Aug. 13, 1968 R. C. BROWN 3,396,929

EASEL BRACKET FOR LADDERS

Filed March 2, 1967

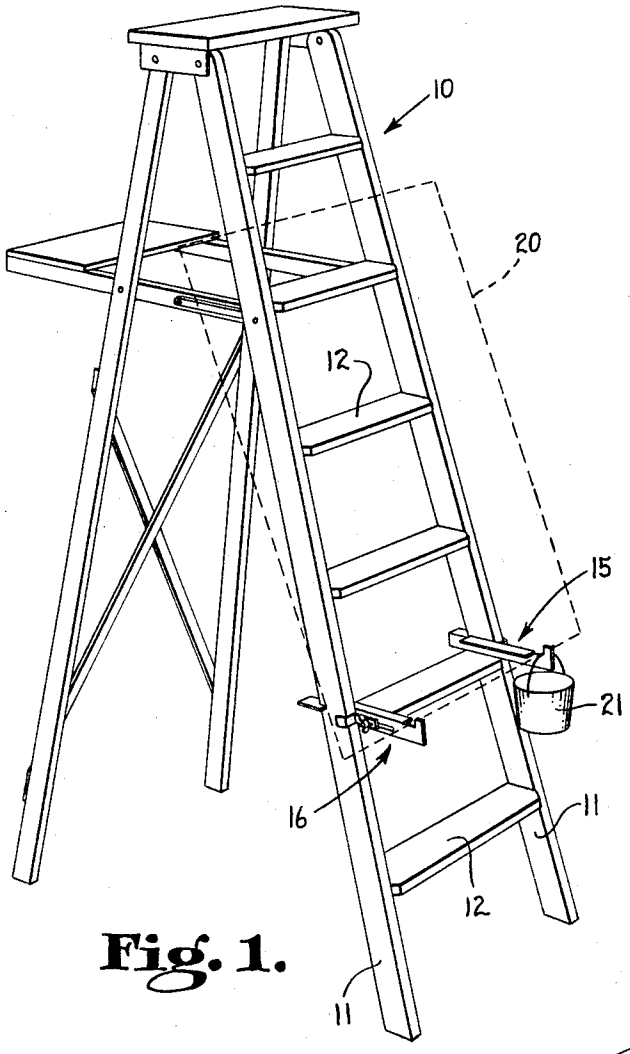


Fig. 1.

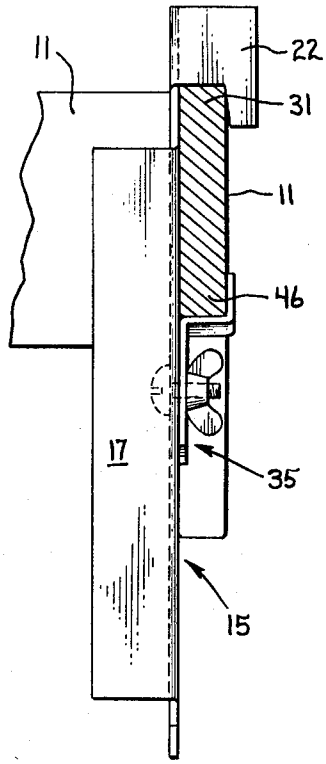


Fig. 2.

