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DISTORTING EASEL

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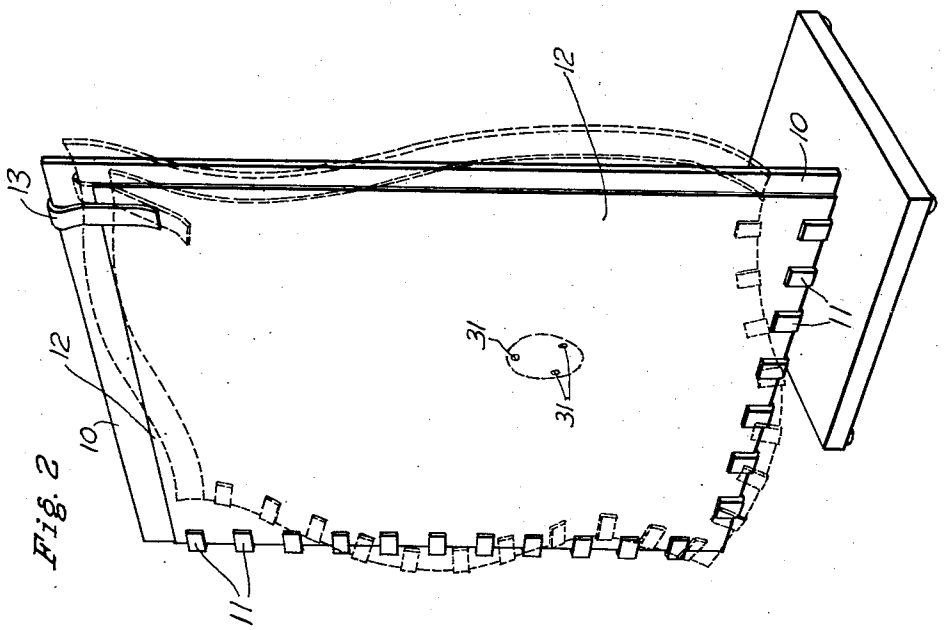


Fig. 2

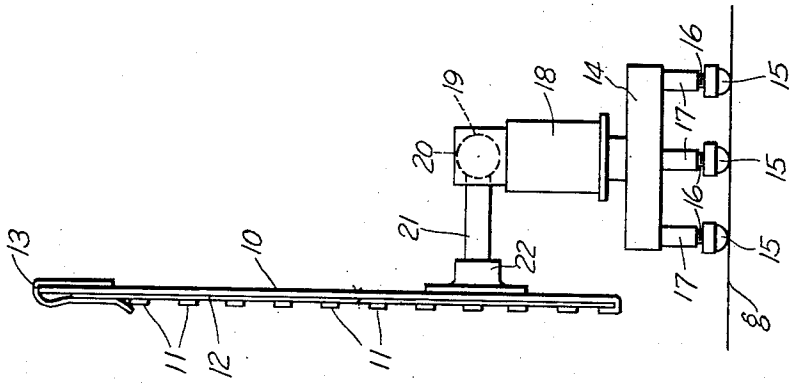


Fig. 1

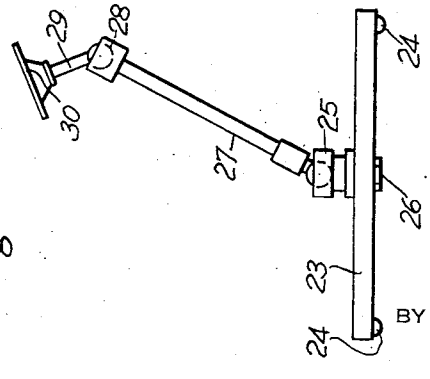


Fig. 3

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DISTORTING EASEL

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7 Claims. (Cl. 88—24)

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The present invention relates to the art of photography, and, in particular, to easels for holding a sheet of light-sensitive paper or other material during projection printing, as, for example, in enlarging and in reducing.

The general object of the invention is to provide an easel arranged to hold steadily a sheet of light-sensitive paper or other material that is flexible in a curved, twisted, undulate, or other nonplanar condition for the purpose of obtaining in projection printing a print on said sheet which is a distorted image of the subject.

