

No. 734,516.

PATENTED JULY 28, 1903.

J. C. COLLAMORE & G. W. KERST.

LAUNCH COVER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 13, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

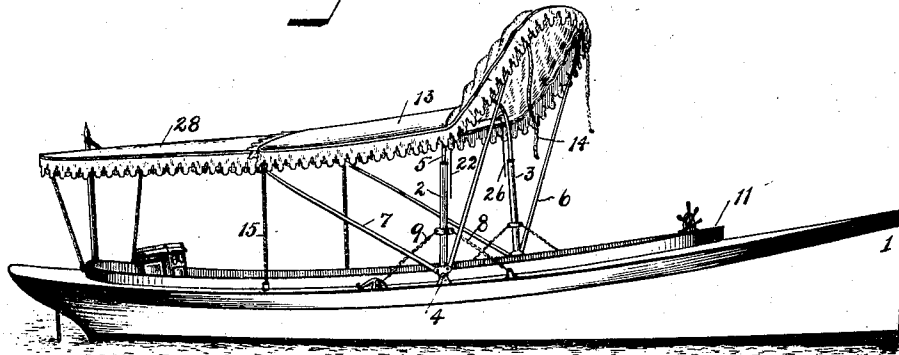


Fig. 2.

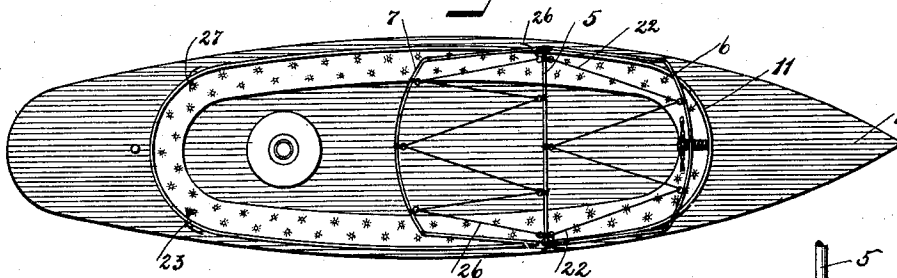
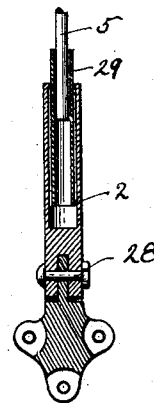
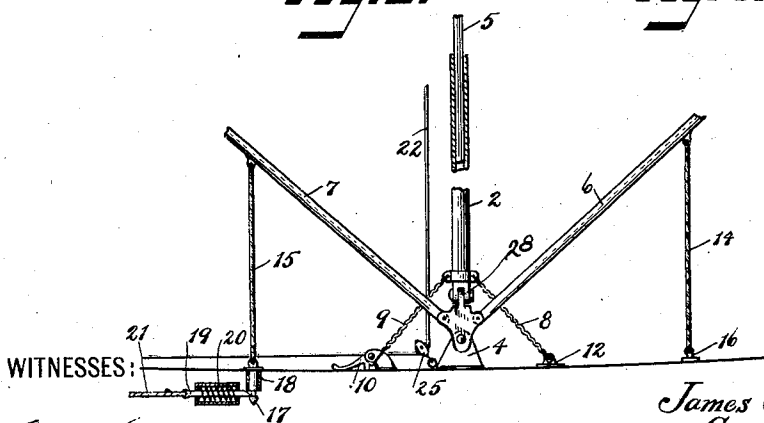


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



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LAUNCH-COVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 734,516, dated July 28, 1903.

Application filed January 13, 1903. Serial No. 138,810. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES C. COLLAMORE and GRANT W. KERST, citizens of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Launch-Covers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Our invention relates to covers or awnings for launches or other small boats and the like.

The object of our invention is to provide a cover or awning for a small boat which is adjustable so as to be raised at one or both ends in order to facilitate ingress and egress to the boat. The entire cover may be folded up and stowed away neatly. The operation of the awning may be controlled from any suitable point.

The invention consists in the construction of framework with stays and controlling-ropes, which is more particularly shown in the accompanying drawings and described in the following specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a launch with a cover embodying the improvements of our invention, the forward end of the cover being raised. Fig. 2 is a plan view of a launch with a framework of our construction shown in position, but with the canvas or awning removed. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary side elevation and cross-section of parts of the structure with modification. Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a modified detail.

1 is a launch which has a cockpit with a rail 11.

2 and 3 are posts which are pivoted to the launch by means of plates 4.

5 is an inverted-U-shaped frame having two ends which slide relatively to the posts 2 and 3 for the purpose of permitting the center frame to be extended to a length approximately equal to the frames 6 and 7.

