

United States Patent

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[54] SKI TEACHING AID

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280/11.13 T, 11.37 E; 272/57 B; 24/264;
294/92, 103

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[57] ABSTRACT

The invention resides in a device for securing the tip ends of a pair of skis together comprising a pair of clamps for attachment to the outside edges of the skis, which clamps are interconnected by a flexible strap or web.

1 Claim, 6 Drawing Figures

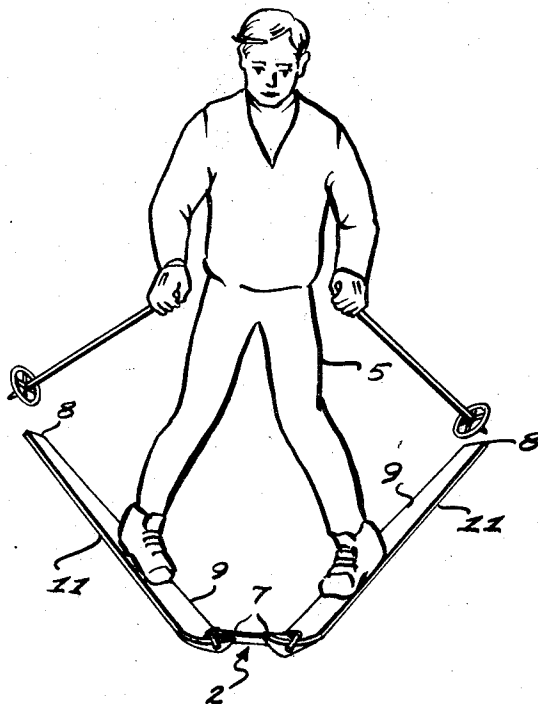


Fig. 1

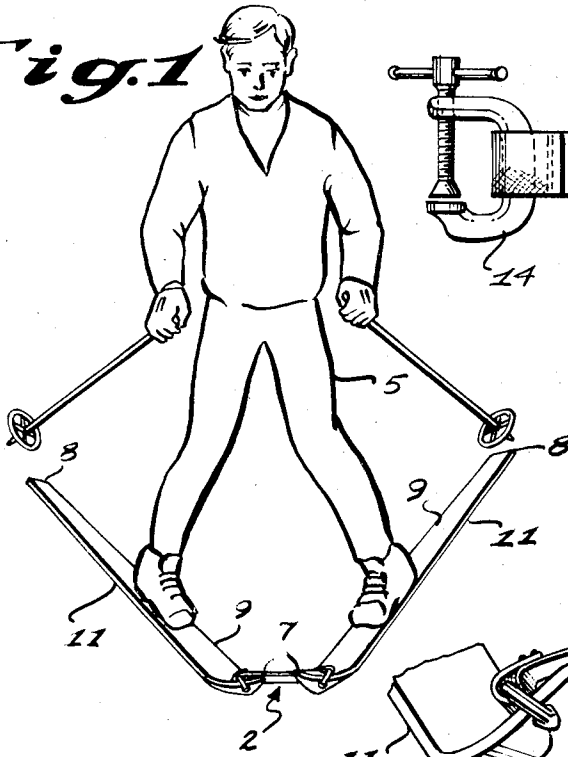


Fig. 2

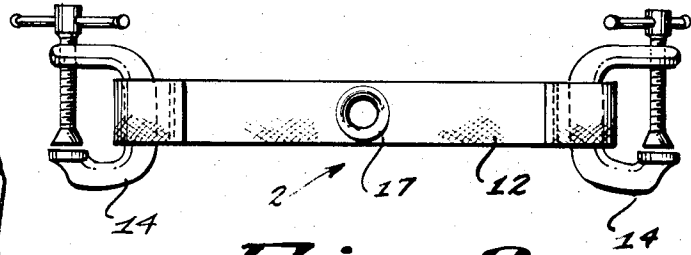


Fig. 3

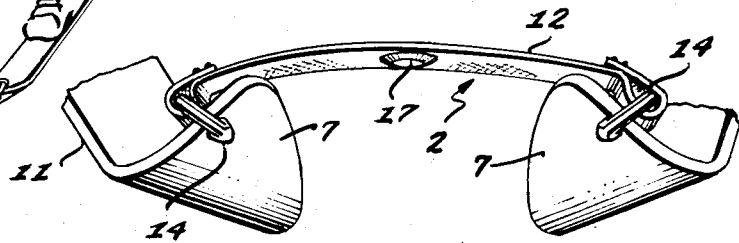


Fig. 4

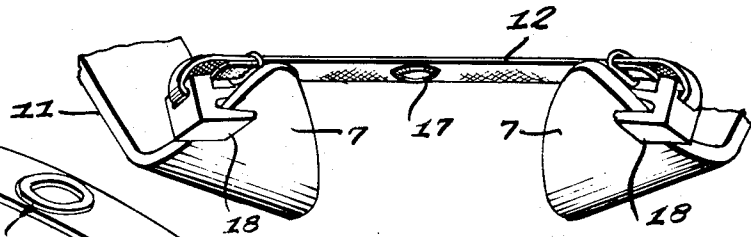


Fig. 5

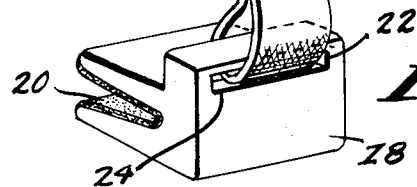
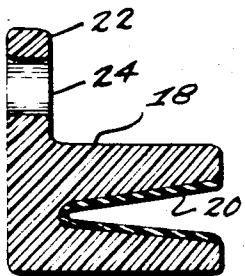


Fig. 6



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SKI TEACHING AID

The present invention involves an attachment for a pair of snow skis whose primary purpose is to aid a student or beginning skier.

Traditionally, a beginning skier is taught to "snowplow" to permit the student to acquire a high degree of control early in the skiing skills. The snowplow position is achieved when the tips of the skis are close together and the tails are spread, forming a "V" position. In this position and if the knees of the skier are properly bent, the skis will be riding on their inside edges, which is necessary for proper control and teaches the student the importance of edge control for other skiing positions.

Very often a beginner skier will find the snowplow position awkward and will experience difficulty in bringing the tips close enough together and getting the proper edge set. It is, therefore, the principal object of this invention to provide a device which will artificially bring the skis into correct position and will, at the same time, give assistance to the instructor in controlling the speed of the student as he progresses down a modest slope.

Other and further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon a reading of the following detailed description of a preferred and secondary form of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a skier in the snowplow position with the device of the present invention attached to the tips of his skis.

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary view of a pair of skis showing the tips thereof being interconnected by the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary view of a pair of skis showing the tips thereof being interconnected by the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the preferred form of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a cross sectional view of the preferred clamp used to secure the connecting strap to the ski edge.

