(No Model.)

S. D. WOODBURY.

FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 282,478. Patented July 31, 1883.

Fig. 3.

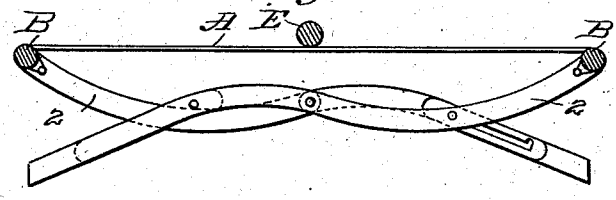


Fig. 1.

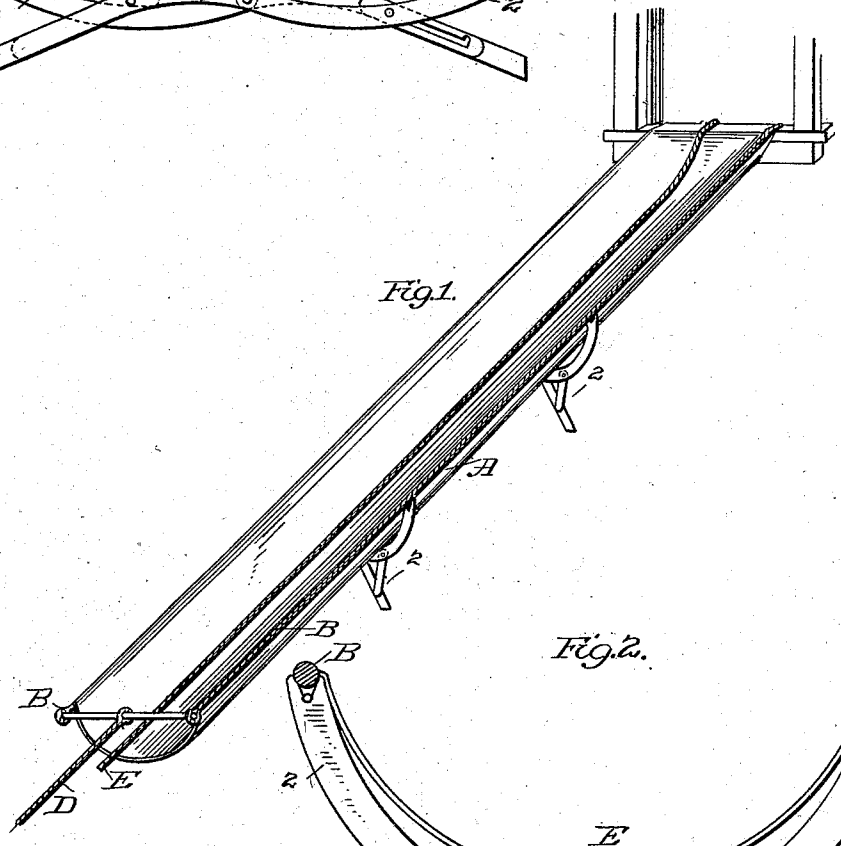
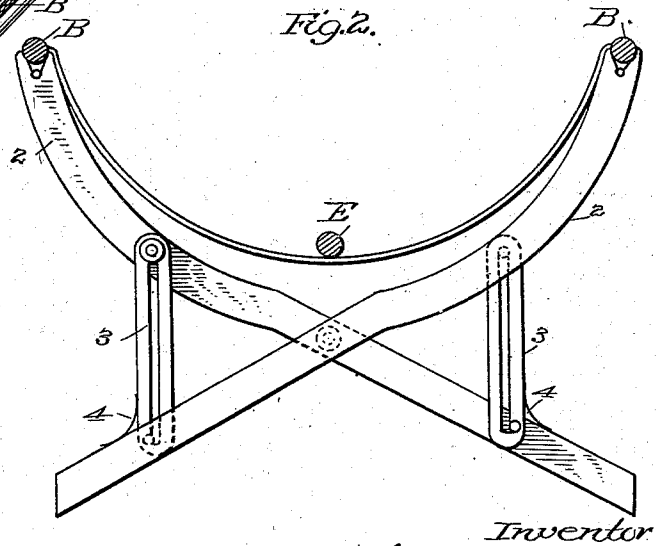


Fig. 2.



Attest:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SETH D. WOODBURY, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 282,478, dated July 31, 1883.

Application filed February 17, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SETH DODGE WOODBURY, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

This invention relates to fire-escapes, and has for its object to provide a simple and economical apparatus for assisting persons in escaping from burning buildings, and which will permit of being folded into a small package, to occupy little space when not in use.

The invention consists in certain details of construction, all of which are hereinafter more fully described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents my improved fire-escape attached to the sill of an ordinary window and extending downward and outward, as it appears while in use. Fig. 2 shows a cross-section of the same made on dotted line *x x* in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section the same as Fig. 2, but illustrates the position of the stretcher when ready for folding.

The ribbon A is composed of canvas or a similar flexible material, and is sufficiently long to reach from the window of the building to the point of safety. It is provided on either side with ropes B B, to which the edges of the canvas are firmly secured. Said ropes have their bottom ends secured to the rod C, from which extends a short rope, D, that serves as a means for securing that end of the escape. The opposite ends of the ropes B B, extending over the window-sill, make fast to a suitable staple in the floor of the room, as represented in Fig. 1. At different points along this ribbon A are placed the stretchers for keeping the ribbon in position while in use. Said stretchers are represented more fully in Fig. 2, by reference to which it will be seen that the parts 2 2 are connected together by a pin or rivet, 5, in such manner as to permit of being opened, as in Fig. 2, or closed, as in Fig. 3. Said parts 2 2, when opened as in Fig. 2, are firmly locked and held in position by means of the brace-bars 3 3. Said bars 3 3 each have one end pivoted to one of the parts 2, and is further connected with the other part 2 by means of a suitable pin, 6, which pin 6 is made fast in the part 2 and permitted to operate in a suitable slot in the brace 3, so as to permit the parts 2 2 to be closed, as in Fig. 3. The springs 4 4 operate against the bars 3 3 in such manner as to keep the pins 6 6 pressed into a notch in the bar while the stretcher is open, and thus prevent the same from closing together again until the springs are released or reversed. The stretchers composed of said parts are placed at different points along the canvas ribbon A, and are firmly secured to the ropes B B, as shown. These stretchers, when opened, hold the canvas spread, while a person, taking hold of the rope E with his hands and allowing the body to rest on the canvas, may easily slide downward to the point of safety.

When not in use the stretchers are to be closed, as in Fig. 3, and the whole may be rolled up and kept in a suitable casing or box under the window in the room from which the escape is to be made.

It will be obvious that the bottom end of the escape should be carried outward, so as to give the greatest possible slant to the canvas, as this causes or allows the body of the descending person to press more heavily on the canvas, and thereby greatly increases the utility of the invention.

What I claim, and desire by Letters Patent to secure, is—

A fire-escape composed, essentially, of a ribbon, A, provided with suitable stay-ropes, B B, and adapted to extend from the window of a building to some point of safety below, stretching devices, substantially as described, for giving lateral tension to the ribbon, and an independent lowering-rope, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 12th day of February, A. D. 1883, in presence of two witnesses.

SETH DODGE WOODBURY.

Witnesses:

SEYMOUR RUTH,

C. B. TUTTLE.