No. 677,714. Patented July 2, 1901.

H. C. STOUT.

COMBINED STEP LADDER AND TABLE.

(Application filed Mar. 29, 1901.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

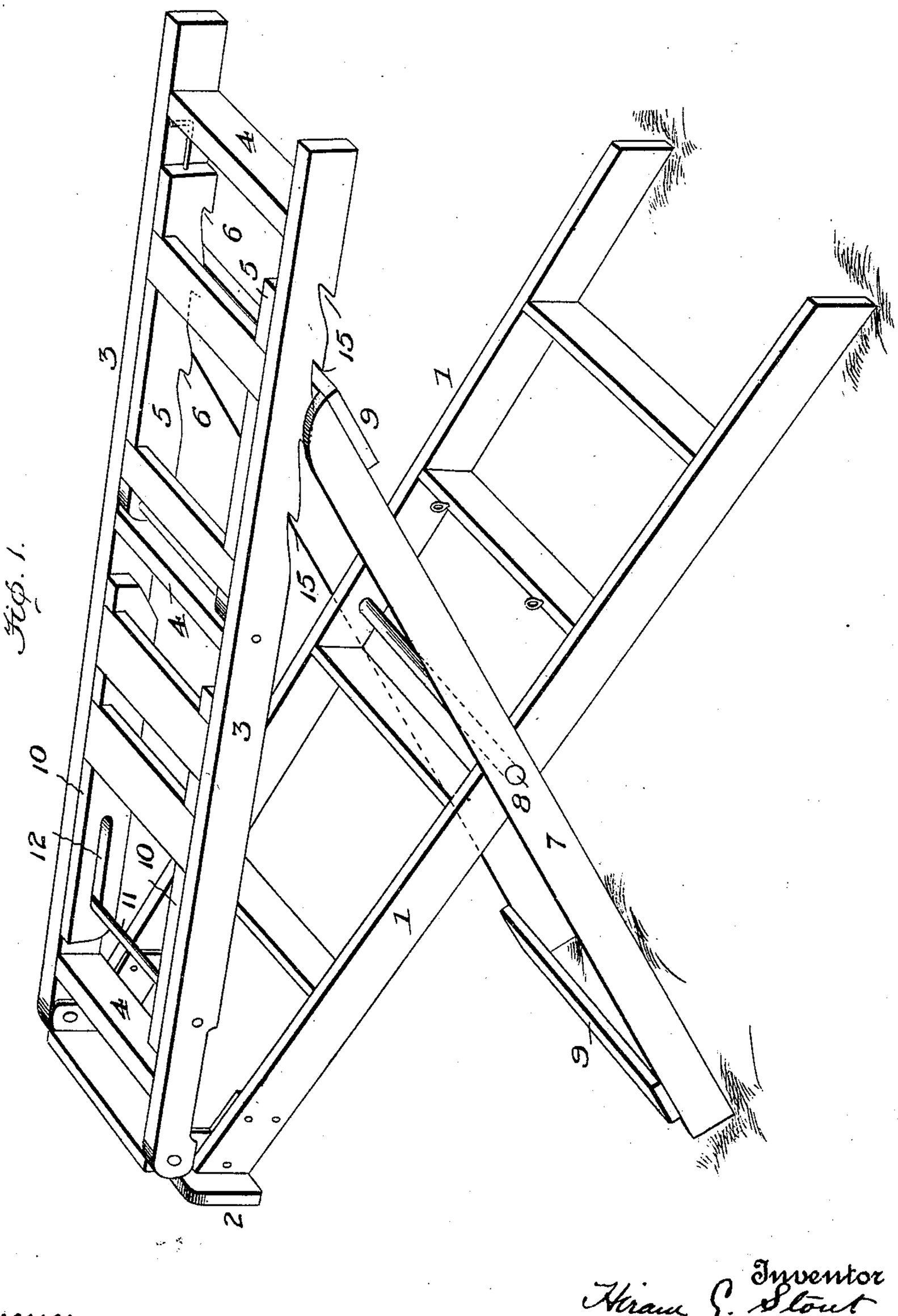

Fig. 1.

Witnesses
John E. Burch

Inventor
Hiram C. Stout
by Johnson & Johnson
Attorneys

No. 677,714. Patented July 2, 1901.

