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Kim

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(54) **ACCESSORY MOUNT FOR A FIREARM**

(75) Inventor: **Paul Y. Kim**, Santa Ana, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Surefire, LLC**, Fountain Valley, CA (US)

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F41G 1/387 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **42/124**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 42/85, 42/124–127

See application file for complete search history.

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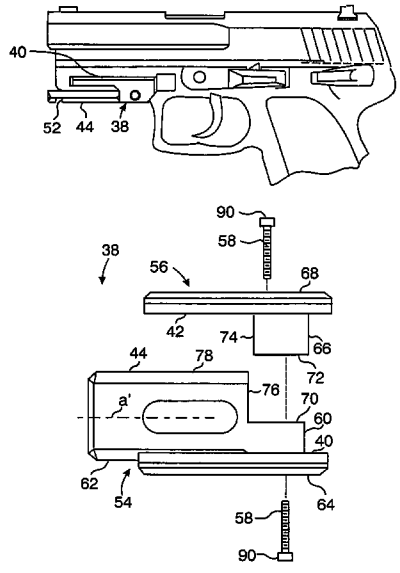
Primary Examiner—Troy Chambers
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—David Weiss

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An accessory mount removably securable to a firearm, the mount including a rail adapted for removably mounting an accessory thereto. The accessory mount of the preferred embodiment includes two structural members that are releasably securable to one another for removable securement to two longitudinally extending depressions along the frame of the firearm.

