

Nov. 18, 1941.

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2,262,918

LIFTING DEVICE FOR FURNITURE AND THE LIKE

Filed June 20, 1941

FIG. 1.

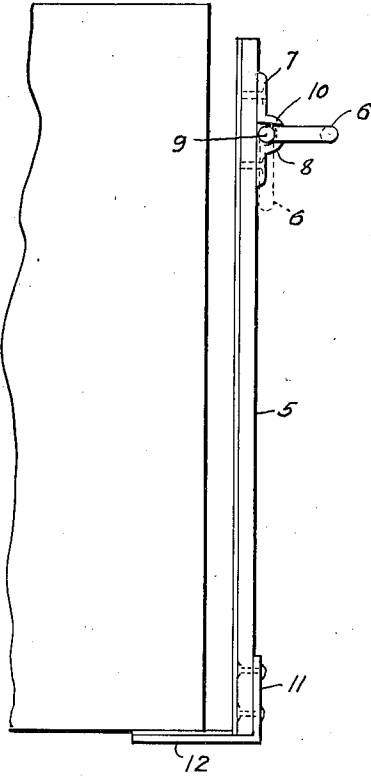


FIG. 2.

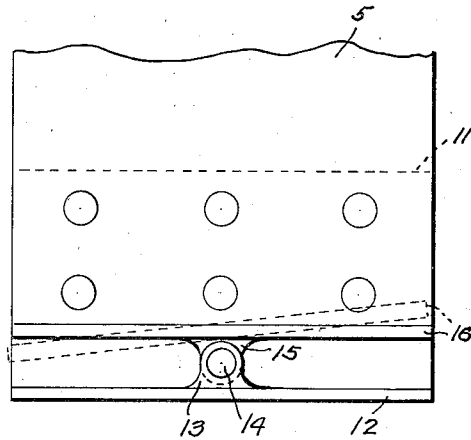


FIG. 3.

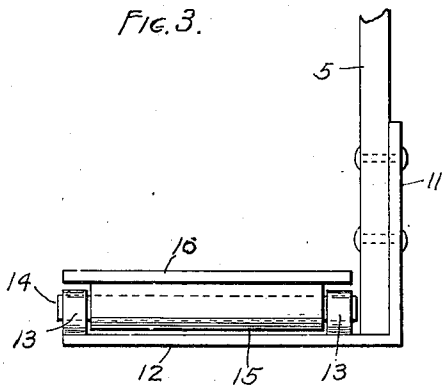
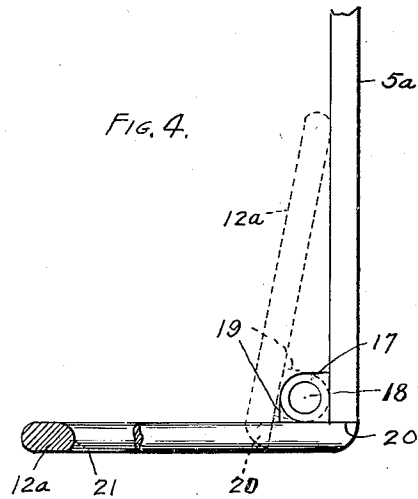


FIG. 4.



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2,262,918

LIFTING DEVICE FOR FURNITURE AND THE
LIKE

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Application June 20, 1941, Serial No. 398,942

8 Claims. (Cl. 294—15)

My invention relates to a device that is adapted to be used for manually lifting objects such as heavy furniture, crates, cases, and the like. The device is especially adapted for use in connection with articles which usually are not provided with handles or other convenient projecting members that may be grasped by the persons who desire to lift the furniture, crate or the like to move it from one location to another. Frequently heavy articles such as dressers, crates, chests, etc., are not provided with feet or other elements which support the structure in spaced relation to the floor, and under such conditions it is found to be quite difficult to secure a firm grasp under the bottom edge of the article. Hence, it has been the custom to tilt or cant the article to one side in order to insert the fingers of the hands underneath the bottom; but this is dangerous because, should the article accidentally slip from one hand, it may crush or injure the fingers of the other hand.

