

No. 648,531.

Patented May 1, 1900.

J. G. ROSSMAN.

FOOT IRON FOR STAGE SCENERY BRACES.

(Application filed Nov. 27, 1899.)

(No Model.)

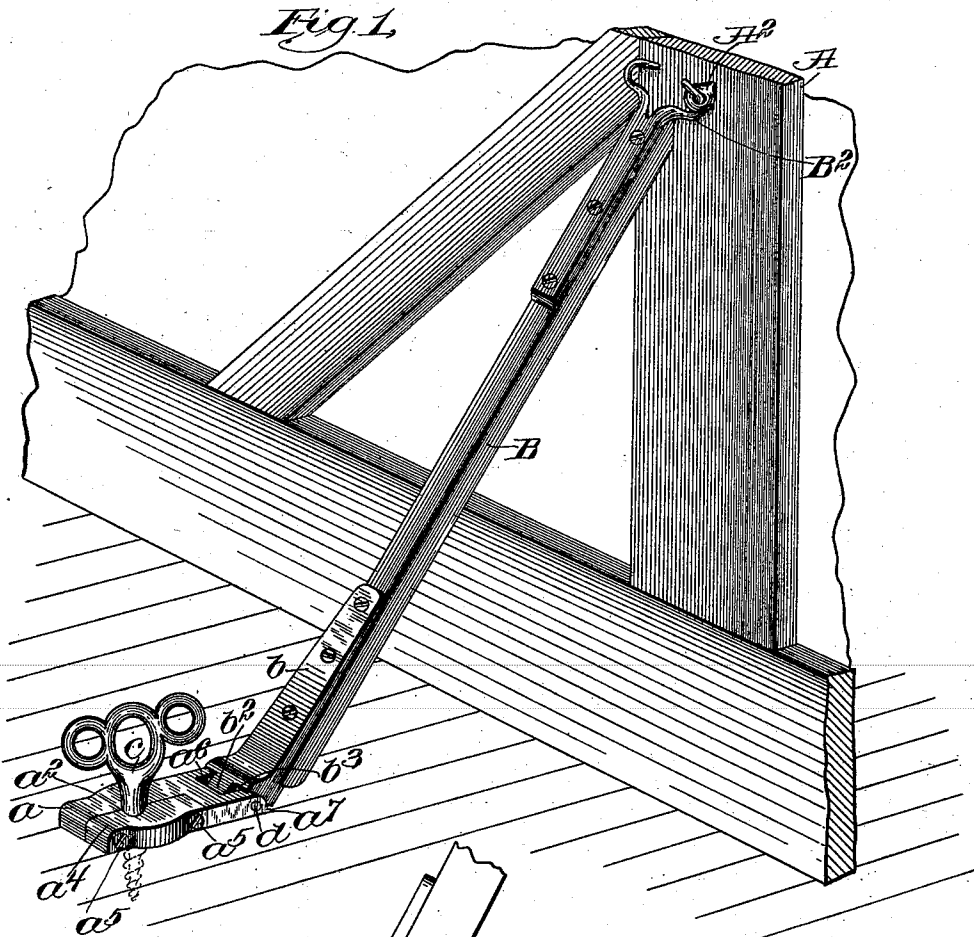
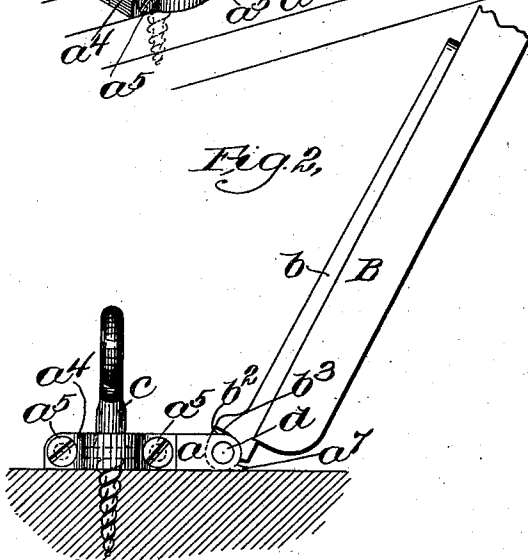
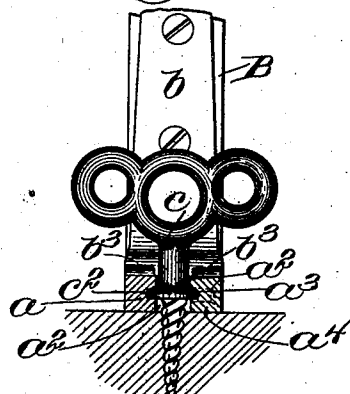


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
 Nancy P. Ford.
 Jack Maloney.

Fig. 3.



Inventor,
 James G. Rossman,
 by J. P. and J. S. Swinerton
 Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES G. ROSSMAN, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

FOOT-IRON FOR STAGE-SCENERY BRACES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,531, dated May 1, 1900.

Application filed November 27, 1899. Serial No. 738,480. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES G. ROSSMAN, of Boston, county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Foot-Irons for Stage-Scenery Braces, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

The present invention relates to a foot-iron for stage-scenery braces, one object of the invention being to so arrange the foot-iron that the thumb-screw which is used for attaching the same to the floor will be always connected with the said foot-iron, a further object of the invention being to arrange the foot-iron so that it may lie flat upon the floor regardless of the angle to which the brace is set.

