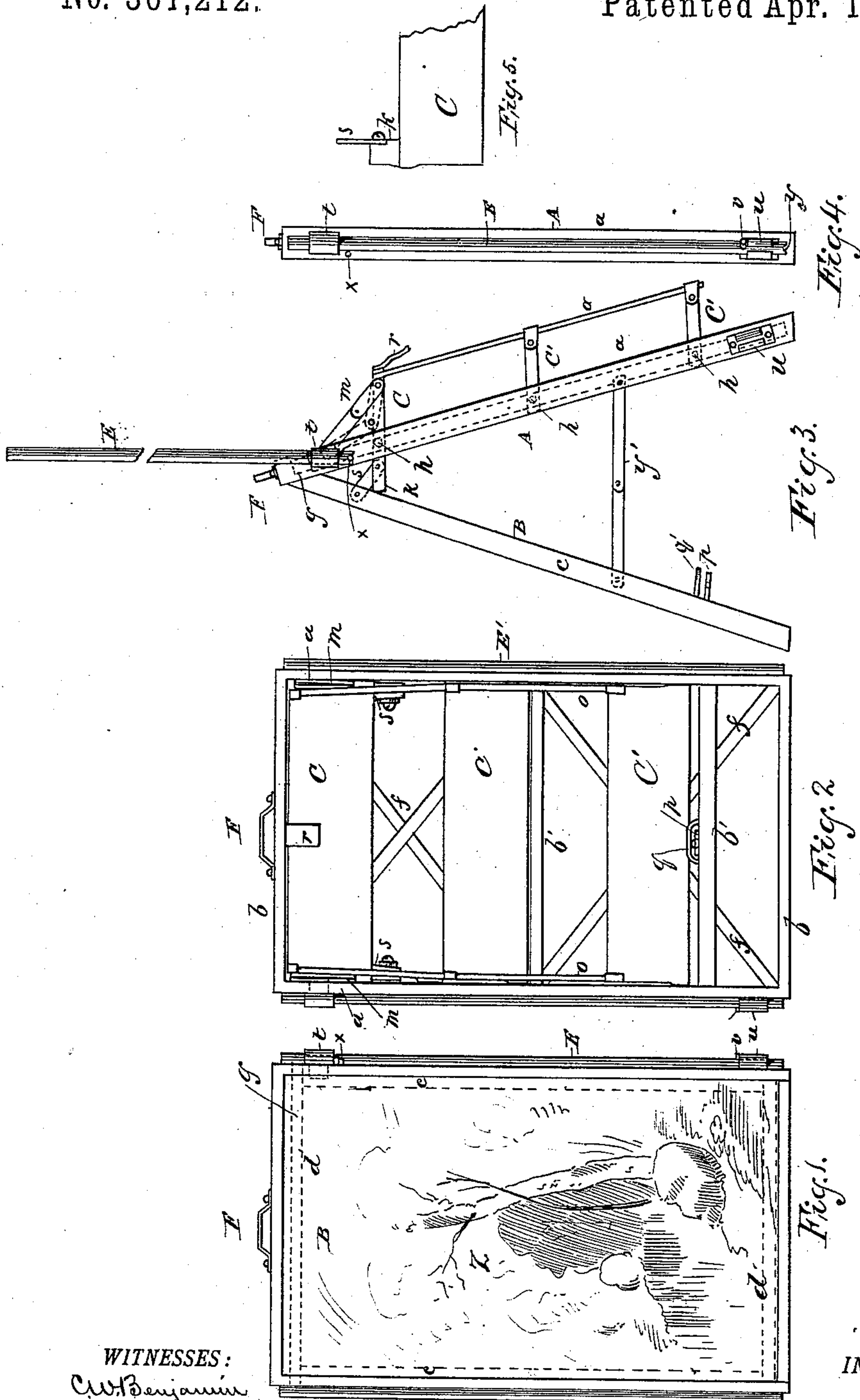


(No Model.)

A. DORMITZER.
ORNAMENTAL STEP LADDER.

No. 361,212.

Patented Apr. 12, 1887.



WITNESSES:
C. W. Benjamin
James M. Pully.

INVENTOR
Anna Dormitzer,
BY
Jacob J. Storer,
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANNA DORMITZER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

ORNAMENTAL STEP-LADDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 361,212, dated April 12, 1887.

Application filed October 15, 1886. Serial No. 216,309. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANNA DORMITZER, a citizen of the United States of North America, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ornamental Step-Ladders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is designed as an improvement on the ornamental step-ladder for which a United States Patent, No. 336,219, was issued to me February 16, 1886; and its object is to increase the safety and convenience of the step-ladder by certain novel devices, which will be hereinafter fully set forth.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the step-ladder folded in position for suspension from a wall. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the same open for use. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the same folded up. Fig. 5 is a plan of the upper step of the ladder.

