

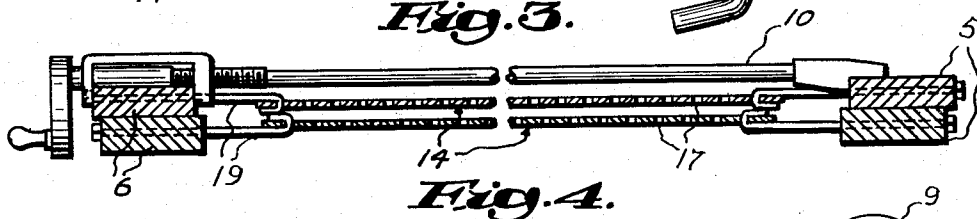
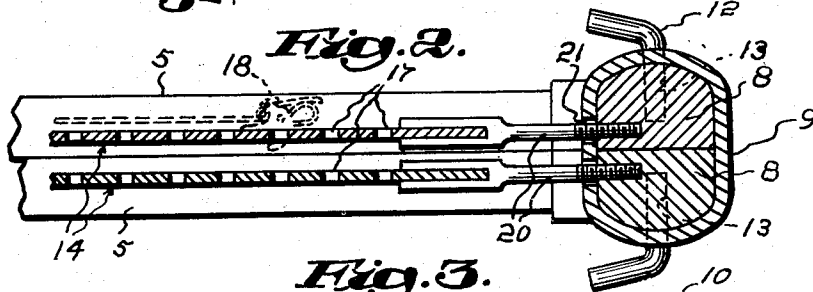
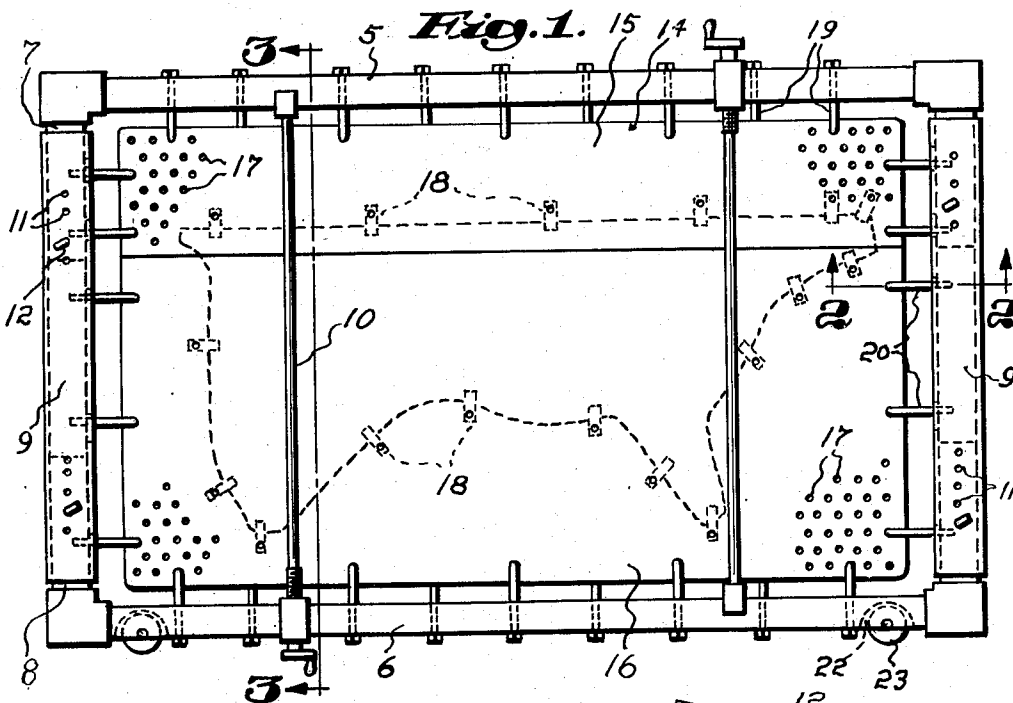
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LEATHER STRETCHING APPARATUS

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LEATHER STRETCHING APPARATUS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 45-24)

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My present invention relates to apparatus for use in stretching sides of leather and has for its objectives the provision of apparatus that is relatively light weight and inexpensive and at the same time facilitates proper stretching.

It is necessary to stretch sides of leather, before drying, in order that as much of the leather may be used as is possible. The usual practice is to provide frames to which the sides of leather are anchored by means of holders attached to the edges thereof. The workmen manually stretch each side in one zone, anchor the holders for that zone, and then pull the side in another zone and anchor it after it has thus been stretched. The procedure is continued until the side is deemed to be in proper shape for drying.