The present invention is of particular application in the production of distorted photographic prints wherein an artistic result is specially had by the selective exaggeration and diminution of certain features of the subject. For example, the easel of the present invention may be conveniently employed to produce caricatured portraits, surrealist scenes, and other novel pictures the artistic merit of which resides in the essential unnaturalness of the reproduction of the subject.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of an easel embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a similar easel with a somewhat modified means for supporting the same.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the supporting means appearing in Fig. 2.

The easel, itself, is preferably a fairly thin sheet of copper or other flexible material, which is designated 10 in Figs. 1 and 2, having along two sides thereof, as shown, a series of lugs 11 which are bent not completely upon themselves to provide a plurality of means for holding the edges of a sheet of light-sensitive paper or other material. Such a sheet is designated 12 in Figs. 1 and 2. Further to insure the relationship of the sheet to the easel itself I provide near one corner of the easel, as, for example, at or near the upper righthand corner as shown in Fig. 2, a resilient clip 13, which is attached in any suitable manner to the back of the easel and folded over against the frontal surface as shown in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 1 I have shown one embodiment of means for supporting the easel, comprising a tripod 14, with feet 15, each thereof being adjustable as to height by means of threaded shanks 16 engaging tapped holes within legs 17. Mounted on the top of the tripod 14 I provide a pedestal 18, having a socket 19 in the top thereof, within which is mounted a ball 20 rigidly fixed to an arm 21 terminating in a face plate 22 secured in any suitable manner, as, for example, by soldering, to the back of the easel.

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Obviously, in the construction shown in Fig. 1, the sheet 10 may be positioned in any one of a great variety of positions relative to, say, a horizontal line *g*.

Due to the flexible nature of the material of the sheet 10 the same may be curved, twisted, made undulate, or otherwise bent and formed in conditions otherwise than planar. So, likewise, a flexible sheet of photograph paper or the like, held against the frontal surface of the easel by means of the lugs 11 and the clip 13 is constrained steadily to keep the nonplanar contour of the sheet 10. Also, if a fairly soft material such as copper, which of course has but little resilience, is selected for the material of sheet 10, bends formed in the sheet remain as formed until further bending moments are applied thereto.

The dotted lines of Fig. 2 illustrate one contour available in the easel of the present invention other than a planar contour, as indicated in the figure by solid lines, and is exemplary of the many which are available. To avoid soiling the sensitized paper or like material it would appear to be better practice to form the sheet 10 before the sensitized sheet is applied thereto. However, the final form of the easel surface desired with respect to any subject to be photoprinted as a distorted image is plainly most conveniently discovered experimentally; and, for this reason, I prefer to coat the frontal surface of the sheet 10 with a thin, flexible material capable of reflecting considerable light, so that the image of the subject may be projected onto the easel, and the latter may be bent experimentally until the image is distorted as desired and also may be readily seen by the photographer while such experimental bending is being carried on. After the image reflected from the frontal surface of the easel is that desired to be printed, the projection may be discontinued and the sensitized sheet 12 fixed in position of the easel, and the photo-printing may then be continued to produce an actual print of the image as earlier viewed in projection on the bent frontal surface of the easel.

In Fig. 3 I show, in side elevational view, a modified means of supporting the easel. This same means is shown in part in Fig. 2. The support of Fig. 3 comprises a plate 23, having beneath at each corner a suitable foot member 24, such as a rubber knob, and having a centrally located socket 25 which may fit within a hole in the center of the plate and be secured on the underside of the plate by means of a nut 26; and having a ball-ended rod 27, the other end of which is provided with another socket 28, supported by socket 25; and having a ball-ended rod 29, the other end of

which terminates in a face plate 30, which may be secured to the back surface of the sheet 10 as indicated in Fig. 2 by dotted lines by means of screws 31, the ball-end of rod 29 being supported by socket 28. Obviously the supporting means illustrated in Fig. 3 makes available a greater number of angular dispositions of the easel than does the means illustrated in Fig. 1.

It will be understood, of course, that any of a considerable number of more or less equivalent means for supporting the flexible easel may be employed. For example, the easel might well be supported by means of a gooseneck of flexible tubing such as is common in the structure of desk lamps and the like.

