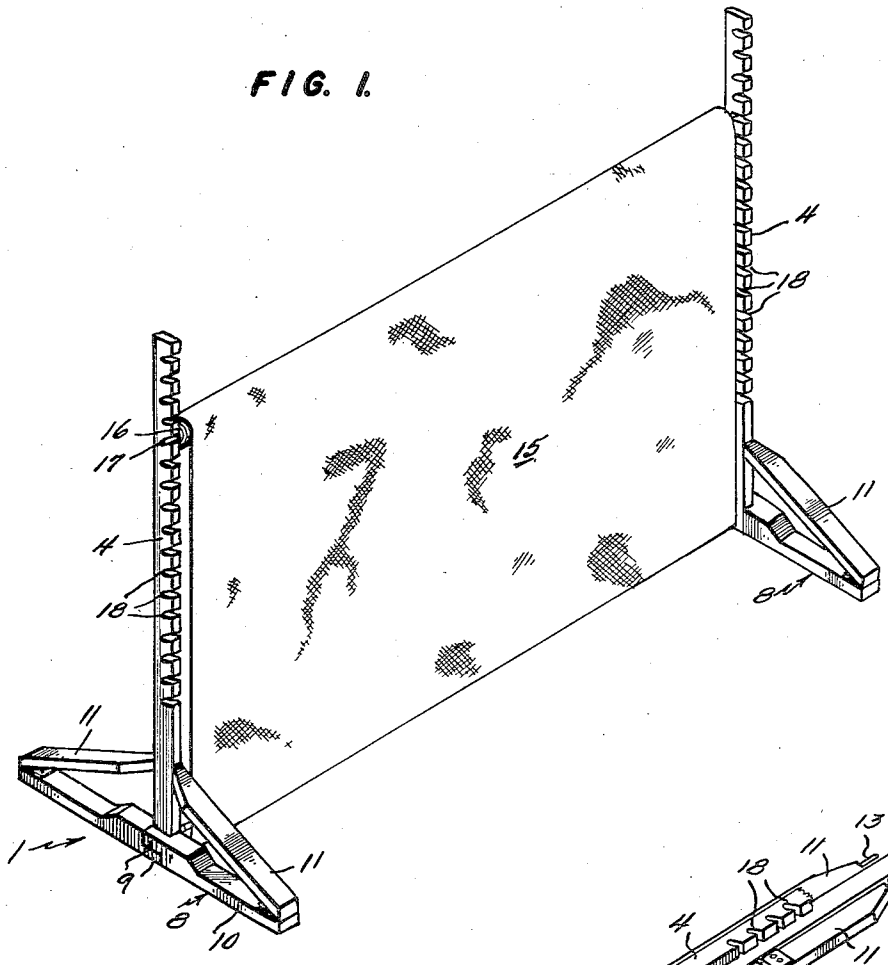
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DOG TRAINING EQUIPMENT

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FIG. 1.



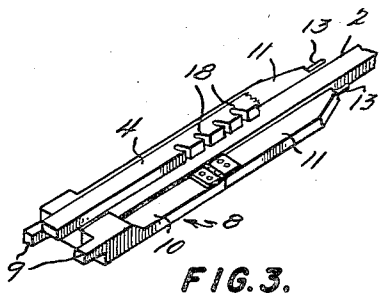
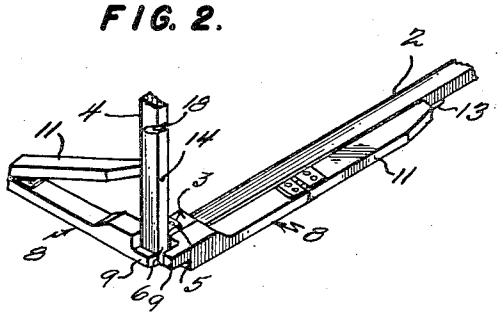


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.



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FIG. 4.