26 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



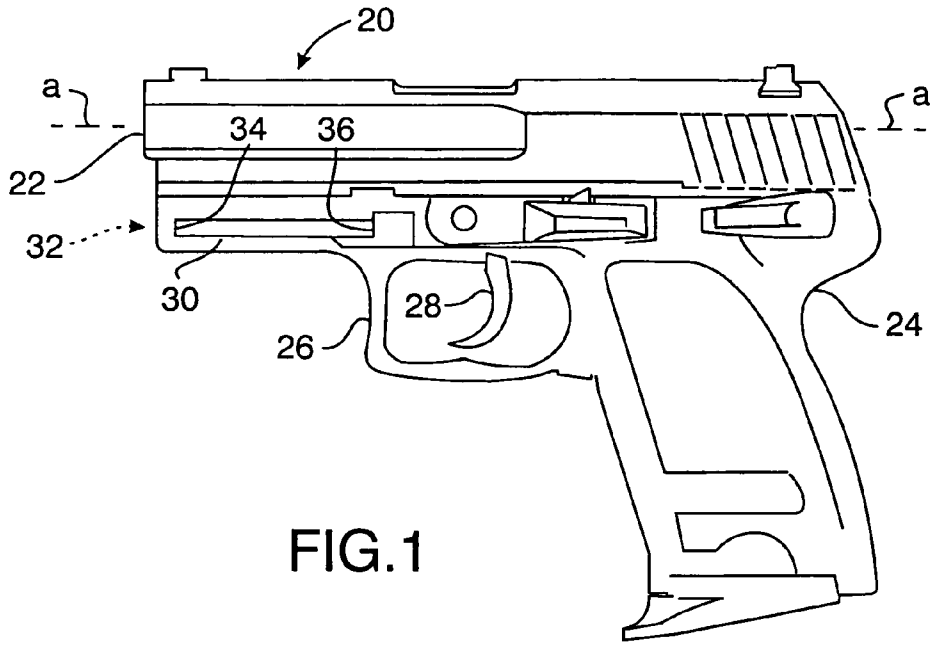


FIG.1

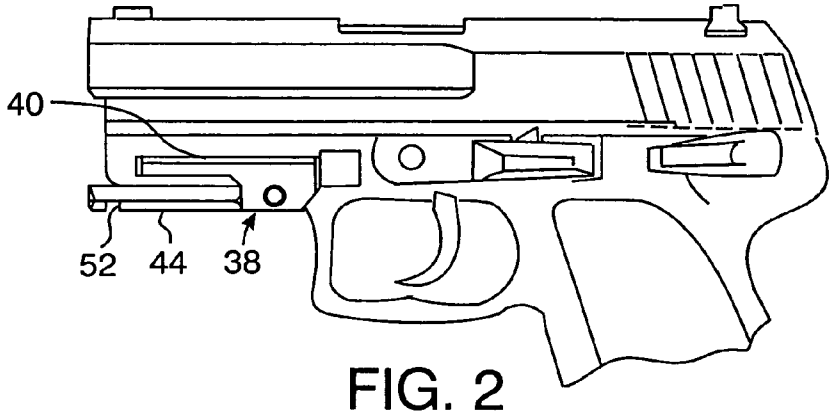


FIG. 2

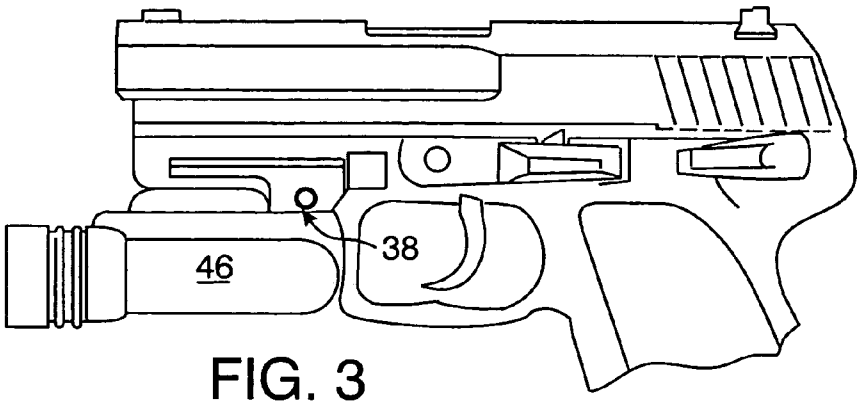


FIG. 3

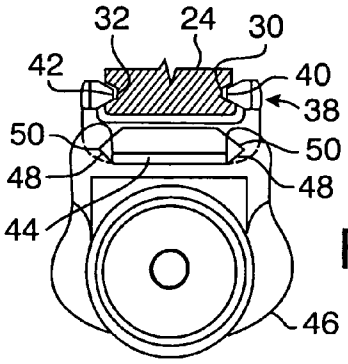


FIG. 4

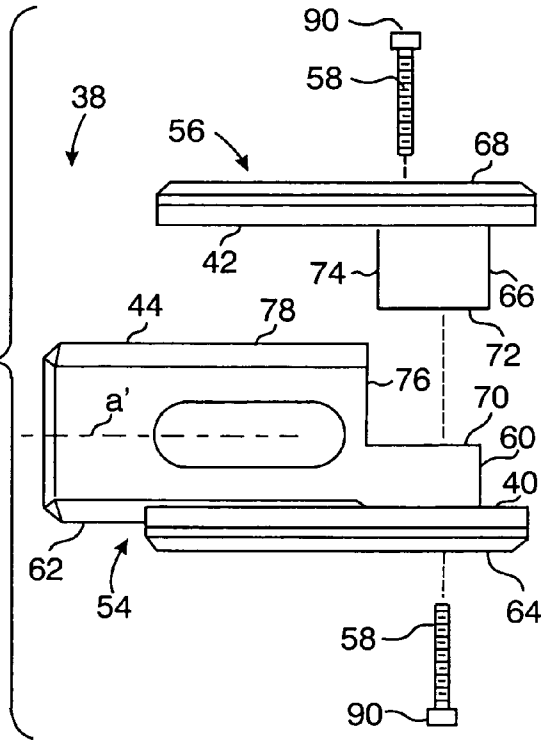


FIG. 5

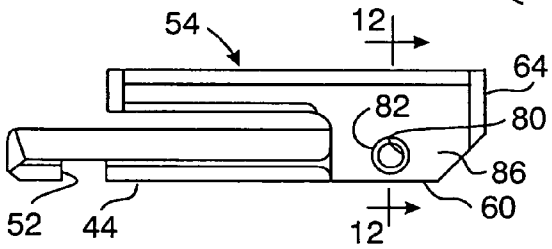


FIG. 6

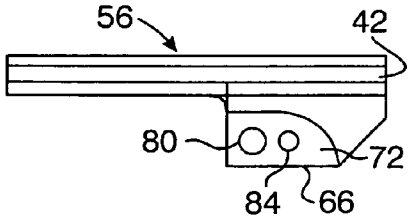


FIG. 8

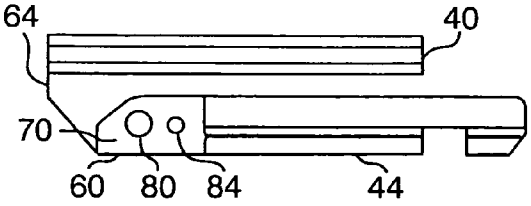


FIG. 7

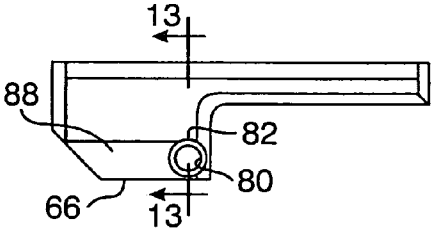


FIG. 9

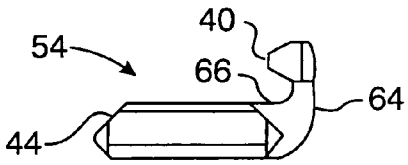


FIG. 10

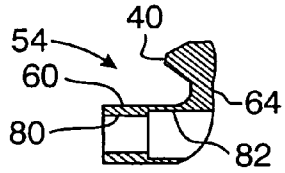


FIG. 12

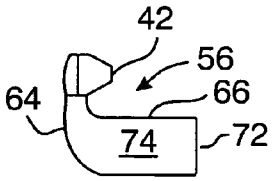


FIG. 11

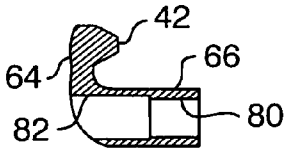


FIG. 13

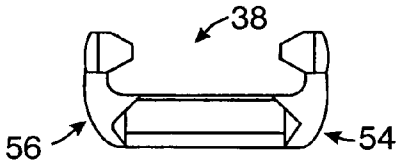


FIG. 14

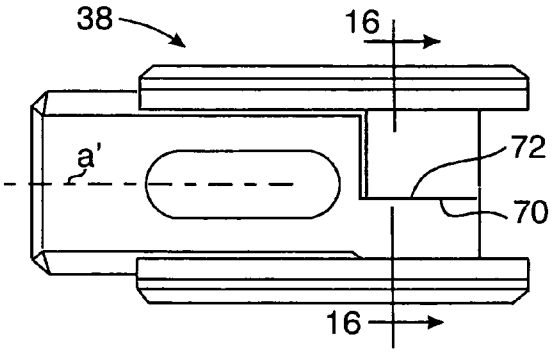


FIG. 15

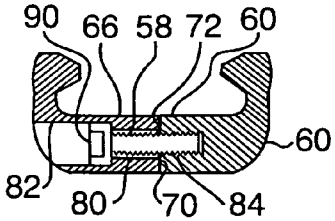


FIG. 16

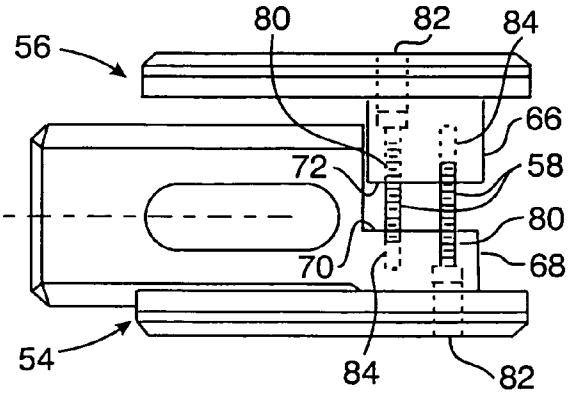


FIG. 17

ACCESSORY MOUNT FOR A FIREARM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to accessory mounts for mounting an accessory to a firearm, and more particularly to a mount or interface adapter for removably securing a light beam generator apparatus to a firearm including a handgun.

Light beam generator apparatus, such as flashlights and laser aiming devices, have long been adapted for being secured to firearms as target illuminators and laser sights. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,777,754, issued to Edward C. Reynolds, Jr. and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, teaches a light beam generator assembly mounted to a firearm below the firearm's barrel and forwardly of the firearm's trigger guard. Reynolds U.S. Pat. No. 4,777,754 is incorporated herein by reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,237, issued to John W. Matthews and Paul Y. Kim and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, discloses an accessory mount or interface adapter clamped to the front of the handgun's trigger guard and longitudinally extending beneath the handgun's barrel. The accessory mount includes a rail having a pair of longitudinal grooves, one along each side of the rail, and the light beam generator apparatus includes a pair of longitudinal tongues for slidably mating with the mount's longitudinal grooves for being slidably held along the rail. A latch on the light beam generator housing co-acts with a transverse slot in the rail to releasably prevent further longitudinal movement of the light beam generator apparatus when such apparatus is at a predetermined position along the rail. Matthews et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,237 is incorporated herein by reference.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

