Dec. 22, 1931. F. W. MERRIMAN 1,837,628

DECK BLOCK

Filed Oct. 4, 1930

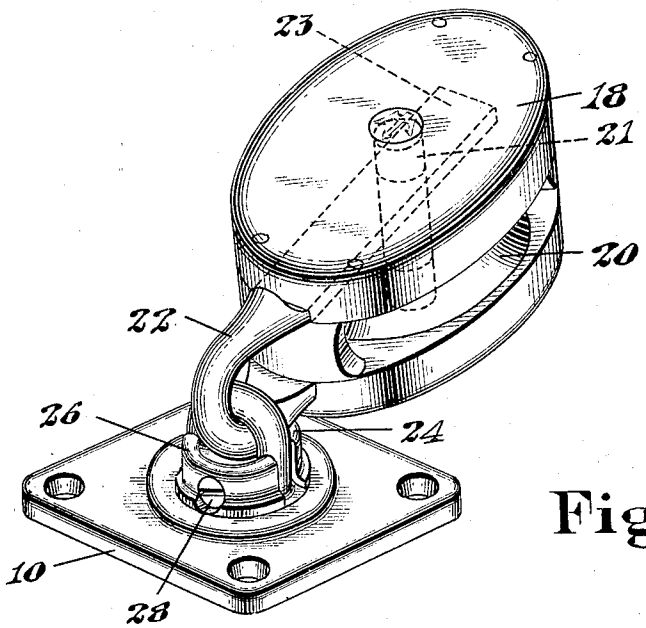


Fig.1.

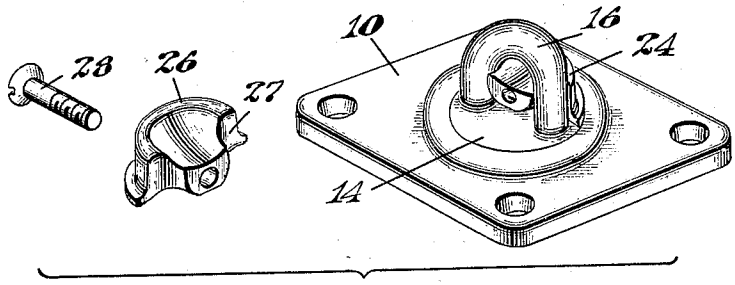


Fig.2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DECK BLOCK

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This invention relates to deck blocks for use on board yachts or other vessels, and more particularly to deck blocks of the type which are arranged to be supported in all positions out of contact with the deck.

Deck blocks are designed to be secured directly to the deck and are commonly used as leaders for sheets, halyards, or other ropes. They may be used in other relations and for other purposes but in all cases it is desirable that the block should be supported in such a manner that it cannot strike the deck or other supporting surface when the rope running through it is being hauled or slackened. If this precaution is not taken, the deck may be marred and there is danger of fouling the tackle.

Deck blocks of this type as heretofore constructed have required fittings of more or less special character and have been cumbersome in design and unattractive in appearance. I have discovered that by providing a novel filler or collar member adapted to be assembled and secured in place between the deck plate and the block, I am enabled to utilize practically any block of commercial design in the organization of my improved deck block. Thus I make available single or double blocks of any specification, including those having metal or wood shells, bronze or galvanized sheaves, for manilla or wire rope. As herein shown, the filler member is composed of supplementary pieces which may be assembled partially within the eye of the base plate or block after the two have been connected. The filler member thus constituted acts to limit the movement of the block toward the deck while leaving it free to assume whatever angular position its lead may require.

In addition to the advantages above discussed, a deck block constructed in accordance with my invention has the advantage that the eye in which the filler member is assembled may be utilized to the fullest extent of its unobstructed opening in connecting the block and deck plate. For example, the eye of the block may have a strap of substantial dimensions which can be passed through the unobstructed eye of the deck plate but which would be too large for the same eye fashioned with an integral filler member.

These and other features of the invention will be best understood and appreciated from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof, selected for purposes of illustration and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a swivel deck block; and

Fig. 2 is a view in perspective of the deck plate and associated parts in separated condition.