6 and 7 are frames, fore and aft, respectively, of the center posts 2 and 3, which are pivoted relatively to the deck of the launch. We have shown them pivoted to the bottom of the post 2. They are longer than the center frame, but of similar curvature.

8 and 9 are fore and aft stay-chains attached to the posts for the purpose of securing the same in an upright position. Either

one or both of these stay-chains 8 and 9 may be attached to the deck by means of a catch 10. Obviously when the chain 9 is released from the catch 10 the post and attached parts may be swung in the direction of the other chain. In the frame herein shown the ends of the aft stay 9 are secured by these catches, so that the frames may be swung forward and lie down about the rail 11 to whose curvature they approximate where they will be snug and out of the way. Obviously the forward stay 8 might be secured by a catch similar to the catch 10; but this is not essential, and we have shown herein a stationary plate 12 for securing the forward stays to the deck.

13 is the canvas or awning proper which may be secured to the tops of the frames 5, 6, and 7 by any suitable means. 14 and 15 are fore and aft ropes or lanyards secured to the frames 6 and 7 on either side of the launch for more securely holding the cover in place. These lanyards can be secured by a permanent fastening-plate 16; but we prefer to use removable catches, which may be controlled from a suitable point in the boat.

17 is a plug adapted to fit into a bushing 18 in the deck.

19 is a bolt controlled by a spring 20, which is adapted to coact with the plug 17 and lock it when the same is in the position shown in Fig. 3.

21 is a rope attached to the bolt 19 for withdrawing it from the plug 17, so that the lanyards and attached frame may be released.

The tension of the cover and other parts of the structure is such that when the bolt 19 is withdrawn from the plug the cover will immediately spring up sufficiently for the plug to be released. Obviously similar catches could be used on the forward lanyards 14.

When the lanyards holding one of the fore or aft frames, either 6 or 7, have been released from the deck, the frame corresponding may be rocked on its pivots and lifted up. In Fig. 1 we have shown the forward frame 6 and the forward end of the cover as lifted up, the corresponding securing-lanyards 14 being released from the deck. In order to lift the frame 6 up, so that a person may easily step in or out of the launch, we have provided a rope 22, which may be passed through the

side of the boat, so as to be reached at the stern.

23 is the end of such a rope. 25 is a pulley or shive attached to the deck near the foot of the center post 2. The rope 22 passes around the pulley 25 and then up and through a pulley carried by the top of the center frame 5 and back and forth through a series of pulleys carried by the center frame 5 and the forward frame 6 alternately around their top edges. The upper end of the rope 22 should be fixed relatively to the frame 5 or 6. We have secured it herein to the frame 5. When the forward lanyards 14 have been released and the rope 22 is pulled tight, the forward frame 6 will be rocked on its pivots and tilted toward the center frame 5, as shown in Fig. 1.

The aft frame 7 may be operated similarly by a rope 26, which passes up and then back and forth through a series of pulleys on the center frame 5 and the aft frame 7 and has its upper end secured to the frame 5. This rope likewise extends from the stern at 27 forward and up through a pulley similar to 25, so as to enable one to lift the aft end of the awning 13 in a manner similar to the forward end when the lanyards 15 are released. With the aft frame 7 raised passengers may land aft the center posts.

When both ends of the awning have been lifted to a position similar to that of the forward frame 6 in Fig. 1, the center frame will cease to be the fulcrum for raising the outer ends of the fore and aft frames, and these latter frames will become the fulcrums. Continued pulling on the ropes or halyards 22 and 26 will pull the center frame outward, and all three frames will approach each other in the upright position. If the rear stays 9 of the posts 2 and 3 are released, all three frames can be tilted forward and stowed about the outer edge of the rail 11, to whose shape they conform. For this purpose it will be seen that the length of the center frame plus the posts must be approximately equal to the length of the fore and aft frames.

In Fig. 3 we have shown the center post 2 provided with a hinge 28, so that the post may have a movement athwart the boat. This structure is not essential to many of the chief advantages of our invention, but perfects the operation of the structure. Preferably the top of the cover is somewhat narrower than the distance between the supporting-pivots 4 on the deck. This will be noted in the plan view in Fig. 2. When, therefore, the center frame 5 is extended relatively to the posts 2 and 3, the hinge in the post will enable it to adjust itself more easily to the changing angular position demanded upon one or the other of the parts. Otherwise there must be a bending of the center frame 5 or a giving of the posts 2 and 3.

When the cover has been stowed away and is to be extended for use, the three frames are tilted to an upright position. Then the center frame is stayed and then the fore and

aft portions are drawn down, which effectually telescopes the center frame. The fastening of the fore and aft frame lanyards holds the entire cover securely. The awning 28 may be secured to the aft end of the cover, but is not concerned or involved in this invention.

