July 9, 1968 R. LUFF 3,391,946

COMBINED SKI FILE AND CAMBER BLOCK

Filed May 25, 1966

Fig_1

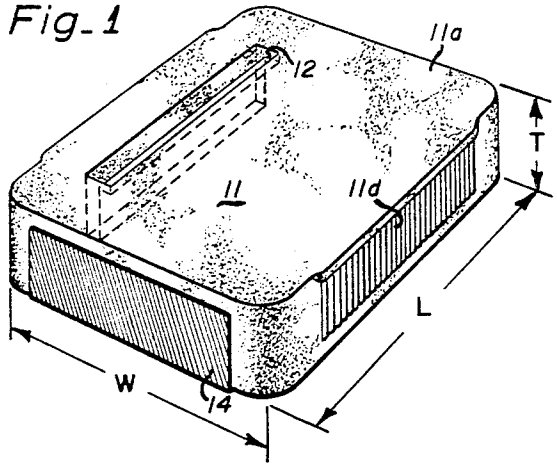
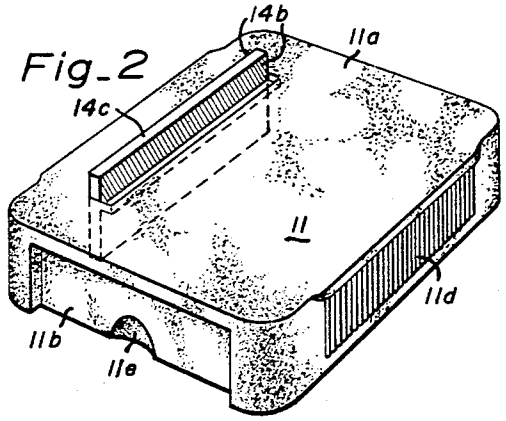


Fig_2



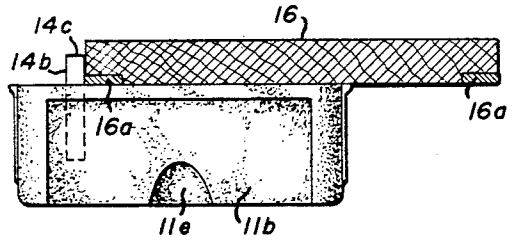
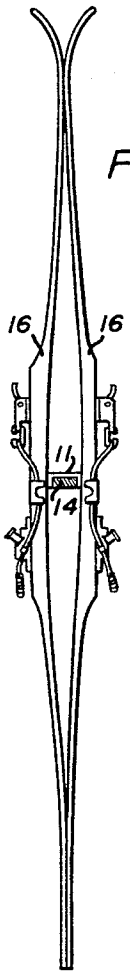


Fig_3

Fig_4



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COMBINED SKI FILE AND CAMBER BLOCK

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A unitary block structure serves both as a steel edge file for skis and as a camber block for skis. A file member, which is retained in a recess in the block when not in use, is insertable into a retainable by a slot in the block to form a file, with the edge of the file extending above a planar surface of the block. The block has one dimension corresponding to the desired camber of the skis, so that it may be inserted therebetween to maintain the ski camber when they are not in use.

This invention relates in general to skiing accessories.

In skiing, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the proper care and storage of the skis. This care includes the filing of the edges of the skis to sharpen them where they have been roughened by abrasion from rocks, snow and the like. This sharpness is desirable in order to insure minimum friction during use of the skis, as well as for their aesthetic appearance. Additionally, during storage of the skis, it is necessary that the central portions thereof be spaced from each other by a certain amount while the ends are clamped together. This spacing of the central portions of the skis is usually accomplished by the use of a camber block which is inserted between the facing under-surfaces of the skis at the center thereof. This camber block serves to maintain the natural curvature which is formed into each ski to give it uniform flexibility and flexure when in use.