By the present invention, there is provided an accessory mount or interface adapter having a rail for mounting a rail mountable accessory (in particular a light beam generator apparatus) to a firearm having respective longitudinal depressions along opposite sides of the firearm's frame. The preferred embodiment of the accessory mount is removably securable to a firearm such as a USP handgun manufactured by Heckler & Koch Inc.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an accessory, mount for mounting an accessory device to a firearm, the firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of the frame, the accessory mount comprising the combination of: a first structural member and a second structural member adapted to be releasably secured to one another; the first structural member including a longitudinal rail adapted for removably securing the accessory device thereto, the first structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from one side of the rail and having a longitudinally extending first protuberance configured for being received by the first depression; and the second structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from the other side of the rail when the first structural member and the second structural member are secured to one another, such portion having a longitudinally extending second protuberance configured for being received by the second depression when the first protuberance is received by the first depression with the first structural member and the second structural member secured to one another and the rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is provided by an accessory mount for mounting an accessory device to a firearm, the firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression along opposite sides of the frame, the accessory mount comprising the combination of: a first structural member including a longitudinal rail adapted for removably securing the accessory device thereto, a first section extending rearwardly of a portion of the width of the rail toward one side of the rail, and a first arm upwardly projecting from the first section along such side and including a longitudinally extending first protuberance configured for being received by the first depression; a second structural member including a second section configured for being placed to the first section and rearwardly of another portion of the width of the rail toward the other side of the rail, and a second arm upwardly projecting from the second section and including a longitudinally extending second protuberance configured for being received by the second depression; and the first structural member and the second structural member being adapted to be releasably secured to one another with the first protuberance received by the first depression, the second protuberance received by the second depression, and the rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel.

In the preferred embodiment, the first section and the second section are adapted to be releasably secured to one another for releasably securing the first structural member and the second structural member to one another. At least one fastener (and preferably two fasteners) cooperates with the first section and the second section for releasably securing the first section and the second section to one another.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided firearm and accessory mount apparatus comprising in combination: a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of the frame; a first structural member including a rail adapted for removably securing an accessory device thereto, the rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel, the first structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from one side of the rail and having a longitudinally extending first protuberance received by the first depression; a second structural member releasably secured to the first structural member, the second structural member upwardly projecting from the other side of the rail and having a longitudinally extending second protuberance received by the second depression; and a fastener releasably securing the first structural member and the second structural member to one another.

The preferred embodiment of the firearm and accessory mount apparatus combination of the present invention comprises: a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of the frame; a first structural member including a rail adapted for removably securing an accessory device thereto, the rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel, the first structural member including a first section extending rearwardly of a portion of the width of the rail toward one side of the rail, and a first arm upwardly projecting from the first section along such one side and including a longitudinally extending first protuberance received by the first depression; a second structural member including a second section rearwardly of another portion of the width of the rail toward the other side of the rail, a second arm upwardly projecting from the second section and including a longitudinally extending

second protuberance received by the second depression; and the first structural member and the second structural member being releasably secured to one another.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed to be characteristic of the invention, together with further advantages thereof, will be better understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated by way of example. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention.

FIG. **1** is a side elevation view of a firearm, specifically a handgun;

FIG. **2** is a side elevation view of the firearm of FIG. **1** with a preferred embodiment of an accessory mount or interface adapter according to the present invention secured thereto;

FIG. **3** is similar to FIG. **2**, except that a light beam generator apparatus is shown mounted to the accessory mount;

FIG. **4** is a front view of the accessory mount with secured light beam generator shown in FIG. **3** (in increased scale), secured to the firearm shown in fragmentary cross-section;

FIG. **5** is an exploded top plan view of the accessory mount shown in FIGS. **2-4** (in increased scale) showing a first structural member and a second structural member in position for being secured together;

FIG. **6** is a left side elevation view of the first structural member included in the accessory mount shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **7** is a right side elevation view of the first structural member of FIG. **6**;

FIG. **8** is a left side elevation view of the second structural member shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **9** is a right side elevation view of the second structural member shown in FIG. **8**;

FIG. **10** is a front elevation view of the first structural member shown in FIGS. **5-7**;

FIG. **11** is a front elevation view of the second structural member shown in FIGS. **5**,**8** and **9**;

FIG. **12** is a cross-sectional view of the first structural member shown in FIGS. **5-7**, taken along the line **12-12** of FIG. **6** and viewed in the direction of the appended arrows;

FIG. **13** is a cross-sectional view of the second structural element shown in FIGS. **5**, **8** and **9**, taken along the line **13-13** of FIG. **9** and viewed in the direction of the appended arrows;

FIG. **14** is a front view of the assembled accessory mount, i.e. the secured-together first and second structural members shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **15** is a top plan view of the assembled accessory mount of FIG. **14**;

FIG. **16** is a cross-sectional view of the assembled accessory mount of FIG. **15**, taken along the line **16-16** of FIG. **15** and viewed in the direction of the appended arrows; and

FIG. **17** is a top plan view of the accessory mount of FIG. **5** with the first and second structural members shown in a release position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning to the drawings, there is illustrated in FIG. **1** an example of a firearm **20**, specifically a USP Compact handgun manufactured by Heckler & Koch Inc. The firearm **20** includes a barrel **22** extending along a longitudinal axis a from the handgun's frame **24**, and includes a trigger guard **26** in front of the handgun's trigger **28**.

