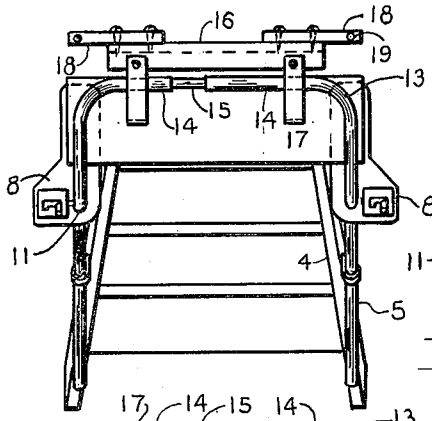
Oct. 21, 1952 M. HEDGLON 2,614,744

HANDRAIL AND SHELF CONSTRUCTION FOR STEPLADDERS

Filed March 28, 1950

FIG 3



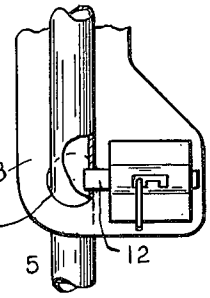


FIG 5

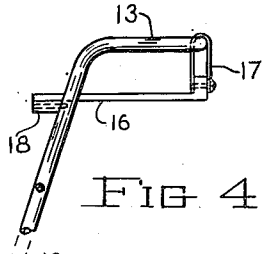


FIG 4

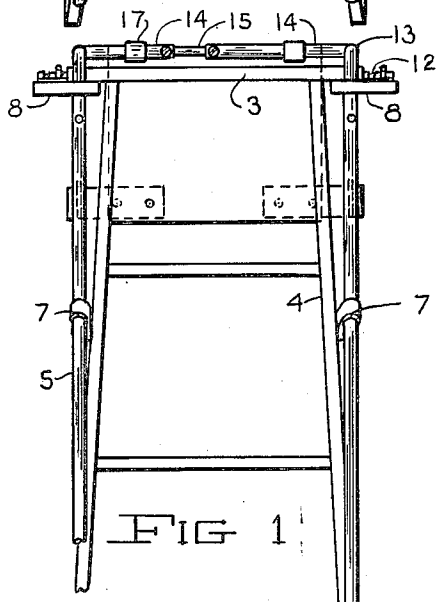


FIG 1

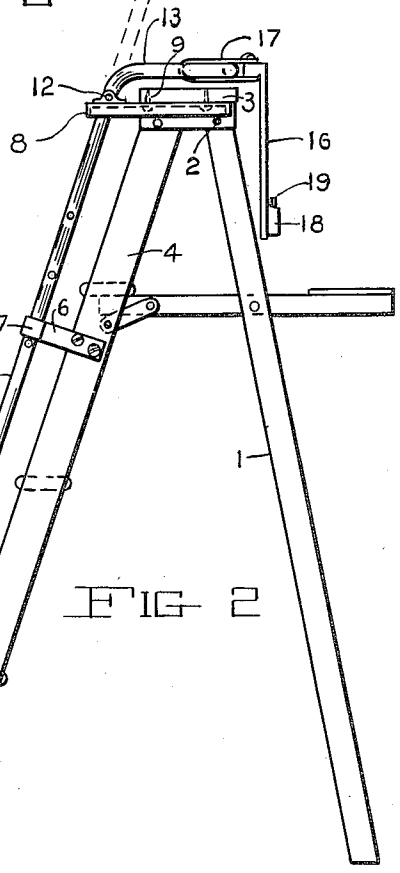


FIG 2

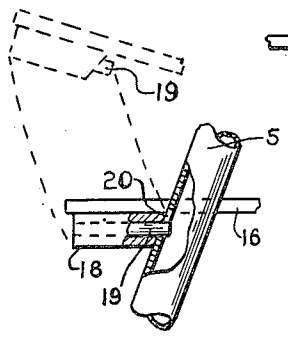


FIG 6

Mead Hedglon INVENTOR.

BY Bodell & Thompson

ATTORNEYS

Patented Oct. 21, 1952 2,614,744

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,614,744

HANDRAIL AND SHELF CONSTRUCTION FOR STEPLADDERS

Mead Hedglon, Syracuse, N. Y.

