter that to retract the head 29 from an extended position, it is necessary to lift the head to free the prongs thereof from the carpet, and coincidentally with such lifting the lever 65 may be raised and the rod 64 may be pushed into the pole 26 to retract the head 29 to a starting position for another stretching operation.

The plate 63 is provided with a plurality of prongs 72 which are preferably forwardly inclined, as shown in Figure 9. A guard plate 73 has slots 74 through which a substantial number of the more centrally located prongs 72 extend, and is adjustably secured to the plate 63 in substantially the same manner as that by which the guard plate 56 is secured to the housing 41, hitherto described. Screws 75, turning freely in the guard plate 73 are bottomed in end holes in bolts 76 so as to be turned therewith and to cause the guard plate to move vertically with the bolts. Threaded bolt holes 77 for the bolts 76 extend to the upper surface of the plate 63, making the upper ends of the bolts accessible from above. The upper ends of the bolts are adapted to receive a tool, such as a screw driver, in the manner shown in connection with the bolts 57 in Figure 6, so that the guard plate 73 may be adjusted to regulate the effective length of the prongs 72, that is, the length to which the prongs may penetrate a carpet, without it being necessary to invert the carpet stretcher.

The stay-tacker 31, shown in detail in Figures 10 to 14, comprises a plate 80 formed with a central bridge portion 81 adapted to straddle the pole 26 and having laterally extending wings 82. To provide a close fit on the inner tube 34, which of course is of less diameter than the outer tube 33, a saddle 83, shown in Figures 13 and 14, may be employed, and may be removed when the stay-tacker is mounted on the outer tube 33. Various means of clamping the stay-tacker to the pole 26 may be used, but for rapidity in changing the position of the stay-tacker, I prefer the means illustrated in Figures 10, 11, and 13. The bridge portion 81 is provided with ears 84 on which handgrips 85 are pivotally mounted. The upper portions, or handles, of the grips 85 are urged apart by a compression spring 86, and the lower portions of the grips are provided with pegs 87 insertable in holes 88 in the bridge portion 81 and the saddle 83. The holes 88 are registerable with the holes 35 in either the outer tube 33 or the inner tube 34 and the pegs 87 may extend into the holes 35 to clamp the stay-tacker to the pole 26 at any of the spaced positions defined by any exteriorly exposed holes 35.

Individual plates 90, each carrying a plurality of prongs 91, are secured as by screws 92 (Figure 12) to the more central portions of the wings 82, leaving the extremities of the wings free. To provide a wider grip upon a carpet and to prevent lateral motion of the pole 26, additional plates 93 having offset portions forming brackets 94, may be slipped onto the extremities of the wings 82 and secured thereto by wing bolts 95. Prongs 96, carried by the plates 93, are preferably inclined outwardly to provide better resistance to lateral movement.

Guard plates 98, provided with slots 99 for

the accommodation of prongs 91, are adjustably secured to the plates 90 in the same manner as heretofore described in connection with guard plates 56 and 73. Screws 100, turning freely in the guard plates 98 are bottomed in end holes in bolts 101 so as to be turned therewith, and hold the guard plates in fixed vertical relation to the bolts. The bolts 101 are threaded in the plates 90 and have tool-receiving head portions extending upwardly in bolt holes 102 in the plate 80 so as to be exposed from above. Turning the bolts 101 by application of a suitable tool thereto, such as a screw driver applied to slots 103, will adjust the guard plates 98 to regulate the effective length of the prongs 91.

A modified form of pole is illustrated in Figures 15 to 19, in which a pole 104 comprises an inner channel element 105 adapted to slide telescopically within an outer channel element 106. The elements 105 and 106 are preferably formed so that they may be assembled only with their open sides in register, in which position they form an open double-walled channel. Such safeguarding against incorrect assembly may be accomplished by providing the channel elements with inwardly turned V-shaped webs 107 and with inwardly turned flanges 108 at right angles to the side walls. The flanges 108 also serve to restrict the inner element 105 to telescopic movement within the outer element 106. It will be understood that, although not herein shown, the bearing block 44 may have a shank suitably shaped to be secured within a channel-shaped element such as the element 105 and that the rod 64 may likewise have a portion shaped to fit slidably within a channel-shaped element such as the element 106, and that the bridge 81 and saddle 83 of the stay-tacker 31 may be rectangular so as to fit upon rectangular channels.

