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Quinley

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[54] **OUTBOARD MOTOR ANTI-THEFT DEVICE**

[76] Inventor: **Adrian L. Quinley**, P.O. Box 669, Bay Minette, Ala. 36507

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[51] **Int. Cl.** **F16b 41/00**
[58] **Field of Search** .... 70/54, 55, 56, 232, DIG. 58; 292/259

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Primary Examiner—Albert G. Craig, Jr.
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Diller, Brown, Ramik & Wight

[57] **ABSTRACT**

This disclosure relates to an anti-theft device which is engageable over the actuators for the threaded clamping members of an outboard motor mount to prevent the rotation of the clamping members to a motor releasing position. The device includes a tubular member having receivable therein the actuators and having that end thereof to which the actuators slide releaseably closed by a lock and bolt arrangement wherein the hasp of the lock is fully protected within the tubular member.

6 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

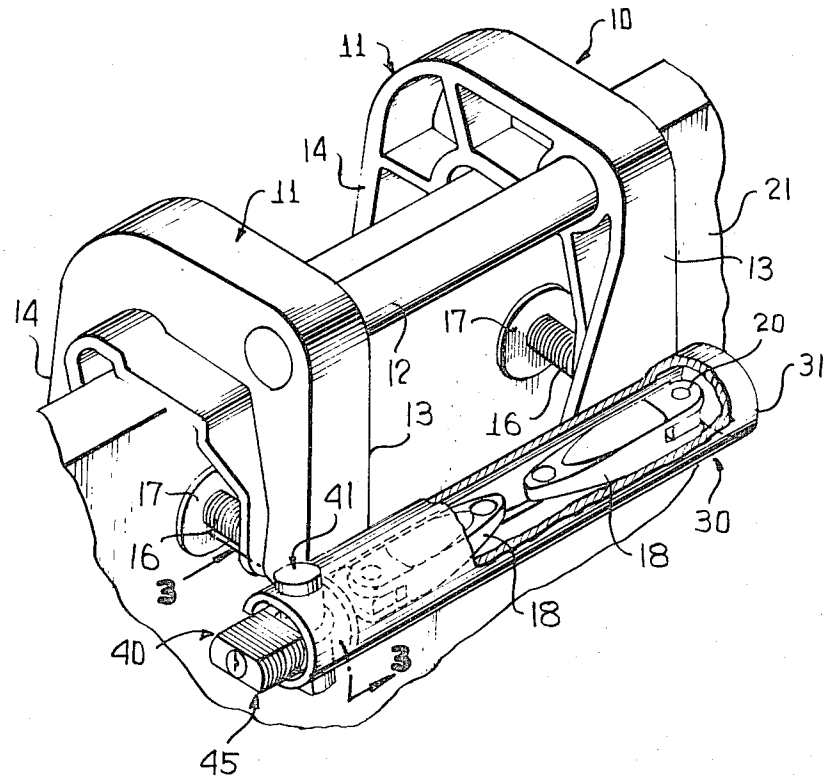


FIG.1

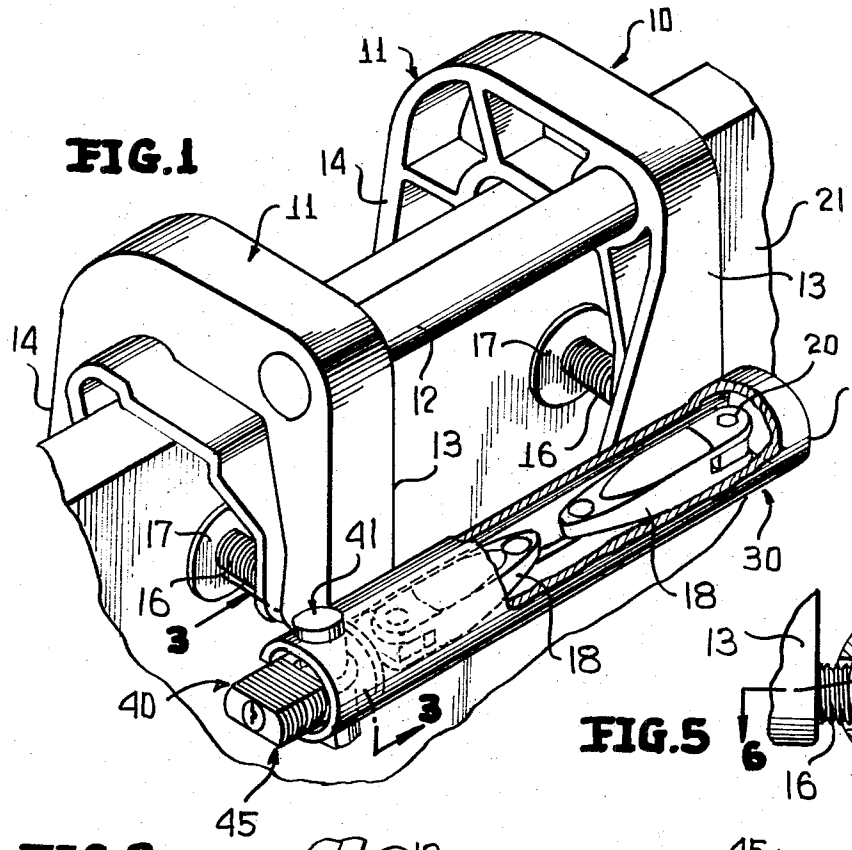
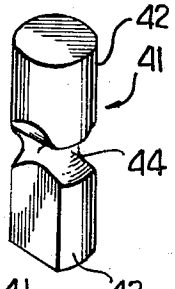


FIG.2



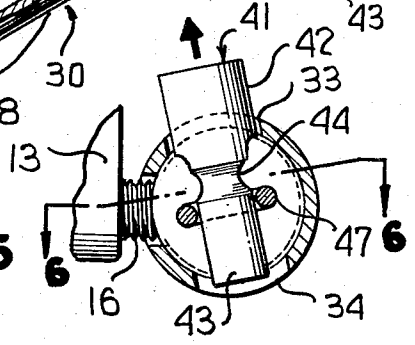
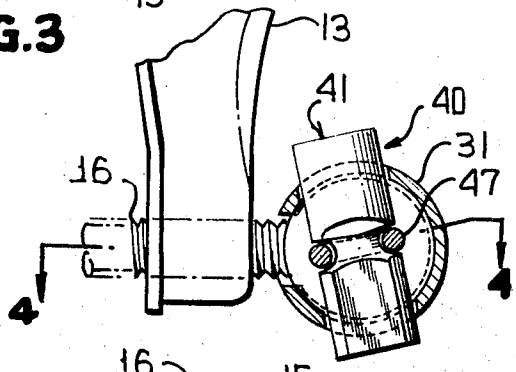


FIG.5

FIG.3



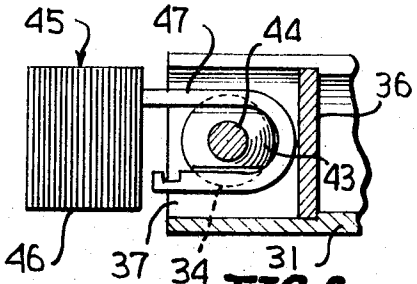
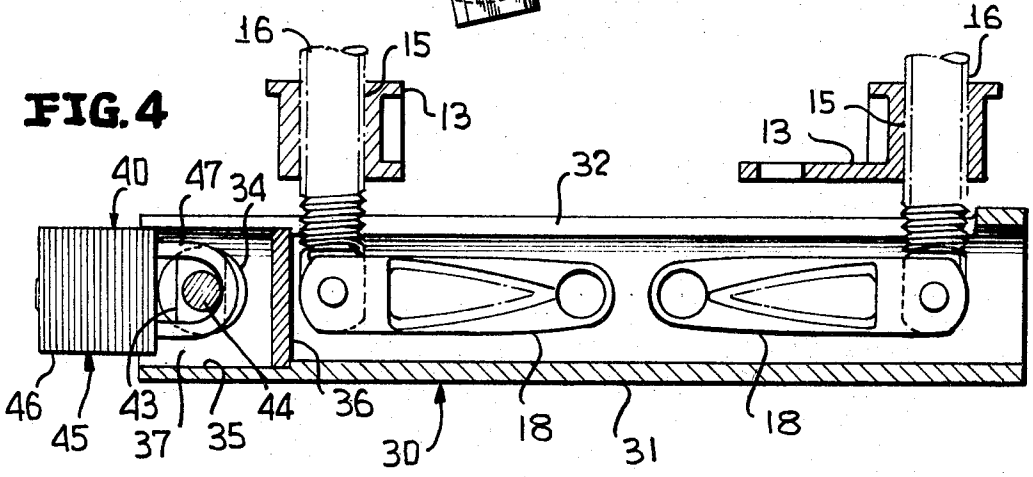