H. C. STOUT.

COMBINED STEP LADDER AND TABLE.

(Application filed Mar. 29, 1901.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

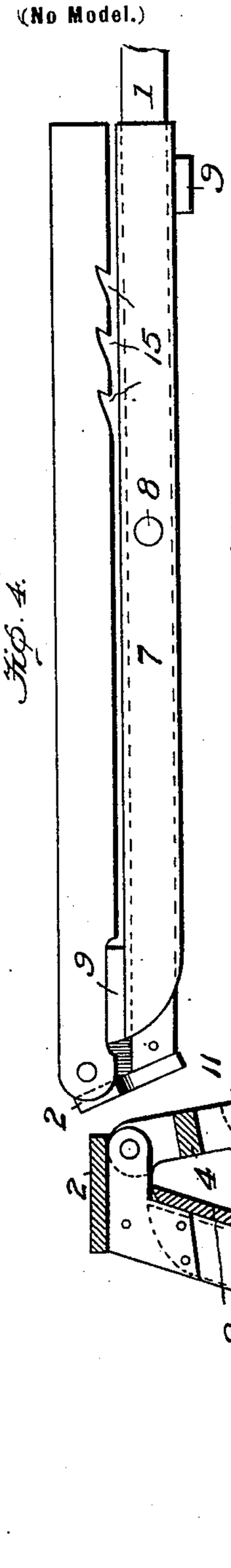

Fig. 4.

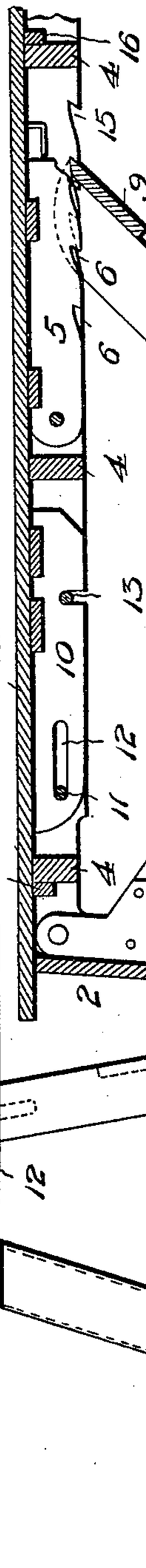

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses

John C. Burch

Inventor

Hiram C. Stout

by Johnson & Johnson

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM CLAYTON STOUT, OF ALLIANCE, OHIO.

COMBINED STEP-LADDER AND TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,714, dated July 2, 1901.

Application filed March 29, 1901. Serial No. 53,425. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM CLAYTON STOUT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Alliance, in the county of Stark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Combined Step-Ladder and Table, of which the following is a specification.

I have improved the step-ladder in particulars of construction, whereby it is rendered useful, by novel attachments for different work in domestic uses, and the precise improvements will be pointed out in the claim hereto appended, in connection with the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents the step-ladder as its parts are adjusted to receive and support an ironing-board, a work-table, or to form a wash-bench. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the step-ladder, showing a slotted slidable pivoted part set in position to support a bucket. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the ladder adjusted as in Fig. 1, with an ironing-board in place. Fig. 4 shows the step-ladder folded.

