Dec. 17, 1968 D. C. ARNETT 3,416,759

OUTBOARD MOTOR SUPPORT BRACKET MEANS

Filed Nov. 2, 1966

FIG. 1

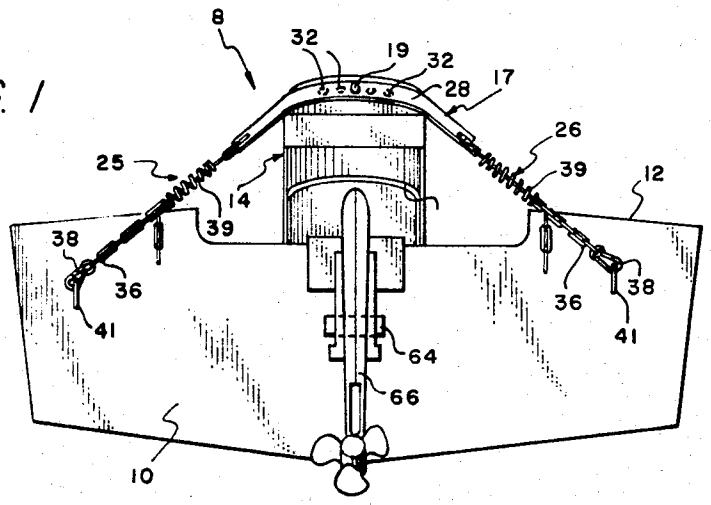


FIG. 2

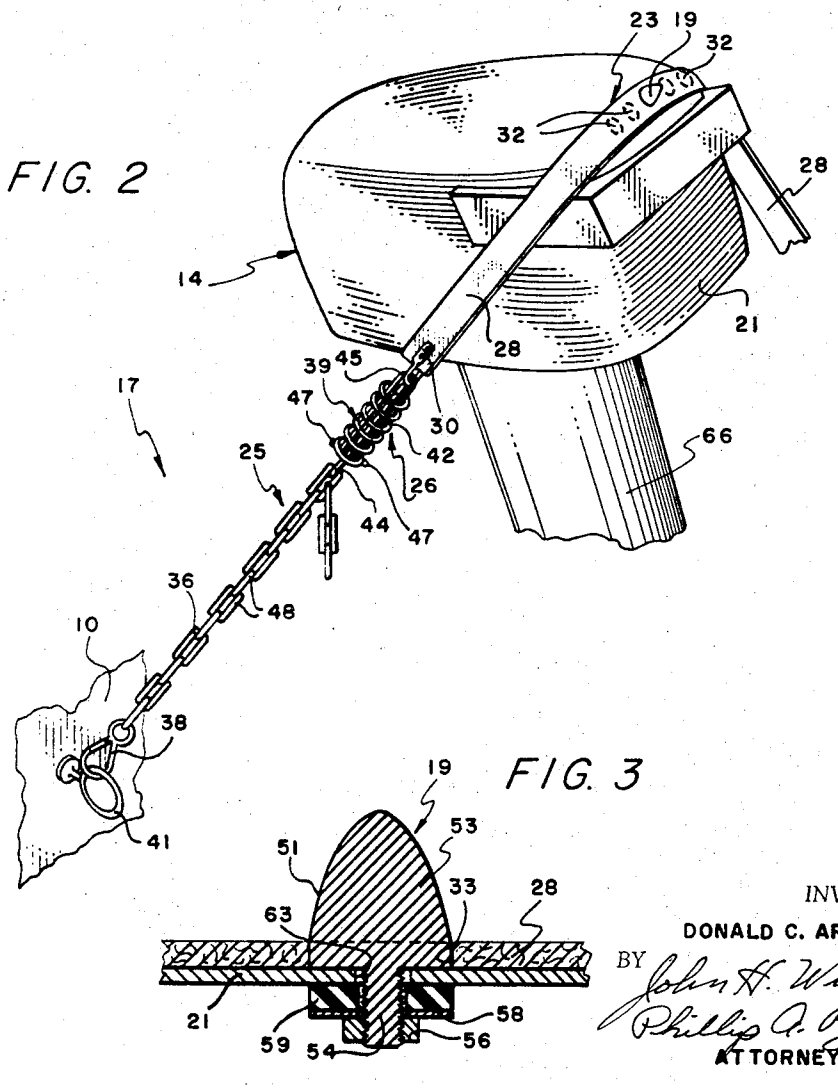


FIG. 3

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United States Patent Office 3,416,759 Patented Dec. 17, 1968