FIG.6

FIG.4



OUTBOARD MOTOR ANTI-THEFT DEVICE

This invention relates in general to new and useful improvements in anti-theft devices and more particularly to an anti-theft device for retaining an outboard motor in a clamped position on a boat or other supporting surface.

The usual outboard motor is provided with a U-shaped mounting bracket which telescopes over the transom of a boat and which is provided with a pair of threaded clamping members having pivotally mounted on the ends thereof actuators to facilitate the rotation of the clamping members into clamping engagement with the boat transom. When these actuators are immobilized so that they must remain in fixed positions, the threaded clamping members cannot be turned and thus the mounting bracket cannot be released from the boat or other support, thereby preventing the theft of the motor.

In the past there has been proposed anti-theft devices for outboard motors which include tubular members which are telescoped over the actuators so as to prevent rotation of the threaded clamping members. These tubular members are provided with suitable lock means to prevent the removal thereof. The lock means include conventional locks but the same have the deficiency in that the lock has the hasp thereof exposed so that the hasp may be severed and the device removed from the actuators.

In accordance with this invention, it is proposed to provide an elongated tubular member of an internal cross section having receivable therein the actuators of the outboard motor mount and the tubular member having an axial slot opening from one end thereof to a point adjacent the space from the opposite end thereof with the slot being of a size to have received therein the threaded clamping members of the outboard motor mount. The tubular member is thus readily slidable over the actuators, when they are in aligned opposed relation, and over the threaded clamping members.

Lock means are provided for that end of the tubular member through which the slot opens. The lock means includes a bolt member which extends transversely of the tubular member and which is retained in its transverse position by means of a conventional lock having a hasp. Thus, the bolt is not removable until the lock is opened and the tubular member is not removable until the bolt member and the lock have been removed.

The relationship between the hasp of the lock and the bolt and tubular member is such that when the lock is in a closed condition maintaining the bolt in position within the tubular member, the hasp of the lock is fully telescoped within the tubular member.

Another feature of the invention is that the lock includes a body of a size to be partially telescoped within the tubular member so that the hasp of the lock is fully protected by the tubular member at all times, and therefore, one must cut away a portion of the tubular member before access to the lock hasp is obtainable.

It will be readily apparent from the foregoing that the anti-theft device of this invention fulfills the object of the invention that there may be provided an anti-theft device for use in retaining outboard motors in secured positions wherein the anti-theft device cannot be removed by the simple expedient of cutting the hasp of the lock thereof.

With the above and other objects in view that will hereinafter appear, the nature of the invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description, the appended claims and the several views illustrated in the accompanying drawings:

IN THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an outboard motor mounting bracket showing the same clamped in position on a boat transom and retained in position by the anti-theft device of this invention, the outboard motor being removed from the mounting bracket.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a bolt member of the anti-theft device.

FIG. **3** is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view taken along the line **3—3** of FIG. **1** and shows the specific relationship between the tubular member, the bolt member and the hasp of the lock in the locked condition of the lock.

