Jan. 5, 1954 E. L. CLARKE 2,665,174

MULTIUNIT SCAFFOLD

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Fig. 1.

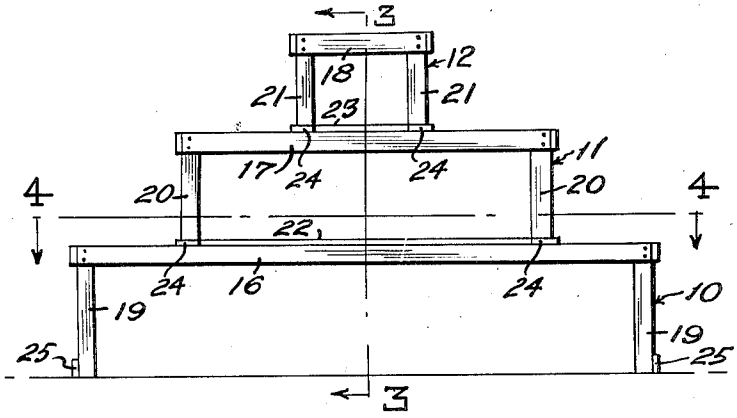


Fig. 2.

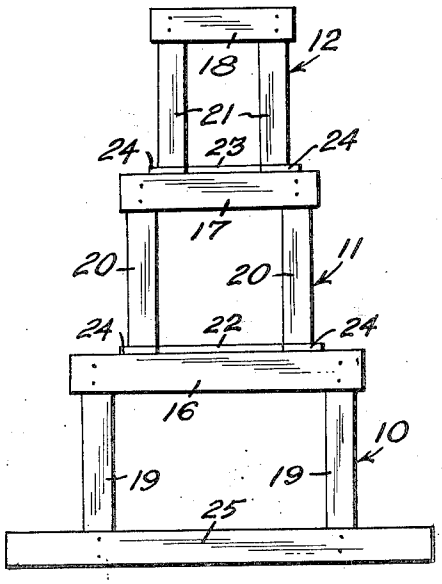
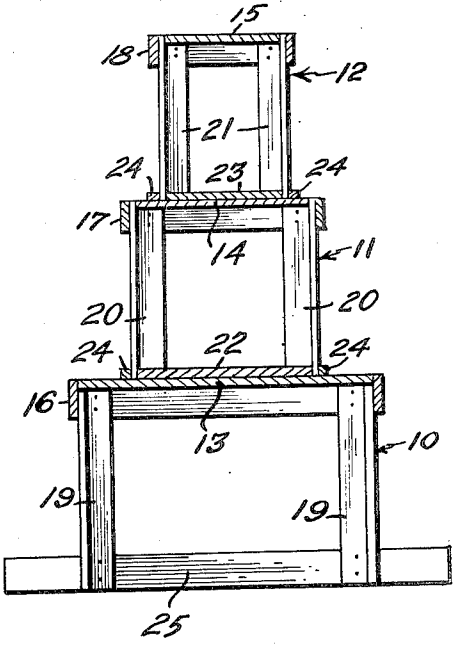


