

"SCAFFOLDING ASSEMBLY"**TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

THIS INVENTION relates to a scaffolding assembly and in particular, but not limited to a portable scaffolding assembly for use adjacent low-rise
5 buildings including domestic and light industrial or commercial buildings.

BACKGROUND ART

Trestles carrying planks are commonly used to service domestic buildings by painters and bricklayers. The main disadvantage of these trestle and plank arrangements is that they make access to the upper portion of a
10 building difficult and as they are free standing, are generally unsafe.

The present invention has as one object to alleviate at least to some degree the aforementioned problems associated with the prior art.

OUTLINE OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect therefore, the present invention resides in a portable
15 scaffolding assembly comprising spaced uprights, upper building engagement means and a platform, the spaced uprights extending generally vertically and being spaced from a building or the like, each upright extending from the ground and having an upper building engagement means bridging between the building and the upright in predetermined spaced relationship relative to the
20 building and the platform extending between the uprights.

In a preferred form there is provided a scaffolding assembly suitable for use on ground adjacent a low rise building of the type having a wall and roof structure supported by the wall, the scaffolding assembly comprising a plurality of uprights spaced along the wall structure and each upright being about the
25 same distance from the wall structure, each upright having a lower end on the ground and an upper end adjacent the roof, building engagement means extending from the building to each upright to hold the upper ends of the uprights in fixed spaced relation to the building, adjacent uprights having respective carriages and means for independently raising or lowering the
30 carriages incrementally in turn along the respective uprights, adjacent carriages pivotally supporting a platform therebetween and the platform extending from the uprights toward the wall structure.

Typically where it is desirable to carry out work on the roof of the building a safety fence extends about the upper ends of the uprights adjacent the roof.

The uprights can be any suitably rigid vertical members and typically
5 lightweight hollow telescopic sections are employed. Typically, the upright sections are adjustably secured together to account for the various height differences from building to building or along the scaffolding assembly. Each upright is typically pivotally coupled to the building engagement means so that the building engagement means can be secured to the building at different
10 angles relative to the uprights.

The building engagement means is typically a roof engaging means adapted to be coupled to a roof and bridge across to an upright. The building engagement means preferably allows limited vertical movement of the uprights relative to the building engagement means to account for site subsidence. In
15 another form the building engagement means is a T-shaped wall mounting where the top of the T-shape extends along the wall.

The uprights and building engagement means are preferably releasably held together by catch means having a mouth adapted to receive an upright and automatically close in order to hold the upright, the catch having positive
20 release means that must be actuated to release the upright.

The platform can be mounted to the uprights in any suitable fashion but is typically vertically adjustable. Typically, a cable and winch assembly is employed so that an operator can stand on the platform and winch the platform vertically up or down. The platform can extend horizontally,
25 sideways either side of the uprights or can extend both sides of the uprights. The platform is preferably coupled to the uprights by a carriage travelling on each upright. The platform is preferably made from a plurality of planks that can be separated for transport purposes adjacent planks being held together by rails having back-to-back channels holding respective edges of adjacent planks.

30 Typically, moveable rods or other rigid bridging means is used to pass through adjacent platform sections at spaced intervals to hold the platform sections together. The platform is preferably pivotally coupled to the uprights

at each end so that the platform can be selectively raised at each end. Advantageously, the platform is prestressed vertically using a prestressing means to limit downward vertical movement of the platform as a person walks on the platform. This inhibits bouncing. Preferably, safety rails are employed
5 bridging between uprights, the safety rails being located adjacent the platform and being adapted to pivot in concert with ends of the platform. Typically, a workbench is employed adjacent the platform and being adapted to move with the platform and being provided for the purpose of mounting tools or the like.

The scaffolding assembly preferably includes a jib and winch assembly
10 to elevate parts of the assembly while scaffolding is being erected. Typically, the jib is formed as part of or is attached to the building engagement means.

Where corners of the building are involved the scaffolding assembly is preferably equipped with a corner frame projecting from a carriage adjacent an upright located on one side of the corner and the corner frame being pivotally
15 coupled to a platform extending around and on the other side of the corner so that the scaffolding assembly follows the corner.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order that the present invention can be more readily understood and be put into practical effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying
20 drawings which illustrate preferred embodiments of the present invention and wherein:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a scaffolding assembly according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view illustrating a roof mounting means and in
25 the same drawing for convenience there is also illustrated a typical wall mounting means both of which are suitable for use with the present invention;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view illustrating typical carriage and platform details;

Figure 4 is a perspective view illustrating a typical corner frame
30 employed in a scaffolding assembly according to the present invention;

Figure 5 is a schematic view illustrating the usual method employed for raising and lowering a platform.

