

April 14, 1942.

J. E. KING

2,279,329

LADDER

Filed Aug. 20, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

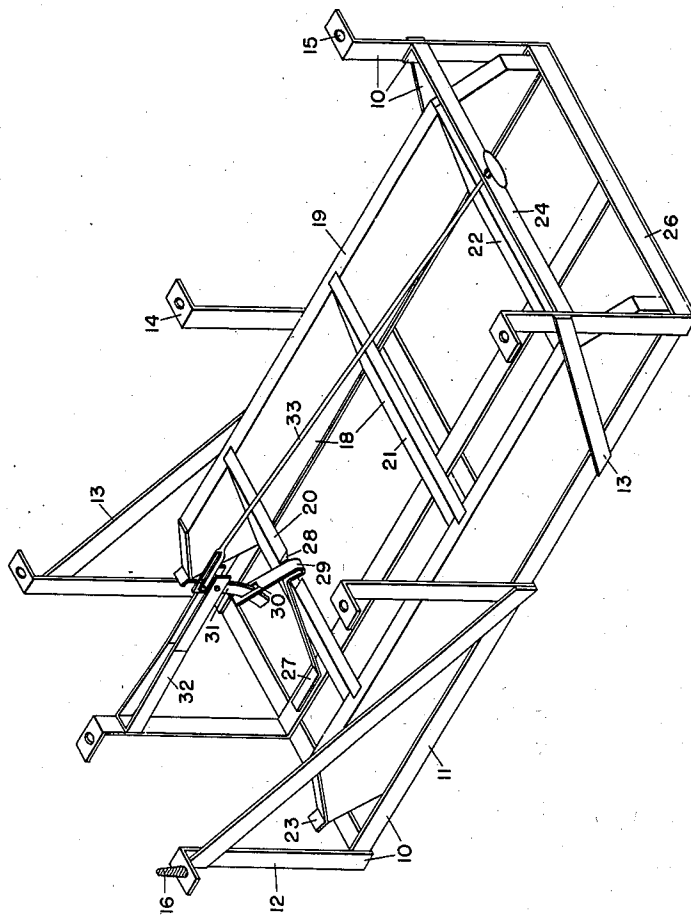


FIG. 1

PER

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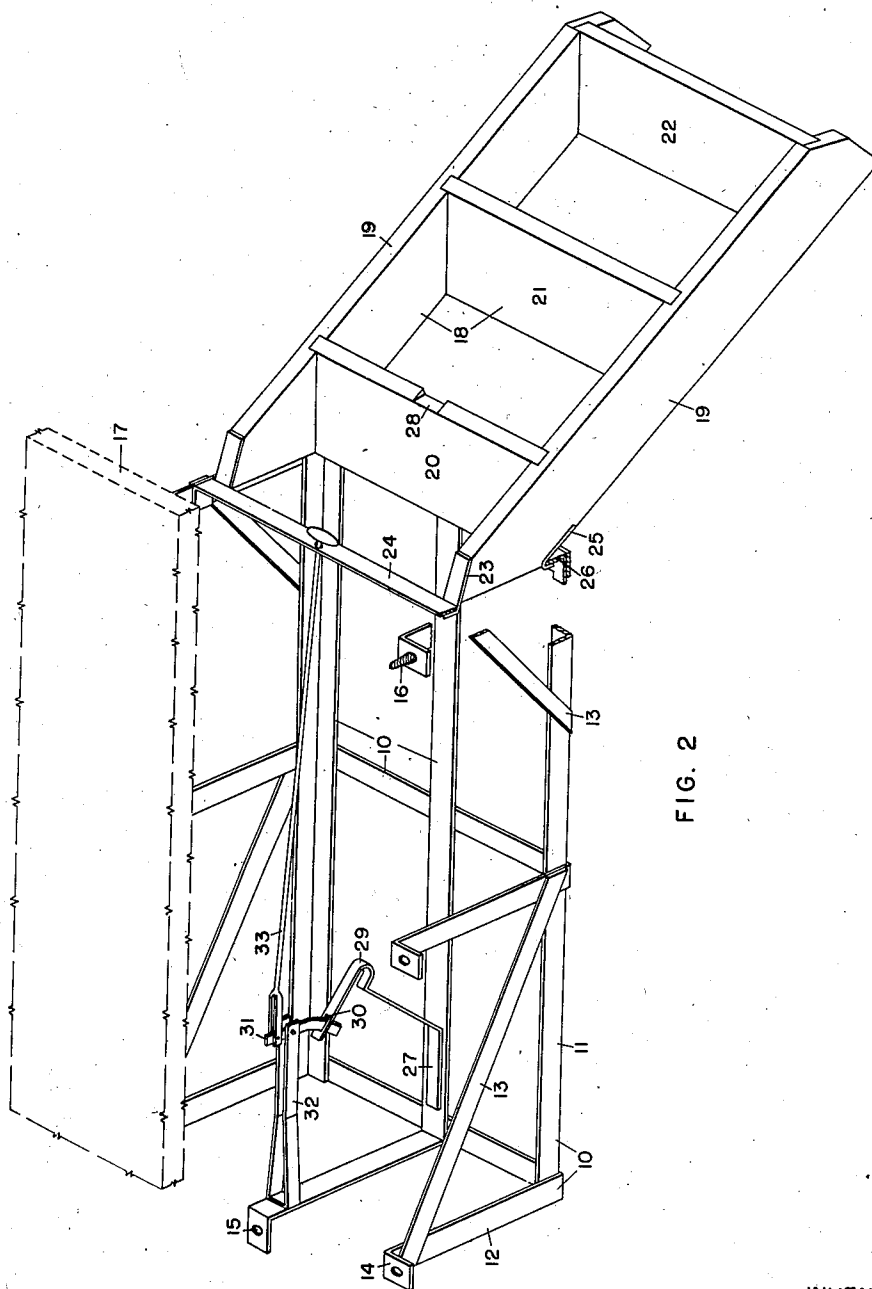


