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STAIRWAY WORK PLATFORM AND METHOD

Abstract

A stairway work platform for a user includes a plank, a first leg assembly attached in proximity to a first end of the plank. The work platform includes an end pad directly attached to the first end of the plank which prevents damage to a vertical rise area of the stairway. The work platform includes a first bottom pad directly attached to a front of a first leg of the first leg assembly which prevents damage to a horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting a weight of the user. The work platform includes a second bottom pad directly attached to a front of a second leg of the first leg assembly which prevents damage to the horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting the weight of the user. The work platform includes a hinge bracket attached to the plank in proximity to the first end of the plank and to the first leg of the first leg assembly. In a stairway mode, the first leg assembly is in the closed position and is adapted to be disposed on a stair of the stairway and a second leg assembly is extended to a position which makes the plank level with respect to ground. A method for using a work platform. An end pad. A side-bottom pad.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This is a nonprovisional of U.S. provisional application No. 63/047,437 filed Jul. 2, 2020, incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention pertains to a work platform that is used in conjunction with a stairway to access areas above the stairway. (As used herein, references to the “present invention” or “invention” relate to exemplary embodiments and not necessarily to every embodiment encompassed by the appended claims.) More specifically, the present invention pertains to a work platform that is used in conjunction with a stairway to access areas above the stairway where the work platform has pads to protect horizontal run area of the stairway upon which one end of the work platform is positioned from marring, scratching or damage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] This section is intended to introduce the reader to various aspects of the art that may be related to various aspects of the present invention. The following discussion is intended to provide information to facilitate a better understanding of the present invention. Accordingly, it should be understood that statements in the following discussion are to be read in this light, and not as admissions of prior art.

[0004] Accessing areas above a stairway to paint walls, place wallpaper, repair damage, add fixtures or replace light poles can be somewhat precarious since the stairs of the stairway are at different levels, making standard work platforms or ladders unusable or difficult to safely use. This is because the support surface under the area to be accessed above the stairway typically is not level for the opposing rails or leg assemblies to rest on. Consequently, one rail of the ladder may be positioned outside of the step of the stairway when the ladder is leaned against the wall directly above the stairway, so the one rail has nothing to rest on, or if a work platform is used, one leg assembly of the work platform rests on a stair that is at a different height than the other leg assembly of the work platform rests on. The platform itself then forms an angle relative to ground which is unsafe for a worker to work from.

[0005] Furthermore, when ladders were work platforms or even to be considered to be used on a stairway, the horizontal run area and vertical rise area of the stairway that are exposed to the rails of a ladder or leg assemblies of a work platform by the rails or the leg assemblies contacting the horizontal run area or vertical rise area, need to be protected from scratching, marring or damage by the ladder or leg assemblies. The protection itself should not add to the risk of slippage, movement, or sliding of the rails or leg assemblies, which could happen for instance if some form of tarp or cloth is placed over the stairway to protect the stairway. Rubber mats can be used, but they typically are not of a size that conveniently fits onto the horizontal run area and vertical rise area on and about the stairway, possibly creating an additional hazard. In such a circumstance, the rubber mats can be cut to size, but then are commonly discarded after the job is completed. What is

needed is some type of a work platform that can be positioned level relative to ground on a stairway and which does not damage the vertical rise area and horizontal run area areas with respect to the stairway, and provides resistance to slippage or movement by the work platform.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention pertains to a stairway work platform for a user. The work platform comprises a plank. The work platform comprises a first leg assembly attached in proximity to a first end of the plank. The first leg assembly having a first leg and a second leg opposing the first leg, and a step attached to the first and second legs. The work platform comprises an end pad directly attached to the first end of the plank which prevents damage to a vertical rise area of the stairway. The work platform comprises a first bottom pad directly attached to a front of the first leg which prevents damage to a horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting a weight of the user. The work platform comprises a second bottom pad directly attached to a front of the second leg which prevents damage to the horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting the weight of the user. The work platform comprises a second leg assembly attached in proximity to a second end of the plank. The work platform comprises a hinge bracket attached to the plank in proximity to the first end of the plank and to the first leg of the first leg assembly. The first leg rotating relative to the plank with the hinge bracket between a closed position where the first leg is parallel with the plank, and an open position where the plank is supported by the first and second leg assemblies and the first leg forms an angle between 90 degrees and 145 degrees with the plank. In a stairway mode, the first leg assembly is in the closed position and is adapted to be disposed on a stair of the stairway and the second leg assembly is extended to a position which makes the plank level with respect to ground.

