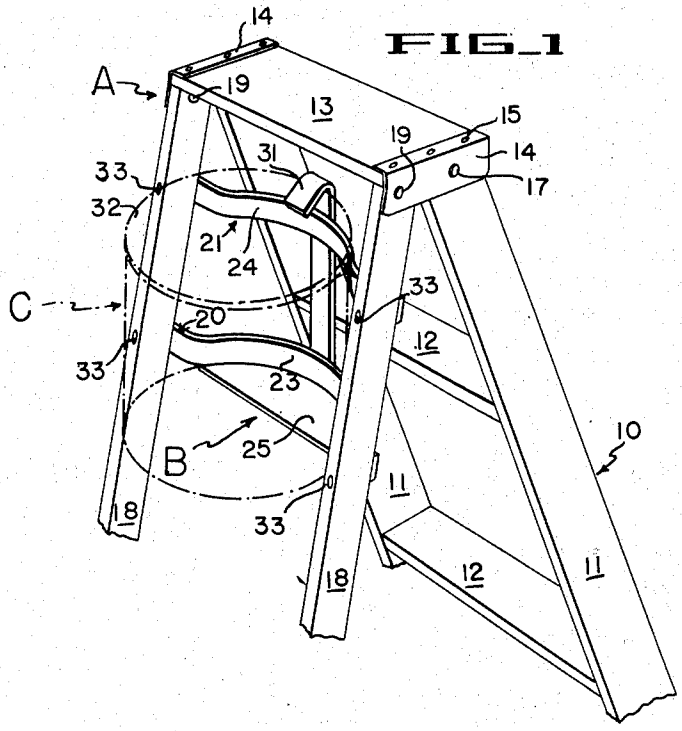
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BUCKET SUPPORT FOR ATTACHMENT TO STEPLADDERS

Filed Jan. 11, 1954

FIG_1



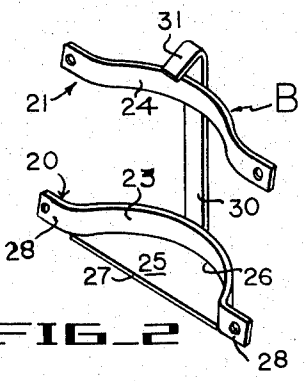


FIG_2

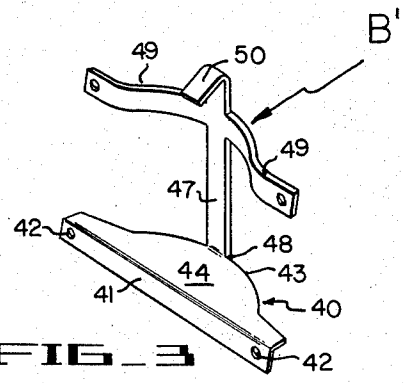


FIG_3

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BUCKET SUPPORT FOR ATTACHMENT TO STEPLADDERS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 248—210)

The present invention relates to a bucket holder, and pertains more particularly to an attachment for step ladders which will provide a stable and convenient support for a bucket of a more or less standard size of the type commonly used by professional painters, and which bucket holder will not interfere with the stacking of several ladders provided therewith in horizontal, superposed relation, in a manner customary with painting contractors when transporting ladders from one job to another.

In the past, many devices have been devised to support a paint bucket on a ladder. Some of these devices have been unstable, so as to increase the likelihood of spilling the contents of a bucket mounted thereon; while others have been incapable of mounting on the ladder without projecting therefrom and thus interfering with the stacking of ladders in horizontal superposed relation when required.

The present invention contemplates the provision of an improved bucket holder for step ladders. The invention also provides a simple, inexpensive bucket support for permanently mounting on a step ladder. A further object of the invention is to provide a bucket holder which is mounted on the inner side of the hingedly mounted support legs of a step ladder, and which will be disposed entirely within the exterior confines of the ladder.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be brought out in the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the upper portion of a step ladder with a bucket holder embodying the present invention mounted thereon, the position of a paint bucket supported in the bucket holder being indicated in broken lines.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the bucket holder shown in Fig. 1, as it would appear when removed from the ladder.

Fig. 3 is a modified form of bucket holder embodying the invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, a conventional step ladder A comprises a step portion **10** having two side stringers **11, 11** and a plurality of transversely extending steps **12** mounted to extend therebetween. The top plate **13** of the step ladder is secured to the side stringers **11, 11** by usual angle brackets **14, 14** riveted at **15** to the top plate **13** and bolted at **17** to the stringers. The rear support legs **18, 18** are pivotally mounted on the angle brackets **14, 14** by pivot bolts **19, 19.**

The bucket holder B embodying the present invention consists, in the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2, of a pair of transversely extending strap members **20** and **21** which may be of band metal. The central portions of these transverse strap members **20** and **21** are curved concavely at **23** and **24** respectively from the side which will be exposed rearwardly of the ladder when mounted thereon as shown in Fig. 1. Their curvature preferably is of a radius which will receive a bucket C (broken lines, Fig. 1) of a desired size to be accommodated therein.

Since the bucket holder of the present invention is intended for professional use, it is not desired that it accommodate other than a standard size bucket C which is commonly used for holding paint by professional painters. Therefore, the curvature of these central portions of the strap members **20** and **21** are intended to fit the lateral peripheral curvature of the standard size buckets which are to be supported therein.