Figure 6 is a section showing an assembled platform in profile;

Figure 7 is a side view showing a platform brace arrangement;

Figure 8 is a plan view showing operation of a typical quick release clamp for connecting an upright to a building engagement means;

5 Figure 9A is a part view illustrating a connection between sections of an upright;

Figure 9B is an upright foot detail;

Figures 10, 11A, 11B and 12 are various brackets allowing various connections to uprights;

10 Figure 13 is a perspective view of a hand rail connection to an upright connector; and

Figures 14A and 14B illustrate connection of hand rail to a carriage.

Referring to the drawings and initially to Figure 1 there is illustrated a low rise building 10 having a wall structure 11 and a roof structure 12 supported by the wall 11. A scaffolding assembly 13 comprises, in this case,
15 four uprights 14, 15, 16 and 17 spaced along the wall structure with each upright being about the same distance from the wall structure, each upright has a lower end on the ground and an upper end adjacent the roof 12.

Building engagement means in the form of roof mounting brackets 18
20 extend from the building to each upright to hold the upper ends of the uprights in fixed space relation to the building, adjacent uprights have respective carriages 19, 20, 21 and 22 and hand winches 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively for independently raising or lowering the carriage incrementally in turn in order to raise and lower platforms 28, 29 and 30. To this end the
25 platforms are pivotally supported and extend toward the wall structure so that service personnel can raise and lower the platforms to work on the wall structure.

In the illustrated embodiment of Figure 1 a roof fence extends adjacent the eaves as shown and thereby provides a safety fence for service personnel
30 working on the roof.

It will be appreciated that the scaffolding assembly is particularly suitable for use in low rise building and can be utilised in either new buildings

where there is merely a wall framework and roof framework or in existing buildings.

Referring to Figure 2 there is illustrated two typical building engagement means whereby an upright 31 is in the process of being coupled to a roof mounting 18 and also for convenience is shown in the process of being coupled to a wall mounting 32. The mountings 18 and 32 are telescopic mountings to aid set up and as can be seen the mounting 32 is generally T-shaped extending along the wall structure 11 and is equipped with a pair of hooks 33 and 34 secured to the beam 35 and hooking over the wall frame member 36. Clamps are employed to secure the beam 35 at its respective ends as shown.

Also in Figure 2 is illustrated a quick release clamp 37 which includes a mouth 38 so that when the upright 31 is swung into place it passes through the mouth 38 and the clamp 37 automatically closes and locks upright 31 to the mountings 18 and 32.

Referring now to Figure 3 there is illustrated in more detail a typical carriage 22 where the upright 17 is shown and is of square section having 300mm spaced through holes 39 along its length the carriage including a tube section 40 mounted with rollers 41 and passing through a hat section 42 mounted over a cantilevered tube section 43 to provide a rigid platform support projecting from the tube 40. Tube 40 includes a slot 44 greater in length than the 300mm spacing of the holes 39. A locking pin 45 is employed to slide through a selected one of the holes 39 and also engage with the slot 44 to lock the carriage 22 at a selected position.

As can be seen platforms and platform frame members are pivotally coupled to the carriage so that a carriage can be raised using the winch 26 and then the locking pin 45 is moved to the next highest hole so the carriage is locked into position. The operator then moves to the other end of the platform and raises the carriage on the next upright and thereby levels the platform. This incremental movement is carried out alternately in order to raise and lower the platform to any desired position.

As can be seen in Figure 3 the platform 30 in this case has five planks

46 connected together with a pivot pin 47 which extends through the rails 48 of a platform support frame. The platform support frame includes cross members 49 and 50 which are braced using cables and turnbuckles as shown at 51 and 52 to thereby inhibit bouncing of the platform. The planks 46 are
5 connected together and held against individual movement by removable I-beams shown generally at 53.

A hand rail 54 is pivotally coupled at each end to the respective carriages and is seated on a L-shaped mounting 55 so that the hand rail is effectively locked in place and cannot be inadvertently moved.