The open channel form of the pole 104 permits the use of locking mechanism for holding the elements 105 and 106 at a selected degree of telescopic extension which has the advantage of being readily accessible and easily manipulated. Holes 110 in the side walls of the inner channel element 105 may be brought to register with suitably spaced holes 111 in the side walls of the outer channel element 106, and may be easily held in register by means of pegs 112 extending laterally from the arms of a U-shaped spring 113 (see Figure 15). The spring 113 has a handle 114 which extends upwardly between the flanges 108, and has a peg 115 which may be inserted in registering holes 116 in the webs of the channel elements 105 and 106. When the pegs 112 are placed in the holes 110 and 111 they serve as pivots for the spring 113, and when thereafter the bight of the spring 113 is pressed down by means of the handle 114 so that the peg 115 engages the holes 116, the elements 105 and 106 are locked together at three points and the shearing stresses engendered by end pressure on the pole 104 is distributed to all three pegs, as shown in Figure 17. Cam plates 117 are secured to the inner sides of the walls of the inner channel element 105 so as to engage the arms of the spring 113 and to compress the arms inwardly when the spring is raised pivotally about the pegs 112. Initial upward movement of the spring 113 releases the peg 115 from the holes 116, and continued upward movement of the spring, resulting in inward compression of the arms thereof, releases the pegs 112 from the holes 111 of the outer channel element 106, as shown in Figure 18. The channel elements will then be unlocked, but

the spring 113 will remain pivoted in the holes 110. The cam plates 117 preferably have shoulders 118 which hold the spring 113 within the channel of the pole 104 so that it may not be exposed to accidental over-compression which might release the pegs 112 from the holes 110. The spring may, however, be compressed by insertion of the hand or of a wedge within the channel of the pole 104, to permit removal of the spring therefrom.

A modified form of spring lock is shown in Figure 19. Its pegs 118 are carried on the ends of a U-shaped spring 119, each of the legs 120 provided with an offset portion 121 of such configuration that the portion of the U which interconnects its two legs is narrower than the portion defined by the outer ends of the legs. The spring 119 may be moved pivotally by reaching into the open channel; and when the narrow upper end is drawn upwards between the inner edges of the flanges at the upper edges of the channels, the wider portions of the U-shaped spring come into engagement with the edges of the inwardly extending flanges, causing the spring to be pressed and withdrawing the pegs 118 from the holes in the outer channel without, however, withdrawing the pegs 118 in the inner channel.

To operate the carpet stretcher as hitherto described, the operator adjusts the guard plates of the wall-abutting head 27, the head 29, and the stay-tacker 31, according to the thickness of the carpet which is to be stretched, to permit suitable penetration of the prongs without endangering the floor or carpet pad. As heretofore described, this adjusting operation may be conducted with the carpet stretcher in its normal upright position and with the prongs directed downwardly towards the carpet, thus making it easier to ascertain a suitable effective length of the prongs. The telescopically extensible pole 26 is adjusted so that the carpet stretcher will span a desired length of carpet. The head 27 is then placed against a wall and the prongs 52 are pressed into the carpet adjacent to the wall. The lever 65 is raised and the rod 64 is pushed into the pole 26 to retract the head 29. The prongs 72 of the head 29 are then pressed into the carpet and the lever 65 is lowered, causing advancement of the head 29 and stretching of the carpet between the prongs 52 and 72. The stay-tacker 31 may be used to weight the pole 26 prior to advancement of the head 29, and after such advancement it may be secured to the pole and the prongs 91 and 96 may be pressed into the carpet. The head 29 is then raised to release the prongs thereof from the carpet and to permit retraction of the head to obtain a new grip upon the carpet. Because of its position closer to the head 27, about which the carpet stretcher pivots when the head 29 is lifted, the stay-tacker will not disengage from the carpet but will hold the portion of the carpet between itself and the wall in stretched condition.

It will be seen that by reason of the prongs on the head 27, the carpet stretcher is not dependent upon abutment against a wall in order to be able to stretch a carpet. Lengths of carpet beyond the spanning capacity of the pole 26 may be stretched between the two prong-carrying heads 27 and 29, or carpets bordering on hearths or door sills which do not provide suitable resistances.

