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Gomes et al.

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[54] **PORTABLE GUN RACK**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **211/64**; 248/226 A

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47f 7/00**; B61l 5/00

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 248/226 A, 340; 211/64; 182/150; 224/42.42

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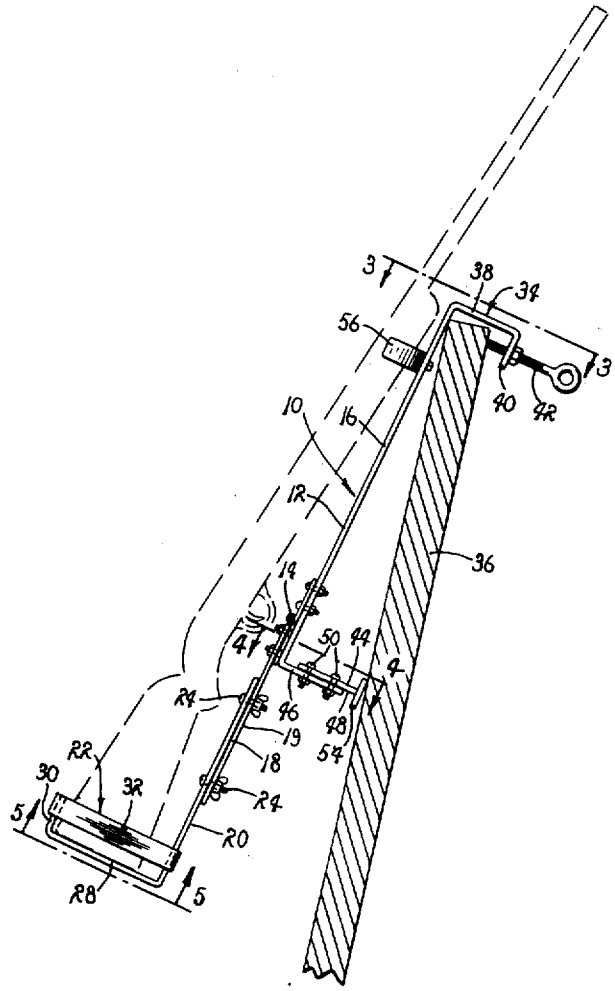
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Assistant Examiner—Andrew M. Calvert
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Huebner & Worrell

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A portable gun rack characterized by a lightweight, foldable body of a variable length having a socket at one end for receiving the butt end portion of a gun stock and a cradle adjacent to the opposite end portion of the body for receiving therein the forward end portion of the gun stock, and hook and a cantilevered leg assembly projected from the body for supporting the body in inclined suspension.

2 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



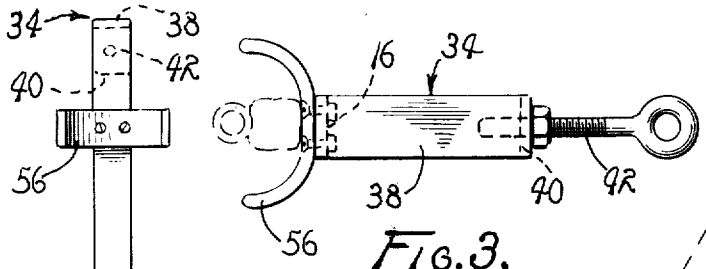


FIG. 3.

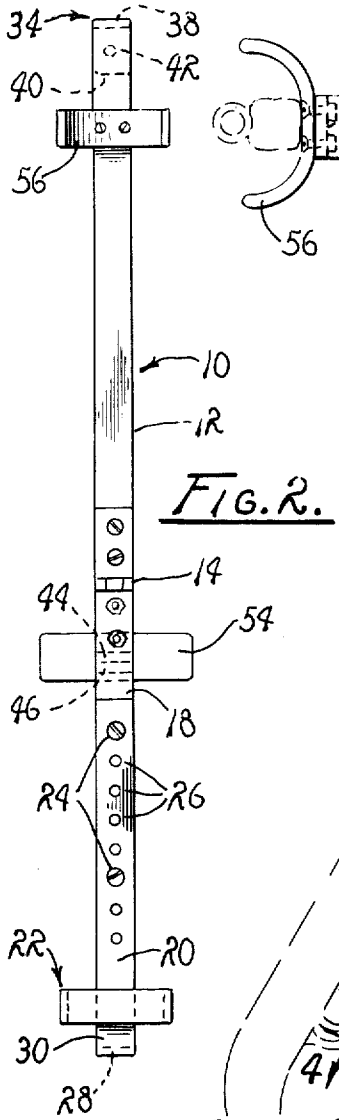


FIG. 2.

