

1 TRACK JACK SYSTEM

2 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

3 The invention relates to a sliding door system for
4 freight elevator landings and, more particularly, to a
5 door suspension system that is easily and quickly
6 installed and adjusted.

7 PRIOR ART

8 Horizontal sliding doors for freight elevator
9 landings are typically suspended from overhead tracks.
10 Building codes and good workmanship dictate that the door
11 panels have a limited clearance with the sill plate at
12 the landing floor. Achieving a certain working clearance
13 without exceeding specified limits can be tedious and
14 time-consuming. Typically, a door system is installed by
15 attaching various hardware components to the existing
16 building. Relevant parts of the building are ordinarily
17 of masonry construction and by the nature of such
18 construction, are neither perfectly flat nor regular in
19 hardness and finish. These physical conditions make it
20 difficult for even a skilled installer to initially mount
21 system hardware in a precise location. Prior art
22 arrangements for adjusting the door panels vertically
23 have been less than ideal, requiring, for example,
24 individual adjustment of each door with eccentric roller
25 mounts or use of spacers. Eccentric roller mounts give a
26 non-linear response to adjustment and can throw a panel
27 out of plumb each time one of a pair of rollers is
28 adjusted. Use of spacers, known in the art, is typically
29 troublesome from both a manufacturing standpoint and an
30 installer's perspective. Where door panels in prior art
31 arrangements are individually vertically adjusted, the
32 time required to set all of the panels will ordinarily be
33 proportional to the number of door panels being
34 installed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

1
2 The invention relates to an improved system for
3 suspending horizontal sliding door panels at freight
4 elevator landings that reduces installation time and
5 effort while, at the same time, being simple and
6 economical to manufacture. The system has a vertical
7 adjustment arrangement that facilitates the original
8 installation of the overhead track for the door panels
9 and, additionally, serves to provide for the final
10 vertical adjustment of the door panels. The arrangement,
11 moreover, preferably, uses a screw to raise or lower the
12 track components and door panels with relative ease and
13 with linear, stepless precision.

14 In the preferred embodiment, the invention includes
15 a plurality of wall mounted brackets that suspend
16 overhead tracks for the sliding door panels. The
17 brackets are situated along the header over the landing
18 opening. The brackets are each initially attached to the
19 wall with an anchor bolt that, besides securing the
20 bracket to the wall, serves as a vertically fixed peg or
21 platform on which the bracket can be jacked up or down.
22 The bracket assembly has a vertically slotted leg and an
23 apertured block which together are assembled on an
24 exposed portion of the installed wall anchor. A jacking
25 screw carried in a threaded hole in the bracket body
26 bears against the block enabling this screw to raise or
27 lower the bracket relative to the anchor with the
28 vertical slot accommodating this motion. Several
29 identical or similar brackets are installed in the same
30 manner along the entrance header to collectively support
31 the tracks from which the door panels are suspended.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a somewhat schematic fragmentary elevational view of a freight elevator landing door assembly as seen from the shaft;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the tracks and supporting brackets of the door assembly;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a typical track mounting bracket and portions of tracks;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a typical bracket taken in the plane 4-4 indicated in FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of the door assembly taken in the plane 4-4 indicated in FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings and in particular to FIG. 1, there is shown, from the shaft side, a freight elevator landing door installation 10 including a set of four horizontal sliding door panels 11 in a closed position. The door panels 11 protect an opening to the elevator shaft at a landing. The panels 11 are suspended from overhead tracks 13 in a generally conventional manner. Each panel 11 has a pair of associated traction rollers 14 that roll on a horizontal surface 23 (FIG. 5) of a respective track 13. The rollers 14 of each panel are mounted on a bracket 16 (FIG. 5), a separate bracket being associated with each panel 11. Preferably, each bracket 16 (FIG. 5) is bolted to the top edge of a respective panel 11. The door panels 11 in the illustrated case are in pairs, two associated with the left (as viewed in the figures) and two associated with the right. The panels 11 of each pair are in staggered vertical planes with the outer panels adjacent the plane of the shaft or building wall, designated 17, and the central panels spaced from the wall slightly more than the thickness of the outer panels. The panels 11 can be

1 identical or nearly identical in construction, as
2 desired.

3 With reference to FIG. 5, the bottoms of the door
4 panels 11 are guided by gibs 18. Preferably, a pair of
5 gibs is associated with each panel. The gibs 18, which
6 are bolted to the panels to enable their replacement, are
7 received in and slide along respective slots 19 in a sill
8 assembly 21.

9 The illustrated suspension tracks 13 are fabricated
10 from steel stock into a J-shape with the hook end
11 including a rectangular tube 22 or an equivalent form to
12 provide the horizontal roller support surface 23. The
13 tracks 13 (FIG. 4) are secured to the underside surfaces
14 24 of a plurality of bracket assemblies 26 spaced along
15 the header, designated 27 (FIG. 1) of the opening 12
16 (FIG. 5).

