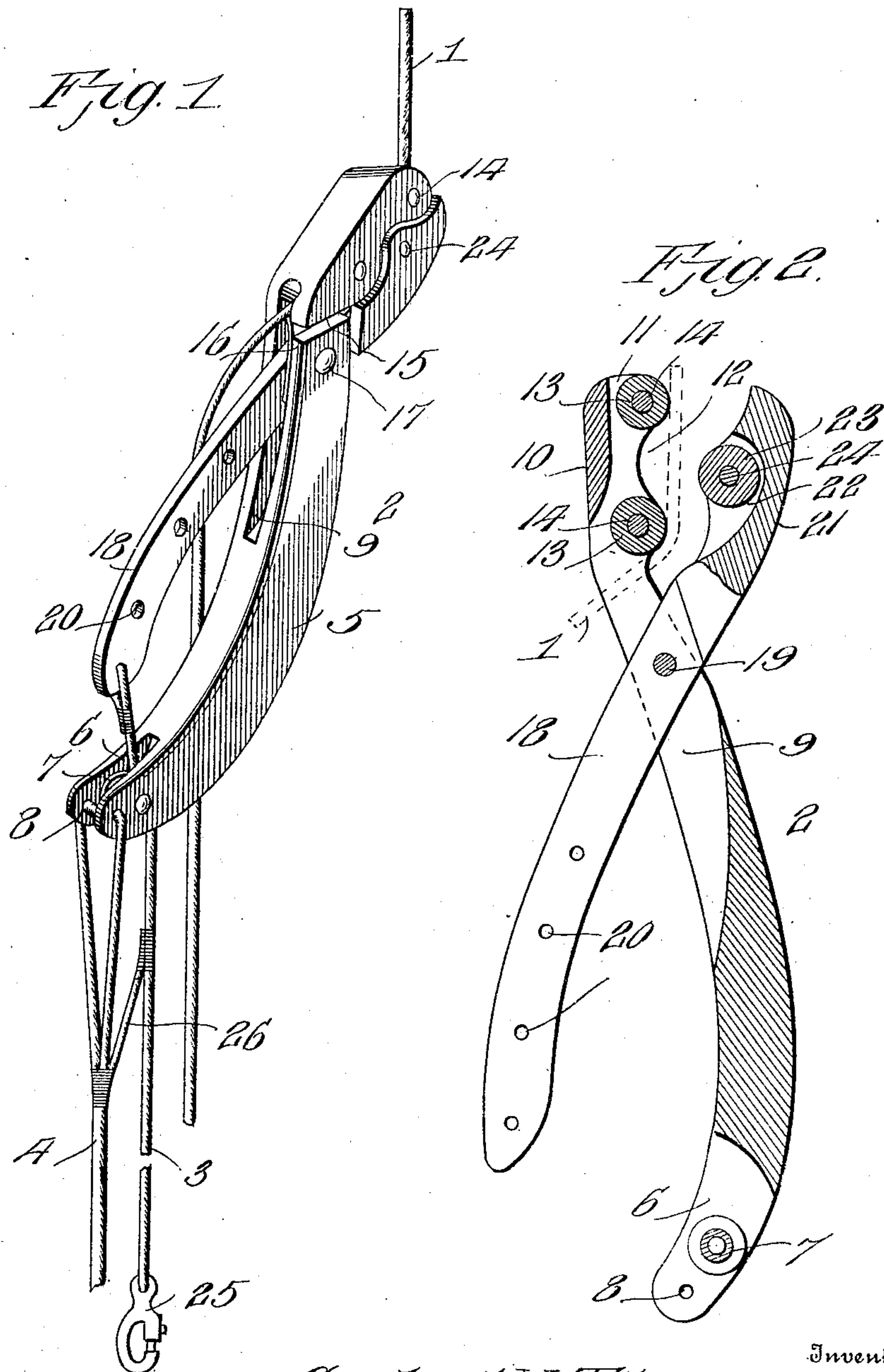


917,681.

G. Y. THOMPSON.
FIRE ESCAPE.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 21, 1908.

Patented Apr. 6, 1909.



Witnesses
Frank A. [unclear]
John F. Byrne

Garland Y. Thompson, Inventor

By *Victor J. Evans* Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GARLAND Y. THOMPSON, OF ROSSMOYNE, OHIO.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

No. 917,681.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 6, 1909.