As used herein, the word "longitudinal" describes a direction parallel to the axis a; "transverse" describes a horizontal direction perpendicular to the axis a when the barrel **22** is horizontally positioned; "above" means vertically above when the handgun **20** is held with its barrel **22** horizontal; "above" means vertically above when the handgun **20** is held with its barrel **22** horizontal; "below" or "beneath" means vertically below when the handgun **20** is held with the barrel **22** horizontal; "front" or "forward" describes the direction toward the muzzle of the barrel **22** from the trigger **28** (i.e., to the left as shown in FIGS. **1-3**, **5**, **6**, **8**, **15** and **17**, and to the right as viewed in FIGS. **7** and **9**); "rear" or "rearward" describes the direction opposite the front or forward direction; "left" means to the left when forwardly viewed from the rear of the firearm **20**; and "right" means to the right when forwardly viewed from the rear of the firearm **20**.

Returning to FIG. **1**, the firearm or handgun **20** includes a first longitudinal groove or depression **30** along one side (such as the left side) of the frame **24**, and a second longitudinal groove or depression **32** (see also FIG. **4**) along the other side (such as the right side) of the frame **24**. Each of the longitudinal depressions **30**, **32** includes a front end wall **34** and a rear end wall **36**.

As shown in FIGS. **2** and **4**, a preferred embodiment of an accessory mount or interface adapter **38** according to the present invention is secured to the handgun frame **24**, specifically by two inwardly facing longitudinally extending protuberances **40**, **42** fittingly received by the outwardly facing longitudinal depressions **30**, **32**, respectively, between the front and rear end walls **34**, **36** of each of the longitudinal depressions **30**, **32**.

When the accessory mount **38** is so secured to the handgun **20**, a rail **44** included by the accessory mount **38** longitudinally extends beneath the barrel **22**. After the accessory mount **38** has been installed on the handgun **20**, a firearm accessory such as a light beam generator apparatus or light module **46** may be mounted to the accessory mount **38**. For example, as shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**, the light module **46** may include a pair of longitudinal grooves **48** for slidably mating with respective longitudinal tongues **50** of the accessory mount's rail **44**. A latch on the light beam generator housing may co-act with a transverse slot **52** in the rail for releasably preventing further longitudinal movement of the light beam generator **46** along the rail **44** when the light beam generator **46** is at a predetermined position along the rail **44**. Light beam generators of this type are shown in the aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,237 incorporated herein by reference.

Turning to FIGS. **5-13**, the accessory mount **38** includes a first structural member **54** and a second structural member **56** adapted to be releasably secured to one another such as by headed screws **58** cooperatively engaging the structural members **54**, **56** as will be more fully explained below.

The first structural member **54** includes the rail **44** extending along the longitudinal axis a'. The first structural member **54** further includes a first section **60** extending rearwardly of a portion of the rail's width (i.e. the rail dimension transverse to the longitudinal axis a') toward one side **62** of the rail **44**. The first section **60** is preferably substantially rectangular with its upper surface extending in substantially the same plane (in at least the forward portion of the section **60**) as the upper surface of the rail **44**, the section **60** forming

an "L" shape with the rail **44**, and the thickness of the section **60** being substantially the same (in at least the forward portion of the section **60**) as the thickness (the dimension from upper surface to lower surface) of the rail **44**.

The first structural member **54** includes a first arm **64** upwardly projecting from the section **60** (see, in particularly, FIGS. **6**, **7**, **10** and **12**) along the one side **62** of the rail **44**. The arm **64** includes the longitudinally extending, inwardly directed first tongue or protuberance **40**.

The second structural member **56** includes a second section **66**, preferably substantially rectangular and of thickness substantially the same as the thickness of the first section **60**, and dimensioned for fitting into the "L" of the first structural member **54**. The second structural member **56** further includes a second arm **68** upwardly projecting from the second section **66** including the longitudinally extending, inwardly directed tongue or second protuberance **42**.

