Sept. 27, 1960 W. P. FITZGERALD 2,954,093

HAND GRIP AND CONTAINER SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT FOR STEPLADDERS

Filed Feb. 24, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

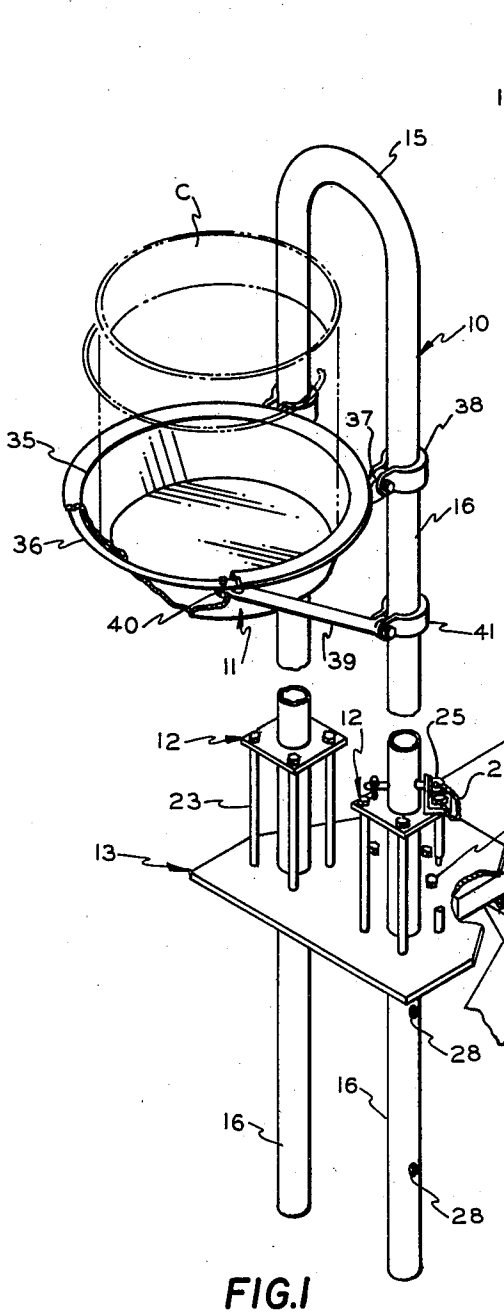


FIG. 1

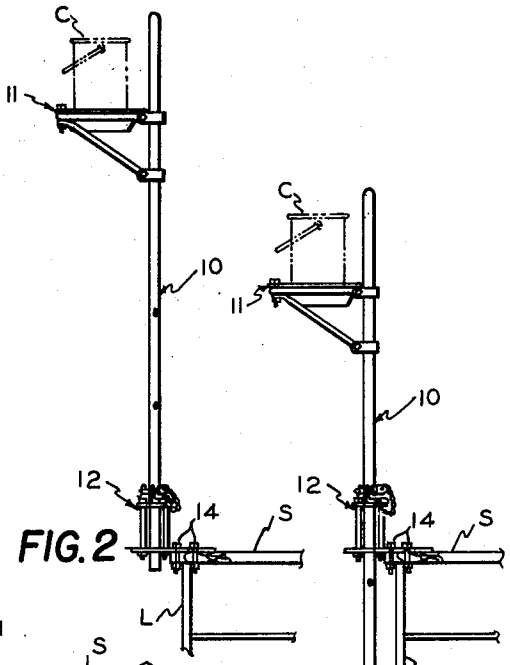


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

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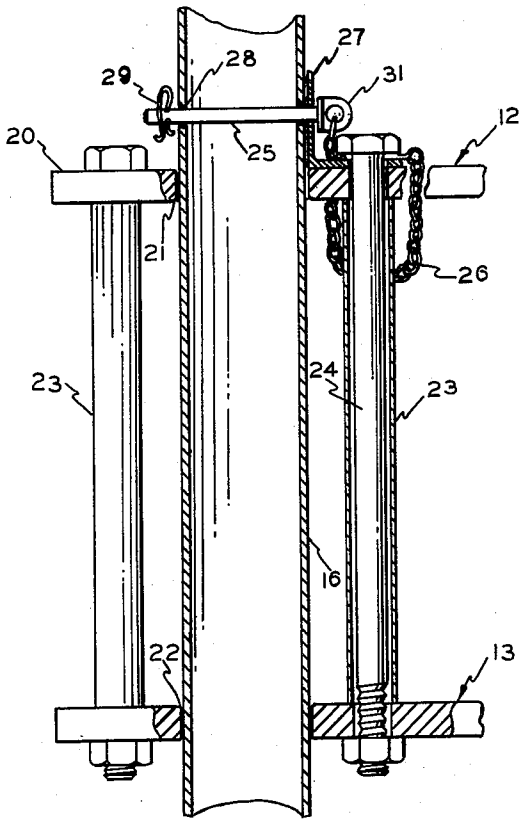


FIG. 4

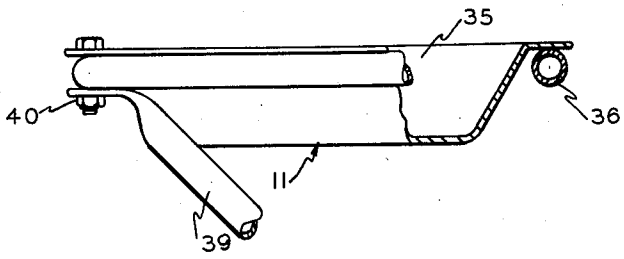


FIG. 5

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HAND GRIP AND CONTAINER SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT FOR STEPLADDERS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 182—129)

My invention relates to a hand grip and container supporting attachment for stepladders.

My invention has to do, more particularly, with an assembly which is adapted to be clamped to the top step of a stepladder and which includes a vertically adjustable hand-hold member that carries a pan-like shelf for supporting a paint can or other container. Thus, the hand-hold member provides something extending above the top step of the ladder which a person on the ladder can grasp for safety and the associated shelf provides means for supporting the container in a position conveniently available to the person on the ladder. Furthermore, the pan-like shelf for supporting the container provides means for catching drips from the container supported thereon. The structure of my invention is extremely simple and inexpensive, is of light weight, can be easily applied to standard stepladders, and can be adjusted easily between its various positions to suit the person to use the ladder. Furthermore, the attachment is such that the larger parts thereof may be easily removed for transportation or storage and can be reassembled on the ladder with ease.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention and in these drawings:

