R. L. BALL.

FIRE ESCAPE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1914.

1,135,248. Patented Apr. 13, 1915.

Fig. 1.

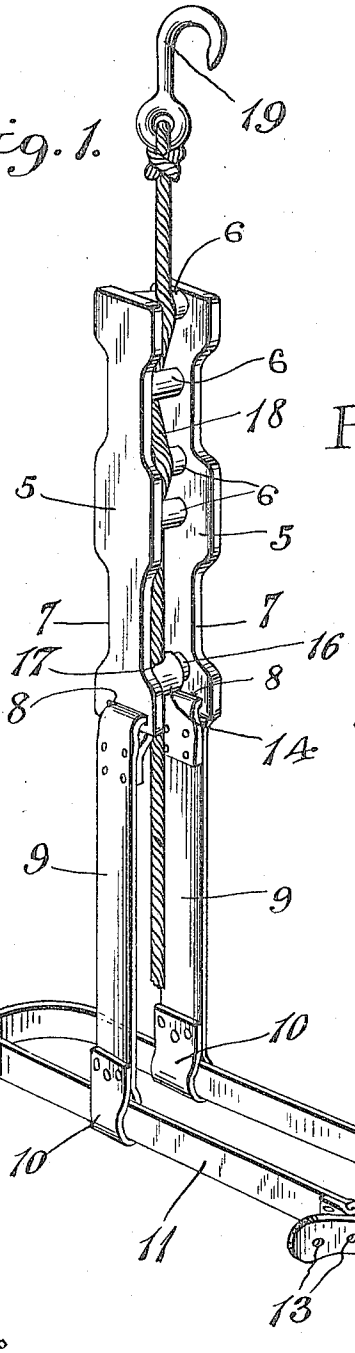


Fig. 4.

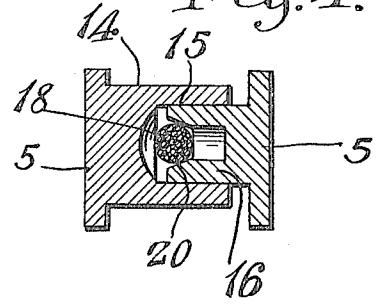


Fig. 2.

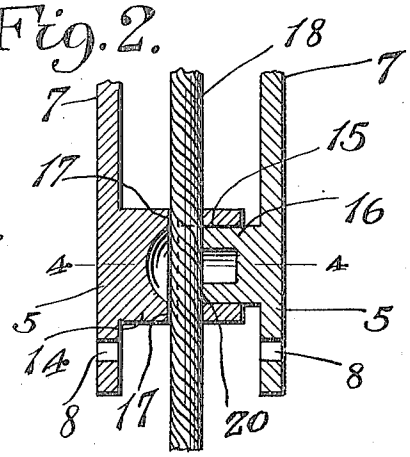
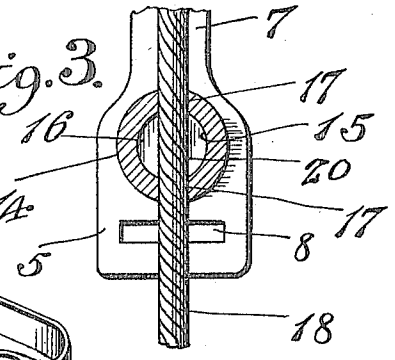


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

J. P. Wahler

Chas. Beebold

Inventor,

R. L. Ball.

By A. Randolph & Co.

Attorneys

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH L. BALL, OF SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

1,135,248. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 13, 1915.

Application filed July 20, 1914. Serial No. 851,992.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH L. BALL, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Berwick, in the county of York and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a fire escape, and more particularly to a device of this character embodying a belt adapted to be attached to the body of the user and carrying a device operatively engaged over a rope or a cable whereby the movement of the device downwardly on the rope or cable may be easily controlled.

The invention has for its object to provide a device of this character of improved and simplified construction which may be conveniently carried about from place to place by the user.

Another object is the provision of simple and reliably efficient means for retarding the movement of the device on a cable.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the novel construction, arrangement and formation of parts as will be hereinafter specifically described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the complete fire escape. Fig. 2 represents an enlarged detail sectional view of the means for retarding the movement of the device on a cable. Fig. 3 represents a similar view taken at right angles to Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 represents a transverse sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawing in detail, wherein similar reference numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the numeral 5 indicates generally the side members of a frame structure including a plurality of transversely arranged and spaced pins or bolts 6 securing the side or longitudinal members 5 in spaced relation. The lower extremities of the side members 5 are reduced in width as indicated at 7 to provide an adequate hand hold, whereby said lower extremities may be drawn together for a purpose which will hereinafter appear.

Slots 8 are formed transversely in the lower extremities of the side members 5 below the hand holds 7 and are connected with straps 9 of leather or other suitable material having their opposite extremities looped, as indicated at 10, to receive a belt 11 provided at one end with a buckle 12 and at the opposite end with a plurality of eyes 13 whereby the belt may be secured to the body of the user.

The outer member 14 of the rope or cable-gripping device is secured to the inner face of the lower extremity of one of the side members 5 and projects inwardly toward the other side member. The outer member 14 is preferably of cylindrical formation and is provided with a concentric recess 15 receiving the cylindrical member 16 carried by the outer side member 5. The outer member 14 is provided in the wall of the recess 5 adjacent the inner end of the latter with openings 17 alined longitudinally of the frame structure and receiving the rope or cable 18, which latter, if desired, may be provided at one end with a hook or similar device adapted to be secured to a stationary object when the device is brought into use. The end of the inner member 16 is formed with a V-shaped notch 20 in which is engaged the rope or cable 18, whereby when the side members 5 of the frame are brought together by grasping the hand hold 7 thereof the inner member 16 moves inwardly within the outer member 14 firmly wedging the cable or rope 18 within the recess or notch 20 and thus retarding the movement of fire escape downwardly on said rope or cable. The movement of the frame structure on the rope or cable 18 is further retarded by the peculiar arrangement of the latter around the several pins or bolts 6 in the upper portion of said frame.

What I claim is:

1. A fire escape comprising a frame structure including spaced side members, bolts connecting the upper portions of said side members, a cable extending between said side members and over said bolts, the lower portions of said side members being reduced in width to provide a hand hold, telescoping members secured to the lower extremities of said side members, one of said telescoping members having an opening therethrough receiving said cable, whereby when the other telescoping member is moved inwardly the cable is forcibly gripped, and means for attaching said frame to the body.

2. A fire escape comprising a frame structure including spaced side members, bolts connecting the upper portions of said side members, a cable extending between said side members and over said bolts, telescoping members secured to the lower extremities of said side members, the outer telescoping member having openings therethrough receiving said cable, and the inner telescoping member having a recess therein receiving said cable, whereby when the telescoping members are moved inwardly the cable is forcibly gripped.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

RALPH L. BALL.

Witnesses:
CARRIE H. REDMAN,
LOIS FREEMAN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."