[0007] The present invention pertains to a method for using a work platform. The method comprises the steps of placing a first leg assembly in a closed position with a plank, where a first and second leg of the first leg assembly are parallel with the plank, onto a horizontal run area of a stairway. The platform having an end pad directly attached to a first end of the plank which prevents damage to a vertical rise area of the stairway. The first leg having a first bottom pad directly attached to a front of the first leg which prevents damage to the horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting a weight of the user. The second leg having a second bottom pad directly attached to a front of the second leg which prevents damage to the horizontal run area of the stairway while supporting the weight of the user. There is the step of moving a second leg assembly to an extended position which makes the plank level with respect to ground.

[0008] The present invention pertains to a leg pad for a work platform. The leg pad comprises a first side pad. The leg pad comprises a first bottom pad extending perpendicularly from the first side pad. The leg pad comprises a first inside pad extending perpendicularly from the first side pad, with the first side pad between the first bottom pad and the first inside pad and the first bottom pad in parallel with the first inside pad.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

[0009] In the accompanying drawings, the preferred embodiment of the invention and preferred methods of practicing the invention are illustrated in which:

[0010] FIGS. 1A-1D show the work platform with the leg assemblies in the fully open position.

[0011] FIG. 2 shows the location of pads on the work platform.

[0012] FIG. 3 shows the work platform in stairway mode.

[0013] FIGS. 4A and 4B show how the pads are in contact with the stairway.

[0014] FIGS. 5A-5D show a side-bottom pad.

[0015] FIGS. 6A-6D show an end pad.

[0016] FIG. 7 shows an actuator for movement of the first leg assembly relative to the plank with the first leg assembly in the closed position.

[0017] FIG. 8 shows the actuator for movement of the first leg assembly relative to the plank with the first leg assembly in the open position.

[0018] FIG. 9 shows the handles of the actuator hinged together so the plunger tip is disengaged from the hinge bracket.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference numerals refer to similar or identical parts throughout the several views, and more specifically to FIGS. 1A-1D, 2 and 3 thereof, there is shown a stairway work platform **10** for a user. The work platform **10** comprises a plank **12**. The work platform **10** comprises a first leg assembly **14** attached in proximity to a first end **16** of the plank **12**. The first leg assembly **14** having a first leg **18** and a second leg **20** opposing the first leg **18**, and a step **22** attached to the first and second legs **18**, **20**. The work platform **10** comprises an end pad **24** directly attached to the first end **16** of the plank **12** which prevents damage to a vertical rise area **26** of the stairway **27**. The work platform **10** comprises a first bottom pad **40** directly attached to a front **23** of the first leg **18** which prevents damage to a horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** while supporting a weight of the user. The work platform **10** comprises a second bottom pad **32** directly attached to a front **25** of the second leg **20** which prevents damage to the horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** while supporting the weight of the user. The work platform **10** comprises a second leg assembly **34** attached in proximity to a second end **36** of the plank **12**. The work platform **10** comprises a hinge bracket **38** attached to the plank **12** in proximity to the first end **16** of the plank **12** and to the first leg **18** of the first leg assembly **14**. The first leg **18** rotating relative to the plank **12** with the hinge bracket **38** between a closed position where the first leg **18** is parallel with the plank **12**, and an open position where the plank **12** is supported by the first and second leg assemblies **14**, **34** and the first leg **18** forms an angle between 90 degrees and 145 degrees with the plank **12**. In a stairway **27** mode, the first leg assembly **14** is in the closed position and is adapted to be disposed on a stair **37** of the stairway **27** and the second leg assembly **34** is extended to a position which makes the plank **12** level with respect to ground, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0020] The stairway work platform **10** may include a first side pad **40** directly attached to a side of the first leg **18** which prevents damage to a right wall **42** which is adjacent to the stairway **27**, and a second side pad **44** directly attached to a side of the second leg **20** which prevents damage to a left wall **46** which is adjacent to the stairway **27** when the platform **10** is in the stairway **27** mode. The first side pad **40** and the first bottom pad **28** may be one continuous piece and the second side pad **44** and the second bottom pad **32** may be one continuous piece. The first side pad **40** and the first bottom pad **28**, and the second side pad **44** and the second bottom pad **32** may be made of a material that is softer than a material of the stairwell and the material of the first wall and the second wall so the first side pad **40** and the first bottom pad **28**, and the second side pad **44** and the second bottom pad **32** do not mar or scratch or damage the stairway **27** or the first wall and the second wall when the platform **10** is in the stairway **27** mode.

