Feb. 8, 1949. G. H. STERLING 2,461,092

OAR PROTECTOR

Filed Nov. 17, 1945

Fig. 1

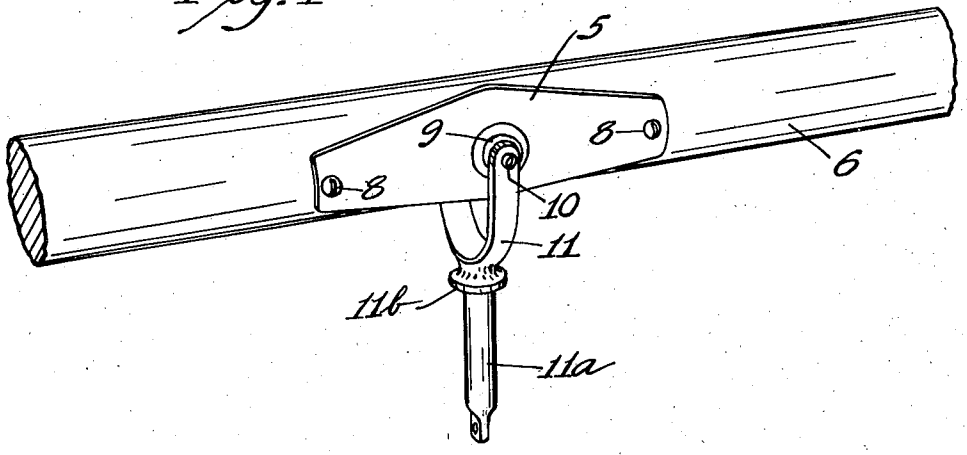


Fig. 2

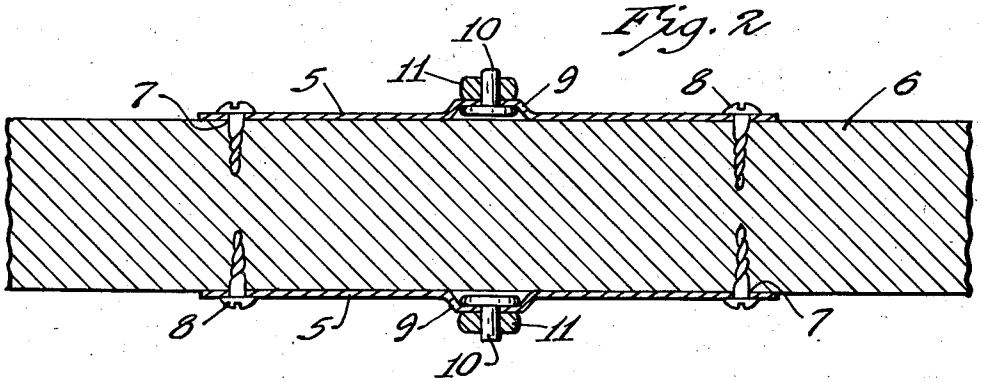


Fig. 3

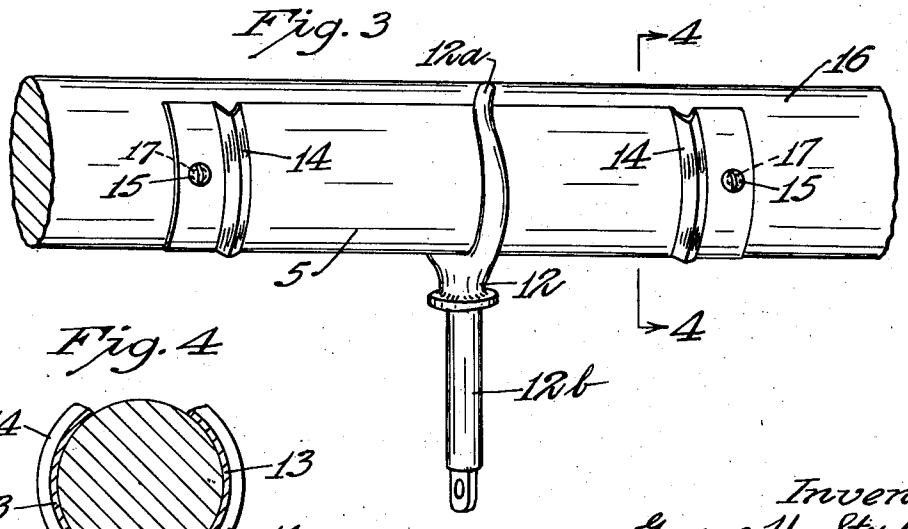


Fig. 4

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OAR PROTECTOR

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1 Claim. (Cl. 9—26)

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This invention relates to oar protectors.

It is an object of the invention to provide a pair of oar lock receiving plates which may be attached to an oar in position to receive an oar lock, and which may be so secured to the oar that the oar will not be weakened at the point where the oar lock engages the same, thereby protecting the oar from wear and breakage at the point where the greatest wear and strain is placed on the oar during rowing action.

Another object is to provide oar protectors for use in applying pivoted oar locks to an oar, the oar protectors being so constructed as to eliminate the use of a pivot pin running directly through the oar and thereby weakening the oar at the point where the greatest strain is imposed on the same.