The second section **66** is dimensioned such that the second structural member **56** may be placed to the first structural member **54** with the inner longitudinal face **70** of the first section **60** and the inner longitudinal face **72** of the second section **66** transversely engaging or contacting one another. Upon such occurrence, the forward transverse face **74** of the second section **66** faces, either contacting or preferably just rearwardly of, the rear face **76** along the rail's remaining width portion toward the other side **78** of the rail **44**, with the first and second arms **64**, **68** substantially equally transversely spaced from the longitudinal axis a' and the inwardly facing first and second longitudinal protuberances **40**, **42** substantially equally transversely spaced from the longitudinal axis a'.

The first and second structural members **54**, **56** are secured together when thusly positioned, such as by utilization of a fastener cooperating with the first and second sections **60**, **66** releasably securing the first and second sections **60**, **66** to one another.

At least one of the sections **54**, **56** includes a transverse bore therethrough aligned with an internally threaded blind transverse bore in the other section, the two sections being releasably secured to each other by a headed screw **58** extending through the bore through the one section and threaded to the aligned threaded bore in the other section. Preferably, two such bore/threaded bore and screw combinations are utilized.

Specifically, in the preferred embodiment of the accessory mount **38** shown in the drawings (see in particularly FIGS. **12**, **13**, **16** and **17**), each of the first and second sections **54**, **56** includes a transverse bore **80** and counterbore **82**, as well as a transverse threaded bore **84** transversely aligned with the bore **80** in the other of the sections **54**, **56**, so that one of the counterbores **82** opens to the outer longitudinal face **86** of the first section **60** (see also FIG. **6**) and the other counterbore **82** opens to the outer longitudinal face **88** of the second section **66** (see also FIG. **9**). When fastening the two structural members **54**, **56** together, one of the screws **58** is inserted through one of the counterbore/bore combinations **82**, **80** in the first section **60** and threadedly cooperates with the aligned threaded bore **84** in the second section **66**, while the other of the screws **58** is inserted through the other of the counterbore/bore combinations **82**, **80** in the second section **66** threadedly cooperating with the aligned threaded bore **84** in the first section **60**. The screws are thereupon tightened until the screw heads **90** are urged against the respective peripheral annular ledges of the counterbores **82** while the inner faces **70**, **72** of the respective first and second sections **60**, **66** are in contact engagement (see, in particular, FIGS. **15** and **16**).

When securing the accessory mount **38** to the handgun **20**, the user places the first structural member **54** to the handgun **20** with the longitudinal rail **44** beneath the barrel **22**, with the axis a' parallel to and beneath the axis a, and with the longitudinally extending protuberance **40** inserted in the elongate depression **30** of the handgun's frame **24**. The user also places the accessory mount's second structural member **56** to the handgun **20** with the second longitudinally extending protuberance **42** inserted in the second longitudinal depression **32** of the handgun frame **24**, and with the inner faces **70** and **72** of the first and second structural member sections **60** and **66** facing one another. The headed screws **58** are inserted in their respective counterbore/bore and threaded bore combinations **82**, **80**, **84** and tightened as previously described. Such dual screw arrangement prevents pivoting of the two sections **60**, **66** (and hence of the two structural members **54**, **56**) with respect to one another, such as pivoting about a transverse axis.

The lengths of longitudinal protuberances **40**, **42** are preferably slightly less than the lengths of the respective longitudinal depressions **30**, **32**, so that the protuberances **40**, **42** just fit between the front and rear walls **34**, **36** of the longitudinal depressions **30**, **32**. When installed to the handgun **20**, the accessory mount **38** is vertically retained by the depressions **30**, **32** of the handgun frame **24** while being constrained as well against longitudinal and transverse movement with respect to the handgun frame **24**.

When the accessory mount **38** is not installed on the handgun **20**, or while being placed to and removed from the handgun **20**, the two structural members **54**, **56** may nevertheless be retained to one another if desired. The length of the threaded bores **84** with respect to the length of the shafts of the headed screws **58** are preferably related such that an end portion of each threaded screw **58** is threadedly retained by its threaded bore **84** when the two structural members are held apart such that the transverse separation between the two protuberances **40**, **42** is greater than the width of the handgun frame **24** beneath the handgun's longitudinally extending depressions **30**, **32**. Such disposition of the two structural members **54**, **56** is shown in FIG. **17**, and the combination of the two structural members **54**, **56** as so disposed may be placed to the handgun **20** whereupon the user urges the two structural members **54**, **56** transversely toward one another until the protuberances **40**, **42** are received by their respective depressions **30**, **32**. The user then tightens the screws **58** for completing the installation of the accessory mount **38** to the handgun frame **24**.

