June 1, 1954 O. L. COOK 2,680,028

GROUND ENGAGING WAGON TONGUE SUPPORT

Filed Nov. 21, 1952

Fig. 1.

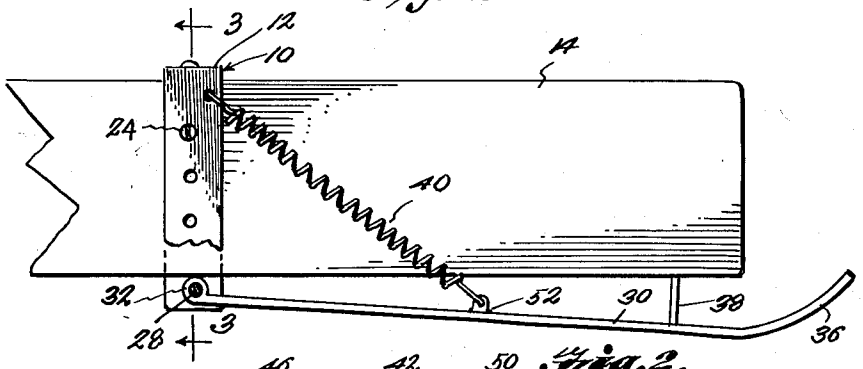


Fig. 2.

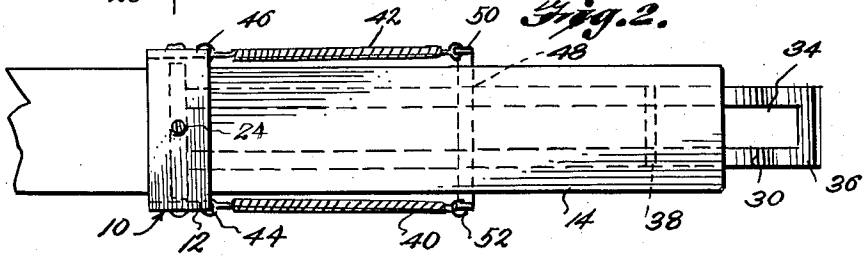


Fig. 3.

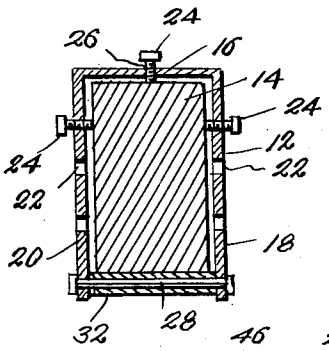
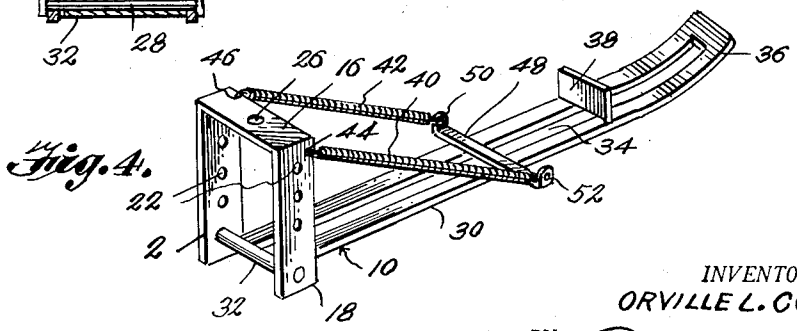


Fig. 4.



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GROUND ENGAGING WAGON TONGUE SUPPORT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 280—150.5)

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This invention appertains to improvements in supports for wagon or drafted vehicle tongues and has for its primary object to provide a ground engaging support for a tongue which will prevent a tongue from digging into the ground and becoming broken, when the connecting pin is broken or is dislodged.

A further object of this invention is to provide a detachable runner for a tongue which will support a tongue in a raised position above the ground and which will contact the ground in a sliding fashion so that the tongue cannot engage the ground when attached to a power vehicle or when accidentally or purposely detached therefrom.

Another object of this invention is to provide a simple, compact and easily attached and removed ground engaging support or runner for a wagon tongue.

These and ancillary objects and structural features of merit are attained by this invention, the preferred embodiment of which is set forth in the following description and illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein;

Figure 1 is a side elevational of a tongue support in accordance with this invention and illustrating the same attached to a tongue;

Figure 2 is top plan view thereof;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the support.

Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawing, the support 10 includes an attaching yoke or U-shaped frame 12 which is shaped to correspond to the cross-sectional shape of the tongue 14 and which, of course, could be changed dependant upon the cross-sectional shape of a tongue. In the illustrated embodiment, the frame 12 includes a web 16 and parallel legs 18 and 20, each of which has openings 22 to receive set screws 24. The legs 18 and 20 have a plurality of spaced openings 22 in order that the frame can be secured to tongues of varying height, while the opening 26 in the web 16 is located at the center thereof.

The openings 22 in the legs 18 and 20 are in alignment and are adapted to receive a bolt 28, as seen in Figures 3 and 4. The bolt 28 is illustrated as journalled in the outermost openings 22 in each leg, though it can, depending upon the size of the tongue 14, be journalled in the next openings. The bolt 28 provides a pivot for a ground engaging runner 30 which has a bearing sleeve 32 formed on one end and freely circumposed on the bolt intermediate the legs 18 and 20.

The runner 30 consists of a substantially flat plate of suitable sturdy material and having a centrally disposed axially extending slot 34, which is provided to permit a pin to extend through the tongue. The front end 36 of the runner is closed and curved upwardly, as seen in Figure 4.

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A rest 38 is mounted on the upper side of the runner, adjacent its front end, and is perpendicular to the runner. The rest is preferably a rectangular block and has a straight upper edge which seats the tongue, as seen in Figure 1, so that the runner 30 is always inclined downwardly from the tongue.

To retain the runner immediately under the tongue with the rest 38 engaging the under side of the tongue, a pair of coil springs 40 and 42 are provided. The springs extend between the runner and the legs 18 and 20 and the legs have openings to anchor the ends 44 and 46 of the springs thereto. A bar 48 is welded or otherwise fixedly superimposed transversely on the runner and has upstanding apertured ends 50 and 52, which receive and support the other ends of the springs. Thus, the springs constantly bias the runner to a position under the tongue so that the tongue seats on the rest 38.

To apply support 10 to a tongue 14, the frame is slipped over the tongue to the position where the end 36 projects beyond the end of the tongue and is locked in place by the set screws 24. The springs hold the runner in place so that the tongue 14 cannot dig into the ground or become broken.

Though the best known embodiment of this invention has been described herein, it is to be understood that other embodiments can be made within the purview of the appended claim.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed is:

A tongue support comprising a U-shaped frame adapted to be circumposed on a tongue, means extending through the web and legs of the frame engaging the tongue, a runner having a bearing sleeve at one end, a bolt extending between the legs of the frame on which the sleeve is journalled, said runner having an opposing upstanding curved end adapted to underlie the free end of the tongue, a rest on the upperside of the runner engageable with the tongue and spacing the runner from the tongue so that the runner is declined with respect to the tongue and spring means connected between the legs of the frame and the runner for biasing the runner toward the tongue.

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