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[54] **FENCE PAINT HOLDER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **104/93,** 105/150, 401/48, 248/215

[51] **Int. Cl.** **E01b 25/22**

[58] **Field of Search** 248/214, 215, 311; 220/90; 401/48, 24, 89, 90, 191, 193, 279; 15/159, 160, 210; 118/207, 208, 256; 104/89, 93, 91, 118–121, 106, 118; 105/141, 144, 145–147, 148, 150

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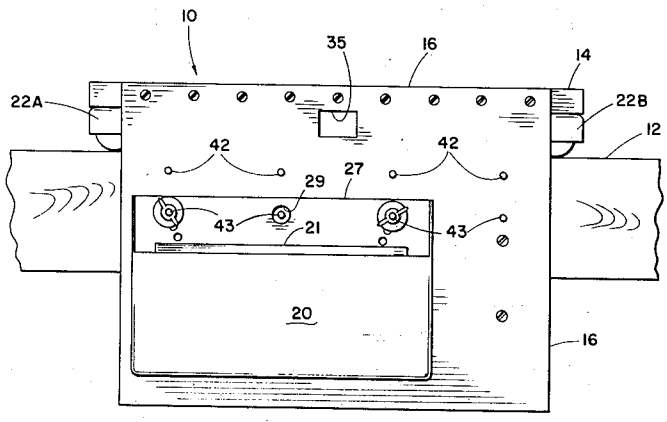
Primary Examiner—M. Henson Wood, Jr.
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This abstract describes a carriage which is constructed with rollers so that it can be positioned on and travel along a fence constructed with substantially horizontal board rails. The carriage is in the shape of an inverted U so that with rollers on the underside of the top and on the inside of the two walls it is guided to remain in a vertical position and can be rolled along the top edge of the top board of the fence. On the front surface of the carriage is a paint container which is removably fastened for cleaning, etc. The container is designed to hold a volume of paint and includes means to support and drain the brush, etc. Means are provided so that the paint container can be tilted in accordance with the slope of the fence so that the container will be in a horizontal position even though the fence is on a slope.

Means are provided to allow the side roller spacing to accommodate the painting of thinner or thicker boards. Means are also provided to roll the carriage along a pipe rail. In this case there is a side arm fastened on the device on which a counter weight is hung, so that the rotational torque in one direction on the device due to the container is balanced by the counter weight providing an equal and opposite torque in the other direction. Thus the device stays in a vertical position and can be readily moved along the pipe rail.

