March 7, 1950 J. T. MINTUS 2,500,086

ATTACHMENT FOR LADDERS

Filed Aug. 19, 1946

Fig. 1

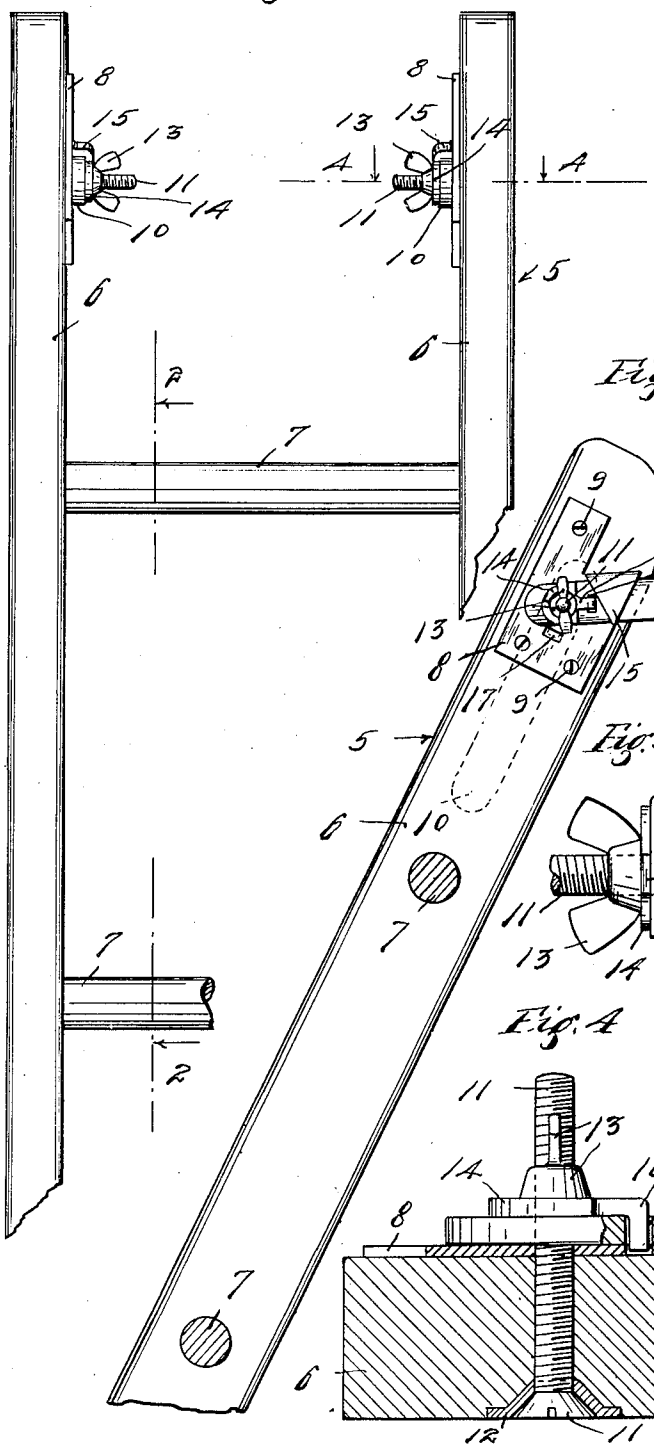


Fig. 2

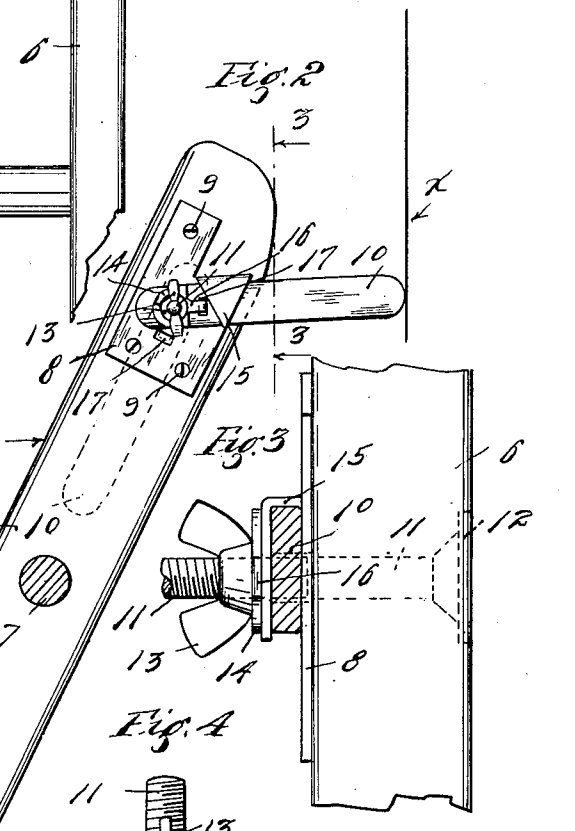


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

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ATTACHMENT FOR LADDERS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 228—60)

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My invention relates to improvements in ladders and more particularly to an attachment for holding a ladder outwardly from the wall of a building against which it is leaning.

