Jan. 19, 1954 B. YOUNGWORTH 2,666,660

GATE LATCH

Filed Oct. 17, 1950

FIG. 1

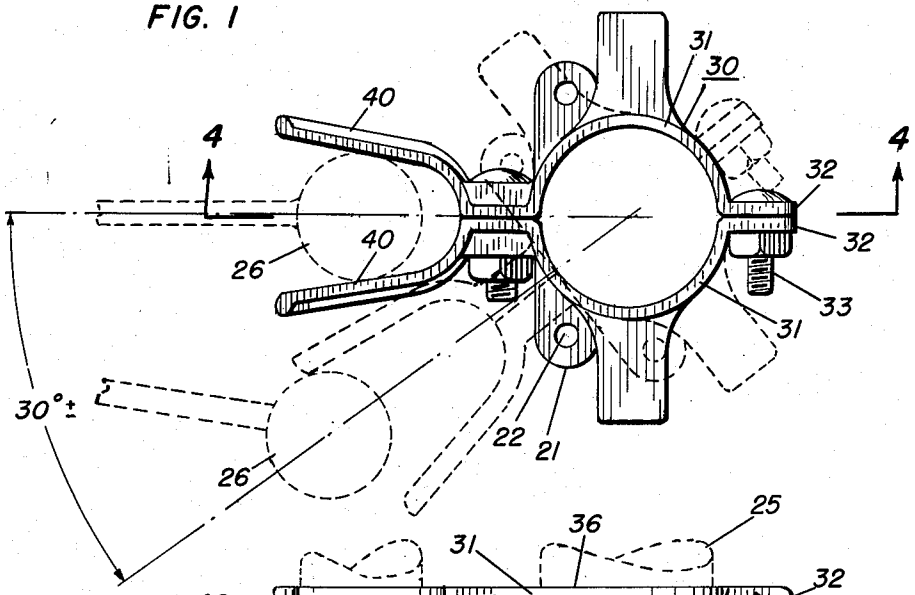


FIG. 2

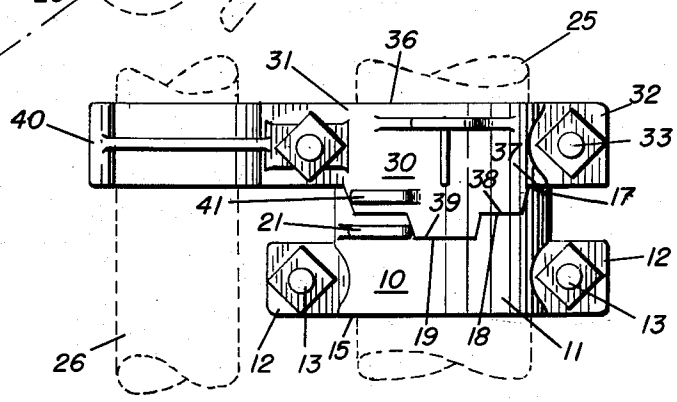


FIG. 3

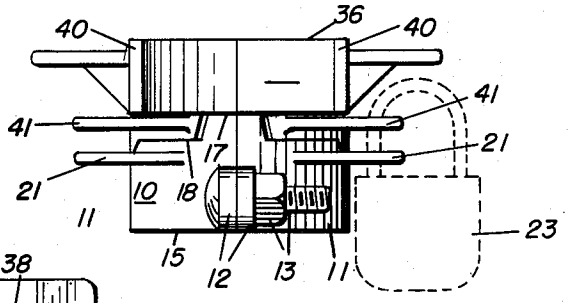
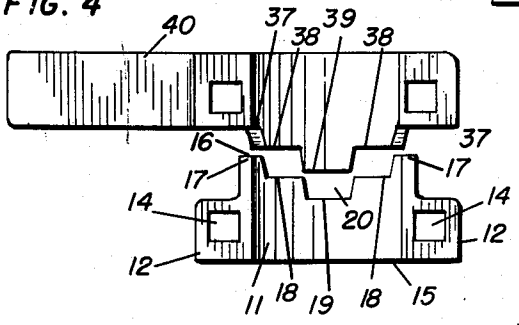


FIG. 4



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GATE LATCH

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2 Claims. (Cl. 292—68)

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This invention relates to locks and latches and more particularly to those usable for gates attached to fences.

It is an object of this invention to provide a new and improved gate latch that will avoid one or more of the disadvantages and limitations of the prior art.

Another object of the invention is to provide a gate stop and latch that will normally be hard to open by anyone not acquainted with the manner in which it functions, but easy for those who know how.

A further object of the invention is to provide a gate latch that can be incorporated in a conventional gate structure and designed for padlocking by an additional lock, and operable from either side of the gate.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a new and improved latching arrangement on a gate structure that will hold the gate closed normally but by a slight unusual manipulation of the gate the arrangement will permit its opening.

Other objects of the invention will become apparent as the invention is more fully set forth.