17 The bracket assemblies 26 (FIG. 4) can be identical
18 (with the exception that the central bracket can have a
19 double set of track mounting slots). A main body 28 of
20 the bracket assembly 26 can be made, preferably, of a
21 single sheet of steel bent and welded into the
22 illustrated shape. The main body includes a vertical leg
23 31 and a horizontal leg 32. The lateral edges of the
24 legs 31, 32 are interconnected by triangular gussets 33.
25 The top of the bracket 28 has a horizontal web 34 and a
26 downwardly extending reinforcing flange 36. The web 34
27 is integral with the vertical leg 31 and the downwardly
28 extending flange is integral with the web. The web 34
29 and flange 36, preferably, are welded at their lateral
30 edges to the gussets 33. A boss 37 is welded or
31 otherwise fixed at a hole 38 in the web 34 centered
32 between the gussets and has a vertical internally
33 threaded bore 39. A jacking screw 41 in the form of a
34 threaded machine bolt, is assembled in the threaded boss
35 37. A vertical slot 42 in the vertical bracket leg 31 is

1 centered between the gussets 33 and a round hole 43 is
2 formed through the vertical bracket leg on a common
3 vertical center line with the slot. Thus, preferably,
4 the slot 42 and hole 43 are symmetrically disposed about
5 a vertical plane perpendicular to the vertical bracket
6 leg 31 and passing through the axis of the jacking screw
7 41.

8 A rectangular block 46, preferably of steel, is
9 proportioned to slide vertically between the gussets 33
10 and includes a central hole that aligns with the slot 42.
11 The block 46 has a thickness sufficient when in contact
12 or near contact with the vertical bracket leg 31 to
13 extend under the jacking screw 41 and, ideally,
14 completely under its diameter to provide a full bearing
15 surface for the end face of the screw. The horizontal
16 bracket leg 32 has a series of slots 47, each slot
17 overlying a respective one of the tracks 13. The
18 illustrated brackets 16 are arranged to support three
19 tracks corresponding to a six-panel door. For
20 illustrative purposes, the third track is shown in
21 phantom (FIG. 3).

22 The door installation 10 (FIG. 1) can be initiated
23 by mounting a sill assembly 21 at the shaft wall 17 at
24 the level of the landing floor with appropriate masonry
25 anchor bolts or other accepted technique. Thereafter, a
26 bracket assembly 26 can be mounted on the shaft wall 17
27 centered above the door opening a specified distance
28 above the sill assembly 21. This is accomplished by
29 first drilling a hole in the header area 27 of the wall
30 17 sized to work with a specified anchor bolt.
31 Thereafter, with an anchor bolt 51 positioned in the
32 drilled hole, designated 52, the bracket body 28, block
33 46, washers 53 and nut 54 are assembled on the anchor
34 bolt 51 as shown in FIG. 4. With the first bracket
35 assembly 26 installed, the remaining bracket assemblies

26 can be similarly installed. A recommended procedure to accomplish this task is to use the tracks 13 with factory-installed upstanding threaded studs 55 to laterally locate the remaining bracket assemblies 16. A first stud 55 is inserted into the proper slot 47 in the central bracket body 28. The central bracket assembly 28 can be provided with a double set of slots 47 to receive respective studs 55 at the ends of left and right sections of the tracks 13. The tracks 13 are preliminarily leveled and temporarily held in place with suitable clamps and/or props. Other bracket assemblies 26 are positioned so that appropriate studs 55 are received in their respective slots 47. Holes 52 are drilled in the shaft wall header 27 at the center of the slots 42 of the additional bracket assemblies 26 and these bracket assemblies are provisionally installed as described for the center bracket assembly. A track spacer plate 56 has holes for receiving and locating the studs 55, and therefore locating the tracks 13 in a desired spacing relative to one another. A spacer plate is associated with each bracket 26. Nuts 57 are assembled on upstanding track studs 55 to fasten the tracks 13 to the brackets 26. The slots 47 permit the tracks 13 to be adjusted horizontally towards and away from the shaft wall 17 as required.

In the illustrated arrangement, as described above, each door panel 11 has an associated hanger or bracket 16 on which is assembled a pair of traction rollers 14. The hangers or brackets 16 are installed with the rollers on the track support surfaces 23. With the hangers 16 located on appropriate tracks 13, the door panels 11 can be bolted onto the hangers. For example, bolts (not shown), assembled vertically through holes in horizontal webs of the hangers 16 can be turned into threaded holes in the upper edges of the door panels 11 to secure the

1 door panels to the hangers. With each door panel 11
2 secured to a respective hanger 16, the panels are
3 suspended overhead from the tracks 13.