Application March 28, 1950, Serial No. 152,389

2 Claims. (Cl. 228—67)

1

This invention has for its object a hand rail and shelf construction for stepladders and the means by which said construction is applied to old stepladders, or to new ones during the manufacture thereof, and by which the hand rail construction is adjustable to different widths of stepladders.

The invention consists in the novel features and in the combinations and constructions hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In describing this invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings in which like characters designate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the stepladder.

Figure 2 is a side elevation.

Figure 3 is a plan view.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary enlarged elevation of parts seen in the upper end of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary plan of parts seen in Figure 2.

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary elevation, partly in section, of parts seen in Figure 4.

The ladder may be of any conventional construction, that here shown being of the folding type in which the rear legs 1 are hinged at 2 to the top step 3 carried by the front or step supporting legs 4 against which the rear legs fold when the ladder is collapsed.

5 designates the hand rails which are usually tubular and supported in upright parallelism in front of the edges of the front legs 4 by braces or brackets carried by the ladder structure and extending in front of the front step carrying legs thereof. One bracket 6 for each rail 5 is located between the upper and lower ends of the adjacent leg 4 and projects forward therefrom, and is provided with a guide 7 in which the coacting rail slides. The other bracket 8 is secured to the under side of the overhanging ends of the top step, as by screws 9. The brackets 8 extend in front of the front legs 4 and are provided with guide holes 11 for the rails. Locking bolts 12 are provided on the brackets or braces 8 for entering pairs of holes at different heights along the rails 5 for holding the rails at different elevations. The rails are formed with angular rearwardly extending horizontal arms 13 at their upper ends having inwardly extending end portions 14, the ends of which are opposed to each other. The ends are coupled together by a telescoping joint, as a plug 15 fitted into the opposing ends. The plug may be adjustable lengthwise, or axially, or may be made of different lengths to maintain the rails in parallelism, or in alinement with the rail guide holes in the bracket 6.

2

16 is a shelf for work material, tools, etc. This is shown as hinged to the inward extending end portions of the rails by brackets or hinge leaves 17 at the rear end of the shelf so that the shelf can hang downward when the ladder is folded, as seen in Figure 2, and be swung upwardly and over into a position between the upper ends of the rails or the arms 13 thereof, when the ladder is unfolded, or set up, Figure 4. The shelf is provided at its front end with laterally extending lugs 18 for overlapping the rails 5, and these lugs are provided with dowels 19, Figure 6, for entering slots 20 in the rails to support the front end of the shelf from the rails in horizontal position.

This hand rail construction can be quickly applied to ladders of different widths and different tapers of the front legs of the ladder, and the rails readily adjusted to different heights, and also the shelf easily manipulated from its pendant position to its operative or horizontal position. The rails also serve as braces to lean against when working or standing on the ladder.

What I claim is:

1. A hand rail and leg brace attachment for stepladders, the attachment comprising a pair of upright parallel rails, supporting brackets therefor securable to the stepladder structure extending in front of the step carrying legs of the structure and having guide openings through which the rails extend, locks for securing the rails to at least some of the brackets and coacting with the rails to support the rails at different elevations, each of the rails having a rearward extending angular arm at its upper end, the arms of the two rails having inwardly extending angular portions located with their ends opposed to each other, and a coupling connecting said opposing ends to hold the rails spaced apart and parallel in accordance with the width of the step supporting legs.

2. A hand rail and leg brace attachment for stepladders, the attachment comprising a pair of upright parallel rails, supporting brackets therefor securable to the stepladder structure and extending in front of the step supporting legs of the ladder structure and having guide openings through which the rails extend, locks for securing the rails to some of the brackets and coacting with the rails to support the rails at different elevations, each of the rails having a rearward extending angular arm at its upper end, the arms of the two rails having inwardly extending angular portions located with their ends opposed to each other, and a coupling connecting said opposing ends to hold the rails spaced apart and

parallel in accordance with the width of the step supporting legs, and a shelf having means for pivotally mounting it on said inwardly extending portions whereby the shelf is shiftable from a pendant position upward and over between the upper ends of the rails, and lock means between the rails and the shelf to hold the shelf in horizontal position.

MEAD HEDGLON.

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