11 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures



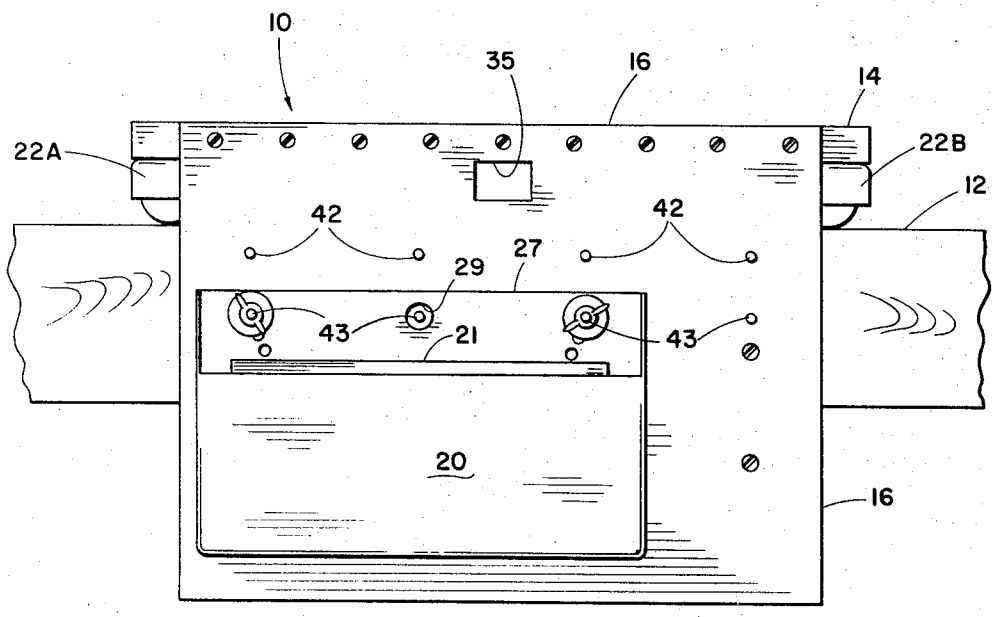

10
35
16
14
22A
22B
12
42
42
27
29
43
21
43
20
16

Fig. 1

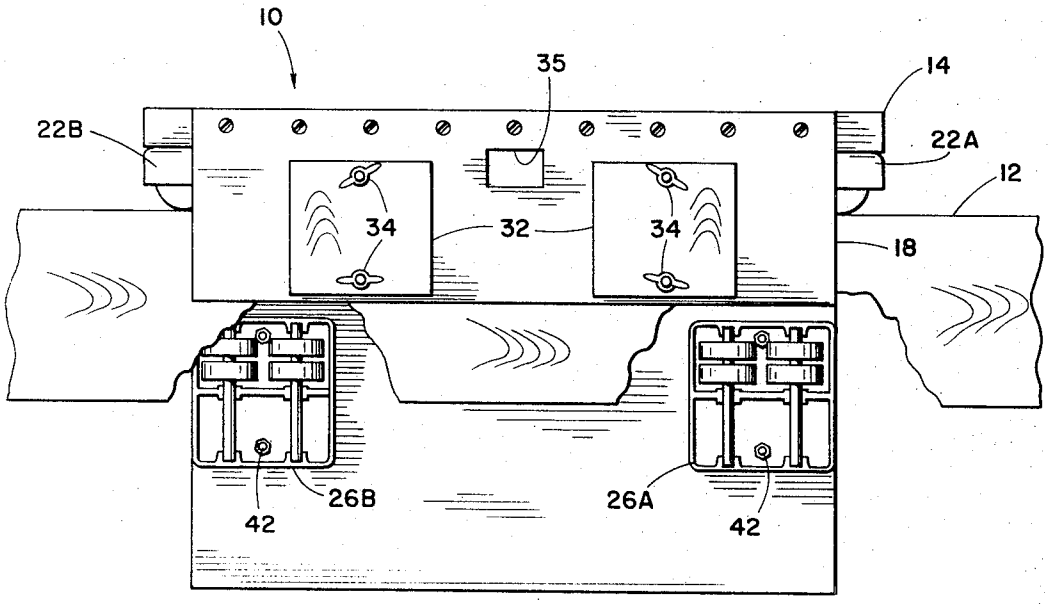

10
35
14
22B
22A
12
34
32
34
18
26B
26A
42
42

Fig. 2

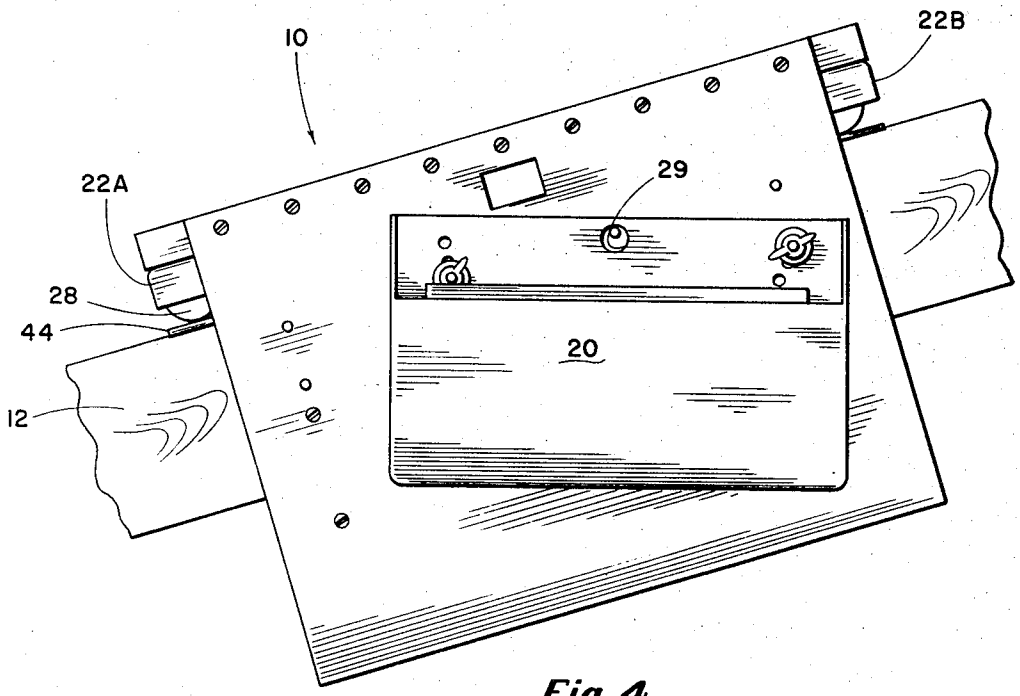

10
22B
22A
29
28
44
20
12

Fig. 4

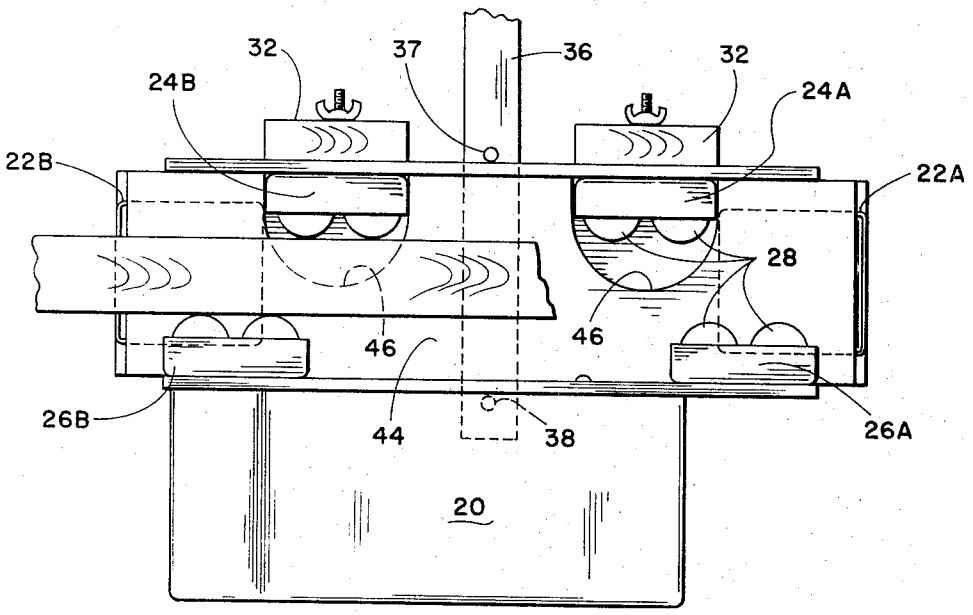

32
37
36
32
24B
24A
22B
22A
28
46
46
26B
44
38
26A
20

Fig. 3

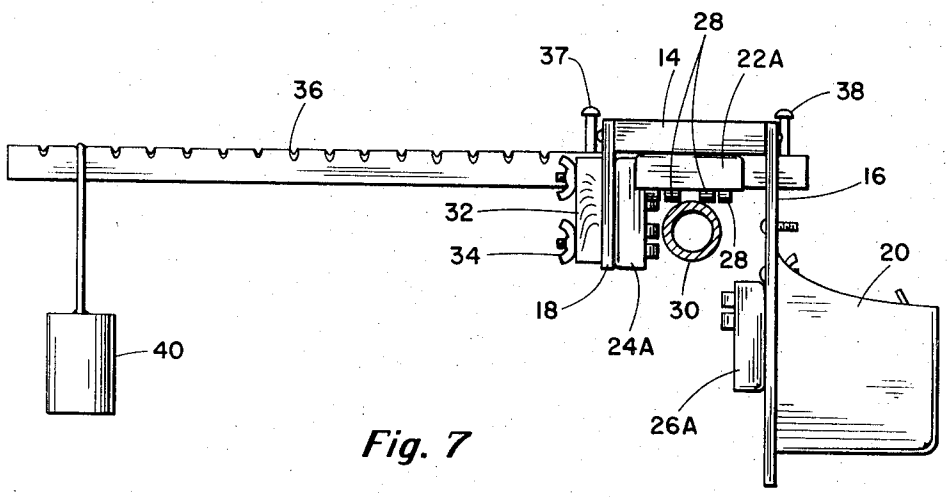


Fig. 7

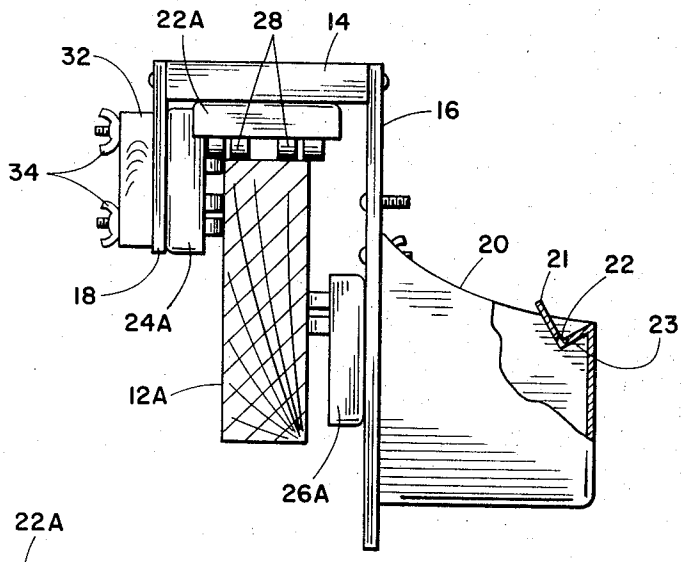


Fig. 5

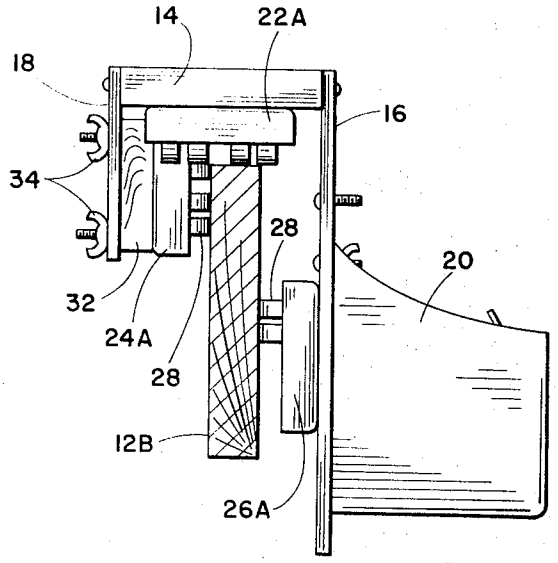


Fig. 6

FENCE PAINT HOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention is in the field of paint containers. More particularly, it is concerned with a type of paint container that is adapted to roll along a fence rail when used for the painting of fences which have substantially horizontal boards or pipes which connect to their corresponding vertical fence posts.

In the prior art it has been customary to stand a conventional paint can on the ground while a painter paints a wood-or pipe-rail type fence. This requires considerable stooping, bending, lost motion and loss of time. The alternative has been to hold the conventional paint can in the opposite hand doing the painting so as to keep the source of paint close to the area being painted. This helps to minimize wasted time and motion, however, this entails a maximum of physical effort to the fence painter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a primary object