4 The bracket assemblies 26 afford a convenient,
5 accurate and fast way of adjusting a gap 61 (FIG. 5)
6 between the bottom of the door panels 11 and the sill 21
7 to meet building code requirements and assure smooth
8 opening and closing operation of the door panels. With
9 the nuts 54 slightly loose on the studs of the anchor
10 bolts 51, the jack screws 41 can be rotated in either
11 direction as needed to raise or lower the tracks 13 and,
12 therefore, the door panels 11. The jack screws 41 bear
13 against the top surface of their respective blocks 46
14 thereby transferring the weight of the tracks 13 and door
15 panels 11 to the anchor bolt 51 while allowing the
16 respective bracket assemblies 26 to move vertically
17 within limits of the slots 42. One or more bracket
18 assemblies 26 are adjusted as necessary. The adjustment
19 mechanism afforded by the jack screw 41 has the desirable
20 characteristic of being linear, lifting or lowering the
21 door panels 11 a distance directly proportional to the
22 angle through which a screw is turned. All of the door
23 panels 11 are adjusted at the same time rather than being
24 adjusted one at a time. When the door panels have been
25 properly adjusted, each of the bracket assemblies 26 can
26 be locked in position by drilling a hole in the building
27 wall header 27 using the hole 43 as a pilot. Thereafter,
28 an anchor bolt 63, shown in phantom in FIG. 4, is
29 positioned through the bracket hole 43 into the drilled
30 hole. A nut 64 on this second anchor 63 can then be
31 tightened for additional securement of the bracket
32 assembly 26. Additionally, the nut 54 associated with
33 the first anchor bolt 51 is fully tightened at this time.

1 It should be evident that this disclosure is by way
2 of example and that various changes may be made by
3 adding, modifying or eliminating details without
4 departing from the fair scope of the teaching contained
5 in this disclosure. The invention is therefore not
6 limited to particular details of this disclosure except
7 to the extent that the following claims are necessarily
8 so limited.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A mounting bracket for tracks that suspend
2 sliding doors of an elevator shaft entrance comprising a
3 metal body having vertical and horizontal portions, the
4 vertical portion having a vertically oriented slot
5 therethrough for receiving a horizontally oriented
6 mounting bolt and fastening the bracket to the wall of
7 the elevator shaft, and a jacking screw assembled on the
8 bracket for raising and lowering the bracket relative to
9 the mounting bolt.

1 2. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the jacking screw is assembled on the bracket
3 above the vertical slot.

1 3. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 2,
2 wherein the vertical slot and jacking screw are in a
3 common vertical plane.

1 4. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said slot is located at the horizontal center of
3 the bracket.

1 5. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said bracket is a weldment of steel sheet stock.

1 6. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 5,
2 wherein the bracket has vertical and horizontal legs
3 forming a right angle and includes gussets extending
4 between said vertical and horizontal legs.

1 7. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 6,
2 including mounting holes in the horizontal leg for
3 suspending the track from a lower side of said horizontal
4 leg with fasteners extending through said holes.

1 8. A mounting bracket as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein said jack screw is supported on a flange parallel
3 to said horizontal leg.

1 9. A method of installing entrance doors at an
2 elevator landing comprising the steps of mounting a track
3 at the header of a landing opening, and mounting a sill
4 at the level of the floor at the opening, hanging door
5 panels from the track by supporting the weight of the
6 doors by sets of rollers resting on horizontal surfaces
7 of the track, adjusting the height of the lower edges of
8 the panels above the sill by moving the track up or down
9 as required while the door panels remain suspended on the
10 track.

1 10. A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the
2 track is suspended under a plurality of brackets
3 supported on the header.

1 11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the
2 brackets are carried on anchor bolts in the header of the
3 opening.

1 12. A method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the
2 brackets are provided with jacking screws arranged when
3 turned to move the brackets up or down relative to said
4 anchor bolts.

1 13. A freight elevator landing door installation in
2 a shaft comprising a plurality of horizontal sliding door
3 panels, a sill assembly secured to the shaft wall at the
4 floor level of the landing, a bracket system attached to
5 the header of the opening and overlying the door panels,
6 a set of brackets supporting a horizontal track, traction
7 rollers associated with each of the door panels arranged
8 to suspend the door panels from the track, the brackets
9 being supported on the shaft header with anchor bolts
10 projecting from the opening header, and jacking screws
11 arranged to raise or lower the brackets relative to the
12 anchor bolts.

1 14. A freight elevator landing door installation as
2 set forth in claim 13, wherein the jacking screws are
3 arranged so that they rotate about an axis that
4 intersects an axis of an anchor bolt.

1 15. A freight elevator landing door installation as
2 set forth in claim 14, wherein the jacking screws are
3 arranged to operate above the anchor bolts.