# J. W. Norcross.

# Oar Lock.

No. 48,975. Patented July 25, 1865.

Fig. 1

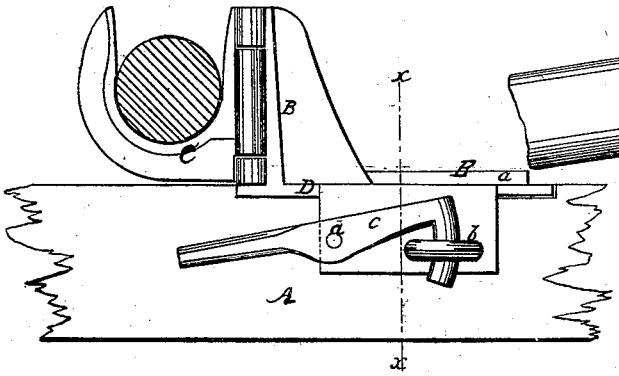



Fig. 2

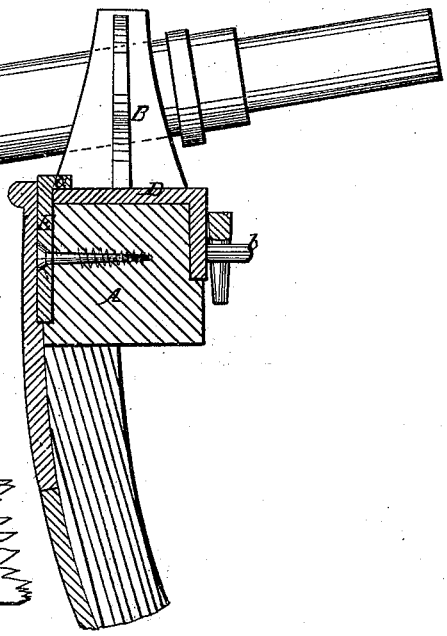



Fig. 3.

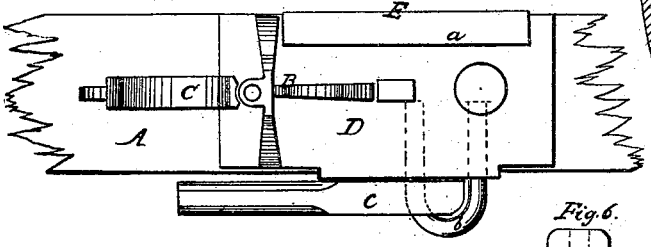



Fig. 6.

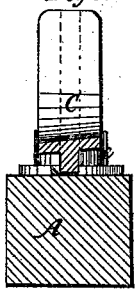



Fig. 4.

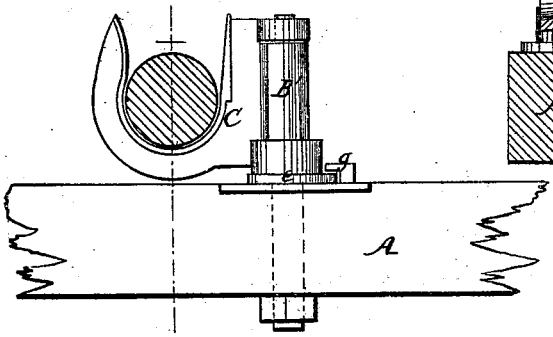
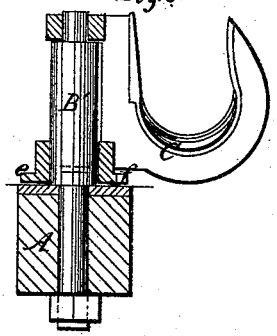



Fig. 5.




Witnesses.