In setting the scenery in theaters the "flats," "wings," &c., as they are called, are provided with detachable braces arranged to be connected with the back of the flat, as by means of a hook and eye or similar fastening device, the said brace standing at an angle to the flat and being fastened at its opposite end to the floor. Each brace is provided with what is known as a "foot-iron," which as heretofore constructed has consisted in an angle-piece, one branch of which is connected with the brace and the other branch provided with an opening to receive an ordinary wood-screw provided with a thumb-piece and an annular enlargement or shoulder above the screw-thread, the said screw being passed through the said opening and screwed into the floor until the foot-iron is held by the engagement of the said shoulder with its upper surface. The screws, being separate from the foot-irons, are continually getting lost, and trouble is frequently experienced for this reason, especially in view of the fact that the work of setting the scenery has to be done as quickly as possible. A further objection to the foot-iron as commonly constructed is that the eyes or fastening devices upon the flats may be at variable distances from the floor, while the braces are of different lengths, and it frequently happens that the part of the foot-irons which is to be fastened to the floor will not lie flat upon the same, so that the screw has to be set at an angle, it being obvious, moreover, that the brace will not be so firmly

supported as would be the case if the part in contact with the floor were to lie flat and be screwed down into contact with the floor throughout. In accordance with the present invention the lower member of the foot-iron, which is to be secured to the floor, is provided with a screw connected therewith, but arranged to rotate with relation thereto, the said screw forming a permanent part of the foot-iron, so that it cannot be lost or misplaced.

A further feature of the invention consists in connecting the two members of the foot-iron together by means of a hinge or pivot, so that the angle between the two can be varied within certain limits, it being practicable, therefore, to set the lower member flat upon the floor every time, even though the angle of the brace is variable.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a stage-scenery brace provided with a foot-iron embodying the invention, the said brace being shown as in position to support a flat. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the foot-iron and a portion of the brace, and Fig. 3 is a transverse section of the said foot-iron on a line passing through the screw-opening.

The foot-iron embodying the invention comprises the floor member *a* and the brace member *b*, which usually stand at an angle to each other of about sixty degrees, the brace member being secured in any suitable or usual way to the brace *B*, which is shown as adapted to be connected by means of hook members *B*² with an eye or loop *A*², secured to the flat *A*. After a flat is placed in position the brace *b* is hooked into the eye *A*² and the foot-iron is then secured to the floor by means of the thumb-screw *c*, the screw portion of which is an ordinary wood-screw arranged to be screwed into the floor at any desired place. In accordance with the present invention the said screw *c*, which is provided with a shoulder or projection *c*², is connected with the member *a* of the foot-iron in such a manner as to freely turn with relation thereto, but to remain in connection therewith, so that it cannot be lost or misplaced. As herein shown, the opening *a*² for the screw *c* is provided with an undercut channel *a*³, arranged to receive the enlargement *c*², so that the screw *c* cannot be accidentally detached from the member *a*, but at the same time is free to

rotate with relation thereto, so that the said member can be properly secured to the floor. It is desirable to so arrange these parts that the screw *c* can be removed and replaced, if
 5 necessary, and for this purpose the part *a* is shown as split and provided with the removable part *a*⁴, shown as attached to the main part by means of screws *a*⁵. The channel for the enlargement *c*² is formed partly in the
 10 main portion of the member *a* and partly in the portion *a*⁴, it being obvious that when the said portion *a*⁴ is in position, as shown, the said screw cannot be accidentally removed.

A further feature of the invention consists
 15 in connecting the member *b* with the member *a* by means of a hinge or pivot to permit a certain amount of variation in the angle between the said parts. As herein shown, the member *b* is provided with the tongue *b*², entering a slot *a*⁶, the two parts being connect-
 20 ed together by means of a pin *d* and prevented from moving beyond certain limits by means of shoulders or lugs *a*⁷ and *b*³, respectively. It is obvious, however, that the
 25 hinge connection above described is not essential to the invention, so far as relates to the means for securing the screw in the foot-iron, since it may be desirable in some cases
 30 to provide foot-irons in which the brace and floor members are rigidly connected with screws secured to the floor member, as herein described.

It is not intended to limit the invention to the specific construction and arrangement
 35 herein shown, since it is obvious that modifi-

cations may be made without departing from the invention.

I claim—

1. The combination with a portable stage-scenery brace adapted to be detachably connected at one end with the scenery; of a foot-iron for attaching the other end of said brace to the stage, said foot-iron having a brace member adapted to be secured to the brace; a floor member connected with said brace
 45 member at an angle thereto; and a thumb-screw rotatably secured to the said floor member and adapted to be screwed into the stage, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a portable stage-scenery brace adapted to be detachably connected at one end with the scenery; of a foot-iron for attaching the other end of said brace to the stage, said foot-iron having a brace member adapted to be secured to the brace; a floor member connected with said brace
 55 member at an angle thereto; a thumb-screw rotatably secured to the said floor member and adapted to be screwed into the stage; and a hinge connection between said brace member and said floor member, substantially as
 60 described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES G. ROSSMAN.

Witnesses:

HENRY J. LIVERMORE,
 NANCY P. FORD.