FIG. 2

PER

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2,279,329

LADDER

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Application August 20, 1940, Serial No. 353,359

2 Claims. (Cl. 280—166)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

This application is made under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended by the act of April 30, 1928, and the invention herein described and claimed, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government of the United States of America for governmental purposes without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to a portable ladder useful as an accessory attached to the body of a truck, and the like, near the rear end to make it easy to load the truck or for a person to climb into it. When the ladder is not in use, it is disposable in an out-of-the-way position, in which position it is automatically locked, thereby obviating any danger of losing the ladder in transit.

In the accompanying drawings there is illustrated a preferred embodiment of this invention in which Figure 1 is an isometric view of the ladder and housing in collapsed position, and Figure 2 is an isometric view of the ladder and housing attached to the bottom of a truck body (fragmentarily illustrated) in the extended position, part of the housing being broken away to show one of the hooks 25 engaging the bar 26.

Referring with more particularity to the drawings, in which like numerals designate like parts, the embodiment illustrated comprises a cage-like housing, indicated generally by the numeral 10, which is fabricated of strips of metal, forming a base 11 and suspension strips 12 on the sides and forward end. Suitable braces 13 are provided. The strips 12 are bent horizontally at the upper ends to form flanges 14, which flanges are provided with apertures 15 through which suitable screws or bolts 16 may be disposed for the purpose of suspending the housing in a fixed position from the bottom of a truck body 17. The ladder 18 is of the conventional type, having two side bars 19 between which treads 20, 21, and 22 are fixed. The ladder may be of any length desired, depending upon the elevation necessary, and of any suitable material, preferably wood. The top of the ladder is provided with anchor horns 23 secured to the top of the bars 19 for the purpose of abutting the transverse bar 24 secured to the rear end of the housing 10, substantially as shown in Figure 2. A hook 25 is also secured to each of the bars 19 for engagement with the transverse bar 26 at the rear of the base 11, which is directly below the bar 24. The space between the bars 24 and 26 is sufficient to accommodate the ladder 18.

At the forward end of the housing a latch is provided for holding the ladder in a collapsed or foldable position. The latch illustrated comprises a yieldable strip of metal 27 secured to the base 11 and bent upwardly and rearwardly at an angle so as to be approximately parallel to

the tread 20 when the ladder is disposed in the housing in the horizontal position, as shown in Figure 1. The tread 20 is provided with a notch 28 which is adjacent the strip 27 when the ladder is in its collapsed position, and the upper end of the strip 27 is bent into a U-loop 29 to fit in the notch 28. The sides of the loop 29 are substantially at right angles to the main portion of the strip 27. The upper side of the loop 5 is extended and provided with an aperture 30, substantially as shown. Directly above the aperture 30 a lever 31 is pivoted to a bracket 32 extending from one of these suspension strips 12, or from any other suitable point. The lower 10 arm of the lever 31 is curved forwardly and engages the slot 30. The upper arm of said lever is pivoted to one end of a rod 33, the other end terminating at the rear of the housing. A pull on the rod 33 forces the loop 29 to be elevated thereby releasing it from its normal engagement 15 with the groove 28 and, consequently, releasing the ladder so that it may be withdrawn from the housing and placed in the position shown in Figure 1. When it is desired to return the ladder 20 to its normal collapsed position within the housing the lower end is simply lifted and slid forwardly between the bars 24 and 26 until the loop 29 automatically engages the notch 28, the 25 incline of the tread 20 serving to elevate sufficiently the loop 29 against the yieldable action of the strip 27.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A device of the character described in combination with the floor of a vehicle comprising a ladder, a housing for said ladder attached to the under side of said floor, said housing having a bottom to slidably support the ladder, means for releasably securing the ladder within the housing against the bottom thereof in a horizontal position, means for disposing the ladder in an operative position at one end of the housing, said disposing means including hooks and abutments on said ladder to engage the housing.

2. A device of the character described in combination with the floor of a vehicle comprising a ladder, a housing for said ladder attached to the under side of said floor, a yieldable latch disposed within the housing to hook over the rearward tread of the ladder when the ladder is in a horizontal position within the housing, a lever fulcrumed between its ends at a point fixed with respect to said housing, said lever having one end thereof associated with the latch for displacing said latch against its yieldable action, a rod having one end pivoted to the other end of said lever, the other end of said rod terminating at the opposite side of the housing.

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