Figure 1 is an isometric view, partly broken away, of the attachment of my invention showing it applied to a stepladder.

Figure 2 is a schematic view in side elevation showing the hand-hold and container-supporting unit of the attachment adjusted to its uppermost vertical position.

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 with the adjustable hand-hold unit in its lowermost position.

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view through one of the bearing units provided for slidably supporting the hand-hold unit.

Figure 5 is a detail in side elevation, partly broken away, of the container-supporting shelf carried by the hand-hold unit.

The assembly of this invention serves as an attachment for a standard stepladder, the upper portion of one being indicated by L in Figure 1 of the drawings. The assembly is adapted to be mounted on the top step of the ladder to provide a safety hand-hold and, in addition, to provide means conveniently located to support a paint container, or container for cleaning liquid, or any other container to be used.

The attachment comprises mainly an upstanding inverted U-shaped tubular hand-hold unit **10**, which carries a container-supporting pan-like shelf **11** supported adjacent its upper end, a pair of upstanding bearing units **12** for slidably supporting the downwardly extending legs of the unit **10**, and an attaching bracket **13** which supports the units **12** and which is adapted to be attached to the top step of the ladder. All the parts are preferably made of aluminum to reduce weight to a minimum.

The bracket **13** is in the form of a plate which is disposed horizontally and which has a converging inner end that is overlapped with the top step S of the ladder and

is clamped in position thereon by means of clamp bolts **14** which take the place of the usual rivets of the ladder which are removed. The attachment may be at either the right or left side of the ladder to suit the user.