In the drawings, A represents the front section of the ladder, consisting of two parallel side bars, *a a*, held together by top and bottom cross-bars, *b b*, the four bars forming a rectangular frame, which may be strengthened by other cross-bars, as *b'*. The back section, B, is also a rectangular frame composed of side and end pieces, *c c* and *d d*, respectively, and preferably strengthened by diagonal bars *f f*. This section B is made narrower than the frame A by as much as the thickness of the side bars, *a a*, and the two sections are hinged or pivoted together at their upper ends, as shown at *g*, so that the section B may be folded within the sides of the section A, as indicated in Fig. 4, or so that the two sections may be opened apart for use as a step-ladder, as shown in Fig. 3.

Secured on the back section, B, and forming the outer or exposed face of the same, is a panel, (shown in Fig. 1,) which may be of wood, paper, plush, silk, canvas, or other suitable material, with some decorative or ornamental design, as at *z*, painted, printed, embroidered, or otherwise fixed on it, according to fancy; or said panel may be *per se* of ornamental material.

The steps *C C'* are pivoted at their ends, near the rear edges thereof, as indicated at *h*, Fig. 3, between the side bars, *a a*. The upper step, *C*, has near its ends two rear extensions, *k k*, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, which are designed when the ladder is open to make contact with their rear ends against the front faces of the side pieces, *c c*, of the section B, and thereby contribute to the security of the steps when open, as indicated in Fig. 3.

Jointed braces *m m*, pivoted at their upper ends to the inner faces of the side strips, *a a*, and at their lower ends to the ends of the step *C*, near the front thereof, also serve to hold the steps firmly in open position, and will fold up with the latter. All the steps *C C'* are connected with each other by two rods, *o o*, which are firmly secured to the ends thereof near their fronts, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so that when the upper step, *C*, is opened or closed the steps *C'* are thereby synchronously opened or closed.

When the ladder is closed, as indicated in Figs. 1, 2, and 4, it may be so held by the engagement of a common catch, *p*, fixed on the section B, over a pin or stud, *q*, on the section A, as indicated in Fig. 2; or the sections may be held together by any other suitable device. The catch indicated herein consists of a flat elastic strip of sheet metal, having a hole in its outer end to fit over the stud *q*, and over this lower strip is shown a rigid iron cap or plate, *q'*, fixed on section B, to serve as a guard for the said lower strip. This is a common device for such purposes, and hence I make no claim for it. When it is desired to open the ladder, the said catch may be released from said stud or pin, and a loop, *r*, is pulled, with the effect of pulling the steps down in position, and at the same time of pushing the section B into open position through the medium of the links *s s*, that have their forward ends pivoted on the step-extensions *k k*, and their rear ends pivoted on the side bars of the section B, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

On the outer face of one of the side bars of the ladder-section A are secured two sleeves, *t u*, one near the top and the other near the bottom thereof. The upper sleeve, *t*, is pivoted in place so that it may be swung laterally, as indicated in Fig. 3, and the lower sleeve is immovable. These sleeves together

are designed to hold in operative position a stout rod, E, as shown, and said rod is provided near its lower end with a stop-stud, *v*, laterally inserted, to prevent said rod from being pushed too far down in sleeve *u*. To fix this rod E in position to be used as a hand-support for any one using the steps, it is pulled up, as shown in Fig. 3, so that its lower end shall be in the upper sleeve, *t*, and is then moved into a vertical position, as it may be, by the swing of the sleeve *t* on its pivot, and then the said rod is pushed down so that the slot *y* in the lower end of the said rod shall engage over the stud *x*, fixed in the side of the section A, whereby the rod is properly steadied in position.

On the opposite side of the section A a corresponding rod or beading, E', is preferably permanently fixed, in order to make the two sides look alike.

A stretcher, *y'*, may be attached to the device to hold it open, as indicated in Fig. 3. A handle, F, secured to the upper bar of the section A, enables the user to carry the ladder about, and also serves to suspend it by on a wall. When the device is not in use as a ladder, it may be closed and hung on a wall and be then recognized only as a picture or ornamental panel.

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

1. The combination, with a step-ladder constructed, substantially as herein shown and de-

scribed, with frame-sections A B, pivoted or hinged together, and folding steps C C', of step-extensions *k k*, folding braces *m m*, rods *o o*, and links *s s*, all arranged and operating as set forth.

2. The combination, with the step-ladder A B, of the pivoted sleeve *t*, fixed sleeve *u*, stop *x*, and hand-supporting rod E, provided with slot *y* and stud *v*, all arranged and adapted to operate substantially as herein described, and for the purposes set forth.

3. An ornamental step-ladder constructed substantially as herein shown and described, consisting of frame-sections A B, panel *z*, pivoted folding steps C C', step-extensions *k k*, folding braces *m m*, rods *o o*, and links *s s*, all arranged as set forth.

4. In a step-ladder provided with a hand-supporting rod, substantially as herein shown and described, the combination therewith of a sleeve, *t*, pivoted on a side of the ladder and adapted to hold the rod in operative position, and a stop, *x*, inserted in the ladder to assist in holding the rod in place, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 5th day of October, 1886.

ANNA DORMITZER.

Witnesses:

JACOB J. STORER,
JAMES M. RILLY.