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken generally along the line **4—4** of FIG. **3** and more specifically illustrates the relationship of the anti-theft device or latch assembly with respect to the threaded clamping members and actuators of the outboard motor mount.

FIG. **5** is a fragmentary view similar to FIG. **3** and shows the lock in its released condition and the bolt member being removed.

FIG. **6** is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view taken along the line **6—6** of FIG. **5** and shows further the relationship between the bolt member and the lock in the open condition of the lock.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated in FIG. **1** a conventional mounting bracket for an outboard motor, the mounting bracket being generally identified by the numeral **10.** The mounting bracket **10** may be of any construction with the illustrated mounting bracket including a pair of U-shaped yoke members **11** which are suitably interconnected by, for example, a bar **12.** Each yoke member **11** includes a forward leg **13** and a rear leg **14.** Each forward leg **13** is provided with an internally threaded bore **15** (FIG. **4**) in which there is threadedly engaged a threaded clamping member **16.** The rear end of each clamping member **16** is provided with a clamping pad **17** while the forward end is provided with an actuator **18** which is pivotally connected to the clamping member **16** by means of a pivot pin **20.**

In the mounting of an outboard motor on a boat, the mounting bracket **10** is telescoped down over the transom **21** of the boat, after which the clamping members **16** are rotated so as to clamp the transom **21** between the rear legs **14** and the clamping pad **17.** This is accomplished by means of the actuators **18.**

The foregoing is all conventional and in of itself does not form a part of this invention.

In accordance with this invention there is provided an anti-theft device or latch assembly which is generally identified by the numeral **30.** The latch assembly **30** includes an elongated tubular member **31** which is of an internal cross section so as to be freely telescopable over the actuators **18** when they are in alignment, as is shown in FIG. **1.** It is preferable that the actuators **18** be arranged in opposed relation as is shown in FIG. **1** so as to require a minimum length of the tubular member **31.**

Starting at one end and continuing to a point adjacent to but spaced from the opposite end of the tubular member **31** is an axial slot **32** in the tubular member. The axial slot **32** is of a width to have received therein the threaded clamping members **16** as is clearly shown in FIG. **4.** Thus, the tubular member **31** may be freely telescoped over forward portions of the clamping members **16** and have received therein the actuators **18.** When the actuators **18** are positioned within the tubular member **31,** they obviously cannot be rotated and thus, the clampings members **16** cannot be moved towards releasing positions.

The principal feature of this invention is the provision of lock means for retaining the tubular member **31** in position with respect to the clamping members **16** and the actuators **18.** These lock means are generally identified by the numeral **40** and include a special bolt member **41** which is best illustrated in FIG. **2.** The bolt member **41** is preferably formed of round stock and includes one circular cross sectional end portion **42** and one flat sided end portion **43** connected together by a reduced cross section, circular cross sectional intermediate portion **44.**

The tubular member **31** is provided with transversely aligned openings **33, 34** in the end portion thereof beyond the adjacent clamping member **16.** The openings **33, 34** are of a size to have received therein with slight clearance the circular cross sectional end portion **42** of the bolt member **41.** As is clearly shown in FIG. **3,** the bolt member **41** is of length to extend transversely through the tubular member **31** and to have opposite ends thereof projecting outwardly of the tubular member **31.**

The lock means **40** further includes a conventional lock, generally identified by the numeral **45** and including a lock body **46** and a lock hasp **47.** With reference to FIG. **6,** it will be seen that the dimension of the lock hasp **47** is such that when the lock **45** is in its opened condition, the end portion **43** of the bolt member **41** is slidable through the lock hasp **47.** On the other hand, when the lock hasp **47** is aligned with an intermediate portion **44** of the bolt member **41** and the lock **45** is in its closed condition, as is shown in FIG. **4,** the lock hasp **47** is strapped between the end portions **42** and **43** of the bolt member. Thus the bolt member **41** is firmly secured in a position transversely of the tubular member **31** and prevents the removal of the tubular member **31** from the mounting bracket **10.**

At this time it is pointed out that the openings **33, 34** in the tubular member **31** are so axially positioned wherein when the lock **45** is in its closed position and the hasp **47** thereof is engaged about the bolt member intermediate portion **44,** the lock hasp **47** is fully protected by the tubular member **31,** a portion of the lock body **46** projecting into the end of the tubular member **31.** Thus, the lock **45** cannot be readily destroyed by the cutting of the lock hasp **47** as normally occurs when one desires to remove a lock.