The side bars 1 of the ladder are connected by steps and by a cross-cap 2, and to the side bars at their top are pivoted the supporting-legs 3, connected by cross-bars 4 in the usual manner, as in Fig. 2. A frame composed of connected bars 5 is pivoted to the legs, so as to be folded between them, the free end of the frame having hooks to engage eyes in one of the steps on the ladder-bars, so to brace the ladder when in use. The bars of this brace-frame are formed with teeth 6, for a purpose which I will presently state. To the ladder-bars a frame 7 is pivoted at 8, mediately of its length, its ends connected by cross-bars 9 9, so as to allow it to be folded over the outer sides of the ladder-bars and to be held when so folded parallel with them by the arrangement of the cross-bars 9, the one at the outer end of the frame to engage the outer side of the stepped ladder and the other cross-bar at the inner end of the said frame 7 arranged to engage the inner side of the ladder, whereby said frame is caused to retain its parallel position with the stepped-ladder part, as in Figs. 2 and 4. This pivoted frame 7 is of a length a little less than that of the ladder-bars and forms a feature of my improvement, for a purpose which I shall presently state. Near the pivoted ends of the legs and between them is pivoted a frame 10, which serves as a bucket-support, and the peculiarity of this frame in its connection at its pivot 11 with the legs is by slots 12 in the side bars, whereby the frame can be slid inward on its pivot, so that the slotted ends of the side bars will engage the cross-bar 9 at the inner end of the pivoted leg-frame, whereby this bucket-support is securely held in horizontal position when the step-ladder is used, as in Fig. 2, while its arrangement between the legs allows it to be folded out of the way when the legs of the ladder are set and supported in a horizontal position to receive an ironing board or table, as in Figs. 1 and 3. In this folded position this slotted frame is drawn the length of its slot outward from the pivoted ends of the legs and its free end is engaged with a cross-pin 13 in the legs to hold it in position, as in Fig. 3.

The function of the frame 7, which is pivoted mediately of the stepped ladder-bars, is seen in Fig. 3, wherein it forms a secondary leg-frame and is set to form a horse with the stepped ladder-bars, and in this function it coöperates with the pivoted brace-frame 5 of the ladder as a means of supporting the ladder-legs 3 in a horizontal position to receive an ironing board or table 14. This support is effected by the engagement of the cross-bar 9 of the pivotal frame 7 with the teeth 6 of the bars of the brace-frame, the teeth for this purpose standing inward toward the pivoted end of said brace. In this engagement it will be understood that the leg-frame 3 rests upon the cross-bar 9, so that there is no upward force on this toothed frame 5. It will be noted that the teeth 6 of this frame 5 are not close together, so that the teeth being made of wood will have sufficient body and strength to render their engagement with the cross-bar 9 safe.

As an additional means for adjusting the height of the ironing board or table the edges of the ladder-legs may also be formed with teeth 15, standing in the same direction as the teeth of the pivoted frame 5, as in Fig. 1.

It is by the teeth 6 of the pivoted frame 5 that the ironing board or table is supported at its highest position and by the teeth 15 in the ladder-legs that the board is set and sus-

tained at its lowest position, and in this highest adjustment the free end of the pivoted toothed frame 5 will rest upon the cross-bar 9 of the secondary leg-frame 7. The ironing board or table is provided with cleats 16, which when the board is used engage with cross-bars 4 of the ladder-legs, as in Fig. 3.

It will be noted that when the device is used as a table the leg-frame 3 forms the table-support, while the stepped ladder part 1 and the secondary leg-frame 7 form the table-legs. It is also important to note that both the brace-frame 5 and the slotted frame 10 are folded within and between the legs 3 of the ladder and that when so folded the toothed frame 5 is in use while the slotted frame 10 is not in use and that the length of the slot in the latter frame limits its sliding movement to engage it with the cross-bar 9 of the secondary leg-frame.

Looking at Fig. 3 it will be seen that the cross-bar 9 of the secondary leg-frame has a sharp edge to make engagement with the notches 15 in the leg-frame of the ladder.

Obviously the slotted bucket-supporting frame 10 may be engaged when in use with one of the steps or other fixed stop part of the ladder part; but I prefer to make such engagement with the cross-bar 9 of the secondary leg-frame, because such engagement serves to hold the latter parallel with the ladder-bars when the ladder is set for use, as in Fig. 2.

I claim—

A step-ladder comprising the stepped part, the leg-frame pivotally connected thereto and the bars of which have notches, a brace-frame having teeth and pivoted to the leg-frame, a secondary leg-frame of side bars pivoted mediately of their length to the outer sides of the stepped part, the bars of said secondary leg-frame connected at their opposite ends by cross-bars arranged to engage the outer and the inner sides of the stepped part, the primary leg part having pivoted thereto a slotted slidable frame arranged to be supported in a horizontal position by the secondary frame and the said toothed frame 5 and the notched leg-frame 3 arranged for engagement with the inner cross-bar of the secondary leg-frame in the way and for the purpose stated.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HIRAM CLAYTON STOUT.

Witnesses:
MAME C. FORDING,
DAVID FORDING.