[0021] The first side pad **40** and the first bottom pad **28**, and the second side pad **44** and the second bottom pad **32** may have an L-shaped cross section, which covers the bottom and the right side and the bottom and the left side of the first leg **18** and the second leg **20**, respectively. The stairway work platform **10** may include a first inside pad **48** connected to and extending from the first side pad **28** with the first inside pad **48** and the first bottom pad **28** and the first side pad **40** having a C-shaped cross-section and being one continuous piece. The stairway work platform **10** may include a second inside pad **50** connected to and extending from the second side pad **44** with the second inside pad **50** and the second bottom pad **32** and the second side pad **44** having a C-shaped cross-section and being one continuous piece. The second leg assembly **34** may be configured like the first leg assembly **14**, with the second leg assembly **34** having a first leg **18** and a second leg **20** and

a step **22**. Similar to the first leg assembly **14**, there may be an end pad **24** at the second end **36** of the plank **12**; a first side pad **40**, a first bottom pad **28** and a first inside pad **48** directly attached adjacent to the top of the first leg **18** of the second leg assembly **34**; and a second side pad **44**, the second bottom pad **32** and a second inside pad **50** directly attached adjacent to the top of the second leg **20** of the leg assembly.

[0022] The present invention pertains to a method for using a work platform **10**. The method comprises the steps of placing a first leg assembly **14** in a closed position with a plank **12**, where a first and second leg **18**, **20** of the first leg assembly **14** are coplanar with the plank **12**, onto a horizontal run area **30** of a stairway **27**. The platform **10** having an end pad **24** directly attached to a first end of the plank **12** which prevents damage to a vertical rise area **26** of the stairway **27**. The first leg **18** having a first bottom pad **28** directly attached to a front **23** of the first leg **18** which prevents damage to the horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** while supporting a weight of the user. The second leg **20** having a second bottom pad **32** directly attached to a front **25** of the second leg **20** which prevents damage to the horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** while supporting the weight of the user. There is the step of moving a second leg assembly **34** to an extended position which makes the plank **12** level with respect to ground.

[0023] The present invention pertains to a leg pad **41** for a work platform **10**, as shown in FIGS. 5A-5D. The leg pad **41** comprises a first side pad **40**. The leg pad **41** comprises a first bottom pad **28** extending perpendicularly from the first side pad **40**. The leg pad **41** comprises a first inside pad **48** extending perpendicularly from the first side pad **40**, with the first side pad **40** between the first bottom pad **28** and the first inside pad **48** and the first bottom pad **28** in parallel with the first inside pad **48**.

[0024] The present invention pertains to an end pad **24**, as shown in FIGS. 6A-6D. The end pad **24** can have a C-shaped cross-section that is one continuous piece, formed of a center pad **70** which is positioned over the center of the plank **12**, a bottom pad **72** which is positioned over the bottom of the plank **12**, and a top pad **74** which is positioned over the top of the plank **12**. The top and bottom pads **74**, **72** extend essentially perpendicular from the center pad **70**.

[0025] In the operation of the invention, soft pads, which are made of a material which is softer than the material of the horizontal run area **30** and vertical rise area **26** of the stairway **27** and of any walls beside the stairway **27**, are used to protect the stairway **27** and the walls from any damage, such as scratching or marring, when the work platform **10** is rested on a stair **37**. For instance, the pads may be made from PVC or similar material, are mounted on the ends and legs of an adjustable work platform **10**. These pads protect the horizontal run area **30** and vertical rise area **26** of a stairway's steps **22** from damage when the user has positioned the adjustable work platform **10** on the stairway **27** to form a level standing surface because it is only the pads of the work platform **10** which contact the horizontal run area **30** and vertical rise area **26** of the stairway's steps **22**. Also, the pads provide additional contact friction between the work platform **10** and the stairway **27** which keep the work platform **10** from shifting around while in use. In this way, besides protecting the horizontal run area **30** and vertical rise area **26** of the stairway **27** and any walls beside the stairway **27** from damage, the pads also act as treads to provide better gripping of the contact surface between the pads and the stairway **27** through additional contact friction.