of this invention to provide a carriage which carries a paint container, and can be supported on any rail, be it the top, bottom or any rail inbetween, of a rail-type fence. The device is provided with rollers in such a way as to permit the carriage to be rolled along the desired rail of a fence. As work progresses in the painting of a fence, the carriage can be rolled on ahead, and provide the container of paint at a convenient location in regards to availability of paint to the actual fence area being painted.

This and other objects are realized and the limitations of the prior art are overcome in this invention by providing a U-shaped device of wood, plastic or metal sheets, which have on the inside surfaces spaced pairs of rollers. These support the device on a wooden board which might form the top rail of a fence, for example, so that the carriage can be rolled along with minimum effort. The front outer face of the front wall carries a paint container, so that the painter can dip his brush into the paint container at a location immediately adjacent to the actual fence painting area, and still have it capable of easy transport along the fence as work progresses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects of this invention and a better understanding of the principles and details of the invention will be evident from the following description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings, in which:

FIGS. **1** and **2** show the front and back views of the carriage as supported on a horizontal board rail.

FIG. **3** shows a view from below.

FIG. **4** shows a front view with the rail at a slope to the horizontal.

FIGS. **5, 6** and **7** show end views of the device as supported on a thin board rail, a thick board rail, and a circular pipe rail.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings and in particular to FIGS. **1** and **2,** there are shown a front view and a back view of the device. In FIGS. **5, 6** and **7** there are shown end views, which clearly indicate the inverted U-shaped construction. There is a top plate or board **14**

(base of the U) on the undersurface of which is fastened a pair of rollers **22A** and **22B**. These are adapted to ride on the top surface of any horizontal wood or pipe rail **12.** There is a front wall, sheet or board **16** which is suspended from the top plate **14,** which hangs on the front side of the rail **12.** There is, as shown in FIG. **2,** a shorter back wall or plate **18** suspended from the top plate **14.** This carries two rollers **24A** and **24B**. There are two rollers **26A** and **26B** fastened to the inside surface of the front plate so that, as shown in FIG. **5,** when this device is placed over a board rail **12A**, for example, the top rollers **22A** are supported on the top of the board, the back rollers **24A** and **24B** are supported against the back surface of the rail **12A** and the rollers **26A** and **26B** on the inside surface of the front wall press on the front surface of the rail **12A**.