In Figures 20 to 23, I have illustrated a modified form of carpet stretcher which is particularly

suiting to long carpets or to conditions where no fixed resistance such as a wall is available. A pole 123 comprises a tube 124 containing a dowel 125. A second dowel 126, which may be slidably received within the tube 124, carries a padded head 127. A pad 128 is covered by a cover 129, the edges of which are secured as by tacks 130 to a block 131. The block 131 fits within a cup 132 and is secured thereto by a bolt 133 and nut 134. The cup 132 has a collar 135 which fits upon the dowel 126 and may be secured thereto by screws 136. The padded head 127 and dowel 126 are removable from the tube 124, the dowel being retained therein by a friction button 137 and spring 138.

Upon the opposite end of the pole 123 from the padded head 127 there is mounted a prong-carrying head 140 which has a collar portion 141 fitting over the tube 124. A plate 142, bearing prongs 143 is fastened to the head 140 by bolts 144. A guard plate 145 has slots 146 through which the prongs 143 extend, and is adjustably secured to the head 140 by preferably four bolts 147. As in the instances of the guard plates hitherto described, the guard plate 145 is secured to the bolts 147 by screws 148 which may turn freely in the guard plate and are bottomed in end holes in the bolts 147. The bolts 147 are threaded in the plate 142, and the bolt holes 149 for the more forwardly of the bolts and the two bolts at the sides of the head are continued upwardly through the head 140 so as to expose the upper ends of the bolts. The bolt holes 150 of the more rearwardly bolts 147 continue through the collar portion 141, and the dowel 125 is also pierced with holes 151 aligned with holes 150. Thus the upper ends of the bolts 147, which are adapted to receive a tool which may be a screw driver receivable in slots 152, are accessible from above and the guard plate 145 may be vertically adjusted to regulate the effective length of the prongs 143 by turning the bolts 147 with a suitable tool. The rearward bolts 147 also serve to help retain the head 140 upon the pole 123.

To use this modified form of carpet stretcher, the operator tacks a portion of the carpet to the floor or to a tacking strip, engages the prongs 143 in the carpet, and presses or kicks against the padded head 127 with his knee.

I claim:

1. In a carpet stretcher, a telescopically extensible member, a prong-carrying head on each end of said extensible member, one of said heads being slidably mounted with respect to said member for movement in further extension thereof, lever means and linkage connecting said one head and said extensible member for causing extension of said one head relative to said extensible member, the other of said heads being pivotally mounted with respect to said extensible member and having an end surface adapted to abut a wall surface, and a pronged member adapted to be secured transversely to said extensible member at selected positions thereon.

2. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 1, in which said other head has prongs adjacent to said end surface of lesser downward extension than the remainder of the prongs of said other head, for engaging a carpet raised by a tacking strip.

3. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 1 in which said prong-carrying heads and said pronged member have guard strips for regulating the effective length of the prongs

carried by said heads and by said member, and bolts for vertically adjusting said guard strips accessible for adjustment from the upper sides of said heads and of said member.

4. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 1, in which said telescopically extensible member has holes in its telescopic elements registerable at selective degrees of extension of said member and peg means insertable in registered holes to hold said member at a selected degree of extension, and said pronged member has clamping means engageable with any of such holes exposed exteriorly of said extensible member.

5. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 1, in which said telescopically extensible member comprises inner and outer channel-shaped elements each provided with holes registerable with holes of the other at selective degrees of extension of said member, and a U-shaped spring adapted to fit within the inner of said channel-shaped elements and having pegs extending laterally from its arms and insertable in registered holes of said elements, said spring then pivoting on said pegs.

6. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 5, in which said inner channel-shaped member has cams engageable with the arms of said spring for compressing said arms towards each other when said spring is swung upwardly about said pegs.

7. In a carpet stretcher, the combination with an extensible member, a prong carrying head on one end of said extensible member and a block on the other end of said extensible member adapted for abutment against a wall surface, of a housing having a cavity therein within which said block is receivable to removably mount said housing thereupon, and a plurality of carpet-engaging prongs extending downwardly from the under surface of said housing.