[0026] FIGS. 1A-1D show the work platform **10** with the leg assemblies in the fully open position. The leg assemblies are shown fully extended.

[0027] FIG. 2 shows the location of pads on the work platform **10**. The end pads **24** are attached to the ends of the plank **12** of the work platform **10**, two total, one end pad **24** for each end. The bottom pads **72** are attached to the upper ends of the leg assemblies, four total, one bottom pad **72** attached to the upper end of each leg of the two leg assemblies. The end pads **24** and the bottom pads **72** are placed on the plank **12** and leg assemblies so that when the work platform **10** is in the stairway **27** mode, the pads on the side of the plank **12** which has the leg assembly in the closed position are the only portions of the work platform **10** which contact the vertical rise area **26** or

horizontal run area **30** associated with the stairway **27**. In an alternative embodiment, multiple separate pads instead of a single end pad **24** which extends along at least a portion of the end of the work platform **10**, and preferably along the entire length of the end of the work platform **10**, may be placed on the end of the work platform **10**. Similarly, the bottom pads **72**, which may be one continuous piece, or may be separate pieces of pad can be selectively positioned as desired along the bottom of the leg which contacts the horizontal run area **30** of the step **22**, and as separate pieces of pad along the first and second sides of the leg which may contact the first and second walls, respectively, with no pad on the first or second inside of the leg. If desired, there may even be no pad placed on the first and second sides of the leg. If desired, attached to the bottom of each leg may be a foot **19** and additional steps. The plank **12** may have a handle **17** at its center. The plank **12** is preferably completely flat so a user standing on the plank **12** will not trip and fall over something sticking up from the plank **12**.

[0028] FIG. **3** shows the work platform **10** in stairway **27** mode. One leg assembly is folded so the associated end of the work platform **10** with the folded leg assembly may safely be positioned on a horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** and the other open leg assembly is extended to a position which makes the plank **12** level.

[0029] FIGS. **4A** and **4B** show how the pads are in contact with the stairway **27**. The end pad **24** prevents damage to the vertical rise area **26** of the stairway **27**. The bottom pad **72** prevents damage to the horizontal run area **30** of the stairway **27** while supporting the weight of the user. Though not shown, the side pads which are on the sides of the leg assemblies also prevent damage to walls which might be adjacent to the stairway **27**. FIGS. **4A** and **4B** also show the hinge bracket **38**. The hinge bracket **38** is used to directly rotatably attach each leg to the plank **12**.

[0030] The operation of the hinge bracket **38** is shown in FIGS. **4A**, **4B**, **7**, **8** and **9**. Movement of an actuator **55**, as shown in FIG. **9**, causes a plunger tip **61** of a plunger **58** to recede out of a first hole **60** of the hinge bracket **38**, allowing the hinge bracket **38** to now rotate about a rotation bolt **62**. The rotation bolt **62** rotationally attaches the hinge bracket **38** to the plank **12**. The hinge bracket **38** is also attached to the first leg **18** so rotation of the hinge bracket **38** also results in rotation of the first leg **18** about the rotation bolt **62**. When the plunger tip **61** of the plunger **58** recedes out of the first hole **60**, the first leg **18** is able to rotate from a closed position, as shown in FIGS. **4A** and **4B** and **7**, to the open position, as shown in FIG. **8**. In the open position, an inside face **64** of the hinge bracket **38** contacts a stop **56**, which prevents the hinge bracket **38** from further rotation, and also causes a second hole **66** to align with the plunger **58**. The plunger tip **61** now moves out into the second hole **66** to lock the hinge bracket **38** in the open position, as shown in FIG. **8**. To allow the hinge bracket **38** to rotate back to the closed position, the actuator **55** is squeezed to cause the plunger tip **61** to recede out of the second hole **66** so the hinge bracket **38** rotates until the first leg **18** contacts the stop **56**, preventing the first leg **18** from further rotation. When the first leg **18** is in contact with the stop **56**, the first hole **60** is in alignment with the plunger **58**, so the plunger tip **61** now moves out into the first hole **60** to lock the hinge bracket **38** in the closed position under the action of a spring **63** biasing the plunger **58** to the closed position, as shown in FIG. **7**. The spring **63** is positioned about the plunger **58**. The actuator **55** is comprised of two handles **59**, which when squeezed together, cause the plunger tip **61** to which they are attached to recede from whichever bracket hole they are in. The hinge bracket **38** on each of the other legs operates the same way. This is but one example of a hinge bracket **38** and actuator **55**, which rotatably attaches the leg to the plank **12**. Other types of hinge brackets and actuators may also be used.