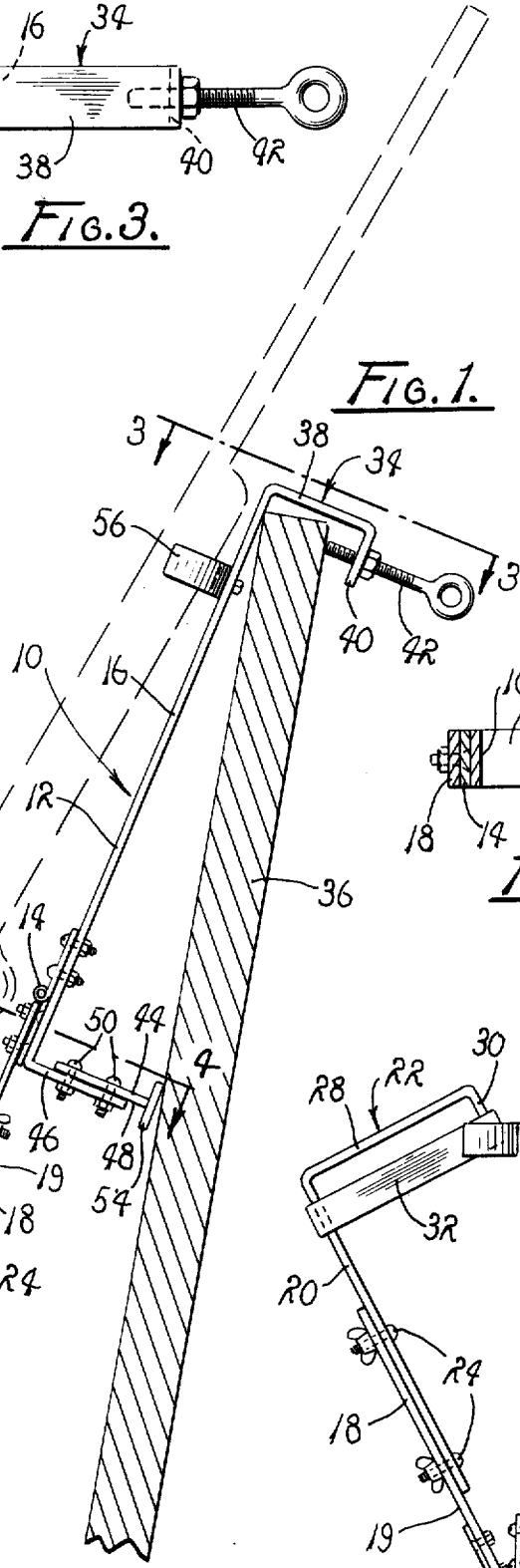


FIG. 1.

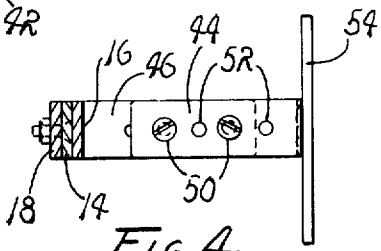


FIG. 4.

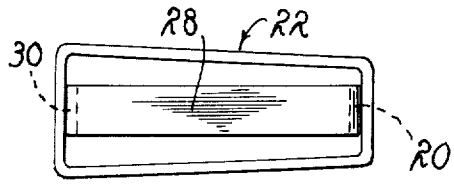


FIG. 5.