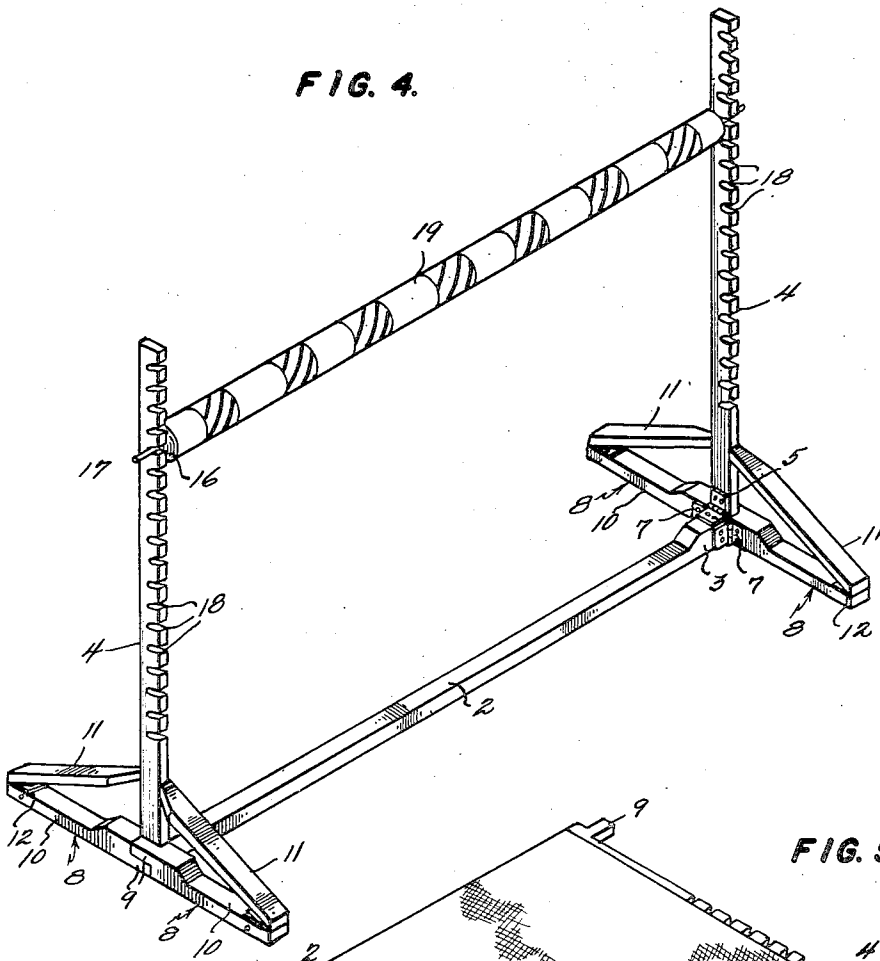
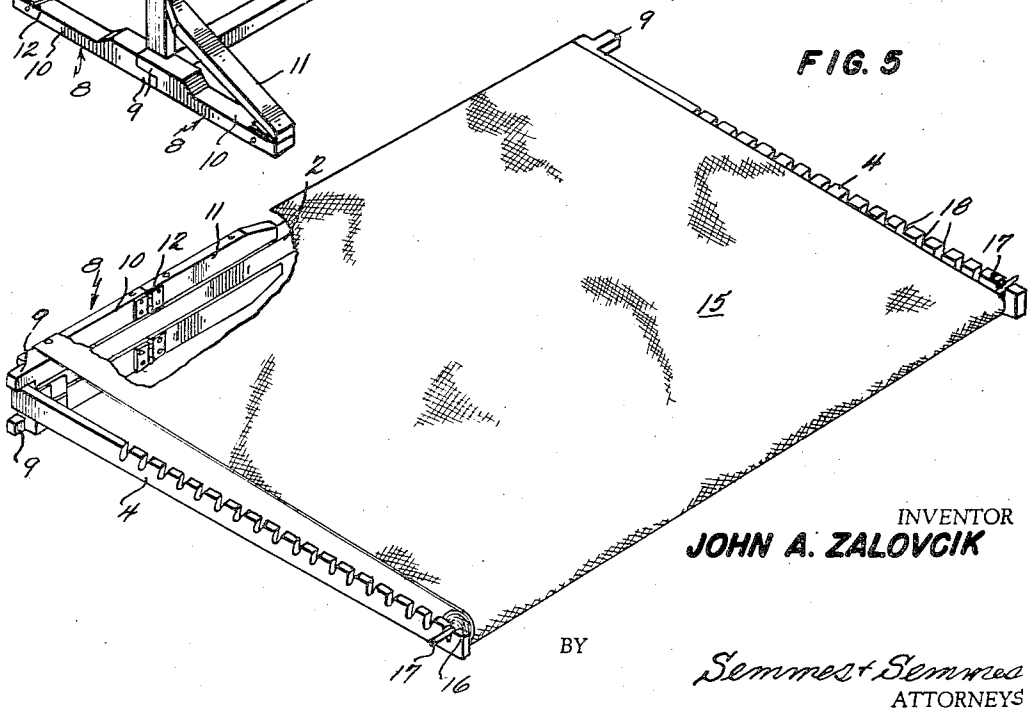