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

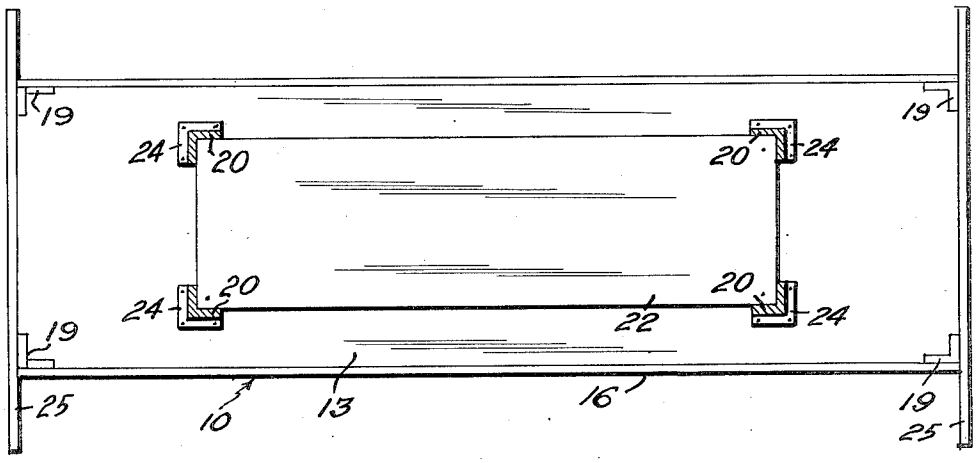
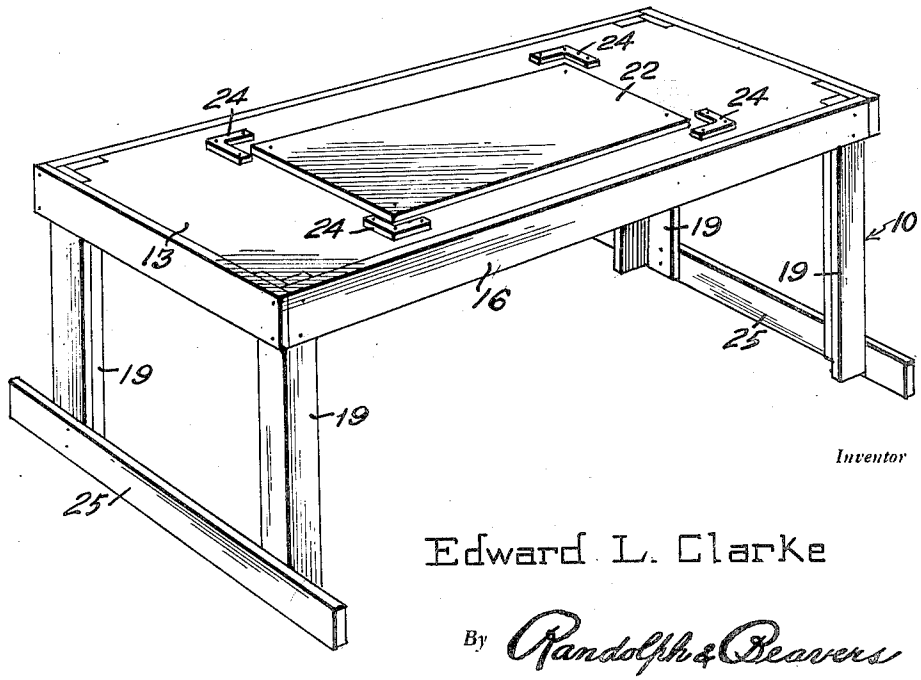


Fig. 5.



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MULTIUNIT SCAFFOLD

Edward L. Clarke, Scranton, Pa.

Application August 13, 1947, Serial No. 768,447

4 Claims. (Cl. 304—2)

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The present invention relates to step multi-unit scaffolds and it consists in the combinations, constructions and arrangements of parts herein described and claimed.

It is an object of the invention to provide a multi-unit scaffold, usable as a step ladder which is simple and economical in its construction yet efficient in operation.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a novel arrangement whereby one platform or section of a stepladder may be quickly and easily mounted upon another section in such manner as to present accidental slippage of the same therefrom.

A further object of the invention is to the provision of a multi-part step ladder, the various parts of which may be utilized alone or in combination with one another.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a step ladder provided with a plurality of working platforms.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent from a reading of the following specification taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of an embodiment of the invention in assembled condition,

Figure 2 is an enlarged end elevational view of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Figure 1, and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one element of the invention.

Generally, there is provided a multi-unit scaffold formed of a plurality of table-like structures, all but the uppermost of which are provided with a board centrally disposed upon the top thereof and of a size corresponding to the area encompassed by the legs of the next uppermost table. Socket members are provided for the outer edges of the legs. The various sections may be individually employed or one or more may be added as desired. In each case the lower sections act as steps to allow reaching the next upper section and a very stable structure is had at all times.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, there is shown therein a multiple scaffold, usable as a stepladder composed of a lower section 10, a central section 11 and a top section 12.

Each of the sections 10, 11 and 12 is provided

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with a top 13, 14 and 15, respectively, a dependent skirt 16, 17 and 18, respectively, and four legs 19, 20 and 21, respectively, such legs being of L-shaped cross-sectional area.

