Aug. 6, 1957 J. B. MEEK 2,801,851

STILT STEP

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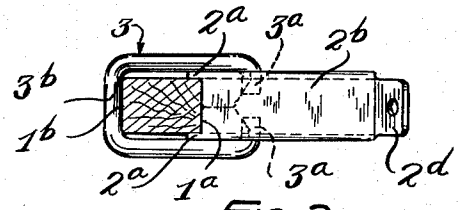


FIG. 3

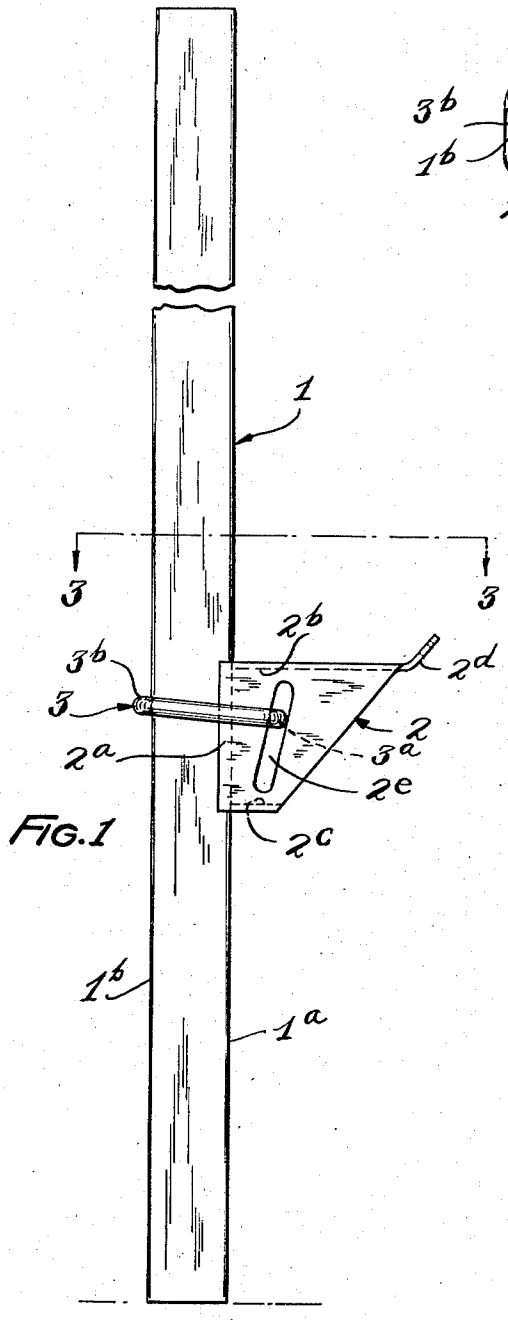


FIG. 1

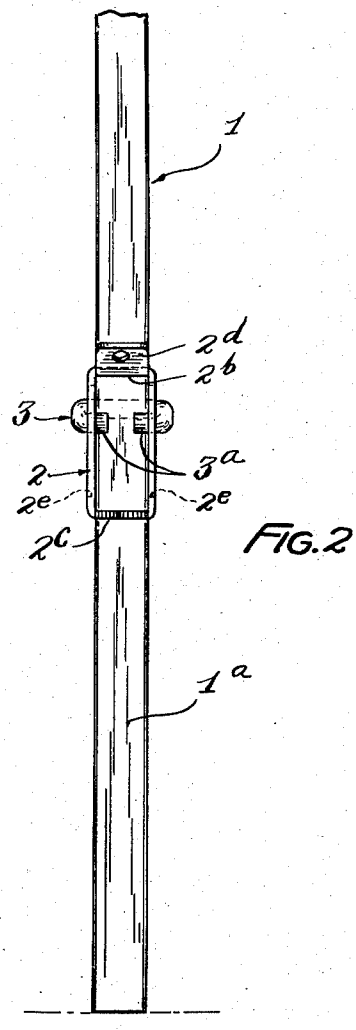


FIG. 2

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STILT STEP

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272—70.2)

This invention is for an improved form of stilt.