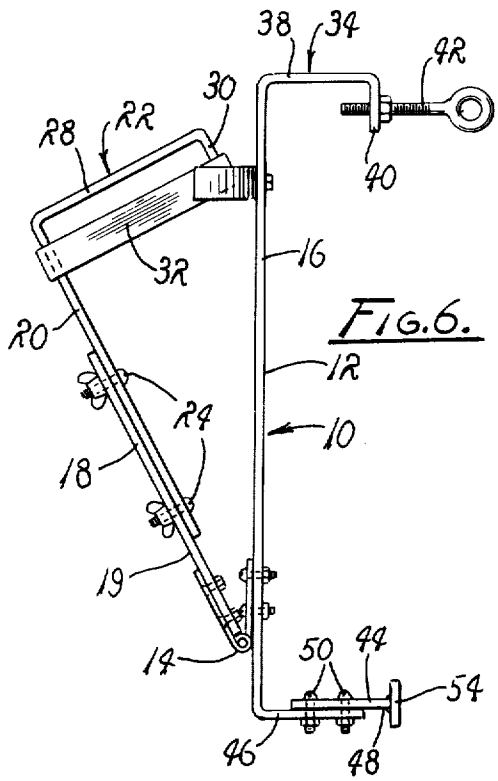


FIG. 6.

PORTABLE GUN RACK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to gun racks generally, and more particularly to a portable gun rack particularly suited for supporting a rifle, shotgun and the like, hereinafter referred to as a gun, at a ready position in duck blinds, deer stands and the like.

Those familiar with activities characterized by a use of guns readily appreciate the existence of a need to proliferate precautionary measures. Moreover, because guns often are employed in duck blinds, deer stands, rifle ranges and similar environments, wherein the guns are subjected to the effects of dust, grit, mud and the like, consideration must be given to their protection during periods of use.

Of course, where guns are employed in activities wherein they must be maintained at "ready" for accommodating rapid aiming and firing sequences, difficulty is encountered in safely stowing them in a protected condition. Unfortunately, in duck blinds, deer stands and the like, guns often are rested or leaned against upright members, such as a wall of the blind or stand, in a position which facilitates a rapid recovery of the gun preparatory to carrying out an aiming and firing sequence.

For reasons which are believed to be readily apparent, stowing fire arms in a leaning position against upright members in duck blinds, deer stands, rifle ranges and the like, is a highly undesirable practice which often leads to contamination as well as an accidental discharge of fire arms resulting in the contamination of the guns as well as serious injury to those in the immediate vicinity of the fire arms.

Of course, gun racks are notoriously old and have often been employed in the home, in vehicles, and in similar environments under conditions wherein a gun need not be supported at ready. However, such racks normally are not portable and are not readily employable in duck blinds, deer stands, rifle ranges and the like.

It is therefore the purpose of the instant invention to provide a portable gun rack which can be folded into a compact configuration, readily transported to duck blinds, deer stands, firing ranges and the like, mounted on upright members, such as walls commonly found in these environments, and employed for safely supporting a gun, in a protected condition, at a ready position.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a portable gun rack which can be readily transported to a point of use.

It is another object to provide a portable, lightweight gun rack for temporarily supporting guns within duck blinds, deer stands and the like.

It is another object to provide a portable gun rack of lightweight structure adapted to be folded to a compact configuration, transported to a selected use environment, suspended from a substantially upright member and employed for safely supporting a gun at a ready position protected from dust, mud, grit and the like.

These and other objects and advantages are achieved through the use of an elongated body including a hinge near the midpoint thereof for accommodating a folding of the body, a socket disposed at one end portion of the body for receiving the butt of a gun stock, a cradle disposed adjacent to the opposite end portion of the body, for supporting the forward portion of the gun stock, a hook disposed at one end of the body, adjacent the cradle for supporting the body in suspension, and a cantilevered leg projected from the midportion of the body for engaging a substantially upright surface of the member from which the body is suspended, whereby the body is supported in an inclined disposition, as will become more readily apparent by reference to the following description and claims in light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a partially sectioned side elevation of a gun rack embodying the principles of the instant invention, depicting the utility thereof.