3,416,759

OUTBOARD MOTOR SUPPORT BRACKET MEANS

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Filed Nov. 2, 1966, Ser. No. 591,464
5 Claims. (Cl. 248—4)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention is a bracket means connectible to anchor an outboard motor mounted on the stern portion of a boat. More specifically, this invention is a bracket means including a lug assembly connected to the outboard motor having a laterally extended dome-shaped head portion; a strap member engageable with head portion to restrict lateral movement therefrom; and linkage means having a chain member secured to the strap means through a spring member to bias the outboard motor in a resiliently anchored position.

Various types of strap and bracket combinations are known to the prior art operable to anchor an outboard motor on the stern portion of a boat. However, the prior art devices are structurally complicated in many instances requiring specially made clamping and connecting means and others require a great many of individual parts in securing an outboard motor to the stern portion of a boat to prevent damage thereto. Additionally, the prior art devices are comparatively expensive to manufacture, complicated in usage, and time-consuming to connect and disconnect to the outboard motors so as to operate in a manner substantially similar to that disclosed by the bracket means of the invention as described herein.

In accordance with the present invention, a new support bracket means is provided readily attachable to the stern portion of a boat and engageable with an outboard motor mounted on the stern portion to prevent undue movement thereof. The support bracket means of this invention preferably includes a lug assembly attachable to an outer housing of the outboard motor and an elongated connecting means attachable to the stern portion of the boat engageable with the lug member. The connecting means preferably includes an elongated strap means having linkage means connected to opposite ends thereof. Each linkage means advantageously includes an elongated chain assembly having a spring member mounted between the same and the strap means whereby, in usage, the spring means operates to resiliently bias the strap means into engagement with the outer housing of the outboard motor. The lug assembly conveniently includes a bolt member having an enlarged, dome shaped head portion on a threaded shaft, a nut and washer secured to the shaft, and an enlarged shock-absorbing washer mounted between the outboard motor housing and the nut and washer. The strap means is preferably provided with a central opening therein of a size slightly larger than the dome-shaped head portion of the bolt member and engageable thereabout in usage to prevent lateral movement of the connecting means therefrom.

In other preferred specific embodiments of the invention, the bracket means includes a connecting means attachable to the stern portion of a boat having a strap means engageable with a lug assembly secured to the casing or housing of an outboard motor mounted on the boat. The connecting means has linkage means connected to opposite ends of the strap means and engageable with laterally projecting ring members conventionally found mounted on the stern portion of a boat for anchoring to a dock, pulling water skiers, etc. The strap means includes a belt-type main body having a plurality of circular perforations in a mid-portion thereof whereupon any one of the perforations may be punched out so as to be engageable with the lug assembly in usage. At opposite ends of the main body are U-shaped clamps secured thereto which are connectable to the respective linkage means. Each linkage means is constructed of an elongated chain member having a hook member secured to one end and the other end is connected to a spring assembly which, in turn, is connected to the respective clamps of the strap means. The hook members are of a conventional snap-type readily attachable to the ring members on the stern of the boat. The spring assembly is constructed of a main compression spring having a pair of attachment hook members mounted therethrough and the outer ends of the hook members are connected to the chain member and the clamp of the strap means, respectively. The lug assembly has a main bolt member with an enlarged dome-shaped head portion and a threaded shaft portion mountable through an opening in the outer housing of the outboard motor so that the head projects laterally therefrom. A nut and washer are mounted on the threaded shaft portion and a resilient washer member mounted between the washer and the housing of the outboard motor thereby providing for a resilient mounting of the bolt member so as to prevent damage to the outer housing of the outboard motor. The dome-shaped head portion is of a size adapted to receive the opening of the punched out perforation in the main body of the strap means thereabout to present an effective connector thereto operable in conjunction with the attachment of the hook members to the respective ring members to anchor the outboard motor in a given position.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a support bracket means for anchoring outboard motors to the stern portion of a boat overcoming the above-mentioned disadvantages of the prior art devices.

Another object of this invention is to provide a bracket means for resiliently securing an outboard motor on the stern portion of a boat in a raised position for land transporting purposes.