The tops 13, 14 and 15 are of rectangular shape and to the lower section 10 is affixed a board 22 of a size adapted to snugly engage the inner edges of the legs 20 of the central section 11. A like board 23 is mounted upon the top 14 of the central section 11 for snug engagement with the inner edges of the legs 21 of the top section 12.

Brackets 24 are affixed to the tops 13 and 14 adjacent the boards 22 and 23 in such manner as to bear against the outer edges of the legs 20 and 21 when the same are inserted between the boards 22 and 23 and the brackets. The legs 19 at either end of the lower section or platform are interconnected by means of outwardly extending base members 25. As will be noted from Fig. 1, the sections 10, 11 and 12 when assembled provide marginally unobstructed steps or working surfaces which are plane, there being a set of such steps at each end of the assembled unit.

In operation, it will be apparent that the platforms may be made of wood or any other suitable material such as lightweight metal and that all sections may be telescoped together for shipping or storage purposes. For instance, it will be obvious from an inspection of Figs. 1 and 3 that the sections 10, 11 and 12 can be nested one within the other when not in use. Thus, the skirts 16 provide a nesting recess for the section 11 and the skirts 17 of the section 11 provide a nesting recess for the section 12. The platforms may be used separately or the central section 11 may be added to the lower section 10 by placing the legs 20 in the sockets formed by the board 22 and brackets 24. The top section 12 may also be added in the same manner, if desired. The base members 25 provide for additional stability in the structure, particularly since they extend laterally beyond the legs 19 and have contact with the supporting surface. It will be seen, too, that when using the bottom section 10 alone or with the central section 11 mounted thereon that the top 13 or top 14 provides an area on which the user may move about without the constant necessity for readjustment as in the case of the conventional stepladder.

While but one form of the invention has been shown and described herein, it will be readily apparent that many minor modifications may be

made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable and knockdown multi-unit scaffold useful as a substitute for a stepladder especially in homes, offices and stores, and comprising in combination a plurality of elongated table-like platforms of successively smaller sizes at least as to length; said platforms adapted to be removably mounted and substantially centered one upon the other in order of size with the larger one lowermost as a base and the smaller one uppermost; each of said platforms below said uppermost one providing transversely coextensive plane and marginally unobstructed step-providing working areas extending inwardly from each end and said uppermost platform providing a longitudinally and transversely coextensive plane and marginally unobstructed working surface; a leg dependent from each corner of each of said platforms above said base platform, each of said legs being L-shaped in cross-sectional area, sockets carried by such of the platforms as are located below the uppermost one, said sockets receiving the leg ends of the next upper platform; each of said sockets being formed in part by a corner portion of a rectangular platform reinforcing board affixed to the top of each of said socket-providing platforms and in part by an L-shaped bracket mounted adjacent to and in spaced relation to the sides of a said board corner portion; and the ends of said boards located inwardly of the said step and working surface-providing areas of said socket-carrying platforms.

2. The combination set forth in claim 1, and depending legs at each corner of said lowermost platform and providing feet, elongated supporting surface engaging base sections rigidly connected to the feet of adjacent pairs of said last-mentioned leg members and extending laterally beyond the same.

3. The combination set forth in claim 1, and wherein said successively smaller platforms are smaller both widthwise and lengthwise, and there being dependent feet-incorporating legs carried by said larger platform, transversely and longitudinally extending skirt members connecting the legs of each of said platforms adjacent the latter, said skirt members of each platform providing a nesting recess for the inverted next smaller platform whereby the platforms can be conveniently stored when not in use.

4. The combination set forth in claim 1, and wherein said successively smaller platforms are smaller both widthwise and lengthwise, and there being depending feet-incorporating legs carried by said larger platform, transversely and longitudinally extending skirt members connecting the legs of each of said platforms adjacent the latter, said skirt members of each platform providing a nesting recess for the inverted next smaller platform whereby the platforms can be conveniently stored when not in use, and elongated supporting surface-engaging base sections rigidly connected to the feet of adjacent pairs of the larger base-providing platform and extending laterally beyond the same.

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