A further object is to provide oar protectors for use in applying sliding oar locks to an oar, the oar protectors being so constructed as to retain the oar lock on the oar, and being further so constructed as to prevent weakening of the oar at the point where the oar lock engages the oar.

The objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters refer to the same or similar parts throughout the views, and, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating one embodiment of the invention applied for use on an oar;

Figure 2 is a horizontal section taken through the oar shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view illustrating a second embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Figure 3, as indicated by the arrows,

In accordance with the illustrated form of the invention shown in Figures 1 and 2 there is provided a pair of elongated metal plates 5, said plates being of arcuate contour in vertical cross section to fit at opposite sides of the oar lock er gaging portion of a wooden oar 6. Adjacent the ends of the two plates 5 screw holes 7 are formed in the plates and the plates are adapted to be secured to the oar 6 at opposite sides thereof by screws 8 or by bolts or the like. It is preferred to secure the plates to the oar by wood screws so that continuous openings through the oar need not be made tending to weaken the same. It should be noted that the screws 8 form the sole means for securing the plates 5 to the oar.

Intermediate the ends of the plates 5 the plates

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are provided with centrally apertured outwardly extending bosses 9 at opposite points and the heads of pivot studs 10 fit within these bosses and the studs run through the apertures therein to project outwardly beyond said bosses 9. These pivot studs are preferably welded to the plates so that the studs themselves cannot turn. There is also provided a forked oar lock 11 the bifurcated ends of which are apertured to receive the two pivot studs 10. Of course, the oar lock 11 has the usual pin portion 11*a* below its fork to engage in an ordinary oar lock bracket on a boat, and the oar lock is also provided with a shoulder 11*b* above the pin portion 11*a* to limit the distance that the pin portion 11*a* can run into the oar lock bracket.

With the construction shown in Figures 1 and 2 the oar will be supported by the oar lock 11 for turning movement about a vertical pivot in the oar lock bracket of the boat, and the oar will also be supported for swinging movement about a horizontal axis on the two pivot studs 10. As the boat is rowed naturally the greatest strain on the oar is exerted at the point where the oar lock engages the oar, in other words, on a line running through the longitudinal axis of the pivot studs 10. Along this line the oar has its full strength inasmuch as there is no opening through the oar as in the case of the usual oar employing a pivoted oar lock. The stress and strain imposed on the oar is taken by the two plates 5 and exerted on the oar over a considerable area. Thus the two metal plates 5 strengthen the oar at the portion thereof where the greatest strain is imposed on the same, and there is very little likelihood of breakage of the oar at this point. The construction also has an additional advantage over the ordinary pivoted oar lock construction inasmuch as when a pivot pin is passed directly through the oar as in the usual construction the pivot pin tends to wear away the wood of the oar and loosen, thus enlarging the pivot pin opening and further weakening the oar as well as causing inaccuracy in placing the oar in the water and withdrawing it from the water during the rowing action.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in Figures 3 and 4 a device has been worked out for use in conjunction with a sliding oar lock 12. Two plates 13 are provided which are of arcuate shape in cross section and these plates adjacent their ends are provided with screw openings 17 receiving screws 15 which secure the two plates to the oar 16 at opposite sides thereof. Before the plates are applied to the

oar the forked portion of the oar lock 12 is caused to receive the two plates intermediate their end portions and, of course, the upper portions 12a of the oar lock 12 are curved in towards each other slightly so that the spacing between the same will be slightly less than the diameter of the oar plus the thickness of the two plates 13. The plates 13 are provided with outstanding ribs 14 near their ends, these ribs running from side to side of the respective plates. Said ribs 14 act to prevent the oar lock 12 from sliding beyond the ribs thus always confining the oar lock to its position engaging one or both of the plates 13.

With the construction shown in Figures 3 and 4 the oar can be swung about a vertical pivot on the pin portion 12b of the oar lock. Also the oar can be rotated relative to the oar lock and can be swung about a horizontal pivot and the oar has a limited sliding movement relative to the oar lock 12. At the same time there is no weakening of the oar 16 at any point where the oar lock engages with the oar or the plates 13, and in fact the oar is greatly strengthened by the two plates 13 so that breakage of the oar cannot readily occur where the greatest force is applied against the oar. In other words, due to the means for securing the plates 13 to the oar 16 there is no weakening of the oar structure through the employment of passages completely through the oar at any point where the greatest force is exerted on the oar. The plates also eliminate the wear on the oar which results from sliding movement of the oar relative to the oar lock in the usual sliding construction.

The devices of the invention have been successfully demonstrated in practice.

It will, of course, be understood that various

changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the various parts without departure from the scope of the present invention which generally stated consists of the matter shown and described and set forth in the appended claim.

What I claim is:

A pair of elongated oar protector side plates of arcuate shape in cross section adapted to fit on opposite sides of the oar lock engaging portion of an oar, said plates having oppositely disposed outwardly projecting bosses intermediate their ends, pivot studs mounted in said bosses and projecting outwardly therefrom, a forked oar lock having its forked ends respectively pivotally engaged with said respective studs, and said plates having means near their ends permitting the same to be secured to the oar without any other securing means between the ends of the plates.

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