The invention contemplates an easel which may not only be bent, twisted, curved, and otherwise distorted from a planar shape, and also carry means thereon to hold against its frontal surface a sensitized sheet substantially bent, twisted, curved, or otherwise distorted in accordance with such frontal surface of the easel, but which may also be rotated and set in any of a variety of angular relationships with respect to a supporting surface such as a table top or the like.

Also, such easel may be conveniently employed in photoprinting where the projection is from the side or from above. In the drawing I show, in Fig. 1, an embodiment of the easel before the same has been distorted from planar shape, and with the sheet 10 disposed vertically; but it will be fully understood that the sheet 10 may be disposed horizontally for use where the projection is more or less vertical. The same will be understood with respect to the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, wherein dotted lines indicate a possible distorted shape which the easel may be caused to assume.

While I prefer to use copper for the sheet 10, because of its cheapness and high degree of pliability, it is apparent that other pliable sheets, metallic or nonmetallic in character, can be employed, particularly pliable white alloys, wherewith no white or other light-colored coating is required.

I claim:

1. An easel for supporting a photographic printing paper in curved, twisted, undulate, and other nonplanar shape in the path of light rays projected from a subject, which comprises a sheet of soft copper having marginal lugs bent inwardly against the frontal surface of said sheet and holding thereagainst and in conformity with said surface said paper, a support for said sheet, and means universally connecting the rear of said sheet with said support whereby said sheet may be rotated and otherwise variously positioned angularly with respect to said support.

2. An easel for supporting a photographic printing paper in curved, twisted, undulate, and other nonplanar shape in the path of light rays projected from a subject for the purpose of obtaining a distorted photoprint of said subject, which comprises a flexible sheet of relatively little resilience so that the same tends to maintain a shape into which the same is bent, a support for said sheet, and means universally connecting the rear of said sheet with said support whereby said sheet may be rotated and otherwise variously positioned angularly with respect to said base, said means comprising a ball and socket link, the frontal surface of said sheet being coated with an adhering, flexible film of material capable of reflecting light without glare whereby the projection of said rays may be seen and said sheet experimentally bent prior to photoprinting, and at the edges of said sheet clamps for holding against the frontal surface of said sheet said paper in conformity with said frontal surface.

3. The easel of claim 2, said sheet being of soft copper and having marginal lugs bendable over the margin of said paper for the purpose of holding the same against the frontal surface of said sheet in conformity with said surface.

4. An easel for supporting a photographic printing paper in curved, twisted, undulate, and other nonplanar shape in the path of light rays projected from a subject for the purpose of obtaining a distorted photoprint of said subject, which comprises a flexible sheet of relatively little resilience having clamps on the edges thereof for holding said paper against the frontal surface of said sheet in conformity with said surface, a support for said sheet, and means universally connecting the rear of said sheet with said support whereby said sheet may be rotated and otherwise variously positioned angularly with respect to said support, said means comprising a ball and socket link, one end of such link being rigidly secured to the rear of said sheet and the other to said support.

5. A means for holding a photographic printing paper in curved, twisted, undulate, and other nonplanar shape in the path of light rays projected from a subject for the purpose of obtaining a distorted photoprint of said subject which comprises a pliable sheet against which the back of said paper is applied and secured in conformity with a surface of said sheet, said pliable sheet being of soft copper and having marginal lugs bendable inwardly for the purpose of securing such paper against the surface of said sheet in conformity with said surface.

6. A means for holding a photographic printing sheet in curved, twisted, undulate, and other nonplanar shape in the path of light rays projected from a subject for the purpose of obtaining a distorted photoprint of said subject, which comprises a pliable sheet of soft copper capable of repeated distortion from a flat, planar condition, and against which the back of said paper may be applied and secured in conformity with the distorted contour of said sheet, said sheet having a reflecting surface on which a projected image can be discerned whereby the degree and character of the distortion of the image of the printed paper can be predetermined prior to applying and securing the printing paper to said sheet.

7. The means of claim 6 wherein the copper sheet is provided with marginal lugs bendable inwardly for the purpose of securing said paper against the sheet.

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