FIG. 5



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DOG TRAINING EQUIPMENT

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Application October 30, 1953, Serial No. 389,310

3 Claims. (Cl. 160—351)

The present invention relates to dog training equipment and more particularly to portable apparatus which is readily convertible into any one of several devices utilized in demonstrating the reactions of dogs to various commands and exercises.

The American Kennel Club, as the governing body has prescribed special regulations for dogs competing in obedience trials. It will at once be obvious that control standards of this type are necessary in order that every contest will be on a uniform basis. Only in this manner can be a national meet properly judge among the winners of local and sectional contests. Also it is only in this manner that the owners of local and sectional champions can be assured of an equal chance of success at the national meets.

In the kennel club regulations provision is made for several tests involving jumps over barriers or hazards such as the high jump, the bar jump and the broad jump. The high jump, for example, shall be jumped clear and the jump shall be one and one-half times the height of the dog at the withers or three feet, whichever is less. The jump represents a solid barrier variable in height from 12 to 36 inches in 2 inch increments through the adjustable arrangements of boards or panels of varying widths.

The bar jump represents an open barrier in which a single bar, adjustable for each 2 inches of height from 12 to 36 inches, is supported between uprights and must be cleared by the dog upon direction of the trainer.

The broad jump, as presently contemplated, entails clearance of a plurality of low hurdles, not over 7 inches high, spaced a maximum distance equal to twice the height of the high jump as set for the particular dog.

The individual stanchions, supports, bars, boards, hurdles and the like required for these three jumps makes them quite heavy and bulky. For example following the official construction, the high jump will weigh approximately 70 pounds, the broad jump hurdles about 37 pounds and the bar jump nearly 20 pounds. This equipment requires considerable storage space which is usually unavailable to the ordinary dog handler.

Assuming the equipment is in the possession of the trainer, it can hardly be described as being portable. Movement from location to location is possible although difficult unless a special carrier and assistants are available. The natural result, therefore, is the employment of make shift and unsatisfactory equipment during the training periods and the dogs are confronted with unfamiliar hazards at the trials and their performances suffer accordingly.

One object of the present invention is the provision in a single, easily portable, piece of equipment of a multiple jump for the obedience training of dogs.

A further object of my invention is to provide a composite apparatus convertible at will into a high jump, a bar jump, or a broad jump.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a multiple jump which complies fully with the standards of the American Kennel Club and the use of which will be sanctioned by it.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will be readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention set up as a high jump.

Figures 2 and 3 are fragmentary detail views illustrating the supporting frame elements and their relationship in the assembly.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the invention set up as a bar jump; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the invention as formed into a broad jump.

In general my invention contemplates the provision of a unitary frame to support a transverse member at variable heights or distances from the base, the apparatus serving as a high, bar or broad jump, conforming to kennel club specifications, as desired.

More particularly, referring now to the drawings, a unitary frame 1, forming the body of the apparatus, is composed of a base member 2 having end sections 3 of increased thickness to which are secured upright supporting members 4 through suitable means, as for example, hinge elements 5. The supports 4 are shorter in length than the base 2 and may be folded inwardly in superposed relation therewith when the frame is collapsed for storage and/or transporting. The supports 4 when extended at right angles to the base member 2 lie outside of said base member and overlap the ends 3 through their lower sections 6. Such engagement precludes outward displacement of the supports 4 beyond the desired spaced parallel relationship thereof.