The apparatus 2 of the present invention is shown in use in FIG. 1 where a skier 5 is illustrated in the snowplow position, the tips of the skis 7 being close together while the tails 8 are spread apart. The inside edges 9 are set downwardly with respect to the outside edges 11.

FIG. 2 is illustrative of a simple embodiment of the

invention comprising a web or strap 12 interconnecting a pair of ordinary C clamps 14. The clamps 14 are each respectively secured to the outside edges of the skis near the tips thereof so that the strap 12 is directed over the tops of the skis. The strap 12 holds the tips together as desired and the force exerted by the strap on the C clamp attached to the outside edges 11 of the skis tends to turn the outside edge up, thus properly edging the skier for proper control. As the student slowly descends a moderate slope, the instructor, who is typically facing the student and sliding rearwardly on his skis, may actually exert some degree of speed control by inserting a ski pole tip into the grommet hole 17 in the center of the strap and exerting pressure to hold the student skier back. As the student descends slowly under the instructor's control, the student is able to concentrate on and feel the edging power of the skis. Once having experienced the control which proper edging provides, it will not be difficult for the student to recreate the proper edging without the aid of the connecting strap 12.

The preferred form of the invention is seen in the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6. A rubber of deformable plastic edge clamp 18 if formed with a V-shaped lateral notch 20 for firmly grasping the outside edge of the ski near its tip, as shown in FIG. 4. An upstanding rib 22 is provided with a slot 24 into which is fastened one end of the strap 12. The clamp 18 of the preferred form of the invention has a superior quick release characteristic than does the C clamp 14, and is hence more desirable.

I claim:

1. A ski teaching devise for aiding in the instruction of the snow plow skiing position, comprising in combination:

a pair of clamps for attachment to the outside edges of a pair of skis;

a flexible web member interconnecting the said clamps wherein said web member has an aperture having an annular grommet midway between the ends thereof; and

wherein each of said clamps comprises a block member having a V-shaped groove therein and said groove having an elastic liner, and wherein said block has an upstanding portion having means integral with said upstanding portion for attachment to one end of said web member so that said block will be disposed beneath said web member.

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