[0031] FIGS. **5A-5D** show a leg pad **41**. This part can be molded of PVC or a similar resilient material. It is attached to the leg assembly by rivets through the four holes which are visible. Alternatively, the C-shaped cross-section of the leg pad **41** can have an edge **76** extending inwards from each side pad or flange of the leg pad **41** that grips and mechanically interlocks the leg and creates a friction fit to hold the leg pad **41** to the first leg **18**. As shown, the leg pad **41** can have a

C-shaped cross-section that is one continuous piece, formed of a bottom pad **28** which is positioned over the bottom of the first leg **18**, a first side pad **40** which is positioned over the first side of the first leg **18**, and a first inside pad **48** which is positioned over the first inside pad **48** of the first leg **18**. The first bottom pad **28** and the first inside pad **48** extend essentially perpendicular from the first side pad **40**. An edge **76** may extend from the top of the first pad inwards to facilitate the mechanical interlock with the first leg **18**. There may be windows **52** in the first side pad **40** to allow visibility of the first leg **18**, as well as for weight reduction, and thicker regions to provide for more padding at desired locations of the pad. Another leg pad **41** can be applied to the second leg **20**. The bottom pad **28**, the first inside pad **48** in the first side pad **40** may be separate and apart from each other and attached individually with rivets or adhesive to the leg. The thickness of the pads should be large enough to ensure that any rivets or parts of the leg or the plank are separated enough so that any rivets or parts of the leg where the plank will not contact any aspect of the stair upon which the end of the work platform rests or adjoining walls.

[0032] FIGS. **6A-6D** show an end pad **24**. This part can be molded of PVC or a similar resilient material. It is attached to the plank **12** by rivets on its underside and by mechanical interlocking on its top side. As shown, the end pad **24** can have a C-shaped cross-section that is one continuous piece, formed of a center pad **70** which is positioned over the center of the plank **12**, a lower pad **72** which is positioned over the bottom of the plank **12**, and a top pad **74** which is positioned over the top of the plank **12**. The top and lower pads **74**, **72** extend essentially perpendicular from the center pad **70**. An edge **76** may extend from the top of the top pad **74** inwards to facilitate the mechanical interlock with the plank **12**. The lower pad **72** has rivet holes through which the lower pad **72** is riveted to the plank **12**. There may be windows **52** in the end pad **24** to allow visibility of the end of the plank **12** itself and weight reduction, as well as thicker regions to provide for more padding at desired locations of the end pad **24**. To facilitate the end pad **24** properly contacting the vertical run area of the stair **37**, as shown in FIG. **4A**, the center pad **70** is formed preferably of an upper portion **71** and a lower portion **73** to properly cover the end of the plank. The upper portion **71** angles inwards from the lower portion **73** when the center portion contacts the vertical run area of the stair **37**. This is to ensure the lower portion **73** contacts the vertical run area of the stair **37**, with the upper portion **71** angling away from the vertical run area of the stair **37** and creating a gap between the upper portion **71** and the vertical run area of the stair **37**. If the end of the plank is completely flat, then the center pad **70** can be completely flat and does not need an upper portion **71** in a lower portion **73**. Basically, the end pad is configured to fit over the end of the plank, and protect the vertical run of the stair from being damaged or scratched or marred by the end of the plank. The end pad **24** maybe comprised of only the center pad **70**, or the center pad **70** and the bottom pad **72**, or the center pad **70** and the top pad **74**, or all three. The center pad **70**, the bottom pad **72** in the top pad **74** may also be individual and separate from each other, and individually riveted or attached to the end of the plank.