The unit **10** is preferably made of tubular stock and has the curved upper hand-hold **15** and the depending pair of legs **16**. As indicated above, these legs are slidable vertically in the bearing units **12**. The structure of each of the units **12** is illustrated best in Figure 4. Each unit comprises a cap plate **20** which is spaced above the bracket plate **13** and which has a vertically disposed bearing opening **21** that aligns with a similar opening **22** in the plate **13**. These bearing openings are circular and slidably receive one leg **16** of the unit **10** which extends vertically therethrough. The plate **20** is held in spaced relationship above the plate **13** by means of upstanding spacer tubes **23** disposed between the two plates having clamping bolts **24** extending vertically therethrough and through aligning openings in the plates. A spacer and bolt is provided at each corner of the plate **20**. Thus, each leg **16** of the unit **10** will be slidably adjustable vertically in the associated bearing unit **12**. To lock the unit in vertically adjusted position, one of the bearing units **12** may be provided with a lock pin **25** which is carried by a chain **26** that is anchored to the upper end of one of the bolts **24**. This pin cooperates with the upstanding portion of an L-shaped lug **27** which is clamped to the upper surface of the plate **12** at the opening **21** by the same bolt. At suitable vertically spaced intervals along the legs **16**, a pair of transversely aligned openings **28** may be provided for receiving the pin **25** which may be retained therein by a cotter key **29** in the free end, the attached end being provided with the enlarged head **31**. Obviously, the lock pin **25** will be extended through the lug **27** and a selected pair of openings **28** to hold the unit **10** in a selected vertically adjusted position.

Toward its upper end, the unit **10** carries the supporting pan-like shelf **11**, as indicated above. The pan **35** thereof will provide an upwardly opening socket for receiving the paint can or other receptacle C which is indicated by the broken lines in Figure 1. The pan **35** removably fits within a horizontally disposed ring-like member **36** which has ears **37** at its inner side attached to the collars **38** which are clamped to the legs **16** of the unit **10**. The outer side of the ring **36** is supported by a pair of angle braces **39**, the outer ends of which are attached to the ring at **40** and the inner ends of which are connected to clamp collars **41** that are clamped to the legs **16** at a level below the location of the collars **38**.

In use, the unit **10** can be adjusted to various vertical positions as indicated in Figures 2 and 3, by removing the lock pin **25**, adjusting the unit **10** up or down, and resetting the pin in a different pair of openings **28**. The upper hand-hold portion **15** will thus be located for convenience in grasping and the pan **35** will be located at the desired level for supporting the paint can or the like at a readily accessible level. The pan **35** will catch any drips from the can and it is possible to remove it for cleaning. In any adjusted position, the unit **10** will be rigidly supported in upright position, because each bearing unit **12** engages the legs **16** at widely spaced levels. This will also prevent binding in the bearing units which would interfere with the vertical adjustment. The unit **10** may be completely withdrawn upwardly for transportation or storage and can be reassembled with ease.

Although I have discussed various advantages of my ladder attachment, others will be apparent.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An attachment for a stepladder or the like comprising a flat bracket plate adapted to be attached in horizontal position to the ladder, an inverted U-shaped hand-

hold unit having its legs extending downwardly through a pair of spaced bearing openings in the bracket plate and having its closed end above the plate to serve as a hand-hold, a pair of bearing units disposed on said bracket plate in association with said openings for slidably receiving said legs of the hand-hold unit, said bearing units comprising bearing plates disposed in a horizontal plane above and parallel to the bracket plate and having bearing openings aligning with the bearing openings in the bracket plate, means for supporting said bearing plates on the bracket plate and comprising spacer and bolt units carried by the bracket plate in upstanding relationship thereto and connected to and supporting said bearing plates in said spaced relationship to the bracket plate, and latch means for holding said legs in vertically adjusted position in said aligning openings in the bearing and bracket plates and comprising a latch pin disposed above one of said bearing plates, the leg of the hand-hold unit

associated with the latter bearing plate having vertically spaced openings for selectively and removably receiving said latch pin.

2. An attachment according to claim 1 including a ring carried by said hand-hold unit and projecting horizontally outwardly therefrom above and in parallel relationship to said bearing plates, and a pan removably fitting in said ring.

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