The device which I have invented is adapted to be readily inserted under the bottom of the article of furniture and the like which it is desired to lift, and it is provided with a convenient handle that is remote to the bottom-engaging member. This handle or hand-grasp is preferably of such construction that it may be folded flat against the face of the body of the device to provide for convenient storage or packing for shipment, and if desired the bottom-engaging element or foot of the device may be constructed in a similar manner to permit it to be folded flat upon the body. In certain styles of furniture the bottom edge of a particular dresser, chest, day-enport, or the like is provided with ornamental portions which extend under the bottom and therefore do not present a flat surface. In order to permit the bottom-engaging member or foot of my device to engage an article such as just mentioned I have provided the bottom-engaging member or foot with an equalizing member which will rock to one side or the other of a central fulcrum so that the foot will engage with a greater area than would be possible if the foot should be made as an immovable part and unable to accommodate itself to irregularities of the surface with which it may be engaged.

The device which I have invented is novel in the construction and arrangement of its parts, and these parts are of a sturdy character so that they are adapted to withstand severe usage. The device is dependable in its operation and it is effective in performing its functions. It is an aim of my invention to provide a device of the char-

acter which is herein disclosed that is simple in construction and therefore is capable of being economically manufactured and sold to the user for a reasonable retail price. Further objects, aims, and advantages will be apparent to persons skilled in the art after my invention is understood from the within description. I prefer to practice my invention and to attain the numerous objects thereof by means of the structure which is hereinafter fully described and is more particularly pointed out in the appended claims. Reference is made to the accompanying drawing that forms a part of this specification.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation, looking at the side edge of one of my improved lifters in its simplest form and showing the same in use.

Figure 2 is a vertical elevation looking at the lower portion of the body member and towards the outer or free ends of the foot, the figure being drawn to a larger scale than Figure 1, and showing a rocking plate.

Figure 3 is an edge elevation of the structure shown in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view in edge elevation of a slightly modified device in which a hinged foot or stirrup is shown.

The drawing, it will be understood, is more or less schematic and it is for the purpose of disclosing typical or preferred embodiments of my invention. In the drawing, like reference characters are used to identify the same parts wherever these parts appear in the different views.

The lifter device which I have invented comprises preferably a body portion, in the form of an elongated member 5. This member may be wood, metal, leather, webbing, or any other suitable rigid or flexible material. At or adjacent the top of member 5 I provide a hand-grip 6 which is of the swinging type and comprises a metal mounting plate 7 that is suitably secured to the body 5 by any suitable instrumentalities such as screws, rivets and the like. This plate 7 is provided with an elongated hollow embossment 8 that is horizontally disposed and provides a journal or bearing for the spindle 9 which connects the ends of the hand-grip 6. Alongside the ends of the embossment there are lateral outwardly projecting stops 10 which are engaged by the adjacent portions of the hand-grip and are adapted to prevent said grip from being moved beyond a substantially horizontal position or beyond a right angle to the plane of the plate or the plane of the body member 5. It will be understood this hand-grasp structure

may, in the event the article is made entirely of metal, be formed as an integral part of the member with the grip portion 6 either journaled in the manner shown, or it may be permanently off-set with relation to the body member 5. It is, however, preferred to employ the swinging type of grip as it may be readily collapsed for convenience in storage.

In its simplest form the bottom-engaging member or foot of the device may comprise a stiff metal plate, of L-shape cross-section, with one of its flanges 11 rigidly secured to the face of the lower portion of the body 5 with the other flange 12 projecting in a substantially horizontal plane relative to the plane of the body 5. The top face of the flange 12 may be roughened, or it may have a piece of rubber sheeting or the like to provide a surface that will create friction and prevent slippage. Also, if so desired, the rubber sheeting may be extended up upon and along the adjacent surface of the body member 5 to prevent the latter rubbing against and marring the finish on the upholstery or the furniture.

It is frequently found that the bottom edges of the articles to be lifted are irregular due to the carrying out of a decorative motif or design, and in order to take care of such a condition and to permit the foot or stirrup to have a surface contact of substantial area with the article to be lifted, the engaging portion of the stirrup or foot may be made as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawing. In carrying out this part of my invention the stirrup or foot is provided with spaced upstanding ears or lugs 13 that have aligned bores to receive a spindle 14 that passes through an elongated boss 15 upon the bottom of a rocking plate 16. The rocking plate 16 of the stirrup or foot is preferably of the same dimensions as the lateral member 12 upon which it is mounted and it is adapted to tilt on its fulcrum into inclined planes with respect to said member 12. Thus, when the foot is inserted under an article having an irregular shaped bottom surface, the tilting of the plate 16 will accommodate the foot to the irregular surface whereby the body member will be in a true vertical plane and plumb from the handle.