The purpose of the three sets of rollers is to provide for a stable configuration for the device, so that when a paint container **20** is supported on the outer surface of the front wall the weight of the container and paint will be adequately supported by the rollers **26A** and **26B**. The paint container can be a rectangular box with a higher back wall **27** with a group of enlarged perforations **29** so that the container can be placed in various combinations over a plurality of bolts **42** and **43.** The angle of the container **20** with respect to the device **10** can be shifted as shown in FIG. **4,** so as to compensate for the slope of the rail **12** for example.

By reference to FIGS. **5** and **6** it will be seen that the rollers **24A** and **24B** mounted on the inside of the back wall **18** have a spacer block **32** which can be positioned on the outside of the back wall as shown in FIG. **5,** or on the inside of the back wall as shown in FIG. **6,** so as to compensate for various widths of rails **12A** or **12B**. The roller sets **24A** and **24B** are held by means of long bolts and wing nuts **34,** for example, so that changes in spacing can be made very quickly in the field.

As shown in FIG. **7** this device can be used on a pipe rail **30** where the pipe is held between the two sets of roller wheels **28,** and the weight of the paint in the container **20** is counterbalanced by a wooden arm, for example, **36** which passes through openings **35** in the front and back walls to support a counterweight **40,** at a selected distance out on the arms **36.** Adjustment of the spacing of the counterweight will continuously balance any change of weight of the paint container.

In FIG. **5** is shown a detail of an edge formed by bending the front surface of the paint container to provide a narrow angle between surfaces **21** and **23,** with a series of holes **22,** through which paint can drip from the brush back into the container.

FIG. **3** shows a view looking at the device from the bottom and shows another feature of the device. This comprises a sheet metal template **44.** This is a rectangular piece of sheet metal adapted to fit between the front and back walls. It has two more or less semicircular openings **46,** spaced so as to fit around the rollers **22A** and **22B** and the top of the fence rail so that when the rail is at an angle to the horizontal the rollers **22A, 22B** will not contact the rail and the device will not roll, but instead drag, and therefore not freewheel of its own weight down the rail. In this case the top rollers are ineffective and the device must be pushed along the rail. The sheet metal template is blocked in position by the openings **46** which fit around the rollers **24A** and **24B** and so cannot slide out of position.

While it is not shown, it is possible to provide a means, as is well known in the art, on the front face of the front wall, to support the brush over the paint container.

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components. It is understood that the invention is not to be limited to the specific embodiments set forth herein by way of exemplifying the invention, but the invention is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element or step thereof is entitled.

What we claim is:

1. A roll-along type of paint container carriage comprising:

a. an inverted U shaped sheet frame having a top, a back wall and a front wall;

b. at least one pair of spaced rollers mounted to the internal surface of each wall of said frame, all rollers having their axes perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the frame, the frame adapted to be supported in an inverted position by the rollers on a substantially horizontal rail;

c. a paint container removably supported on the outside surface of the front wall.

2. The paint container carriage as in claim **1** including means to tilt the paint container with respect to the carriage to compensate for the slope of said rail.

3. The paint container carriage as in claim **1** including means to drain the brush into the container.

4. The paint container carriage as in claim **1** including sheet means to cover the rollers on said top so as to prevent contact between said rollers and said rail.

5. The paint container carriage as in claim **1** including arm means removably attached to said carriage and extending horizontally perpendicular to the back wall, and weight means movable along said arm.

6. The paint container as in claim **1** in which said at least one pair of rollers is on the top of the inside surface.

7. The paint container as in claim **1** including two additional pairs of rollers on the inside surfaces of said front and back walls respectively.

8. The paint container carriage as in claim **7** including means to change the spacing between the surfaces of the second and third rollers on the insides of the two walls, to accommodate to rails of different thicknesses.

9. The paint container as in claim **1** in which said rail is an elongated cylindrical member.

10. The paint container as in claim **1** in which said rail is an elongated rectangular member.

11. A roll-along type of paint container carriage comprising:

a. an inverted U shaped sheet frame having a top, a back wall and a front wall;

b. three pairs of spaced rollers mounted to the internal surfaces of said frame, all rollers having their axes perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the frame, the frame adapted to be supported in an inverted position by the rollers on a substantially horizontal rail; the first rollers in the top carrying the weight of the frame, the second and third rollers on the inside of the back and front walls respectively providing rotational control;

c. a paint container removably supported on the outside surface of the front wall.

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