I am aware that prior patents have been granted upon different forms of the same general type of stilt to which the present invention relates but I have devised a combination that is of simpler and more efficient construction and that can be manufactured and sold at a popular price.

As is of course well known, such stilts comprise in a general way a rigid pole or stick and a stirrup member that is adjustable therealong so as to permit the stirrup to occupy positions at different distances from the ground.

One object of my present invention is to devise an organization of this kind that comprises only two parts, in addition to the rigid pole or stick to which the stirrup member is attached, and that has a simple means of adjustment whereby it can be applied to poles or sticks of different thicknesses with dependable means of holding engagement therewith.

Other objects will appear from the following description and claim when considered together with the accompanying drawing.

Fig. 1 is an elevation of my present device;

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same at ninety degrees to the view in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view corresponding to line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

It is to be understood that the present form of disclosure is merely for the purpose of illustration and that there might be devised various modifications thereof without departing from the spirit of my invention as herein set forth and claimed.

Referring now to the accompanying drawing, there is illustrated a rigid wooden pole or stick 1 of oblong cross section, upon which there is adapted to be mounted the stirrup or step member 2 for supporting engagement of the foot of the user upon the top surface thereof. The means for effecting holding engagement of the stirrup 2 at the desired position upon the pole 1, consists merely of the one-piece substantially U-shaped member 3 whose ends have pivotal engagement with the opposite sides of the stirrup and whose bight or middle portion has binding engagement with the surface of the pole 1 that is opposite to that surface of the pole that is engaged by the upper and lower portions of the stirrup 2.

Having indicated my present combination in a general way, I will now describe the same in detail. The pole or stick 1 has opposite parallel flat surfaces 1*a* and 1*b* for binding engagement by the two parts 2 and 3, respectively. The stirrup 2 may be made as a single stamping of metal and is of hollow form, as herein indicated; and it has side wings or centering flanges 2*a* for engagement along the opposite sides of the pole 1, while the edges of the upper and lower parts 2*b* and 2*c* of the stirrup are adapted for binding engagement with the surface 1*a* of the pole or stick 1. It is to be understood that the flanges 2*a* are parallel to each other, as are the opposite sides of the stick which are engaged thereby. The stirrup member 2 has an upwardly and outwardly inclined integral portion 2*d* that may serve to prevent the

foot of the user from slipping off of the top surface 2*b* and which may be provided with a hole therethrough for attachment of one end of a leather guard strap or the like that may have its other end fastened to the pole or stick 1 at the desired point, as may be understood without illustration.

The opposite sides of the stirrup 2 are provided with registering duplicate slots 2*e* inclined at approximately seven degrees to the length of the pole or stick 1, it being understood that the angle of these slots may be varied more or less from that herein shown so long as they are adapted to serve the purpose for which intended, as will be explained. Within these oppositely disposed slots there are received the integral inwardly bent ends 3*a* of the substantially U-shaped member 3 which may be formed by bending a metal rod. The shape of this member 3 may perhaps be more accurately described as being of substantially oblong form corresponding to the cross sectional form of the pole or stick 1, as indicated in Fig. 3 of the present drawing. The ends 3*a* are freely received within the slots 2*e* so as to be adjustable therealong and so as to vary the space between the upper and lower edges of the stirrup member 2 upon the one hand and the middle or bight portion of the U-shaped member 3. That is, the ends of the member 3 may be set at any point along the slots 2*e* according to the thickness of the stick or pole 1 so as afford an effective binding engagement of the stirrup 2 and the U-shaped member 3 with the opposite surfaces of the pole or stick 1. Thus, the greater the measurement between the surfaces 1*a* and 1*b* of the stick or pole 1, the lower will the ends 3*a* of the U-shaped member 3 be positioned within the slots 2*e*; and, when the ends 3*a* have been properly positioned within the slots 2*e*, the stirrup 2 may be held in firm position upon the pole or stick 1 by virtue of the binding engagement of the end edges of the portions 2*b* and 2*c* of the stirrup and the bight of the U-shaped member 3 with the opposite surfaces 1*a* and 1*b*, respectively, of the stick or pole 1 and such binding engagement may be effected by the downward pressure of the foot of the user when he applies his weight thereupon in the regular use of such a device. While only one stilt is here illustrated, it is to be understood of course that these devices are intended to be used in pairs in the familiar manner, one for each foot.