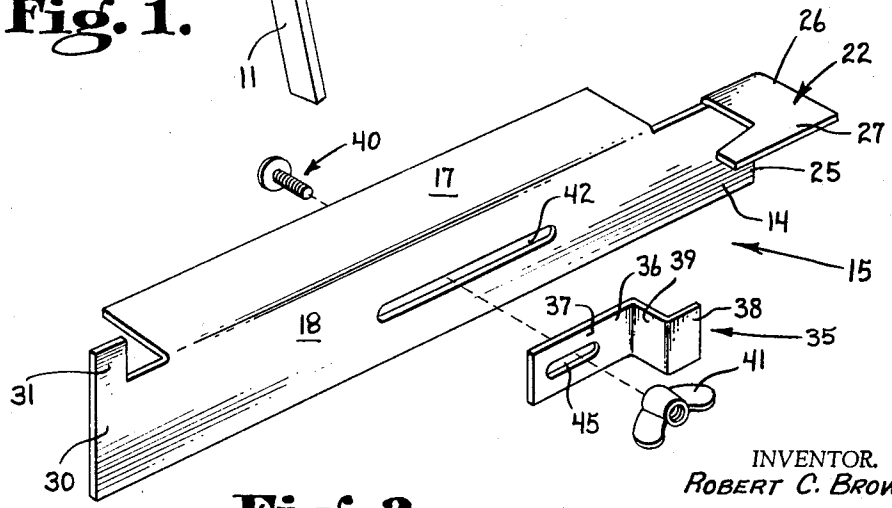


Fig. 3.

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EASEL BRACKET FOR LADDERS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An easel attachment for a ladder which is made of sheet metal and includes a single hook which engages the back of the side stile of the ladder. The attachment has another hook adjustably mounted thereon and engageable with the front of the side stile. An upwardly projecting hook is integral with the attachment for retaining screens, a bucket of paint or the like.

Background of the invention

Field of the invention.—The invention relates to a painter's easel for ladders.

Description of the prior art.—A number of painters' easels for supporting screens and the like are known in the art. Some of these devices are only appropriate for one size of ladder. Others of these devices are expensive to manufacture and are relatively complicated in construction. Still others of these devices must be bolted to the ladder upon which they are used and therefore cannot be quickly and easily mounted on and dismounted from the ladder. Such prior art devices are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patents Nos. 2,398,617; 2,453,355; 2,451,020 and 2,565,014.

Summary of the invention

This invention may include an easel attachment for ladders having steps and adapted for supporting a sash, screen or the like comprising an elongated piece of sheet metal including a vertical portion and a first horizontal portion bent at right angles to said vertical portion and extending in one direction from the top of said vertical portion, said piece further including a second horizontal portion located at one end of said piece and extending proximally opposite to said one direction and distally toward the other end of said piece and being adapted to hook onto the stile of the ladder, said vertical portion including an upwardly extending projection at the other end of said piece for retaining a screen or the like on said piece, and an adjustable hook secured to said vertical portion and adjustable toward and away from said second horizontal portion and having a hooking recess facing toward said second horizontal portion and adapted to hook onto the stile of the ladder.

One object of this invention is to provide an improved easel attachment for a ladder.

Another object of this invention is to provide an easel attachment for a ladder which is adjustable for ladders of different sizes and which can, for example, be used on ladders having side stiles up to 3¾" wide and formed of either wood or aluminum.

A further object of this invention is to provide an easel attachment for a ladder which is inexpensive to manufacture and relatively uncomplicated in construction.

Still another object of this invention is to provide an easel attachment which does not have to be bolted to the ladder and can be quickly mounted and dismounted.

Still a further object of this invention is to provide an easel attachment which is stronger than presently available easel attachments.

Related objects and advantages will become apparent as the description proceeds.

Brief description of the drawing

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a stepladder having the easel attachment of the present invention mounted thereon.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged horizontal section taken through one of the side stiles of the ladder of FIG. 1 and showing one of the easel attachment devices of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the structure illustrated in FIG. 2.

Description of the preferred embodiment

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, there is illustrated a stepladder **10** which has side stiles **11** and steps **12** mounted on the side stiles **11** so as to extend therebetween. The easel attachment of the present invention comes in a set of two easel attachment devices, one of which is the mirror image of the other. Since the two devices of the set are otherwise identical except for the fact that they are mirror images of one another, the attachment device **15** will be described as representative of the two devices **15** and **16**.