FIG. **2** is a front elevation of the gun rack shown in FIG. **1.**

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view taken generally along line **3—3** of FIG. **1.**

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view taken generally along line **4—4** of FIG. **1.**

FIG. **5** is a bottom plan view of the gun rack, taken generally along line **5—5** of FIG. **1.**

FIG. **6** is a side elevation illustrating the gun rack in a folded disposition.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, there is shown in FIG. **1** a portable gun rack, generally designated **10,** which embodies the principles of the instant invention. While the gun rack **10,** as shown in the drawings, preferably is formed of stainless steel and similar materials, it is to be understood that various materials, such as synthetic resins or plastics, may be employed in lieu of metallic materials, where found desirable.

The rack **10** includes an elongated body **12** having a hinge **14** near its midsection which serves to unite a base portion **16** of the body **12** with a distal portion **18** thereof. The hinge **14** includes a pin, not designated, which accommodates pivotal motion of the portions **16** and **18** about an axis transversely related to the body **12** whereby the body **12** may be selectively folded into a compact configuration wherein the distal portion **18** and the base portion **16** of the body are arranged in a substantially superimposed relationship, FIG. **6.**

It will be appreciated that the hinge **14** is mounted on the base portion in spaced relation with the end thereof. Hence, the distal portion **18** is caused to seat in an overlapping relation with the base portion **16.** The relationship thus established between the portions **16** and **18** permits the base portion **16** of the body **12** to limit rotation of the portion **18** about the hinge **14.** This, of course, imparts stability to the body.

The distal portion **18** of the body **12** includes a base **19** to which there is adjustably attached a socket support **20.** The support **20,** in turn, terminates in a socket **22** configured to receive the butt of a gun stock. As a practical matter, the socket support **20** is coupled with the base **19** through a pair of screws **24** seated in a pair of openings **26** provided in the socket support. It is to be understood that the body **12** can be lengthened or shortened simply by removing the screws **24** from those openings **26** within which they are seated, and thereaf-

ter reseating the screws **24** in other selected openings, following a linear adjustment of the socket support **20** relative to the base **19.**

The socket **22** includes a base plate **28** formed by bending the distal end portion of the socket support **20** at a right angle relative to the plane of the support. Additionally, it is preferred that the base plate **28** terminates in a lip **30** angularly related to the plane of the base plate **28** and disposed in substantial parallelism with the longitudinal axis of the body **12.** A strap **32** appropriately configured to circumscribe a gun butt seated on the base plate is welded to the lip **30** and to paralleling portions of the socket support **20,** as illustrated in FIG. **1.** Of course, where desired, the socket **22** is lined with suitable resilient padding, not shown, such as felt, sponge, and the like.

The base portion **16** of the body **12** terminates in a lip **34** located at the end of the body remote from the socket **22** configured to be received by the upper edge of an upstanding wall or similar structure, designated **36,** often encountered in duck blinds, deer stands, and the like.

The lip **34** includes a cantilevered base **38,** angularly related to the plane of the body **12,** terminating in an angularly related distal lip portion **40** paralleling the longitudinal axis of the body **12.** Thus, the lip **34,** when received by the upper edge surfaces of the wall **36,** serves to support the body **12** in suspension. Where desired, a clamp screw **42** is provided for clamping the lip **34** to the wall **36.**

Of course, in order to support a gun securely at a ready position, the body **12** preferably is suspended at a suitable angle of inclination for causing the fire arms to "lean" toward the wall **36.** To achieve this, the base portion **16,** of the body **12,** is provided with a leg **44** angularly projected therefrom. The leg **44** includes a base segment **46** and an extensible distal portion **48** connected thereto. The base **46** is formed by bending the base portion **16,** near its end, opposite the lip **34,** into an angular relationship with the plane of the base portion. The distal portion **48** of the leg **44** is adjustably coupled with the base segment **46** through a plurality of screws **50** extended through suitable openings **52** formed in the distal portion of the leg. By repositioning the screws **50** in the various openings **52,** the overall length of the leg **44** is varied.

The leg **44** also terminates in a foot **54** configured to engage the adjacent surface of the upstanding wall **36.** The foot **54** imparts stability to the gun rack **10** by precluding rotation of the body **12** about its longitudinal axis. This, of course, is of particular significance in instances where the gun rack **10** is likely to be subjected to jostling by a member of a hunting party confined within a duck blind, deer stand, or the like.