At each end 3 of the base member 2 and secured to the sides thereof through hinge elements 7 are paired lateral braces 8, the enlarged inner ends of which are provided with opposed fingers 9, interlocking and overlying the ends 6 of the upright supports 4 when the braces 8 are extended at right angles to the base 2. These lateral braces 8 may be folded inwardly to lie parallel with the base 2 when the frame is collapsed. Outward movement of the braces 8 is limited by engagement of the fingers 9 with the ends 6 of the upright supports 4.

The lateral braces 8 are composed of two sections 10 and 11 connected by hinges 12 in such manner that the outermost sections or terminal wings 11 may be folded back upon the inner sections 10 into contact with the supports 4 at points remote from the ends thereof to secure said supports against forward or backward movement. Pins 13 are provided in the outer ends of the wings 11 for engagement in suitable openings 14 in the opposed faces of the supports 4.

When the supports 4 are extended at right angles to the base 2, the braces 8 are extended at right angles to both the base 2 and the supports 4 to lock said supports in open position and the wings 11 engaged with the supports 4, the frame 1 is ready for use as either a high jump or a bar jump.

To complete the high jump, as shown in Figure 1, a barrier 15 of heavy canvas is spread between the supports 4 substantially closing the area therebetween. For convenience and adjustability, the canvas is carried upon a bar 16, provided at its ends with pins 17 which fit within suitable apertures, as for example slots 18, arranged at regularly spaced intervals along the lengths of the supports 4. The lower edge of the canvas 15 may be reinforced if desired and provided with suitable means (not shown) whereby it may be secured to the base member 2 of the frame 1.

To complete the bar jump, shown in Figure 4, the

canvas **15** is rolled upon the bar **16** and covered with a striped casing **19** in order that the location of the barrier bar will be clearly marked in accordance with kennel club regulations.

For the apparatus to function as a broad jump, the lateral braces **8** are folded inwardly against the base member **2** with the wings **11** extending parallel thereto and the frame is laid on its side. The lateral braces space the base member from the ground and provide the required elevation at the trailing edge of the jump. The supporting members **4** extend along the ground in a horizontal position as shown in Figure 5 thus eliminating the necessity for the auxiliary bracing thereof. The length of the jump is adjusted by the position of the canvas supporting bar **16** in the slots **18** of the supports **4**, the lower edge of the canvas **15** being secured to the outer edge of the upper pair of lateral braces **8** by suitable means (not shown).

It is normally contemplated that the frame will be constructed of clear wood and the several elements will be hingedly connected for ease in collapsing or folding for storage and/or transportation of the apparatus. The frame can, however, be composed of light tubular metal sections united by pin joints if desired without departing from the scope of the invention. Similarly various other means for positioning the barrier bar upon the supports are contemplated. For example spaced sockets or cup-like receptacles could be provided upon the opposing faces of the supports to receive the ends of the bar. Nor is it necessary that the canvas or comparable material for use in closing the area between the supports be rolled around the barrier bar. The canvas closure could be merely draped over the bar and the possibility of injury to the dogs on exhibition through collision with the apparatus would be reduced.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the invention is well adapted to attain all of the ends and objectives hereinabove set forth and will encourage the advance training of dogs in obedience. As many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What I claim is:

1. A composite broad, bar and high jump apparatus for dogs, which apparatus consists of a unitary frame composed of a pair of supports secured to the ends of and projecting outwardly from a suitable base member in spaced, parallel relation, said supports being foldable inwardly to lie in superposed position upon said base, spaced pairs of lateral brace members secured to the sides of said base member adjacent the ends thereof and projecting outwardly therefrom at right angles thereto, said brace members being provided with interlocking projections adapted to overlie and secure the base ends of said supports and being foldable inwardly to lie along said base member in parallel relation thereto, terminal wings carried by said brace members and foldable inwardly thereover into engagement with the supports at points removed from the base ends thereof, and a barrier adjustable to provide a hazard of varying degrees of difficulty for clearance interposed between and resting upon the supports of said frame.

2. A device as defined in claim 1 in which the barrier extends to the base member and substantially closes the area between the supports.

3. A device as defined in claim 2 in which the barrier is a canvas panel.

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