In order to set the stirrup 2, in each instance, at the desired elevation along the stick or pole 1, this may be accomplished by moving the unitary assembly of the members 2 and 3 therealong, the upward movement of the stirrup 2 serving to release its binding engagement with the stick or pole 1. Then, upon application of weight downwardly upon the stirrup 2, there will be effected binding engagement between the ends 3*a* of the U-shaped member 3 and the edges of the slots 2*e*, and the stirrup 2 will be forced downwardly so as to effect binding engagement of the end edges of the portions 2*b* and 2*c* and of the bight of the U-shaped member 3 with the opposite surfaces 1*a* and 1*b*, respectively, of the pole or stick 1, the U-shaped member 3 being caused thereby to assume a slightly inclined position across the pole or stick 1, as indicated in Fig. 1 of the present drawing.

The upper portion 2*b* of the stirrup member 2 is of greater lateral extent than the bottom part 2*c* thereof, and the application of the weight of the user upon the surface 2*b*, including the outer part thereof, will cause transmission of force downwardly and inwardly towards the stick or pole 1 so as to still further ensure effective binding engagement of the stirrup 2 with the pole or stick 1.

It should be noted also that the continuous form of the slots 2*e* will permit as fine adjustment as may be required in order to adapt this unitary device for use upon

different sizes of sticks or poles **1** with the same dependable binding engagement between the members in the manner above described. Also, the flanges **2***a* will serve to center and maintain the stirrup **2** firmly in aligned position with respect to the plane of the stick or pole **1**.

As will be observed, the present device comprises only two parts except for the pole or stick **1** and these two parts may be manufactured and assembled in a simple and inexpensive manner so as to permit the device to be sold at a popular price. It might be explained that the ends **3***a* of the U-shaped member **3** are spaced sufficiently from each other and the ends of the slots **2***e* are sufficiently close to the top and bottom of the stirrup **2** to permit the ends **3***a* to be inserted within the slots **2***e* for ready assembly of these two parts. Also, in forming the stirrup member **2** as a stamping, the ends of the metal blank are turned inwardly at the bottom part thereof so as to bear substantially parallel relation to the top part **2***b*. As above indicated, the sides of the stirrup member **2** are also substantially parallel to each other; and, as indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing, the stirrup **2** is of substantially oblong form in vertical cross section. It might be added that the seven-degree inclination of the slots **2***e* has been found to be sufficient to permit the adjustment for different sizes of poles or sticks within a certain range and, at the same time, this degree of inclination will ensure dependable engagement of the ends **3***a* of the U-shaped member **3** with the slot edges, without any danger of slipping during use of the device, and thus

the stirrup **2** may be depended upon to hold the position to which adjusted upon the pole or stick **1** at any time.

What I claim is:

In a stilt, a stirrup member consisting of a one-piece stamping having an upper substantially horizontal foot-engaging portion and a lower substantially horizontal portion and parallel substantially vertical side portions, said side portions having registering slots inclined with respect to the length of the pole for which intended, and a single substantially oblong-shaped member having inturned end portions in engagement within said slots for adjusting therealong, the bight portion of said oblong-shaped member and the oppositely disposed edges of said upper and lower horizontal portions of said stirrup member being adapted for direct three-point binding engagement with the opposite surfaces of the pole to which applied, and said side portions of said stirrup member having integral parallel centering extensions adapted to engage the opposite sides of the pole to which applied.

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