10 Braces arranged the same as braces 51 and 52 are utilised the other side of the platform support frame.

Figure 4 illustrates the upright 15 which in all respects operates the same as the carriage and platform arrangement discussed above in relation to Figure 3. In Figure 4 a corner frame 56 is employed and this corner frame is
15 rigidly coupled to the carriage 20 and thereby moves with the carriage 20. The corner frame is braced and includes a lower roller bracket. Illustrated in phantom are the positions of a frame platform member 48 and reversal of the lower roller for an internal corner. The planks 28 which are only partially shown in Figure 4 extend over the corner frame and can if desired extend
20 beyond the corner frame. Planks 28 are pivotally mounted to the corner frame at 57 as previously described. As the carriage 20 in this case it is raised or lowered through 300mm at a time and the operator moves to the next carriages on the upright in this case the upright 14 he raises or lowers the carriage 19 accordingly. The corner frame 56 can have the roller bracket
25 reversed and the rails removed so it can be used as an inside corner such as the inside corner illustrated in relation to carriage 21 in Figure 1.

Figure 5 illustrates the incremental movement of respective carriages and it will be appreciated that the rails connecting the carriages and platform frames include slotted pivots to account for the parallelogram action resulting
30 from the pivotal movement relative to the carriages.

Referring to Figure 6 there is illustrated a typical platform showing the pivot pin also serving as a connector and the I-beams 53 used to prevent

independent movement of the planks 46.

Figure 7 illustrates the platform frame and bracing arrangement previously described.

Figure 8 illustrates in greater detail the quick release clamp 37 utilised with the uprights of Figure 1 and the upright 31 of Figure 2. As can be seen upright 31 is shown locked in place, handle 57 can be positively and manually moved to the position illustrated in phantom at 58 in order to release the upright 31. It will be appreciated that due to the use of a spring 59 when the upright 31 is not in place the handle 58 and the jaw 60 will be in the position illustrated in phantom. This provides a mouth between the moveable jaw 60 and the stationary jaw 61. A lever arm 62 is provided so that as the upright 31 moves through the mouth 38 and engages the lever arm 62 the jaw 60 automatically closes to the position shown in solid outline in Figure 8, thereby locking upright 31 in place.

Figures 9A and 9B are details of preferred uprights used with a scaffolding assembly as described previously. The uprights are usually made from a number of sections and Figure 9A illustrates a typical means for connecting sections of uprights together and in this case a connecting rail 61 is slidably disposed and telescopically positioned within respective upright sections 62 and 63 and pins 64 and 65 can be used to secure the sections together. Figure 9B illustrates a removable foot 66 suitable for use at the bottom of an upright and engaging the ground.

Figures 10 through 12 illustrate various brackets which can be slid along uprights and locked in the holes 39 using locking pins.

Figures 13, 13A and 14B illustrate a typical hand rail connection where a bracket similar to the connection 55 of Figure 2 includes a pin 67, a pivoting toggle 68 used to lock the hand rail in place. This process is shown in Figures 14A and 14B.

Whilst the above has been given by way of illustrative example of the present invention, many variations and modifications thereto will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the broad ambit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A scaffolding assembly suitable for use on ground adjacent a low rise building of the type having a wall and roof structure supported by the wall, the scaffolding assembly comprising a plurality of uprights spaced along the wall structure and each upright being about the same distance from the wall structure, each upright having a lower end on the ground and an upper end adjacent the roof, building engagement means extending from the building to each upright to hold the upper ends of the uprights in fixed spaced relation to the building, adjacent uprights having respective carriages and means for independently raising or lowering the carriages incrementally in turn along the respective uprights, adjacent carriages pivotally supporting a platform therebetween and the platform extending from the uprights toward the wall structure.
2. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein a fence extends about the upper ends of the uprights adjacent the roof structure to provide a safety fence for workers working on the roof structure.
3. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein each building engagement means comprises a roof structure mounting secured to the roof structure and connected to the upright at an inclined angle thereto.
4. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein the building engagement means comprises a generally T-shaped wall structure mounting means with the top of T-shape extending along and fixed to the wall structure.
5. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein the platform comprises a plurality of planks that can be separated for transport purposes, plank connector means being provided for holding the planks together so that the planks act as a single unit.
6. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 5 wherein the connector means comprises an elongate rail having back-to-back channels, respective channels receiving and holding respective edges of adjacent planks.
7. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein the platform extends around a corner, the corner including a corner frame projecting from and rigidly secured to a carriage and being pivotally coupled to a platform



extending from around and on the other side of the corner.

8. A scaffolding assembly according to claim 1 wherein the building engagement means and the uprights are secured together using a catch means having a mouth adapted to receive an upper end of the upright and automatically closed to hold the upright, the catch means having positive release means that must be actuated to release the upright.