The construction is simple and may be easily operated, affording an efficient covering.

Obviously either the fore frame 6 or the aft frame 7 might be omitted and the remaining portion of the framework and awning used alone. The parts would then operate in exactly the same manner as set forth for the entire structure, the operation of raising the second inclined frame of course being eliminated.

Fig. 4 shows a modification of the connection between the post 2 and one end of the center frame 5. 29 is an intermediate member in which the frame 5 telescopes and which itself telescopes in the post 2. The top of the post 2 and the top of the member 29 should each be provided with stops, which in conjunction with lugs carried by the lower ends of the member 29 and frame 5 will prevent the parts from being entirely withdrawn from one another; but the form of stops and lugs is immaterial. By this construction a much longer cover or awning may be used. When the center frame 5 is extended to correspond with the length of the forward frame 6, the advantage of this construction will be obvious.

What we claim is—

1. A launch-cover including deck-plates, inverted-U-shaped fore and aft frames pivotally mounted thereon, a shorter extensible center frame pivoted to said plates and means for staying said frames.

2. In a launch-cover the combination of the stationary deck-plates, two frames pivotally carried thereby, one of said frames being upright and extensible, and the other being mounted at an angle thereto, stays for said extensible frame, removable catches for one set of stays, and a stay for holding the other frame down.

3. In a launch-cover the combination of the stationary deck-plates, two frames pivotally carried thereby, one of said frames being upright and extensible, and the other being mounted at an angle thereto, stays for said extensible frame, removable catches for one set of stays, and a stay for holding the other frame down, and a snap-bolt and plug adapted to coact therewith for securing said stay to the deck.

4. A launch-cover including a plurality of inverted-U-shaped frames pivotally mounted at the same point, stays for holding said frames in their operative positions, removable catches for securing two sets of said stays to the deck of a launch and controlling-ropes extending from the catches of one of said sets of stays.

5. A launch-cover including an extensible center frame, pivoted fore and aft frames, pivotal mountings for said center frame, stays for securing said frames in position, some of said stays being adapted to be removably secured to a launch, means for removably securing said stays, and means for operating same.

6. A launch-cover including a pivotally-mounted and extensible center frame, two fore and aft frames longer than the center frame and pivoted at the base thereof and inclined at an angle thereto, a rope passing from the fore and aft frames to the center frame for drawing the fore and aft frames toward the center frame and then extending the latter.

7. A launch-cover including a pivotally-mounted and extensible frame, a second frame longer than the extensible frame and pivoted at the base thereof and inclined at an angle thereto, a rope passing from one frame to the other for drawing the inclined frame toward the extensible frame and then extending the latter, and means for removably securing said frames in their opened-out position.

8. A launch-cover, including three pivotally-mounted frames, two sets of stays for one of said frames, one of said stays being adapted to be removably secured to the deck of a launch, means for thus securing it, a stay for each of the other frames, a plug carried by one of said stays and a snap-bolt adapted to coact therewith.

9. A launch-cover and mechanism for operating same including a plurality of frames pivotally mounted about the same point, one of said frames being extensible and a rope passing back and forth between said frames for drawing them together.

10. A launch-cover including a pair of pivotally-mounted posts, stays therefor, a frame telescoped in said posts, a pair of frames piv-

oted at the base of said posts, and means for operating the same.

11. A launch-cover construction comprising a pair of pivoted posts, an extensible frame operating in conjunction with said posts, a frame pivoted at the base of said posts, a hinge in each of said posts, intermediate extensible members coöperating with the said posts and their frame and stays for said frames.

12. A launch-cover construction comprising a pair of pivoted posts, an extensible frame operating in conjunction with said posts, a frame pivoted at the base of said posts, intermediate extensible members coöperating with the said posts and their frame and stays for said frames.

13. A launch-cover construction including a pair of deck-plates, fore and aft frames pivoted thereto, a center-post pivoted to each of said deck-plates, hinges in said posts, an extensible center frame operating in conjunction with said posts and stays for said frames.

14. A launch-cover construction including a pair of deck-plates, fore and aft frames pivoted thereto, center posts pivoted to said deck-plates, hinges in said posts, an extensible frame operating in conjunction with said posts and intermediate extensible members coöperating with said posts and their frame.

15. A launch-cover construction including a pair of deck-plates, fore and aft frames pivoted thereto, center-posts pivoted to said deck-plates, an extensible frame operating in conjunction with said posts and intermediate extensible members coöperating with said posts and their frame, and stays for said frames.

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