For a clearer understanding of the invention and the objects thereof reference is made to accompanying drawings, which in conjunction with the following description outline a particular form of the invention by way of example, while the claims indicate the scope of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a gate latch embodying this invention, with a part of a gate and alternate position of the latch shown in dotted outline to indicate the manner in which the latch can be used;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of Figure 1, in latched position;

Figure 3 is an end elevation of Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a view on line 4—4 of Figure 1, showing the latch structure partly unlatched.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

In the construction shown in the drawings, a latch for a conventional wire gate, consists of a lower clamp member 10. This member is of circular form hollowed out to provide an inside diameter large enough to surround a conventional end gate post 25 and to be tightened thereon. This is the post towards which a gate closes. The member 10 consists of two symmetrical halves or sections 11 formed with extending bolt lugs 12 that are drawn together in pairs for bolting by the bolts 13. The bolts pass through

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holes 14 in these lugs that may be squared for the use of carriage bolts therein, if preferred. The under rim 15 of the clamp member 10 is flat and horizontal. The terms horizontal and vertical refer to the positions of the items mentioned when located on a gate structure. The upper rim 16 is stepped or notched with the highest steps being on a level with it and marked 17 and located adjacent and above the lugs 12. The next steps 18 follow and lead to the third and bottom steps 19. The lowest steps are contoured to provide notches 20. Their arrangement is clearly indicated in the drawings. This stepped arrangement is used for the purpose of coupling and uncoupling the upper member 30 to and from the lower clamp member 10. An outwardly extending horizontal wing 21 is located on each section 11 outside the lateral wall forming one of the steps 18. This wing, in each case is provided with a passage 22 through it for insertion of the hasp of a padlock 23. The wings 21 are aligned with each other and serve as padlock holders. The wings, steps and lugs are symmetrically arranged as indicated, in the same planes. The lower clamp section is rigidly clamped to the post 25 and is normally immovable.

The upper clamp member 30 of the latch is similar in some respects to the lower members. It is in two halves or sections 31 that clamp together to slidably encompass the post 25. The sections are held clamped by the bolts 33 through the outwardly extending lateral bolt lugs 32, on opposite sides. Their upper rims 36 are flat and horizontal, while their underside rims 35 are arranged with steps or notches in reverse, and marked 37, 38 and 39 respectively to coact with the steps 17, 18 and 19 of the lower member 10. When they are properly positioned these parts fit neatly in one another as indicated in Figure 2. The upper member 30 while clamped on the post 25 is not held so tightly as to prevent a rotary and up and down movement thereon about the axes of both. The sections 31 are provided with a yoke of U-like form made from extensions 40 to one set of the bolt lugs and adapted to engage or latch about the frame post 26 of the gate to be latched by it. The sections of the upper member 30 are also provided with outwardly extending horizontal lifting projections 41 located oppositely and at right angles to the lugs 32 to enable the upper member 30 to be raised out of engagement with the lower clamp 10. The looseness of the upper clamp member permits it to be rotated through an angle of about

30° either way. This is accomplished by lifting the upper member **30** off the lower clamp member **10** so the interlocked notches and steps of each will become disengaged enough to allow the lower steps of the upper member to ride on the second steps of the lower member, and come to a stop when their sides strike the adjacent step sides. When the clamp members are brought together and their stepped formations interconnected, and the yoke **40** is encompassed about the frame **26** of the gate, the latch will hold the gate closed firmly. The latch is unlatched by lifting the upper member **30** by its lifters above the lower member **10** so the steps of each will be detached from each other. Then the upper member **30** is revolved about 30° so these steps will be superimposed on each other. At the same time the gate frame is given an opening movement in the same direction. When the frame post **26** and the yoke **40** reach that position together they unlatch themselves so the gate may be swung fully open, away from the yoke, as indicated in dotted outline in Figure 1. Closing of the gate and latching it is accomplished by reversing the movement. When the latch is closed, a padlock may be attached by passing the hasp thereof through the openings provided in the vertically aligned wings **21** and **41**.

While but one general form of the invention is shown in the drawings and described in the specifications, it is not desired to limit this application for patent to this particular form, as it is appreciated that other forms of constructions could be made that would use the same principles and come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A gate latch adapted to be carried by a fence post, comprising a lower clamp comprising two halves securely held together and to the fence post, an upper clamp comprising two halves securely held together and loosely carried by the fence post above said lower clamp, said clamps having cooperative stepped interlocking portions whereby the upper clamp is normally immobilized by the lower clamp, a yoke carried by the upper clamp and encompassing a portion of the gate, whereby the gate is held closed when the upper clamp is immobilized, lifting projections carried by the upper clamp adapted to be grasped as handles to lift the upper clamp away from the lower clamp to disconnect the interlocking portions to permit rotation of the yoke and upper clamp when the gate is pushed open, projections carried by the lower clamp, co-extensive with and parallel to the projections on the upper clamp, and locking means carried by one extension on each of said clamps for securing the gate in closed position.

2. A gate latch adapted to be carried by a fence post, comprising a lower clamp formed of two halves securely held together and to the fence post, an upper clamp formed of two halves securely held together and loosely carried by the fence post above the lower clamp, said clamps having cooperative stepped interlocking portions whereby the upper clamp is normally immobilized by the lower clamp, a yoke carried by the upper clamp and encompassing a portion of the gate, whereby the gate is held closed when the upper clamp is immobilized, lifting projections carried by the upper clamp adapted to be grasped as handles to lift the upper clamp away from the lower clamp to disconnect the interlocking portions and permit rotation of the yoke and upper clamp when the gate is pushed open, lateral projections on the lower clamp co-extensive with the projections on the upper clamp, and locking means jointly carried by one projection on each of the said clamps for securing the gate in closed position.

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