In order to further assure the proper mounting of the latch assembly **30** on the mounting bracket **10,** a separate compartment is provided in the tubular member **31** for the lock means **40.** It is to be noted from FIGS. **4** and **6** that the end portion of the tubular member **31** receiving the bolt member **41** is counterbored as at **35** up to a position closely adjacent the normal position of the adjacent clamp member **16.**

A removable plug **36** is positioned in the counterbore to close the lock chamber, which chamber is identified by the numeral **37,** at the inner end thereof.

OPERATION

When it is desired to lock the mounting bracket **10** against removal, the tubular member **31** is telescoped over the actuators **18** in the manner illustrated. Then, the plug **36** is pushed into the end of the tubular member **31** as is shown in FIG. **6.** Next, the lock **45,** in its opened condition, has the hasp **47** thereof positioned in the lock chamber **37** generally in alignment with the openings **33, 34.** A flat sided end portion **43** of the bolt member **41** is then pushed through one of the openings **33, 34** and through the lock hasp **47** until it passes out through the opposite one of the openings **33, 34** and the bolt member intermediate portion **44** is aligned with the lock hasp **47.** The bolt **41** is then rotated 90° and the lock **45** moved to its closed condition, as is shown in FIG. **4.** It is to be understood that in the closing of the lock **45,** the lock hasp **47** is retained against inward movement by the plug member **46.** The bolt member **41** is now securely retained transversely of the tubular member **31** and retains the tubular member **31** in place.

It is to be understood that the latch assembly **30** is removed from the mounting bracket **10** by a reversal of the foregoing steps.

Although only a preferred embodiment of the invention has been specifically illustrated and described herein, it is to be understood that minor variations may be made in the latch assembly or anti-theft device without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A latch assembly for a clamping mechanism of an outboard motor and the like of the type which includes a pair of threaded clamping members each having an actuator pivoted thereto and movable into opposed aligned relation, said latch assembly comprising an elongated tubular member of an internal cross section for receiving the aligned actuators, said tubular member having an axial slot therein extending from one end thereof to a point adjacent to but spaced from the other end thereof, said slot being of a width to receive therein the threaded clamping members, and releaseable lock means transversing said one end of said tubular member and preventing removal thereof from the clamping members and the actuators, said lock means including a conventional lock of the type including a hasp, and said hasp being fully telescoped within said tubular member in a protected position when said lock is closed.

2. The latch assembly of claim **1** wherein said lock means includes transversely aligned openings in said tubular member adjacent said one end, a removable bolt member extending transversely of said tubular member and having end portions seated in said openings, and means on said bolt member for interlocking engagement with said lock hasp and preventing removal of said bolt member.

3. The latch assembly of claim **2** wherein said means on said bolt member is in the form of an intermediate recessed portion receivable within said lock hasp in the closed condition of said lock with adjacent portions of said bolt being of a greater cross-section than the opening of said lock hasp.

4. The latch assembly of claim 3 wherein one end portion of said bolt is of a cross section passable through said lock hasp in the open condition of said lock hasp to facilitate withdrawal of said bolt.

5. The latch assembly of claim 2 wherein said lock means includes a plug positioned within said tubular member between said bolt member and an adjacent one of said actuators, said plug having a section corresponding to the interior of said tubular member.

6. The latch assembly of claim 1 wherein said lock includes a body, and a portion of said lock body is telescoped within said tubular member in a locked condition of said lock means.

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