A further object of this invention is to provide a bracket means having a lug member secured to an outboard motor and a connecting means attachable to both the lug member and the stern portion of a boat whereby the outboard motor is held in a given inclined position for the land transpotring thereof.

One other object of this invention is to provide a bracket means for anchoring an outboard motor to the stern portion of a boat that is readily adjustable so as to be usable to anchor various types and sizes of outboard motors to their respective supporting boats.

One further object of this invention is to provide a bracket means to anchor an outboard motor secured to the stern portion of a boat for land transporting purposes that is easy to use, inexpensive to manufacture, and dependable in operation.

Varius other objects, advantages, and features of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following discussion, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the bracket means of this invention illustrated as mounted on the stern portion of a boat and operably connected to an outboard motor secured to the boat to anchor the same in an inactive position;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the bracket means of this invention illustrated as connected to the boat in the outboard motor; and

FIG. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of a supporting lug assembly of the bracket means of this invention.

The following is a discussion and description of the preferred specific embodiments of the new bracket means of this invention, such being made with reference to the drawings, whereupon the same reference numerals are used to indicate the same or similar parts and/or structure. It is to be understood that such discussion and description is not to unduly limit the scope of the invention.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, and in particular to FIG. 1 the support bracket means of this invention, indicated generally at **8**, is illustrated as attached to a stern portion **10** of a conventional boat **12** having a standard outboard motor **14** mounted on the stern portion **10**. The support bracket means **8** includes a connecting means **17** and a lug assembly **19** which is mounted on an outer housing **21** of the outboard motor **14** and adapted to engage the connecting means **17** as will become obvious.

More specifically, the connecting means **17** includes a strap means **23** having linkage means **25** and **26** connected to opposite ends thereof. The strap means **23** is of a belt type having an elongated main body **28** with U-shaped clamp members **30** secured to opposite ends thereof. The main body **28** is provided with a plurality of pre-punched circular perforations **32** whereupon a selected one thereof may be punched out to provide a circular opening **33** engageable with the lug assembly **19** as will be explained. The main body **28** can be constructed of any durable flexible material such as nylon belting, leather, or the like having the characteristics of not being readily stretched out of shape, strong enough to prevent breakage during normal usage and remaining flexible under all temperature conditions so as to readily conform to the shape of the housing **21** of the outboard motor **14** with an outer surface that will not cause damage to the housing **21**.

As the linkage means **25** and **26** are substantially identical, only the linkage means **25** need be described in detail. As shown in FIG. 2, the linkage means **25** includes an elongated link chain member **36** having a hook member **38** secured to one end and a spring assembly **39** attached to the other which, in turn, is connected to a clamp member **30** of the strap means **23**. The hook member **38** is of a conventional snap-type so as to be readily attachable to a ring member **41** secured to the stern portion **10** of the boat **12**. The spring assembly **39** is of a compression type having a spring member **42** and a pair of hook members **44** and **45** mounted therein. The hook members **44** and **45** are of a U-shape having laterally extended leg portions **47** engageable with one end of the spring member **42** and having the mid-portions of the hook members **44** and **45** extended within and through the spring member **42**. The other outer ends of the hook members **44** and **45** are connectable to the chain member **36** and a clamp member **30**, respectively. The spring assembly **39** is of the type whereupon the leg portions **47** can be moved inwardly towards each other so that the lower hook member **44** may be removed therefrom and attached to a different individual link **48** of the chain member **36** thereby providing for the shortening or the lengthening of the respective linkage means **25** and **26** as required. It is obvious that the spring assembly **39** acts under compression to provide a resiliency to the connecting means **17** as will be explained.

The lug assembly **19** includes a main bolt member **51** having a dome-shaped head portion **53** integral with a laterally extended threaded shaft **54**. The head portion **53** is of a size slightly smaller than the opening **33** in the main body **28** of the strap means **23** to receive the same as will be explained. Additionally, the lug assembly **19** includes a nut member **56** threaded upon the shaft **54**, a washer **58** mountable about the shaft **54**, and a relatively thick resilient washer member **59** also mountable about the shaft **54** in a manner to be explained.

