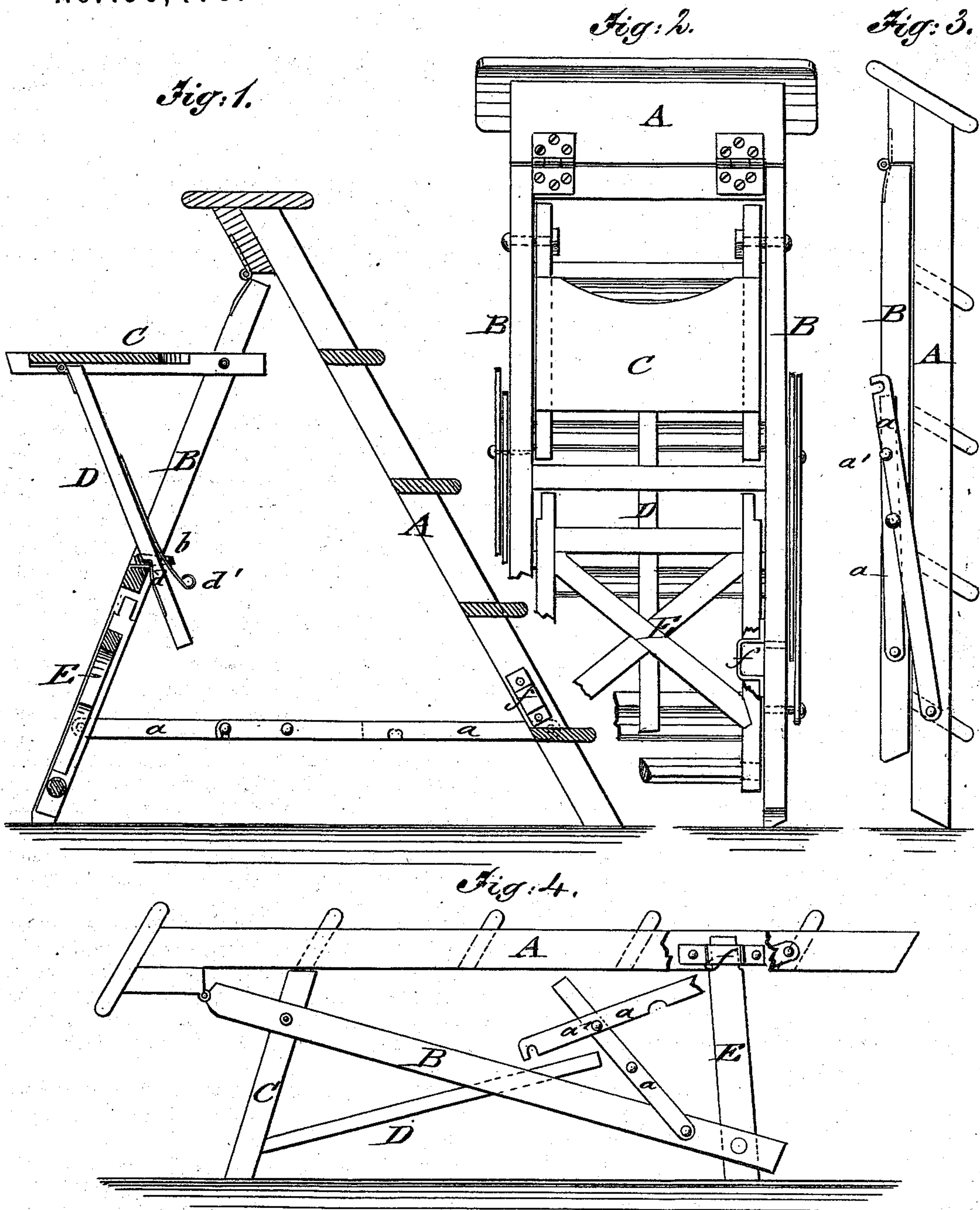


F. S. BIDWELL.

Combined Step-Ladders and Wash-Benches.

No. 156,475.

Patented Nov. 3, 1874.



WITNESSES:

Chas. Nida.  
A. J. Terry

INVENTOR:

F. S. Bidwell  
BY *Munn*  
ATTORNEYS.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK S. BIDWELL, OF THOMPSONVILLE, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED STEP-LADDERS AND WASH-BENCHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **156,475**, dated November 3, 1874; application filed September 19, 1874.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK S. BIDWELL, of Thompsonville, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Combined Step-Ladder and Bench, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a vertical central section of my combined step-ladder and bench, shown in position as step-ladder. Figs. 2 and 3, respectively, are rear and side views of the same; and Fig. 4 is a side view of the same in position as a wash-bench.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of my invention is to so improve the combined step-ladder and wash-bench patented under date of February 3, 1874, and numbered 147,003, that a stronger ladder and wash-bench is obtained, and especially the latter, braced in a more rigid and superior manner.

The invention consists in the introduction of a supplementary brace-frame pivoted to the lower part of the ladder-supporting frame, so that when the ladder is used as a wash-bench and the supplementary frame set into the sockets of the ladder part, the supporting-frame, jointly with the shelf-brace, forms diagonal braces for the wash-bench and stiffens the same more fully for the heavy weight generally placed thereon.

In the drawing, A represents the step-ladder, and B the supporting-frame, hinged thereto in the usual manner, both being braced at the bottom by metallic bands or strips *a*, which are pivoted to both frames and to each other at *a'*, so as to swing up sidewise of each other when the step-ladder and brace part are folded up, as shown in Fig. 3. A shelf, C, is pivoted

to the upper part of frame B and thrown in horizontal position for sustaining a pail of water or other article, for the greater convenience of the work to be done. A hinged brace-piece, D, of shelf C slides along a guide-band or staple, *b*, of frame B, and locks firmly in position to support the shelf by a notch, *d*, and band-spring *d'*, as shown in Fig. 1. A supplementary brace-frame, E, with diagonal stiffening-pieces, is pivoted to the lower part of brace part B and swung up between the same when in use as a step-ladder; but when the same is changed into a wash-bench, frame E is swung toward the ladder A and set into sockets or bands *f* of the same, forming thereby one supporting-brace of the bench. The other brace is formed by the shelf C, which is firmly braced in diagonal direction with frame E by the supporting-frame B, while the shelf-supporting brace D acts also as diagonal brace in opposite direction thereto, as shown in Fig. 4. Thus frame B and brace D are turned to advantage, whether the device is made use of as step-ladder or wash-bench, and thereby, especially in the latter case, a stronger and more rigidly braced frame obtained, which is less shaky and more capable to resist the strain exerted thereon by the heavy weight thereon.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with the step-ladder A and supporting-frame B, of the supplementary pivoted frame E and the braced shelf C D, as and for the purpose set forth.

FREDERICK S. BIDWELL.

Witnesses:

ALBERT H. POTTER,  
FRED. O. DUTTON.