In the event the article is made entirely of metal, the grip 6, as before stated, may be made in the manner described, and likewise the foot or stirrup will also be an integral member projecting laterally from the body and with the rocking plate mounted and attached to said member in the manner hereinbefore described.

In Figure 4, I have illustrated one of my improved lifting devices which is preferably of an all-metal construction. The device in question comprises the elongated main or body member 5a which may be a metal strap or may be a suitably shaped casting. Adjacent the lower end of the body 5a, it is provided with laterally projecting spaced ears or lugs 17, 17, that have aligned bores to receive the spindle 18. The stirrup or foot 12a in this instance is preferably a metal casting and is provided near one edge of its upper surface with an elongated boss 19 that is bored to receive the spindle 18. The edge portion of the foot, which is nearest the body 5a, projects beyond the boss 19 to provide an element 20 that is adapted to engage or abut the lower edge of the body when the structure is in position for use as shown in Figure 4. This construction provides a hinged connection between the stirrup or foot and the body which permits the foot to be folded up against the body in a compact or

collapsed manner as shown in dotted lines in Figure 4. In order to reduce cost of manufacture and assembly of this type of lifting device, the body 5a may be provided with a plurality of openings between its edges and ends to lighten it, and a member similar to the stirrup or foot may be provided upon the opposite side of the other end portion of the body. An opening 21 would be made in the members 12a in the space designated by the numeral 21 in Figure 4, thus providing a hand-grasp as well as a foot. It will be understood that either end of such a structure could be utilized as the foot, while the other end acts as the handle.

When using any of the types of lifting devices which I have herein disclosed, the foot portion or stirrup is inserted beneath the bottom of the article of furniture, such as a dresser, davenport, chest, and the like, and the handle is grasped conveniently by the person who may then easily lift and move said article of furniture. Of course, with articles such as mentioned, there would be a person at each end thereof both of whom would use one or two of these lifting devices.

What I claim is:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp at the upper portion of said body; and means at the lower portion of said body adapted for engagement with the lateral portion of the structure to be lifted, said means embodying a movable member adapted to be freely disposed in a plurality of planes oblique to a horizontal plane.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp at the upper portion of said body; a laterally disposed foot projecting from the lower portion of said body; and a rocking-plate fulcrumed on said foot.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a lateral foot projecting from one side of an end portion of said body, said foot having a portion that is adapted for movement relative to the other portion of said foot, whereby said movable portion will readily accommodate itself to irregularities of the surface engaged by the foot; a normally pendent hand-grasp upon the opposite side of said body at the end portion thereof remote to said foot; means hingedly connecting said hand-grasp to said body; and means constituting a stop adapted to limit upward swinging movement of said hand-grasp.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp at the upper portion of said body; and means at the lower portion of said body adapted for engagement with a lateral portion of the structure to be lifted, said means embodying a fixed plate, and a movable member supported by said plate and adapted for disposition in a plurality of planes that are oblique to a horizontal plane.

5. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp at the upper portion of said body; and an equalizing foot at the lower portion of said body adapted to automatically accommodate itself to an irregular surface with which it is engaged.

6. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp on said body; and a laterally

disposed rocker-member at the lower portion of said body adapted for movement independent of said body whereby to accommodate itself to the surface with which it is engaged.

7. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp on said body; a laterally disposed fulcrum element at the lower portion of said body; and a rocker-member supported by said fulcrum element and adapted to accommodate itself to a portion of the object to be lifted.

8. As a new article of manufacture, a lifter for furniture and the like comprising an elongate body; a hand-grasp on said body; a laterally disposed fulcrum element at the lower portion of said body; a rocker-member supported by said fulcrum element and adapted to accommodate itself to a portion of the object to be lifted; and means limiting the movement of said rocker-member.

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