The user may release the first and second structural members **54**, **56** from one another for removing the accessory mount **38** from the handgun **20**, by unscrewing the screws **58** until the two structural members **54**, **56** may be held apart such that the two protuberances **40**, **42** are separated by a distance greater than the width of the handgun frame **24** beneath the depressions **30**, **32** and thereby transversely withdrawn from the two depressions **30**, **32**, whereupon the user may downwardly and forwardly remove the accessory mount **38** from the handgun **20**.

If desired, of course, the user may continue releasing the two structural members **54**, **56** from one another by continuing to unscrew the screws **58** until the two structural members **54**, **56** are completely removed from one another. In such event, the user may transversely withdraw the two protuberances **40**, **42** from their respective depressions **30**, **32** and thereby remove the two structural members **54**, **56** of the accessory mount **38** from the handgun **20**.

Each of the structural members **54**, **56** of the accessory mount **38** of the present invention may be made using

fabrication methods well known in the art, of well known materials typically used in the art of making firearm accessory mounts including rigid and durable materials such as polymeric materials as well as lightweight aluminum alloys.

Thus, there has been described a preferred embodiment of an accessory mount removably securable to a firearm, the mount including a longitudinal rail adapted for removably mounting an accessory thereto. The accessory mount of the preferred embodiment includes two structural members that are releasably securable to one another for removable securement to two longitudinally extending depressions along the frame of the firearm. Other embodiments of the present invention, and variations of the embodiments described herein may be developed without departing from the essential characteristics thereof. Accordingly, the invention should be limited only by the scope of the claims set forth below.

I claim:

1. For combination with a firearm, an accessory mount for mounting an accessory device to the firearm, the firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of the frame, the accessory mount comprising the combination of:

a first structural member and a second structural member adapted to be releasably secured to one another;

said first structural member including a longitudinal rail adapted for removably securing the accessory device thereto, said first structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from one side of said rail and having a longitudinally extending first protuberance configured for being received by the first depression; and

said second structural member upwardly projecting from the other side of said rail when said first structural member and said second structural member are secured to one another, said second structural member having a longitudinally extending second protuberance configured for being received by the second depression when said first protuberance is received by the first depression with said first structural member and said second structural member secured to one another and said rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel.

2. The accessory mount according to claim **1**, the firearm including a trigger guard and the first and second longitudinal depressions extending forwardly of the trigger guard, wherein:

said rail extends forwardly of said trigger guard when said first structural member and said second structural member are secured to one another with said first protuberance received by the first depression and said second protuberance received by the second depression.

3. The accessory mount according to claim **1**, wherein:

said first protuberance is configured for being transversely received by the first depression and said second protuberance is configured for being transversely received by the first depression during securement of said first and second structural members to one another.

4. The accessory mount according to claim **3**, wherein:

said first protuberance is configured for being transversely withdrawn from the first depression and said second protuberance is configured for being transversely withdrawn from the second depression during release of the securement of said first structural member and said second structural member.

5. The accessory mount according to claim **1**, wherein:

said first protuberance is configured for being fittingly received by the first depression and said second protuberance is configured for being fittingly received by the second depression.

6. For combination with a firearm, an accessory mount for mounting an accessory device to the firearm, the firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of the frame, the accessory mount comprising the combination of:

a first structural member including a longitudinal rail adapted for removably securing the accessory device thereto, a first section extending rearwardly of a portion of the width of said rail toward one side of said rail, and a first arm upwardly projecting from said first section along said one side and including a longitudinally extending first protuberance configured for being received by the first depression;

a second structural member including a second section configured for being placed to said first section and rearwardly of another portion of said width of said rail toward the other side of said rail, and a second arm upwardly projecting from said second section and including a longitudinally extending second protuberance configured for being received by the second depression; and

said first structural member and said second structural member being adapted to be releasably secured to one another with said first protuberance received by the first depression, said second protuberance received by the second depression and said rail longitudinally extending beneath the barrel.

7. The accessory mount according to claim **6**, wherein:

said first section and said second section are adapted to be releasably secured to one another for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

8. The accessory mount according to claim **7**, including:

at least one fastener cooperating with said first section and said second section for releasably securing said first section and said second section to one another.

9. The accessory mount according to claim **7**, including:

at least one fastener transversely cooperating with said first section and said second section for releasably securing said first section and second section to one another.