My invention is herein illustrated as embodied in a swivel deck block, of which the base comprises a substantially square deck plate 10 perforated at each corner for attaching screws and bolts by which it may be secured to the deck. A circular swivel plate 14 is mounted in the deck plate 10 to turn freely about a vertical axis. Formed integral with the swivel plate 14, or otherwise rigidly secured thereto, is an upstanding eye 16 having substantially parallel sides or legs and being circular in cross section.

The block 18 herein shown is a single block having a wooden shell and a metal sheave 20 mounted therein. The block has an eye 22 with an elongated strap 23 at each side and between these extends a pin 21 upon which the sheave is journaled. The strap is embedded in the body of the block with sufficient security to carry the entire strain imparted thereto in use. The strap 23 of the eye of the block is substantially rectangular in cross section while the eye 22 is circular in cross section and of substantially the same dimensions as the eye of the deck plate. The upstanding eye 16 of the deck plate is of sufficient height to permit the strap 23 of the eye of the block to be passed through it before the parts of the block are completely assembled.

The filler or collar member herein shown comprises a pair of filler pieces 24 and 26 which are substantially semi-circular in shape and approximately the same outside diameter as the exposed portion of the swivel

plate 14. Each filler piece is provided with a circular recess 27 at both ends of its diameter and with a reduced center portion adapted to fit between the legs of the eye 16. The assembled filler member rests flatly upon the swivel plate 14 with the legs of the eye 16 passing upwardly through the curved recesses 27. The filler piece 26 is provided with a horizontal bore to receive a clamping screw 28 and the filler piece 24 is provided with a threaded hole so that it acts as a nut when the clamping screw is turned to clamp the two pieces together in position upon the eye 16. The upper surface of each filler piece is dished to accommodate the eye of the block 22 so that the assembled filler member presents an upstanding peripheral rim located so as to underlie the sides of the eye 22 of the block and limit the movement of the block toward the deck in all positions of the block.

It will be seen that the filler member is secured to and carried by the swivel plate 14 without interfering with the movement of the latter in any respect. The block is, therefore, free to assume any position about the vertical axis of the swivel plate. The block is also free to be swung in any vertical plane it may assume by reason of the articulated connection of the eyes 16 and 22 and this is true in every position into which it may be brought. The weight of the block is supported by the coaction of the eyes and the circular rim of the filler member, so that the block is never permitted to strike the deck or to assume an incorrect angle with respect to its lead.

While I have shown my invention as embodied in a single block of the swivel type, it will be understood that it is within the scope of my invention to employ any desired type of block best suited for the requirements of the case, with or without a swivel mounting.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A deck block comprising a base adapted to be secured to a deck and having an upstanding eye, a block having an eye connected to the eye of the base, and a removable filler piece extending into the eye of the base, restricting the opening thereof and limiting the movement of the block toward the deck.

2. A deck block comprising a base adapted to be secured to a deck and having an upstanding eye, a block having an eye connected to said upstanding eye, and a removable filler piece secured in position between the sides of the eye of the base and having a curved flange for engaging the eye of the block.

3. A deck block comprising a base having an upstanding eye, a block having an eye with an elongated strap of dimensions permitting it to be passed through the eye and being embedded in the body of the block, and a separate filler piece occupying a portion of the opening in the upstanding eye and having a curved peripheral rim for engaging the eye of the block.

4. A deck block comprising a base having an upstanding eye, a block having an eye interconnected therewith, and a two-part collar piece secured in place between the sides of one eye and having a rim portion for engaging the other eye.

5. A deck block comprising a base having an eye with substantially parallel sides, a block having an eye interconnected therewith, and a two-part collar piece shaped to fit between the sides of the eye of the base, being reduced in thickness at its center and provided with a peripheral rim for engaging the eye of the block.

6. A deck block comprising a base having an upstanding eye of material substantially circular in cross section, a block connected to the eye, and a pair of substantially semi-circular filler pieces having curved recesses at each end to fit the sides of the eye, and means for clamping said filler pieces together with the sides of the eye engaged in said recesses.

7. A deck block comprising a base having an upright eye, a block connected thereto, and a pair of substantially semi-circular filler pieces each reduced in width at its straight side to enter between the sides of the eye and being dished in its upper surface, and threaded means for drawing said pieces together.

8. A deck block comprising a base having a swivel plate with an upright eye, a block connected to the eye, and a filler member comprising segmental pieces assembled upon the swivel plate and detachably clamped in position thereon so as partially to fill said eye.

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