March 3, 1959 T. J. OWEN 2,876,046

SCAFFOLD SUPPORT AND ITS USE

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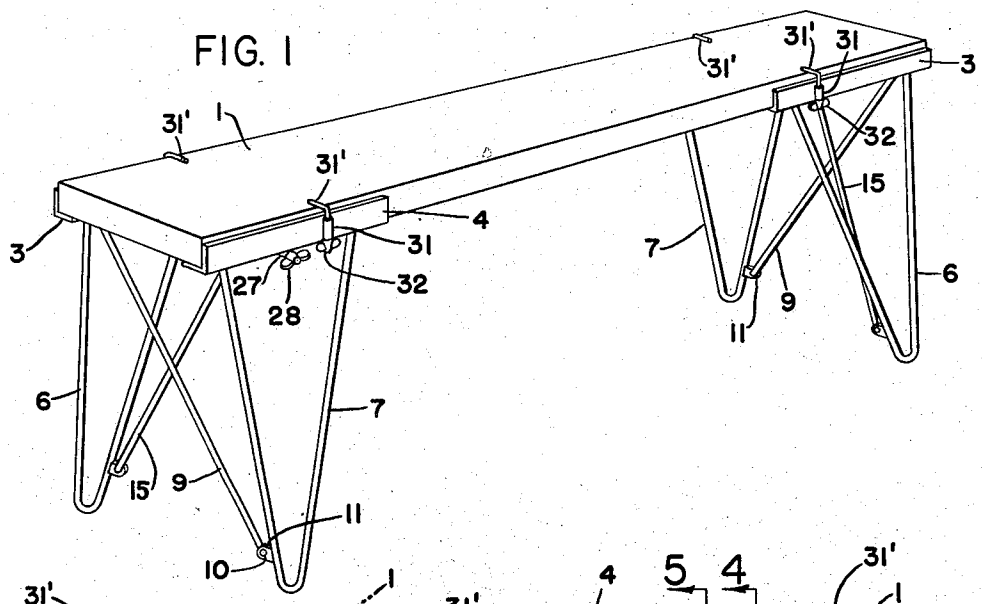
FIG. 1



