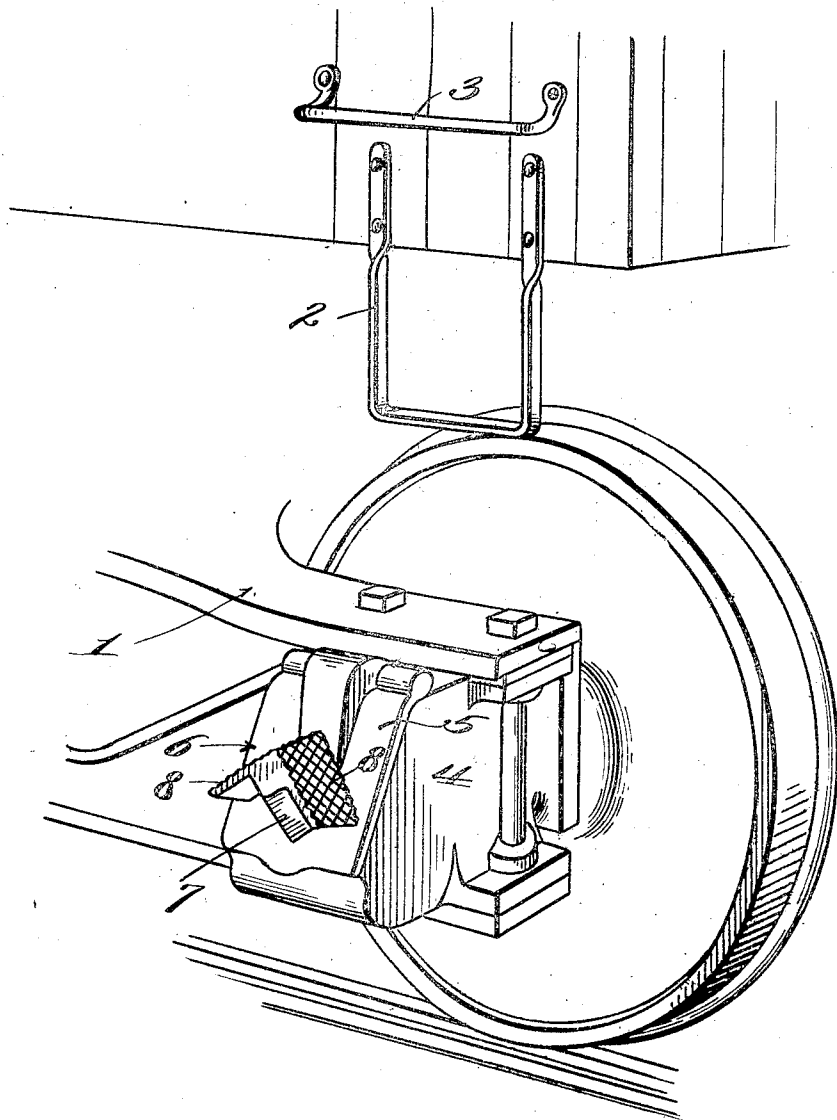


A. C. NEALE.
SAFETY STEP FOR FREIGHT CARS.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 21, 1910.

981,465.

Patented Jan. 10, 1911



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SAFETY-STEP FOR FREIGHT-CARS.

981,465.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 10, 1911.

Application filed September 21, 1910. Serial No. 583,053.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANCEL C. NEALE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Leonard, in the county of Fannin and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Safety-Steps for Freight-Cars, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention has reference to improvements in safety steps for freight cars, and it comprehends, broadly, the production of a device upon which the brakeman or other train hand may step with safety prior to reaching the hanger, ordinarily employed, and the lowermost rung of the ladder on the car end. Both the hanger and the ladder rung above referred to are, in practice, located so far above the ground as to render it extremely dangerous for a train hand to attempt to swing up directly thereonto when the car is in motion. Consequently, it has been customary to step first onto the journal box, and then onto the hanger. Such proceeding, however, has also proved dangerous, since the smooth surface of the sloping lid of the journal box affords a most precarious footing at best. To offset these defects, I propose to form upon the box lid a roughened projection which offers a secure foot-hold, and hence enables the train hand to reach the hanger by way of said box without danger of slipping.

The figure appearing in the accompanying drawing is a perspective view of one end of a freight car, illustrating the application of the invention.

In said figure, 1 designates in a general manner a portion of one of the car trucks, 2 the hanger, and 3 the lowermost ladder rung. The journal box 4 supported upon the truck in the usual manner is of conventional type, and includes the hinged lid or cover 5. Said box is located directly below the hanger 2 and adjacent to the same.

Upon the box lid, and integral with the same, is formed the improved safety step 6. This step is preferably of inverted V-shape, as shown, and is braced by a V-shaped web

7 which is likewise integral with said lid, the step, web and lid being constituted by a single casting. The two wings 8 of said step have their outer faces roughened in any suitable manner to afford a secure foot-hold, said faces being presented toward the opposite ends of the car. The ridge line formed by the meeting upper edges of the wings projects laterally from the box lid.

By reason of the arrangement of the step with reference to the hanger, as above described, it will be apparent that a train hand can readily and with perfect safety swing himself up to the ladder by stepping first onto either of the wings 8, according to the direction in which the car is traveling; and then onto the hanger.

As many of the improved steps may be employed as is considered advisable, the formation of said steps upon the box lids adding but very little to the cost of manufacture of said lids.

I claim as my invention:

1. A journal box having a flat safety step formed integral therewith.

2. A journal box having a safety step formed on the lid thereof.

3. A journal box having a safety step formed on the lid thereof and projecting laterally outward from the same.

4. A journal box having an inverted V-shaped safety step formed on the lid thereof.

5. A journal box having an inverted V-shaped safety step formed on the lid thereof and projecting laterally outward from the same, said step having its wings presented toward the opposite side faces of the box.

6. A journal box having its lid formed with an inverted V-shaped safety step, and with a strengthening web for the same.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANCEL C. NEALE.

Witnesses:

A. P. GRIDER,
C. C. MILES.