In order to insure that guns are releasibly supported by the rack **10,** the cradle **56** is affixed to the body **12** for receiving therein the forward portion of a gun stock. The cradle **56** opens outwardly so that the received portion of the stock is provided with support at its sides as well as at its bottom surface. It is to be understood that, while not shown, the cradle **56** also is appropriately padded in order to protect the finish of the gun stock.

OPERATION

It is believed that in view of the foregoing description, the operation of the device will readily be understood and it will be briefly reviewed at this point.

With the gun rack **10** assembled in the manner hereinbefore described, it may be folded to a compact configuration about its hinge **14** and ultimately transported to a point of use. In most instances, a convenient upstanding member such as a wall is provided at the point of use. The rack **10** is then suspended from the upper surface of the wall by mating the lip **34** with the uppermost edge surface thereof. The length of the leg **44** is then adjusted to an appropriate length for engaging the wall whereby a desired inclination is imparted to the body **12** as the body is suspended by the lip **34.** The distal portion **18** is now rotated about the hinge **14** for thereby preparing the rack to receive a fire arm.

In the event it is found desirable to adjust the socket support **20,** the screws **24** are removed from their openings and reseated in adjacent openings, whereby the body **10** is lengthened, or shortened, as preferred. Once properly adjusted, the butt of a gun stock for a gun is inserted into the socket **22** while the forward end portion or hand grip of the gun stock is received within the cradle **56.** Due to the inclination imparted to the body **12,** by the leg **44,** the gun is permitted to rest within the gun rack in a ready position. Thus, the gun is safely supported by the gun rack out of contact with dirt, mud, grit and the like, while a rapid extraction thereof is facilitated.

It will be appreciated that the gun rack can be rapidly removed from the wall **36,** refolded and readily transported away from the point of use.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed to be abundantly clear that the gun rack **10** of the instant invention provides a practical solution to the perplexing problem of providing a suitable gun rack for use in duck blinds, deer stands, rifle ranges and the like.

Although the invention has been herein shown and described in what is conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is not to be limited to the illustrative details disclosed.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by letters patent is:

1. A portable gun rack comprising:

A. an elongated body of an adjustable length formed from a strip of metallic material having means for receiving a butt portion of a gun stock near one end thereof;

B. means including a cradle adjacent to the opposite end portion of said body for receiving a forward portion of the gun stock;

C. means for supporting said body in suspension including a lip extended from the opposite end portion of said body adapted to engage a supporting ledge of an upstanding member;

D. means including a clamp screw mounted in said lip for clamping the lip in place relative to said supporting ledge;

E. means for imparting an angle of inclination to said body including a leg of an adjustable length extended from the body near the midportion thereof;

F. means defining a foot pad at the distal end of said leg for engaging an upstanding surface of said upstanding member;

G. means defining a hinge having an axis of rotation transversely related to said body near the midportion thereof for pivotally coupling the adjacent ends of opposite end portions of said body, whereby said body is adapted to be folded in a first direction into a compact configuration; and

H. means for limiting relative angular displacement of said end portions about said axis in a direction opposite to said first direction.

2. A portable gun rack particularly suited for use in duck blinds, deer stands and similar environments and adapted to be collapsed into a compact configuration comprising:

A. a segmented body of an adjustable length including a first segment having means defining near one end of said body a first receptacle for receiving the butt portion of a selected gun, and a second segment having means defining near the other end of said body a second receptacle aligned with said first receptacle for receiving a portion of said gun spaced from said butt portion;

B. hinge means interposed between said first and second receptacles having an axis of rotation transversely related to said body for pivotally coupling together said first and second segments of said body, whereby the first segment is adapted to be folded into a superimposed relationship with said second segment; and

C. means for supporting said body in inclined suspension from a selected upstanding member including a lip angularly projected from said second segment of said body and configured to receive a portion of said upstanding member, and means including an elongated leg affixed to the body, near the midportion thereof, and extended therefrom in substantial coplanar relation with said lip.

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