A segmental plate **25**, having a curvature on one side **26** thereof to fit within the curved portion of the lower band member **20**, is welded into said curved portion. The plate **25** is of a size so that its chordal side **27** will be substantially coextensive with the laterally extending side portions **28, 28** of the lower strap member **20.**

A vertical strip **30**, which may be of band metal, is welded centrally of the curved portions **23** and **24** of the strap members **20** and **21**, respectively, to extend perpendicularly above the upper strap member **21.** The upper end portion **31** of the vertical strip **30** is bent rearwardly at a height from the plate **25** to receive the upper rim **32** of the bucket C therebeneath to hold a bucket securely in the bucket holder A.

The ends of the transversely extending strap members **20** and **21** are secured by rivets **33, 33** (Fig. 1) to the rear support legs **18, 18** of the step ladder near their upper ends. This provides a secure and dependable support for the bucket C at a desired height on the stepladder for general use.

The modified form B′ of the invention shown in Fig. 3 is generally similar to the device B shown in Figs. 1 and 2 with the exception that the device B′ of Fig. 3 is made from a single piece of sheet metal. The device B′ consists of a bottom plate portion **40** having a downturned rearward flange portion **41** of a length to span the rear support legs of a step ladder A at a desired height. The flange **41** is provided with holes **42** at its ends to receive rivets such as the rivets **33** shown in Fig. 1 to secure the device to the stepladder. The forward edge **43** of the horizontal plate portion **44** preferably is curved to conform substantially with the curvature of the lower marginal edge of the bucket C when supported thereon. This curvature of the edge **43** is principally for appearance, since no retaining band similar to the lower band member **20** of the device shown in Figs. 1 and 2 is provided at the bottom of the structure shown in Fig. 3.

An upright strip portion **47** is formed continuously with the central portion of the curved forward edge of the horizontal plate **44** and is bent upwardly at right angles thereto at **48.** Transversely extending arms **49, 49** are formed continuously with the upright strip portion **47** near its upper end, and these arms are curved to conform to the curvature of the bucket C to be supported therein.

The upright strip **47** extends upwardly beyond the transversely extending arms **49, 49** and its upper end **50** is bent rearwardly to overlie and engage the upper edge of a bucket C similarly to the hooked upper end **31** of the strip **30** of Figs. 1 and 2 as described previously herein.

The form B′ of the invention shown in Fig. 3 is mounted on a ladder A similarly to the device B shown in Fig. 1 and supports a bucket thereon in a similar manner.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it will be understood however, that various changes and modifications may be made in the details thereof without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A bucket holder for mounting entirely within the confines of a painter's stepladder when folded, said holder

comprising a pair of rigid band members adapted to be mounted transversely across the inner sides of the rear supporting legs, and between two upper steps of such ladder when folded, a concavely curved rearwardly facing portion formed centrally in each of said band members to seat a bucket of conforming curvature therein, a segmental bucket support plate having a curved forward edge fitted and secured to the lower edge of the curved portion of the lower transverse band member and of a width less than half the diameter of a bucket to be supported thereon, said segmental plate having a rear chordal edge thereof disposed substantially coextensively with the end portions of said lower band member, an upright member connecting the curved portions of the upper and lower transverse band members and extending upwardly beyond the upper of said band members, and a portion at the upper end of said connecting member bent to extend angularly downwardly and rearwardly at a height from the bottom plate greater than the height of a bucket to be supported thereby, the lower end of the rearwardly bent portion being at a height from the segmental plate less than the height of such bucket, whereby a bucket of predetermined height and diameter having a portion of its bottom resting on the segmental plate and its upper edge inserted beneath said rearwardly bent portion is retained within the curvature of said band means, and when the bucket is removed and a ladder on which the bucket holder is mounted is folded, no portion of the bucket holder projects beyond such ladder.

2. A bucket holder for mounting entirely within the confines of a painter's stepladder when folded, said holder comprising a single piece of sheet metal formed to comprise a pair of rigid band portions adapted to be mounted transversely in vertically spaced relation across the inner sides of the rear supporting legs of a stepladder and in the space between two upper steps of such ladder, a concavely curved rearwardly facing portion formed centrally in the uppermost of said band portions to receive a bucket of predetermined size therein, a bucket support portion extending rearwardly from the lower edge of the lower transverse band portion, and of a width less than half the diameter of the bottom of a bucket to be supported thereon, an upright portion connecting central portions of the upper and lower transverse band portions, and a bucket rim engaging portion extending upwardly from the upper band portion and bent reversely rearwardly at a height from the bucket support portion greater than the height of a bucket to be supported thereby, the lower end of the rearwardly bent portion being at a height from the bucket support portion less than the height of such bucket.

3. A bucket holder for permanently mounting on a painter's stepladder having a pair of stringers with a plurality of steps mounted transversely therebetween, and having a pair of rear support legs pivotally connected to the upper end of the stepladder, said bucket holder being adapted to lie entirely within the confines of such ladder when folded; said bucket holder comprising two rigid transverse strap members adapted to be fixedly secured in vertically spaced relation to the forward edges of the support legs, and in the vertical space between two upper steps of such ladder, the lower of said straps having a bucket support shelf thereon, each transverse strap portion being formed with a rearwardly facing concave portion shaped to engage vertically separated side portions of a bucket of predetermined size seated therein, and curving forwardly for fitting into an inter-step space of a ladder upon which the bucket holder is adapted to be mounted, the lowermost of said concave strap portions extending farther forward than the uppermost thereof by an amount substantially equal to the slope of the rear support legs of such ladder, thereby to support in upright condition a bucket mounted with the forward portion of its bottom resting on said shelf and its side seated in said curved portions, and a rearwardly facing bucket engaging hook mounted on said support to receive therebeneath the upper rim of a bucket resting on said shelf and seated in said concave strap portions, the lower end of the hook being at a height from the bucket support shelf less than the height of the bucket.

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