Feb. 16, 1960 A. W. THIELEPAPE 2,925,140

COLLAPSIBLE TRESTLES

Filed Nov. 26, 1957

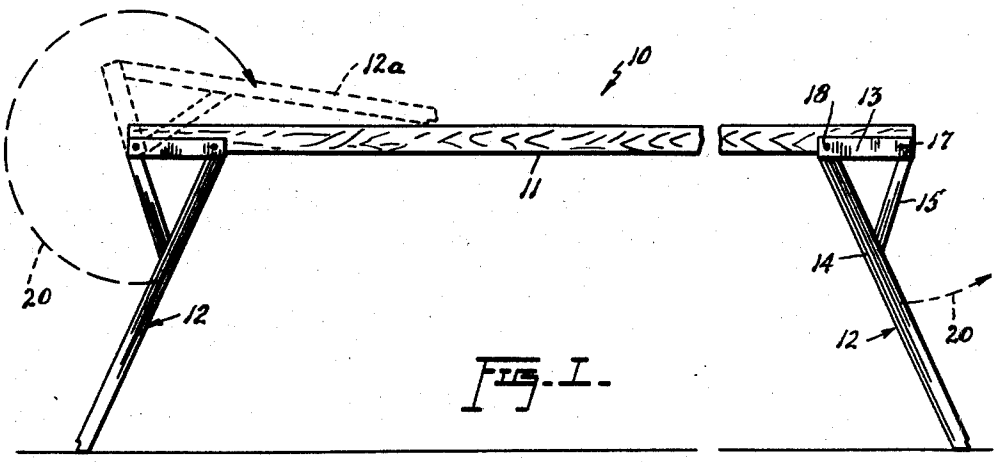


FIG. 1.

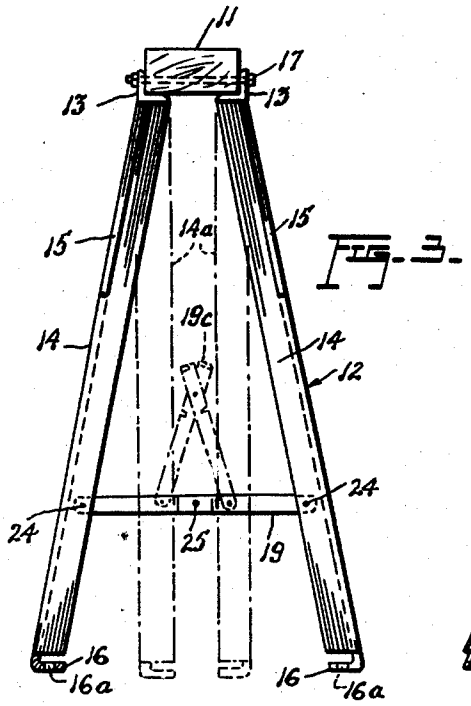


FIG. 3.

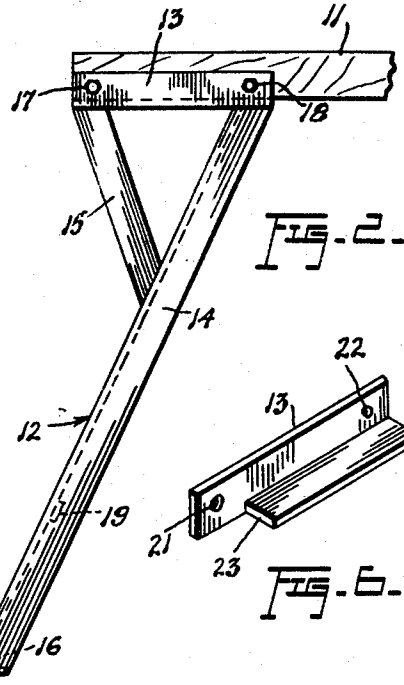


FIG. 2.

FIG. 6.

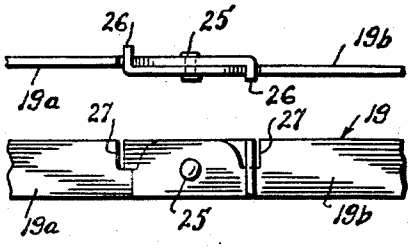


FIG. 5.

FIG. 4.

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COLLAPSIBLE TRESTLES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 182—155)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in trestles, and in particular concerns itself with certain improvements in the trestle disclosed in my United States Patent No. 2,198,956, issued on April 30, 1940.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a trestle of this general type, including a cross beam and a pair of supporting leg units at the ends thereof, wherein the leg units may be quickly and easily folded to a superposed position on the beam, so that the entire device occupies a small amount of space and may be conveniently transported or stored when not in use.

While in my prior patent the leg units were detachable from the beam for purposes of shipping or storage of the trestle, the disassembly of the device required an appreciable amount of time and the detached parts were often misplaced so that they were not readily on hand when the trestle was to be re-assembled. Comparatively, in the present invention, the leg units remain attached to the beam even when folded, and both assembly and disassembly of the device may be carried out with considerable ease and convenience.

Other advantages of the present invention reside in its simplicity of construction, dependable operation, durability, and in its adaptability to economical manufacture.

With the foregoing more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention will be understood from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters of reference are used to designate like parts, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary side elevational view thereof on an enlarged scale;

Figure 3 is an end view thereof;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary elevational view of one of the braces used in the invention;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary top plan view of the brace; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of one of the mounting members.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the invention comprises a collapsible trestle which is designated generally by the reference numeral **10** and embodies in its construction a cross beam **11**, of wood, or the like.