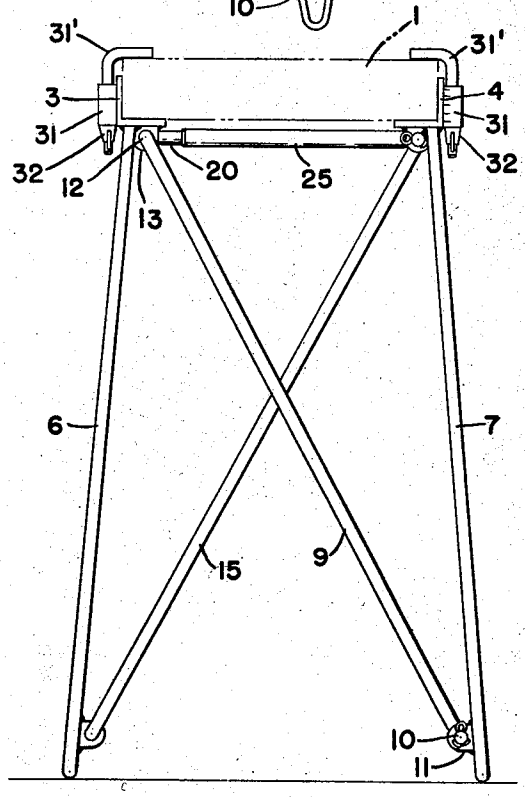


FIG. 2

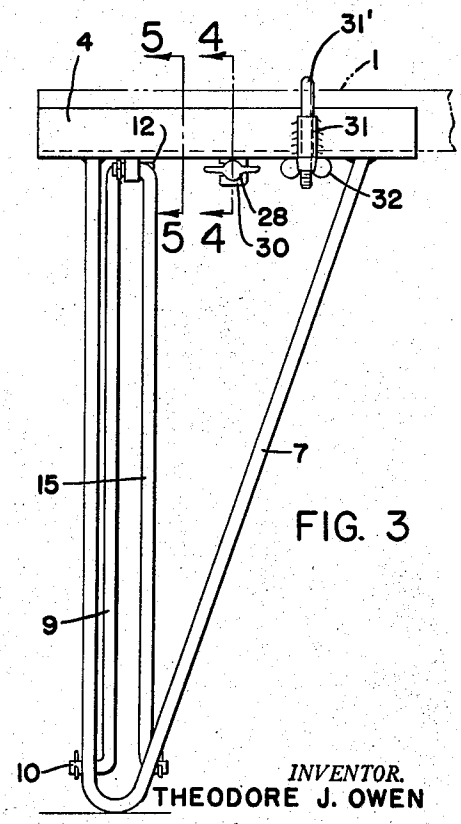


FIG. 3

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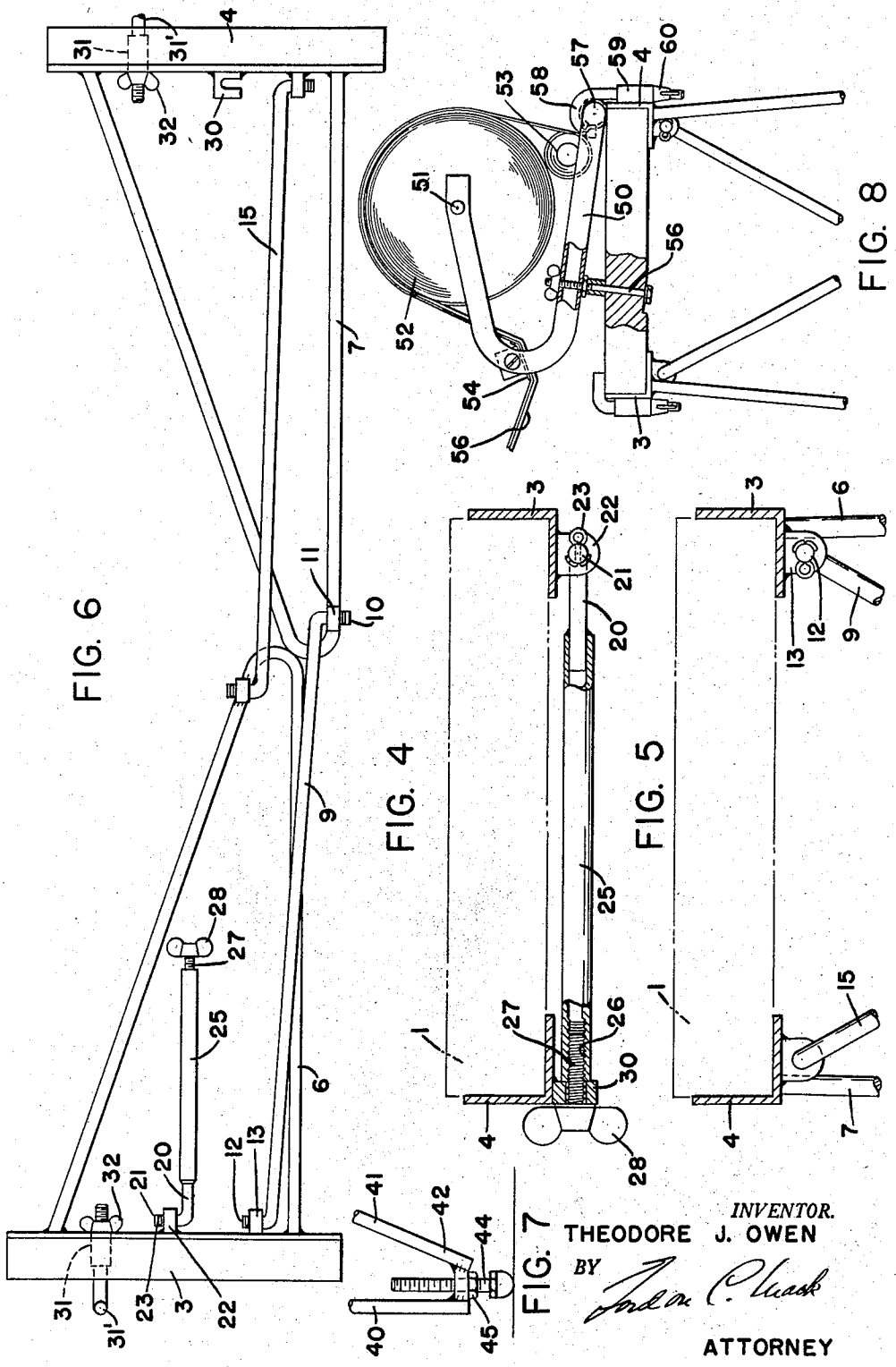

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SCAFFOLD SUPPORT AND ITS USE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 304—5)

This invention relates to a support for a scaffold and, more particularly, a scaffold for a painter or paperhanger. The scaffold support is made of metal and is collapsible. It is to be used with a plank which supports the workman, and the invention includes such use. Ordinarily the scaffold support will be about 18 inches to two feet high, and may be made with extensions which will raise it to any desired height.