The device **15** consists of an elongated piece **14** of sheet metal which includes a vertical portion **18** and a first horizontal portion **17** bent relative to the portion **18** and extending at right angles in one direction from the top of the vertical portion **18**. The horizontal portion **17** acts to stiffen the elongated piece of sheet metal and also provides a surface upon which screens **20** can be supported. Since the primary force acting to bend the piece of sheet metal is the weight of the screen **20** (and also the weight of the bucket **21**) and since these forces are acting downwardly, the fact that the portion **18** extends vertically provides the greatest amount of strength to the piece of sheet metal making up a portion of the attachment **15**.

Integral with the portion **18** there is provided a second horizontal portion **22** of the piece **14** of sheet metal. The horizontal portion **22** is located at the end **25** of the piece **14** of sheet metal and has a proximal portion **26** which extends in the opposite direction from the vertical portion **18** as compared to the first horizontal portion **17**. The horizontal portion **22** also includes a distal portion **27** which extends toward the other end **30** of the piece **14** of sheet metal. The portion **22** functions as a hook and is adapted to engage the rear portion **31** of the side stile **11** of the ladder.

At the forward end **30** of the piece of sheet metal **14** there is provided integral with the portion **18** an upwardly extending projection **31** which functions to retain the screen or the like on the piece **14**. The vertically extending portion **18** rests upon a step **12** of the ladder as shown in FIG. 1. The hook **22** is caused to firmly engage the rearward portion **31** of the side stile **11** by reason of an adjustable hook **35** which comprises a further piece of sheet metal **36** including two parallel portions **37** and **38** which are connected by a perpendicular central portion **39**.

The piece of sheet metal **35** is adjusted toward and away from the hook **22** and is adjusted also as to attitude by releasing a bolt **40** having a thumb nut **41**. The bolt **40** extends through slots **42** and **45**, the slot **42** being in the vertical portion **18** and the slot **45** being in the portion **37** of the piece **36** of sheet metal. It can be appreciated that by releasing the bolt **40** the piece of sheet metal **36** can be adjusted toward and away from the hook **22** and also can be repositioned as to angle or attitude so that the central portion **39** of the piece of sheet metal can bear directly against the front surface or portion **46** of the side stile **11**. The bolt **40** is then retightened by means of the thumb screw **41** and, by reason of the fact that the piece of sheet metal **36** firmly engages the front side of the side stile, the hook **22** also firmly engages the

side stile at the rear portion **31** thereof so as to firmly maintain the piece **14** of sheet metal horizontal with the bottom edge of the vertical portion **18** firmly engaged with the step **12** upon which the piece **14** is mounted.

It will be evident from the above description that the present invention provides an improved easel attachment for a ladder which is adjustable for ladders of different sizes. It will also be evident that the present invention provides an easel attachment which is inexpensive to manufacture and relatively uncomplicated in construction. It can also be appreciated that the easel attachment of the present invention does not have to be bolted to the ladder and can be quickly mounted and dismounted from the ladder. Furthermore, it will be evident that the easel attachment of the present invention is stronger than presently available easel attachments.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the claims are also desired to be protected.

The invention claimed is:

1. An easel attachment for ladders having steps and adapted for supporting a sash, screen or the like comprising an elongated piece of sheet metal including a vertical portion and a first horizontal portion bent at right angles to said vertical portion and extending in one direction from the top of said vertical portion, said piece further

including a second horizontal portion located at one end of said piece and extending proximally opposite to said one direction and distally toward the other end of said piece and being adapted to hook onto the stile of the ladder, said vertical portion including an upwardly extending projection at the other end of said piece for retaining a screen or the like on said piece, and an adjustable hook secured to said vertical portion and adjustable toward and away from said second horizontal portion and having a hooking recess facing toward said second horizontal portion and adapted to hook onto the stile of the ladder.

2. The easel attachment of claim **1** wherein said adjustable hook is formed of a single piece of sheet metal and includes two parallel portions connected by a central perpendicular portion, one of said parallel portions having a slot therein, said vertical portion of said elongated piece of sheet metal having a slot therein which extends longitudinally thereof, and coupling means extending through said slots.

3. The easel attachment of claim **2** wherein said coupling means comprises a bolt having a wing nut thereon.

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