In accordance with my invention, I provide apparatus which, in its simplest form, consists of a pair of members each of which has end portions. Corresponding side portions are slidably connected to an element to establish a frame that may be expanded by suitable means providing adequate mechanical advantage and locked in the desired expanded position. My leather supporting means consists of a pair of sections provided with a multiplicity of recesses engageable by the holders and each section is secured to one of the members and to its side portions.

With such a frame, the workmen do not have to stretch the side of leather manually. When the hide is anchored to the leather supporting means by the holders in a desired and easily established position, the frame expanding means are operated to expand the frame until the side is suitably stretched. The locking means are then operative to hold the expanded frame and the properly stretched hide is ready to be placed in an oven for drying.

In the accompanying drawing, I have shown an illustrative embodiment of my invention from which these and other of its novel features and advantages will be readily apparent.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of hide stretching apparatus in accordance with my invention.

Figs. 2 and 3 are fragmentary sections, on an enlarged scale, along the lines 2-2 and 3-3 respectively of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary end view of the apparatus.

In the illustrative embodiment of my invention shown in the drawings, my apparatus consists of two pairs of members 5 and 6. The members 5 and 6 include side portions 7 and 8, respectively, and at 9, I have shown elements having passages extending therethrough dimensioned to slidably

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receive corresponding side portions of both pairs of members thereby to establish a pair of frames. Either frame may be expanded by jacks 10 in engagement with both the member 5 and the member 6 of that frame.

In practice, the members 5 and 6 of each frame and their side portions 7 and 8 are supported by each other and the passages in the elements 9 are dimensioned to snugly receive the corresponding arms of both frames. While the side portions 7 and 8 may be locked, in any desired way, to the elements 9 to hold the frames in desired position, I have shown the elements 9 as having a series of holes 11 along the top and bottom thereof to receive lock pins 12 entrant of the hole 13 in side members accessible therethrough. This construction enables the apparatus to be held assembled and the frames to be quickly and easily locked in a wide range of expanded positions.

I have indicated the hide supporting means for each frame generally at 14 and each of these consists of sections 15 and 16 formed with a multiplicity of holes 17 in any one of which a holding clamp or "toggle" 18 may be anchored. Each section of the hide supporting means is anchored to one of the members 5, 6 by a connector 19 and to the side portions of that member by connectors 20 which extend freely through slots 21 in the element 9.

I provide the members 5 with pockets 22 in which wheels 23 carried by the members 6 are partially housed thereby to enable the apparatus to be supported on edge and wheeled along the floor thereby to provide maximum convenience in handling stretched leather.

It will be apparent, therefore, that my invention ensures the proper stretching of sides of leather economically and efficiently as each side may be stretched by expanding the frame to which it is detachably connected with adequate mechanical advantage.

What I therefore claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Apparatus for use with a jack in stretching leather having holders attached to the edges thereof, said apparatus comprising two pairs of members each of which includes side portions, a pair of elements each of which has a passage extending therethrough to slidably receive corresponding side portions of both pairs of members thereby to establish a pair of frames each of which is adapted to be expanded by said jack when in engagement with both members of one frame, each element having a slot in parallel with each side portions that it receives, leather supporting means for each frame comprising a pair of sec-

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tions having a multiplicity of anchoring recesses, for said holders, a plurality of connectors connecting each section to the member of the frame for that section, a plurality of connectors extending through the corresponding element slot and connecting that section to the side portion of that member, and releasable means to lock each of said side portions to the element to which it is connected thereby to enable each frame to be locked in an expanded position.

2. Apparatus for use with a jack in stretching leather having holders attached to the edges thereof, said apparatus comprising a pair of members each of which includes side portions having a longitudinal series of spaced recesses, a pair of elements each of which has a passage extending therethrough to slidably receive corresponding side portions of said pair of members thereby to establish a frame which is adapted to be expanded by said jack when in engagement with both members of one frame, leather supporting means for each frame comprising a pair of sections having a multiplicity of anchoring recesses

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for said holders, each of said sections being connected to one of the members of a frame and to its side portions, each of said elements having a pair of spaced bores, one for each series of recesses with which the recesses successively register as said frame is expanded, and a keeper insertible through each bore to enter the recess in registry therewith thereby to anchor said frame in an expanded position when the jack is removed.

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