The plank on which the workmen stand is ordinarily supported by a separate scaffold support at each end. The top of the support is formed with angle members in which the plank rests. Although angle irons will ordinarily be used, any equivalent is satisfactory. The legs of the support are braced by braces pivotally connected so that the distance between the angle members can be varied, and tightening means is provided for tightening the respective angle members against the opposite edges of a plank. The angle members are advantageously provided with hook means of adjustable length for holding the plank in place.

The scaffold support may be used for other purposes, as, for example, to hold a dispenser for masking paper and masking tape, as will be explained.

The scaffold and its support will be further described in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a plank supported at each end by one of the scaffold supports;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation;

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the scaffold support which is at the left end of the plank;

Fig. 4 is a section in the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the scaffold support in collapsed position;

Fig. 7 is a modification showing the bottom of a leg of the scaffold support with an adjustable extension in it; and

Fig. 8 is an end elevation of the upper portion of the scaffold with a masking-paper dispenser, etc. mounted thereon.

In the drawings the plank 1 is a heavy plank of the type usually employed by a painter or paperhanger. For interior work, such a plank has often been supported at its ends by stepladders. There are various objections to these. They are cumbersome, and they hinder the freedom of a workman located at an end of the plank. They have been replaced to a certain extent by other supports which, in general, are cumbersome and expensive.

The scaffold support of this invention has various advantages. It does not impede the movement of a workman at any place along the length of the plank. The supports are light in weight and collapsible, and are thus easily transported from place to place, both on the job and from one job to another.

The scaffold support is formed with two angle irons 3 and 4 or other angle members that are positioned opposite one another and support the plank from below and

prevent its movement laterally. The two legs 6 and 7 are advantageously, but not necessarily, formed of bent rods the ends of which are welded to the undersides of the angle members.

Each leg is braced. The ends of the brace 9 are bent over. The bottom end 10 is pivoted in the support 11 at the base of the leg 7, and the top end 12 is pivotally engaged in the bracket 13. The other brace 15 is similarly pivotally connected to the support. This permits the angle members and legs to be moved toward and away from one another so that the support can be used with planks of somewhat different widths. Also, the support can be collapsed by pressing the angle members outward into the same plane, as illustrated in Fig. 6.

There is a tightening member which connects the two angle members and provides for tightening them against the opposite edges of a plank, regardless of the width of the plank. This tightening member is composed of the short rod 20, the end 21 of which is bent at a right angle and engaged in the opening in the bracket 22. Its end is drilled and secured by the cotter pin 23. The opposite end of this rod is held in one end of the tube 25. The opposite end of the tube is threaded internally at 26. The bolt 27 with the wing-nut head 28 is adapted to be screwed into and out of the threaded end of the tube 25. The bolt can be engaged in the bracket 30 (Fig. 3) the side of the bracket being opened to permit insertion and removal of the bolt.

To use the device of the invention, a scaffold is brought to the place of use with two scaffold supports collapsed and separate from the plank. The supports are each folded together with the angle members adjusted to approximately the width of the plank and then each one is separately placed under its end of the plank while this end of the plank is supported manually. Each tightening member is swung into position with its free end in the bracket 30. The heads 28 are then tightened, bringing the upright portions of the respective angle members of each support tight against the opposite edges of the plank.

Mounted on the outside of each of the angle members is a socket 31 in which a hook 31′ is slidably engaged. The bottom of the hook is threaded and the wing nut 32 is provided to tighten the hook against the top of the plank. After the angle members 3 and 4 of the supports have been tightened against the sides of the plank the four hooks 31′ are drawn into position to prevent the plank from being lifted away from the supports. After these hooks have been tightened the entire assembly may be lifted from place to place by merely lifting the ends of the plank.