10. The accessory mount according to claim **6**, wherein:

one of said sections includes a transverse bore therethrough and the other of said sections includes a transverse threaded bore, said accessory mount including a screw extending through said bore in said one of said sections and threaded to said threaded bore in said other of said sections for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

11. The accessory mount according to claim **10**, wherein:

said other of said sections includes a transverse bore therethrough and said one of said sections includes a transverse threaded bore, said accessory mount including a second screw extending through said bore in said other of said sections and threaded to said threaded bore in said one of said sections for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

12. The accessory mount according to claim 11, wherein:

the length of said threaded bores are related to the length of said screws such that end portions of said threaded screws are threadedly retained by said threaded bores respectively when said first structural member and said second structural member are transversely separated with the distance between said first protuberance and said second protuberance greater than the width of the frame of the handgun beneath the depressions.

13. The accessory mount according to claim 6, the firearm including a trigger guard and the first and second longitudinal depressions extending forwardly of the trigger guard, wherein:

said rail extends forwardly of said trigger guard when said first structural member and said second structural member are secured to one another with said first protuberance received by the first depression and said second protuberance received by the second depression.

14. The accessory mount according to claim 6, wherein:

said first protuberance is configured for being fittingly received by the first depression and said second protuberance is configured for being fittingly received by the second depression.

15. Firearm and accessory mount apparatus, comprising in combination:

a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of said frame;

a first structural member including a rail adapted for removably securing an accessory device thereto, said rail longitudinally extending beneath said barrel, said first structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from one side of said rail and having a longitudinally extending first protuberance received by said first depression;

a second structural member releasably secured to said first structural member, said second structural member upwardly projecting from the other side of said rail and having a longitudinally extending second protuberance received by said second depression; and

a fastener releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

said first protuberance is fittingly received by said first depression and said second protuberance is fittingly received by said second depression.

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

the firearm includes a trigger guard; and

said first structural member and said structural member are situated forwardly of said trigger guard.

18. Firearm and accessory mount apparatus, comprising in combination:

a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of said frame;

a first structural member including a rail adapted for removably securing an accessory device thereto, said rail longitudinally extending beneath said barrel, said first structural member including a first section extending rearwardly of a portion of the width of said rail toward one side of said rail, and a first arm upwardly projecting from said first section along said one side and including a longitudinally extending first protuberance received by said first depression;

a second structural member including a second section rearwardly of another portion of said width of said rail toward the other side of said rail, a second arm upwardly projecting from said second section and including a longitudinally extending second protuberance received by said second depression; and

said first structural member and said second structural member being releasably secured to one another.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein:

said first section and said second section are releasably secured to one another for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, including:

at least one fastener cooperating with said first section and said second section for releasably securing said first section and said second section to one another.

21. The accessory mount according to claim 19, including:

at least one fastener transversely cooperating with said first section and said second section for releasably securing said first section and said second section to one another.

22. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein:

one of said sections includes a transverse bore therethrough and the other of said sections includes a transverse threaded bore, the apparatus including a screw extending through said bore in said one of said sections and threaded to said threaded bore in said other of said sections for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:

said other of said sections includes a transverse bore therethrough and said one of said sections includes a transverse threaded bore, the apparatus including a second screw extending through said bore in said other of said sections and threaded to said threaded bore in said one of said sections for releasably securing said first structural member and said second structural member to one another.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein:

the length of said threaded bores are related to the length of said screws such that end portions of said threaded screws are threadedly retained by said threaded bores respectively when said first structural member and said second structural member are transversely separated with the distance between said first protuberance and said second protuberance greater than the width of said frame beneath said depressions.

25. A method of installing an accessory mount to a firearm, comprising:

providing a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of said frame;

providing a first structural member including a rail adapted for removably securing an accessory device thereto, said first structural member including a portion upwardly projecting from one side of said rail and having a longitudinally extending first protuberance;

providing a second structural member including a longitudinally extending second protuberance;

placing said first structural member and said second structural member to said firearm with said rail longitudinally extending beneath said barrel, said first pro-

tuberance received by said first depression, and said second protuberance received by said second depression; and

fastening said first and second structural members to one another.

26. A method of installing an accessory mount to a firearm, comprising:

providing a firearm including a longitudinal barrel, a frame, and a longitudinal first depression and a longitudinal second depression respectively along opposite sides of said frame;

providing a first structural member including a rail for removably securing an accessory device thereto, said first structural member including a first section extending rearwardly of a portion of the width of said rail toward one side of said rail, and a first arm upwardly projecting from said first section along said one side and including a longitudinally extending first protuberance;

providing a second structural member including a second section and a second arm upwardly projecting from said second section and including a longitudinally extending second protuberance;

placing said first structural member and said second structural member to said firearm with said rail longitudinally extending beneath said barrel, said first protuberance received by said first depression, and said second protuberance received by said second depression; and

releasably securing said first section and said second section to one another.

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