It is well known that when a ladder is leaning directly against a building there is not sufficient room between the building and the ladder to permit a painter standing on the ladder to manipulate his brush and paint, hence it is necessary for the painter to move the ladder in order to paint the small space that was covered thereby. The moving of the ladder of course takes considerably more time than does the actual painting.

The principal object of this invention is to provide an attachment applicable to a ladder for holding the same outwardly from a building or wall against which it is leaning.

Another object of the invention is to provide a ladder attachment that can be folded into an inoperative position in the plane of the ladder when not in use.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a ladder attachment that will not interfere with the connecting or disconnecting of the sections of an extension ladder.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the drawing.

To the above end, generally stated, the invention consists of the novel devices and combination of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claim.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates the invention, like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary elevational view of a ladder having the attachment applied thereto;

Fig. 2 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and also showing, by means of broken lines, the attachment in an inoperative position; and

Figs. 3 and 4 are fragmentary detail views partly in elevation and partly in section taken on the lines 3—3 of Fig. 2, and 4—4 of Fig. 1, respectively, on an enlarged scale.

The numeral 5 indicates the upper end portion of a ladder to which the attachment is applied.

The ladder attachment includes two separate and independent units applied to the longitudinal side bars 6 of the ladder 5. The two units are rights and lefts for application to the inner

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faces of the bars 6 at the upper end portions thereof and above the uppermost rung 7.

Each unit of the attachment includes a flat metal plate 8 having counter-sunk holes for screws 9 that attach said plate to the ladder bars 6. An arm 10 is pivoted at one of its end portions to a long screw 11 that extends through a bore in the respective ladder bar 6 from the outer side thereof and a hole in the arm 10. A conical washer 12 is applied to the screw 11 under its head and said washer and head countersunk in the outer face of the ladder bar 6. A thumb-nut 13 and a novel lock washer 14 are applied to the screw 11 for frictionally clamping the arm 10 onto the plate 8. The plate 8 at the transverse center of its top, is longitudinally cut and folded upon itself to afford a keeper bracket 15 for the arm 10 when in an operative position as shown in Fig. 2. Integral with the washer 14 is an L-shaped finger 16 that loosely extends through a transverse hole 17 in the arm 10 for entrance into either one of two holes 18 and 19 in the plate 8. When the finger 16 is in the hole 18 it positively locks the arms 10 in the keeper bracket 15 and in an operative position.

When not in use the arm 10 may be turned downwardly into an inoperative position as shown by broken lines in Fig. 2. In this inoperative position of the arm 10 it is positively held by turning the lock-washer 14 into a position in which its finger 16 may be inserted in the hole 19.

It may be assumed that the line X in Fig. 2 represents the side of a building. When the arms 10 are in operative positions and the ladder 5 put up at the side of a building an arm will engage the same and hold the ladder away from the building a sufficient distance to permit a painter to paint under the ladder 5 without having to move the same.

When the ladder attachment is not in use its arms 10 may be folded into the plane of the ladder where they are out of the way and do not interfere with the assemblying of the sections of an extension ladder or the separation thereof.

From what has been said, it will be understood that the device described is capable of modifications as to details of construction and arrangement within the scope of the invention herein disclosed and claimed.

What I claim is:

A ladder attachment comprising a pair of rectangular anchor plates having means for attach-

ing the same to the inner faces of the side bars of a ladder in opposing relation, the anchor plates at their upper end portions being longitudinally cut and the upper inner portion thereof outwardly folded upon said plates to afford keeper brackets, a pair of bolts adapted to be inserted through bores in the side bars of the ladder and holes in the anchor plates, a pair of depending arms pivoted to the bolts for upwardly swinging movement into the keeper brackets that afford stops that positively hold the arms in operative positions in which they extend inwardly and outwardly of the side bars of the ladder, thumb-nuts applied to the bolts, lock washers on the bolts between the arms and the thumb-nuts, said lock washers having hook-like fingers that extend through holes in the arms and apertures in the anchor plates for locking the arms to the anchor plates when in operative positions in the anchor brackets.

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