Heretofore, it has been proposed in the art to provide a member which served as both a camber block and a holder and applicator for wax for the skis. Such a device is quite satisfactory for waxing skis and maintaining their camber when stored, but it makes no provision for filing the edges of skis as discussed above, and a skier equipped with such a device still has to carry with him some type of file for this purpose.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a unitary structure which serves both as a device for filing the edges of skis and as a camber block during storage of the skis. The structure is preferably formed of a hard but slightly elastic material and has one dimension corresponding to the direct camber distance for the skis. When employed as a camber block, the structure is inserted between the skis at the center thereof, with the dimension corresponding to the camber distance serving to separate the skis. The structure is also provided with a slot therein on a planar guide surface which is adapted to receive a file member. When not in use for filing, the file member is stored in a recess in the structure and may be removed therefrom for insertion in the slot. When inserted in the slot, the file member, together with the planar guide surface in which the slot is formed, form a filing block for filing the edges of the skis.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a unitary structure which can be used both as a file block for filing the edges of skis and as a camber block for maintaining the proper spacing of the skis when stored.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a unitary structure which can be used both as a file block for filing the edges of skis and as a camber block for maintaining the proper spacing of the skis when stored,

the structure including a file member which is insertable in a slot in the structure.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a unitary structure which serves both as a device for filing the edges of skis and as a camber block during storage of the skis, the structure including a file member which is stored in a recess in the structure when not in use and which is insertable in a slot in the structure to form a filing block.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a file structure including a block member having a planar surface with a slot therein, and a file member which is insertable in the slot so as to project therefrom to form a file block.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a skiing accessory for filing skis and serving as a camber block which is rugged, simple to manufacture and easily carried by a skier.

Objects and advantages other than those set forth above will be apparent from the following detailed description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the structure of the present invention, showing the file member in the recess in the block and illustrating the slot for receiving the file member;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view similar to FIGURE 1 showing the file member positioned in the slot in the block;

FIGURE 3 illustrates one method of utilizing the structure to file a ski; and

FIGURE 4 illustrates the use of the structure as a camber block for maintaining the spacing between the central portions of a pair of skis.

Referring first to FIGURES 1 and 2, the structure of this invention includes a block member **11** which is formed of a suitable hard but slightly elastic material, such as hard rubber. Block **11** is provided with an elongated slot **12** therein on one planar guide surface **11***a* of the block for receiving a file member. Slot **12** may be produced in block **11** by any suitable means, such as by milling or during molding, etc.

When not in use, the file member **14** is positioned in a recess **11***b* in one end of block **11**. File member **14** may be retained in recess **11***b* by any suitable means, such as by friction with the inwardly tapering end walls of recess **11***b* or by a magnet embedded in block **11** adjacent recess **11***b*. File member **14** has opposite sides **14***b* which are provided with file surfaces for filing the edges of skis, and it also preferably has at least one of its edge surfaces **14***c* provided with a smooth surface for scraping skis.

The general dimensions of block **11** may be varied somewhat so long as it has a pair of parallel sides forming camber surfaces which are normal to the guide surface **11***a* and which are spaced apart a distance corresponding to the desired camber distance for skis. Additionally, the block may have a further pair of parallel surfaces, normal to the camber surfaces and the guide surface, which are spaced apart a distance corresponding to the width of a ski. In the preferred embodiment, the block has a length L of 3 inches, which corresponds to the width of most skis, and has a width W of 2.5 inches, which corresponds to the camber distance for most skis. The block may have a thickness T of ⅞ of an inch.

Block **11** may be provided with serrations or spaced ridges **11***d* along at least a portion of the length of the camber surfaces to facilitate gripping the block during filing and to insure good frictional engagement with the skis when used as a camber block.

To utilize the structure as a filing block, file member **14** is removed from recess **11***b* and inserted into slot **12**. Removal of file member **14** from recess **11***b* may be

facilitated by provision of a finger opening **11***e* in recess **11***b* behind member **14** (FIGURE 2). The depth of slot **12** is selected to provide an appropriate amount of file extending therefrom while still retaining file member **14** firmly in the slot, and it has been found that a projection of 3/16 of an inch is quite suitable. File member **14** is preferably slightly longer than slot **12** so as to be held therein by frictional engagement with the resilient sides thereof, and projects from the slot normal to planar surface **11***a*.