[0033] The legs of each assembly are adjustable to allow the height of the plank to be chosen as desired, or to better fold up in the stowed. There may be a handle under the middle step which has tips extending out either side to extend into desired holes in a lower portion of the legs to lock the lower portion of the legs at a desired height. If the handle is pulled, the tips or cause to recede from the holes in the lower portion of legs, allowing the lower portion of legs to be moved up into the upper portion of the legs, or extended further down from the upper portion of the legs, as is well known in the art. Instead of a handle having tips, separate latches or plugs may be used to extend into or removed out of the desired holes in the legs.

[0034] Although the invention has been described in detail in the foregoing embodiments for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose and that variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention except as it may be described by the following claims.

Claims

1-9. (canceled)

10. A stairway work platform comprising: a plank; a first leg assembly including a first leg and a hinge, the first leg attached in proximity to a first end of the plank with the hinge such that the first leg is pivotable relative to the plank with the hinge between a closed position and an open position; an end pad fixed to the first end of the plank; and a leg pad attached to a portion of the first leg adjacent the hinge, the leg pad molded of a material softer than the first leg, the leg pad including: a first bottom pad extending along a first side of the first leg that faces downward when the first leg is in the closed position to rest on a surface; a first side pad extending along a second side of the first leg that faces outward of the plank.

11. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the end pad includes a main portion covering a longitudinal end of the plank and a bottom portion engaging a bottom of the plank.

12. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the end pad includes a main portion covering a longitudinal end of the plank, the main portion including an upper end surface and a lower end surface, the upper end surface extending obliquely to the lower end surface.

13. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the end pad includes openings through which fasteners extend to secure the end pad to the plank.

14. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the end pad includes a tab that mechanically interlocks with plank to secure the end pad to the plank.

15. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the end pad includes an upper portion to hook the plank and a lower portion including openings through which fasteners extend to secure the lower portion to the plank.

16. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the wherein the leg pad has a C-shaped cross-section, the leg pad receiving at least a portion of the first leg.

17. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the first bottom pad includes openings for fasteners to secure the first bottom pad to the first leg.

18. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the first leg is extendible to adjust a length of the first leg.

19. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the first end of the plank extends longitudinally beyond the leg pad when the first leg is in the closed position.

20. The stairway work platform of claim 10 wherein the leg pad is formed of PVC.

21. A stairway work platform for a user comprising: a plank extending longitudinally between a first end and a second end; an end pad fixed to the first end of the plank to space the first end of the plank from a vertical surface of a stairway when the first end of the plank is positioned on a stair of the stairway; a first leg assembly having a first leg and a second leg; a hinge connecting the first leg of the first leg assembly to the plank proximate the first end of the plank, the hinge permitting the first leg to be pivoted relative to the plank between a closed position and an open position, wherein in the closed position the first leg extends longitudinally along an underside of the plank, and wherein in the open position the first leg extends away from the plank; a second leg assembly attached to the plank at a second end of the plank, the second leg assembly extendible to adjust a length of the second leg assembly; and the stairway work platform configurable to a stairway mode where the first leg assembly is in the closed position to permit the first leg assembly and first end of the plank to be positioned on a stair of the stairway with the end pad inhibiting direct contact between the first end of the plank and the vertical surface of the stairway, wherein in the stairway mode the length of the second leg assembly is adjusted to a position to set an angle of the plank with respect to the ground.

22. The stairway work platform of claim 21 further comprising a lock operable to secure the first leg in the closed position and the open position.

- 23.** The stairway work platform of claim 22 wherein the lock includes an actuator and a plunger, the plunger biased into engagement with a portion of the hinge to secure the first leg in the closed position or the open position, the actuator operable to disengage the plunger from the hinge to permit the first leg to be moved between the closed position and the open position.
- 24.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the end pad has a C-shaped cross-section, the end pad receiving at least a portion of the first end of the plank.
- 25.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the end pad includes a main portion covering a longitudinal end at the first end of the plank and a bottom portion engaging a bottom of the plank.
- 26.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the end pad includes a main portion covering a longitudinal end at the first end of the plank, the main portion including an upper end surface and a lower end surface, the upper end surface extending obliquely to the lower end surface.
- 27.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the end pad includes openings through which fasteners extend to secure the end pad to the plank.
- 28.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the end pad includes a tab that mechanically interlocks with the plank to secure the end pad to the plank.
- 29.** The stairway work platform of claim 21 wherein the first leg is parallel to the plank in the closed position.
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