E. L. Topliff

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Inventor.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH W. NORCROSS, OF MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVED ROWLOCK.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **48,975**, dated July 25, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH W. NORCROSS, of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Rowlocks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents an inside elevation of my invention when attached to the gunwale of a boat. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the same, the line *x x*, Fig. 1, indicating the plane of section. Fig. 3 is a plan or top view of the same. Fig. 4 is an elevation, and Fig. 5 a transverse section, of a modification thereof. Fig. 6 is a transverse section of the rowlock detached.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of this invention is threefold. First, to construct a rowlock which will operate without or with but little noise, and that the oar may be temporarily left in the same without danger of unshipping, thereby giving an opportunity to the person rowing to relieve himself by wiping the sweat from his brow, or in some other way; second, to make the rowlock so that the oar might swing parallel to the boat or "trail;" third, to arrange it so that the same can be readily unshipped and taken home to prevent it from being stolen. These objects are obtained by hinging the rowlock upon one of its horns, or upon a fulcrum outside the middle of its horns, so that the same will swing clear of the edge of the gunwale and allow the oar to trail; further, by making the horns of the rowlock of such a form or shape as to meet the motion of the oar, whereby it is prevented from unshipping when temporarily left in the same; and, furthermore, the wearing of the oar is considerably reduced or entirely avoided, and the rowlock operates without or with but little noise; finally, by combining the rowlock with a bracket which is fastened to the gunwale by a hook-catch or other equivalent device, so that the same can be readily taken off; or instead of this the rowlock may be provided with a rim or flange, which catches under a hook and is furnished with an open slot, so that the same can be readily shipped or unshipped.

A represents a gunwale of a boat, from which rises a stanchion, B, that forms the fulcrum for the rowlock C, said rowlock being hinged to the stanchion, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3; or instead of the stanchion a simple pin or stud, B′, may serve as the fulcrum of the rowlock, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Said stanchion or pin rises from the gunwale, but it is obvious that the same object would be gained by providing the rowlock with a pin made to fit into a socket in the gunwale, or in a bracket secured to the gunwale, although I use, by preference, the devices shown in the drawings, because thereby I am enabled to secure the rowlock without weakening the gunwale. The fulcrum of the rowlock is thereby placed outside the center of its horns, and said rowlock is arranged so that it swings clear of the edge of the gunwale, as shown more particularly in Fig. 5, and that the oar is free to trail or to turn to a position parallel with the keel of the boat either inside or outside. Furthermore, my rowlock is made to fit the shank of the oar, so that the same works without or with but very little noise, and the wearing of the oar occasioned by its to-and-fro motion in the rowlock is avoided or greatly reduced. The bottom of the rowlock is inclined to correspond to the outwardly-inclined position of the oar, as shown in Fig. 6, whereby the oar is prevented from being injured by the corner of the rowlock.

Ordinary rowlocks which turn on fulcrums in the middle of their horns must be made wider than the shank of the oar to allow the same to trail, and in rowing the oar moves constantly back and forth, making a disagreeable noise and causing much wear, particularly when the shank of the oar is wet, and when the oar is left in the rowlock it immediately unships.

If desired, a recess may be made in the horns of either the stationary or revolving rowlock to receive a wooden lining, which will prevent the wear of the metal upon the oar.

The stanchion B is secured to a bracket, D, which catches at its outer edge under a flanged plate, E, secured to the outside or top of the gunwale and protected by the planking, and said bracket is provided with a flange, *a*, on its inner edge, that projects down and catches over a staple, *b*, inserted in the gunwale. A hook, *c*, secured to the flange *a* by means of a pivot, *d*, can be made to catch into the staple and to lock the bracket firmly to the gunwale.

For the hook and staple a button or any other suitable fastening may be substituted which will produce the same or a similar effect. When the boat is on a dock or near the shore the stanchion, together with the rowlock, can be readily removed and carried home to prevent it from being stolen.

When the rowlock swivels on a pin, as shown on Figs. 4 and 5, it may be furnished with a flange, *e*, that has an open slot, *f*, and catches under a hook, *g*, secured in the gunwale. If the rowlock is turned so that the open slot *f* is opposite to said hook, it can be removed. If desired, however, the plate from which the fulcrum-pin rises, or which may form the socket of the fulcrum-pin, might be arranged with a hook and staple or any other suitable fastening, so that the same can be readily removed whenever it may be desired.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Placing the fulcrum on which the rowlock swivels outside the center of its horns and above the gunwale, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

2. The hook *c* and staple *d*, in combination with the flanged plate E and with the bracket supporting the stanchion or fulcrum of the rowlock, or any other equivalent fastening, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. The flange *e*, with the open slot *f*, in combination with the rowlock C, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOSEPH W. NORCROSS.

Witnesses:

W. HAUFF,

WM. DEAN OVERELL.