The structure may be used as shown in FIGURE 3 to file the edges of a ski **16**, with one of the file surfaces **14***b* adjacent the ski edge and the smooth edge **14***c* of the file member available for scraping if necessary. In FIGURE 3, the illustrated ski **16** is shown of wooden or plastic construction and provided with steel edges in the form of metal strips **16***a* on the bottoms thereof on opposite edges. It is to be understood, however, that the ski file is equally useful for skis of all metal construction, such as the well-known "Head" skis and that the FIGURE 3 illustration was selected only because, presently, steel edges are still more common than all metal skis. The bottom or top surface of the ski is preferably placed on planar guide surface **11***a* during filing to maintain file surface **14***b* in proper alignment with the edge of the ski. After completion of filing, file member **14** may be removed from slot **12** and replaced in recess **11***b*.

To utilize the structure as a camber block, it may be employed as shown in FIGURE 4 to separate a pair of skis **16**. The block is inserted with the camber surfaces engaging the facing undersides of skis **16** at approximately the center thereof, and the ends of the skis are clamped together by suitable means (not shown). As indicated above, block **11** has a width W which corresponds to the desired camber distance by which the center portions of skis **16** are to be separated, so that insertion of the block as shown in FIGURE 4 provides the proper camber spacing. Further, since the length L of the block corresponds to the width of the skis, the skis are supported across their width by the camber block.

The ridges **11***d* on the sides of the camber surfaces of the block firmly grip the undersides of the skis to insure retention of the camber block in the desired position.

From the above, it will be seen that there is provided a novel unitary structure for both filing the edges of skis and serving as a camber block for the skis, and that this structure is rugged, simple to manufacture, easily carried by a skier and can be quickly made ready for use as either a file or a camber block.

While the above detailed description has shown, described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to various embodiments, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the device illustrated may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for filing skis, comprising:

a block member being formed of a hard but slightly elastic material having at least one generally planar guide surface;

an elongated slot, having a pair of end walls and a pair of side walls, in said guide surface and extending into said block member; and

a file member insertable into said slot and elastically retainable therein by frictional engagement with at least one pair of said walls of said slot so as to have a filing portion projecting from said guide surface, said guide surface and said projecting portion of said file member forming a file block for filing skis.

2. A device in accordance with Claim **1** in which said block member has a pair of parallel surfaces, substantially normal to said guide surface, which are spaced apart a distance which corresponds to the desired camber distance for the skis, whereby said device becomes a ski file and camber block combination.

3. A device in accordance with claim **2** in which said block member has a further pair of parallel surfaces, substantially normal to said guide surface and said camber surfaces which are spaced apart a distance which corresponds to the width of the skis.

4. A device in accordance with claim **1** in which said block member has a recess in one end surface thereof for storage of said file member.

5. A device in accordance with claim **4** in which said recess has inwardly sloping opposed side walls to retain said file member therein by the elasticity of said material.

6. A device in accordance with claim **5** in which said recess is provided with a finger opening on the rear wall thereof to facilitate removal of said file member from said recess.

7. A device in accordance with claim **1** in which said file member projects from said slot normal to said guide surface.

8. A device in accordance with claim **1** in which said file member is provided with file surfaces on two sides thereof and is provided with a smooth surface on one edge thereof.

9. A device for filing skis, comprising:

a block member having at least one generally planar guide surface, said block member being formed of a hard but slightly elastic material;

an elongated slot in said guide surface extending into said block member; and

an elongated file member insertable into said slot so as to have a filing portion extending from and normal to said guide surface, said file member having a length slightly greater than said slot so as to be retained therein by the elasticity of said material, said guide surface and said projecting portion of said file member forming a file block for filing skis.

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