A pair of leg units **12** are provided at the ends of the beam **11** and extend downwardly therefrom for supporting the same in an elevated position above ground or floor, these leg units being similar in construction so that a description of one will suffice for both. Each of the leg units **12** consists of a pair of mounting members **13** which preferably are in the form of angle bars and are disposed at opposite sides of the end portions of the beam **11** so that the vertical flanges thereof are at the sides and the horizontal flanges underlie the beam, as is best shown in Figure 3.

A pair of normally downwardly divergent leg members **14** are secured at their upper ends by welding, or the like, to the respective mounting members **13**, and strap-like reinforcing bars **15** extend diagonally from the mounting members to intermediate portions of the leg members, as is clearly shown in Figure 2. The bars **15** are also welded or otherwise rigidly secured to the mounting members **13** as well as to the leg members **14**, and the leg members preferably are also in the form of angle bars. The lower ends of the leg members are cut away and angulated so as to provide feet **16** to rest on the ground or floor without scratching or otherwise damaging the same. The feet **16** are provided with holes **16***a* for securing nails.

It will be noted that the mounting members **13**, together with their associated leg members **14** and bars **15**, are separate from each other in each leg unit, other than by being connected to the beam **11** by the means **17**, **18** hereinafter described, and other than by having a collapsible brace **19** extending between the two leg members **14** in each unit, as will be also explained.

The elements **17** are in the form of pins or bolts which extend through the end portions of the beam **11** and through the vertical flanges of the mounting members **13**, whereby to pivotally connect the leg members **12** to the beam and whereby to permit the leg members to be swung upwardly past the ends of the beam as indicated at **20**, to a folded, superposed position on top of the beam, shown by the dotted lines **12***a* in Figure 1.

On the other hand, the elements **18** are in the form of bolts which extend removably through the beam **11** and through the mounting members **13** at points spaced inwardly from the elements **17**, and when the elements **18** are in position, they serve to secure the members **13** against the beam and thereby lock the leg units **12** in their operative, downwardly extended positions.

As is best shown in Figure 6, each of the members **13** is provided with suitable apertures **21**, **22** to receive the respective elements **17**, **18**, and it will be also noted that the horizontal flanges of the members **13** under the apertures **21** are cut away as shown at **23**, so that they do not interfere with the ends of the beam when the leg units are swung about the pivot elements **17** to and from their folded position.

As already noted, when the trestle is in its operative position, the leg members **14** of each leg unit are downwardly divergent as shown in Figure 3, so that their lower ends are spread apart to opposite sides of the beam **11** for ample stability. However, for ease of transportation and storage, it would not be desirable to maintain the leg members in their divergent relation when the leg units are folded on top of the beam, and accordingly, the apertures **21** of the mounting members **13** are sufficiently large with respect to the diameter of the pivot elements **17** as to afford a certain amount of slackness or play, which permits the leg members **14** to be drawn to a substantially parallel relation as indicated at **14***a* in Figure 3, when the fastening elements **18** are removed and the pivot elements **17** are loosened. In this manner, the leg members **14** in their substantially parallel relation will not project appreciably beyond the side edges of the beam **11** when the leg units are folded thereon, as will be readily understood.

The leg members **14** of each leg unit are maintained in their normal, divergent relationship by the aforementioned braces **19**. Each of these comprises a pair of complemental sections **19***a*, **19***b* which are pivoted to the respective leg members as indicated at **24** and which are pivotally connected together at **25**. The inner end portions of the brace sections extend beyond the pivot **25** and are angulated to provide detents **26** which are receivable in notches **27** formed in the brace sections, as shown

in Figures 4 and 5. In other words, the detent **26** of each brace section is receivable in the notch **27** of the other section when the sections are longitudinally aligned, so that the brace is prevented from collapsing downwardly at the pivot **25**. However, the brace may be collapsed upwardly as shown by the dotted lines **19***c* in Figure 3, so that the leg members **14** may be drawn to their substantially parallel relation, preparatory to folding of the leg units on top of the beam **11**.

It will be observed from the foregoing that I have provided an improved arrangement of my trestle as disclosed in my prior Patent No. 2,198,956, whereby the same may be quickly and easily folded to a compact form for convenient portability and/or storage, without the need of physically detaching the leg members or units from the beam, and which may be economically manufactured from readily available components.

While in the foregoing there has been described and shown the preferred embodiment of the invention, various modifications may become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention relates. Accordingly, it is not desired to limit the invention to this disclosure, and various modifications may be restored to, such as may lie within the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed as new is:

In a collapsible trestle, the combination of a horizontal beam of a rectangular cross-section having an end surface, upper and lower surfaces and a pair of said edges, a pair of elongated mounting members provided at opposite sides of said beam and having outer ends flush

with the end surface of the beam, said mounting members being L-shaped in cross-section and including vertical flanges abutting the respective side edges and horizontal flanges supportably underlying the lower surface of the beam, a pair of inclined legs secured at their upper ends to the inner ends of the respective mounting members and extending downwardly therefrom to contact the ground at points spaced outwardly from the outer ends of the mounting members, the outer ends of the horizontal flanges of the mounting members terminating short of the outer ends of the vertical flanges whereby the outer end portions of the vertical flanges constitute a pair of projecting ears terminating flush with the end surface of the beam, and a combined fastening and pivot element extending transversely through said beam and through said ears, whereby said mounting members may be swung outwardly and upwardly about said element to a folded position wherein they project upwardly from the end of the beam and wherein said legs are nested above the beam with their free extremities contacting the upper surface of the beam intermediate the ends of the latter.

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