8. In a carpet stretcher, a telescopically extensible member, a pressure exerting head carried thereby at each end thereof, carpet-engaging prongs extending downwardly from the under surface of one of said heads, said one head being movable longitudinally of said extensible member in further extension thereof, means mechanically interposed between said one head and said telescopic member for moving said one head with respect to said telescopic member to attain said further extension, and supplementary carpet-engaging means carried by said extensible member adjacent said head-moving means, said supplementary means being operable upon disengagement of said one head's prongs from carpet previously stretched by said stretcher, to retain tension in said carpet during such disengagement of said one head from said carpet.

9. In a carpet stretcher, a telescopically extensible member, a pressure exerting head carried thereby at each end thereof, carpet-engaging prongs extending downwardly from the under surface of one of said heads, said one head being movable longitudinally of said extensible member in further extension thereof, means mechanically interposed between said one head and said telescopic member for moving said one head with respect to said telescopic member to attain said further extension, and supplementary carpet-engaging means carried by said extensible member adjacent said head-moving means, said supplementary means being operable upon disengagement of said one head's prongs from carpet previously stretched by said stretcher, to retain ten-

sion in said carpet during such disengagement of said one head from said carpet, and anti-buckling means comprising prongs carried by said supplementary carpet-engaging means and inclined downwardly and laterally therefrom into carpet-engaging position to resist lateral movement of the associated portion of said extensible member with respect to said carpet.

10. In a carpet stretcher having two head members and a telescopically extensible member carrying one of said head members at each end thereof and having registerable holes in its inner and outer elements and locking means engageable with said holes to hold said extensible member in selected degrees of extension, a plate having a bridge portion adapted to overlie said extensible member transversely thereof and having holes registerable with the holes of said extensible member, clamping means inclusive of pegs engageable with registered holes in said plate and said extensible member for clamping said plate to said extensible member, and a plurality of prongs secured to said plate and adapted to engage a carpet to prevent relative movement of said carpet and said extensible member.

11. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 10, and a guard plate secured to said first-mentioned plate for regulating the effective length of said prongs.

12. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 10, and additional prong-carrying members securable to the end portions of said plate and having prongs laterally inclined so as to resist lateral movement of the associated portion of said extensible member.

13. In a carpet stretcher, the construction set forth in claim 10, and additional prongs carried by said plate and inclined laterally with respect thereto so as to resist lateral movement of the associated portion of said extensible member.

14. In a carpet stretcher, the combination with an extensible member, a prong-carrying head on one end of said extensible member arranged for sliding movement relative thereto in further extension thereof, and lever means for extending and retracting said prong-carrying head relatively to said extensible member, of a head secured to the other end of said extensible member and having an end face adapted to abut against a wall surface and a plurality of prongs in stepped arrangement so that those of said prongs adjacent to said end face extend downwardly to a lesser distance than the prongs adjacent to said extensible member, a vertically adjustable plate having apertures therein through which a portion of the prongs of greater downward extension protrude.

15. In a carpet stretcher, the combination with an extensible member, a prong-carrying head on one end of said extensible member arranged for

sliding movement relative thereto in further extension thereof, lever means for extending and retracting said prong-carrying head relatively to said extensible member, of a head secured to the other end of said extensible member having a plurality of downwardly extending prongs in stepped arrangement so that the innermost of said prongs have greater downward extension than the outermost thereof, a guard plate having apertures therein through which said innermost prongs protrude, and means for adjusting said guard plate to alter the degree of protrusion of said innermost prongs.

16. In a carpet stretcher, the combination with an extensible member, a prong-carrying head on one end of said extensible member, and a block on the other end of said extensible member adapted for abutment against a wall surface, of a member adapted to be detachably secured to said block, a prong-carrying plate securable to the lower portion of said member having downwardly extending prongs arranged in two groups of greater and of lesser downward extension, and a guard plate adjustable vertically relative to said prong-carrying plate for regulating the penetration into a carpet of that group of prongs having greater downward extension.

17. In a carpet stretcher, the combination set forth in claim 16, in which said detachable member has an end surface of soft material adapted to abut a wall surface.

18. In a carpet stretcher having two head members adapted respectively to grip a carpet and to abut a resistance, an elongated member holding said head members in spaced relation, lever means acting on one of said head members to increase said spaced relation, and a pronged member adapted to be secured transversely to said elongated member at selected positions thereon whereby end thrust exerted upon said elongated member may be transmitted to a carpet at a position between said head members.

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