Application filed February 21, 1908. Serial No. 417,035.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GARLAND Y. THOMPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rossmoyne, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fire escapes, and its primary object is to provide a device of this character which is simple, durable and efficient, and which can be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low cost.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fire escape constructed in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal sectional view of the rope brake.

Referring to the drawing by reference numerals, 1 designates the main rope, 2 the rope brake, 3 the supporting rope and 4 the brake controlling rope of my improved fire escape.

The rope brake comprises a body 5, which is curved longitudinally and which is provided at its relatively lower end with a recess 6. A roller 7 is journaled in the recess 6 and the side walls of the recess are provided with perforations 8. At a point adjacent its relatively upper end the body is provided with a slot 9 and angularly projecting from its relatively upper end is a jaw 10. The jaw 10 is substantially U-shaped in cross-section, the longitudinal edges of the flanges 11 thereof being cut away, as at 12. A pair of relatively spaced cylindrical members 13 are mounted upon bolts 14 secured to the side flanges 11 of the jaw 10. In practice, the main rope 1 passes through the slot 9, and to permit the rope brake to be readily and quickly applied to and removed from the main rope, one side wall of the slot 9 is provided with an opening 15 through which the rope may be readily and quickly inserted into the slot. To prevent the rope brake from becoming detached from the main rope the opening 15 is closed by means of a leaf spring 16 which is secured in applied position by means of a rivet, not shown. A lever 18 is pivotally mounted at a point between its ends in the slot 9 by means of a bolt 19. The lever is

curved longitudinally and is provided with a plurality of perforations 20 through the medium of which the supporting rope 3 may be secured to the lever at different points. Projecting forwardly from the relatively upper end of the lever 18, is a jaw 21 which is recessed, as at 22. A cylindrical member 23 is located in the recess 22 and it is mounted upon a bolt secured to the side walls of said recess. When the jaws are moved into closed or active positions, the member 23 occupies a position between the members 13, thereby frictionally clamping the main rope, the cut away portions 12 of the flanges 11 permitting the member 23 to be moved inwardly beyond the planes of the members 13.

The brake controlling rope is secured to the body 5 by having one of its ends passed through the perforations 8 and then secured to the rope in any suitable manner, and the controlling rope is secured to the supporting rope by means of a rope section 26.

In practice, the main rope 1 is suspended at a suitable point outside of the building, the rope brake applied to the main rope, and the supporting rope passed about the person at a point beneath the arms, the supporting rope being secured about the person by means of a snap hook 25. As the supporting rope 3 is secured to the relatively lower end of the lever 18 and passes over the roller 7, the weight of the person will move the jaws into closed or active positions, thus causing them to frictionally engage the main rope. This frictional engagement of the main rope is so great that the person is suspended thereon. When it is desired to descend all that is necessary is to pull downwardly on the brake controlling rope 4, as thereby the jaws are moved in opposite directions away from the main rope. It should be apparent that the person can readily and quickly control the speed of his descent. As the supporting rope can be secured to the lever 18 at different points, it should be apparent that the frictional engagement of the main rope by the jaws can be regulated. The rope section 26 limits the opening movements of the jaws.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the construction and mode of operation of the invention should be understood without a further extended description.

Changes in the form, proportions and minor details of construction may be made within the scope of the claims without de-

parting from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

Having fully described and illustrated my invention, what I claim is:

- 5 1. A fire escape including a rope brake consisting of a body provided with a slot, one of the side walls of said slot being provided with an opening, a leaf spring secured to the side wall and adapted to close the
10 opening, a pair of relatively spaced members mounted on the jaw, a lever pivotally mounted at a point between its ends in the slot of the body, and a member mounted on the lever.
- 15 2. A fire escape including a rope brake consisting of a body provided with a recess at one end and with a jaw at its other end,

said body being provided with a slot having one of its side walls provided with an opening, a leaf spring secured to said side wall 20 and adapted to close the opening, a pair of relatively spaced members mounted to the jaw of the body, a lever provided with a jaw at one end and with a plurality of spaced openings, said lever being pivotally mounted 25 at a point between its ends in the slot of the body, and a member mounted on the jaw of the lever.

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

GARLAND Y. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

S. O. REPERT,
JOHN SWIGERT.