On completion of a job the hooks are loosened and turned outwardly. Then the nut 28 is loosened and the free end of the tightening member is disengaged from the bracket 30 and allowed to hang. The supports are then removed from under the ends of the plank and are preferably collapsed to the flat position illustrated in Fig. 6, and placed on top of the plank for movement to another location.

Although ordinarily the painter or paperhanger will need a scaffold only about two feet high in order to reach the ceiling of a room of ordinary height, it occasionally happens that a somewhat higher scaffold is necessary. For this purpose, the height of the scaffold support may be made adjustable, as illustrated in Fig. 7. Here, instead of using a single rod bent back on itself to form one of the legs, two separate rods 40 and 41 are employed and they are united at the bottom by a threaded nut member 42. The bolt 44 is threaded up into this and held in place by the lock nut 45. The bottom of this bolt is provided with a rounded head in order that it will not damage a floor or carpet or the like on which the scaffold is erected. The height of the scaffold sup-

port thus equipped may be adjusted by turning the bolt and locking it in any desired position with the lock nut. A short bolt 44 is illustrated. A much longer bolt, or a rod a foot or more in length and threaded at its upper end may be employed.

This type of support may be used with a short plank or board to support a masking-paper and masking-tape dispenser of the type in which the paper and the tape are drawn simultaneously from separate rolls. This is illustrated in Fig. 8. The dispenser comprises two identical, although opposite, frames 50 connected by the rod 51 on which the roll of masking paper 52 is placed. The masking-tape roll 53 is separately supported and is so located widthwise that when the paper and tape are drawn from their separate rolls together, about half the width of the tape overlaps the paper, and the adhesive of the other half of the tape is exposed. The knife 54 extends from one of the frames 50 to the other and is used for cutting both the paper and the tape. It is only necessary to lift any unrolled portion 56 of the paper and tape together against the knife blade 54 to cut off any desired length. The frames are supported at an angle to the plank by bolts 56 in order to throw the center of gravity back toward the connecting rod 57 which is held down by hooks 58 which pass through sleeves 59 fastened to the outer surface of the angle member 4. The hooks are tightened by wing nuts 60. Two or more such hooks are employed.

Although in the preferred form of the invention, both ends of each brace are pivotally connected with the rest of the support, other types of bracing may be employed. For example, instead of using straight braces, V-braces may be employed with their ends rigidly attached to the top and bottom of each leg. The apices of these braces would be connected by a rivet or bolt or other pivotal attaching means. The end view of such a modification would be similar to the view shown in Fig. 2, except that where the two braces cross in Fig. 2, the apex of the one V-brace would be pivotally joined to the apex of the other V-brace, and the ends of the braces would be welded, or otherwise attached to the scaffold support. Such a scaffold support could not be flattened out, as is the preferred form of scaffold support in Fig. 6, but the two braces could be pivoted about the point where they are joined, so that the angle members of such a support could be brought against the sides of a plank, and held in place by a tightening member such as described.

The various elements shown may be replaced by equivalents. The invention is defined in the claims which follow.

What I claim is:

1. A scaffold support which includes two parallel angle members which face one another and are adapted to receive and support the opposite edges of a plank, a leg support for each angle member, a brace extending from a pivotal connection near the base of each leg to a pivotal connection near the union of the top of the opposite leg and its angle member, and contractible means of adjustable length the opposite ends of which are attached to the angle members for maintaining the angle members against the edges of the plank.

2. A scaffold support which includes two parallel angle members which face one another and are adapted to receive and support the opposite edges of a plank, contractible means the opposite ends of which are attached to the angle members for maintaining the angle members against the opposite edges of the plank when the scaffold support is in use, a leg rigidly attached to each angle member, and a brace for each leg one end of which is pivotally attached to the leg and the other end of which is pivotally attached to the support near the union of the other leg and its angle member, each brace being longer than the vertical height of its leg whereby the scaffold support may be flattened into one plane with the angle members located at the outer ends thereof.

3. A scaffold support which includes two parallel angle members which face one another and are adapted to receive and support the opposite edges of a plank, each angle member having attached thereto a leg formed of a rod sharply bent into two substantially straight portions, one portion of which extends substantially perpendicularly downwardly from near one end of the angle member and the other portion of which angles back to the angle member at an angle less than 90 degrees, said portions which are not perpendicular to the angle member being substantially parallel when the angle members are supporting a plank; and contractible means of adjustable length the opposite ends of which are attached to the angle members for maintaining the angle members against the edges of the plank.

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