In the assembly, use, and operation of the support bracket means **8** of this invention, the lug assembly **19** is first connected to the outer housing **21** of the outboard motor **14** by drilling a hole **63** therein adapted to receive the shaft **54** of the bolt member **51** therethrough. The resilient washer **59** is mounted about the shaft **54** and held against the inner surface of the housing **21** as by the washer **58** and the nut member **56**, respectively, as shown in FIG. 3. It is seen that the resilient washer **59** operates to permit limited tilting movement of the bolt member **51** under unusual loads without damaging the housing **21** of the outboard motor **14**. The linkage means **25** is thereupon connected by the respective hook member **38** to the rearwardly extended ring member **41** secured to the stern portion **10** of the boat **12** whereupon the strap means **23** is trained over the outboard motor **14** which has been tilted towards the bow of the boat **12** as shown in FIG. 1. The opening **33** in the main body **28** is thereupon placed over the dome shaped head portion **53** of the bolt member **51** so as to engage the lower portion thereof adjacent the housing **21** (FIG. 3). The other linkage means **26** is thereupon connected to another one of the ring members **41** on the other side of the stern portion **10** whereupon the spring assemblies **39** act to hold a pressure on the outboard motor **14** to hold the same in the tilted position. It is obvious that the spring assemblies **39** can be attached to a different link **48** of the respective chain members **36** so as to achieve the proper length and resultant pressure on the outboard motor **14** to hold the same in this position which is desirable for satisfactory land transporting purposes.

Normally, a block member **64** is placed between the drive shaft portion **66** of the outboard motor **14** and the stern portion **10** of the boat **12** to hold the outboard motor **14** in an inclined position and the bracket means of this invention acts to place a downward pressure on the same as shown in FIG. 2. It is seen that the bracket means **8** of this invention is readily attachable to the ring members **41** conventionally found on the stern portion **10** of the boat **12** to provide a sturdy, efficient, and effective means of rapidly anchoring the outboard motor **14** for land transporting purposes so as to prevent damage to the boat **14** from turning and shifting movement of the outboard motor **14** thereon.

As will be apparent from the foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of applicant's bracket means, relative simple and inexpensive means have been provided which are easily attachable to conventional boats and outboard motors so as to provide an inexpensive and efficient method to anchor the motors during land transporting to prevent damage to the adjacent portions of the stern of the boat. Applicant's construction eliminates a great deal of time consuming and tedious work involved in anchoring outboard motors mounted on boats to prevent damage thereto.

While the invention has been described in connection with the preferred specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that this description is intended to illustrate and not to limit unduly the scope of the invention, which is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A bracket means adapted to hold an outboard motor in a raised position on the stern of a boat, comprising:

(a) a lug assembly connected to the outboard motor and extended laterally therefrom,

(b) strap means having a portion engageable with said lug assembly to prevent lateral movement therefrom, and

(c) linkage means secured to opposite ends of said strap means connectible to the stern of the boat to hold the outpoard motor in the raised position, and

(d) said lug assembly having a bolt member with an enlarged dome-shaped head portion placed against the one side of the outboard motor housing and a resilient washer held against the other side of the

housing by a nut member to absorb shocks during usage.

2. A bracket means as described in claim 1, wherein:
(a) said strap means having an elongated main body, and
(b) said portion engageable with said lug assembly having an opening mountable about said head portion of said bolt member to restrict lateral movement therefrom.

3. A bracket means as described in claim 1, wherein:
(a) said linkage means having an elongated chain member, a hook member secured to one end of said chain member attachable to the stern of the boat, and a spring member connected to the other end of said chain member, and
(b) said spring member connected to said strap means to bias the same into engagement with the outboard motor to maintain the raised position.

4. A bracket means as described in claim 3, wherein:
(a) said spring member having a compression spring and attachment hooks engageable with opposite ends thereof, and
(b) said attachment hooks readily releasable and connectable to a selected portion of said chain member to lengthen or shorten said linkage means as required.

5. A bracket means as descriped in claim 2, wherein:
(a) said linkage means having chain members, hooks

secured to one end of said chain members connectable to the stern of the boat, and spring means having opposite ends secured to said chain members and said main body, and
(b) said spring means readily connectable to various portions of said chain members to lengthen or shorten the overall length as required whereby, in use, said bracket means acts to bias the outboard motor downwardly to resiliently restrict movement thereof and prevent damage to the stern of the boat.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

248—361