May 1, 1951 M. E. NYGARD 2,551,388

SUPPORTING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 21, 1948

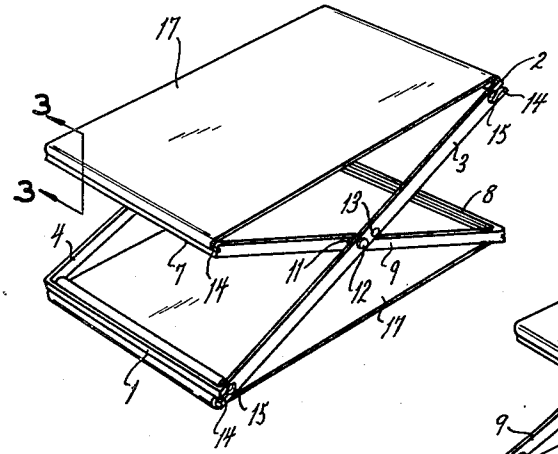


FIG. 1.

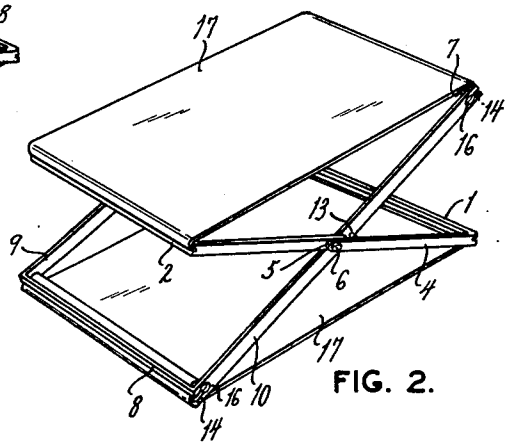


FIG. 2.

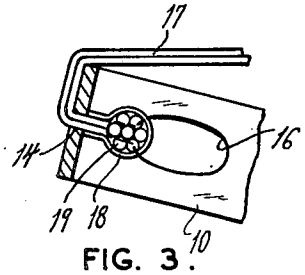


FIG. 3.

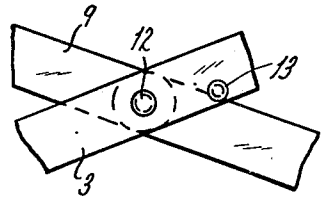


FIG. 4.

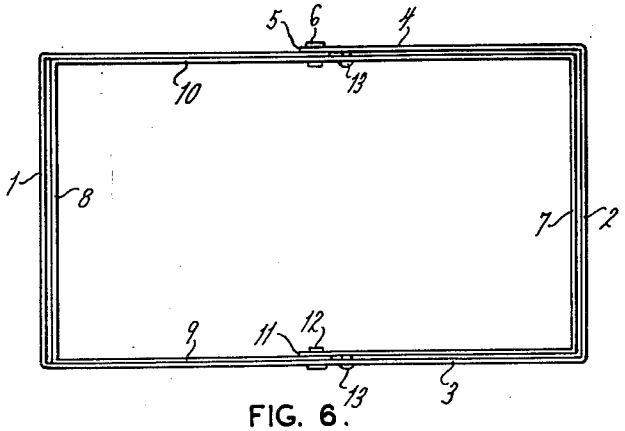


FIG. 6.

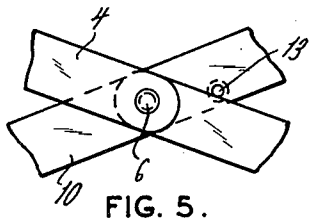


FIG. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SUPPORTING DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 5—71)

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This invention relates to a supporting device, and particularly to such an article for use by a person in a reclining position either in bed, or on a chaise longue, or the like, when he desires support for a portion of his body; for example, an arm, or a leg, or my device may be used as a headrest. My supporting device is especially useful for a patient who has suffered an injury to a member which as a consequence requires support in addition to that afforded by simply reclining, but it is equally adapted simply to give an additional measure of comfort to one who is resting in a reclining position.

My support has certain advantages over a supporting cushion, or the like; for example, in warm weather it is more comfortable, and also, when not in use it can be folded flat and occupies so little space that it may be easily tucked away out of sight, or carried about in a traveling bag. It is of light weight and inexpensive to manufacture, and its fabric portion is easily removable for cleansing.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my supporting device in unfolded, operative position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the opposite side of the device.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, cross-sectional view taken on line 3—3, Fig. 1, illustrating the means for retaining the fabric portion of the device in association with the frame.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view illustrating the stop member in position on one side of the device.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but showing the stop member in operative position on the opposite side of the device.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged plan view of the frame of the support as it appears in folded position with the fabric removed therefrom.

The invention comprises a frame, preferably of strip metal, consisting of an outer rectangular element formed of a continuous strip bent to form end members 1 and 2, respectively, and side members 3 and 4, respectively, the ends of the strip forming said element being overlapped at the center of the side member 4, as shown at 5, where they are rigidly secured together by a rivet 6.

The frame also includes an inner rectangular element positioned inside the outer rectangular element and of slightly smaller dimensions, said inner element also being formed of a continuous strip bent to form end members 7 and 8, respectively, and side members 9 and 10, respectively, the ends of the strip forming said inner rectangular element being overlapped at the center of the side member 9, as shown at 11, where they are rigidly secured together by a rivet 12. The rivets 6 and 12 also act as pivots for the two rectangular frame elements just described to permit them to assume the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2 when the supporting device is in operative position.

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The frame has two stop members 13, one on the inner surface of either the side member 3 or 4 of the outer rectangular element and one on the outer surface of either the side member 9 or 10 of the inner rectangular element, so placed that the stop members are positioned respectively on opposite sides of the frame, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Each of the end members 1, 2, 7, and 8 is longitudinally slotted, as shown at 14 in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The side member 3 of the inner rectangular element has a circular or elliptical opening 15 at each end communicating with its slots 14, and the side member 10 of the outer rectangular element has similar circular or elliptical openings 16 at its ends communicating with its slots 4.

Two sections of fabric 17, preferably of a material which will not stretch, are mounted upon the frame in the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 when the device is in operating position. The sections 17 are detachable from the frame, and are secured thereto through the instrumentality of the slots 14, as follows: The fabric sections 17 are provided with hems 18 at their ends, and a length of cord 19 is drawn into each hem, the cord 19 extending the entire length of the hem. The cords 19 are of such diameter that they and their encircling hems will pass through the openings 15 and 16, but will not slip through the slots 14.

When the support is to be prepared for use, the corded hem at one end of a fabric section 17 is passed through the opening 15 in the side member 3, and the corded hem at the opposite end of said fabric section is passed through the opening 16 in the side member 1. The two corded hems are threaded through these respective openings and drawn along adjacent the inner sides of the slots 14 in the end members 2 and 7, and, as above set out, the diameter of the corded hems is such that they will not slip through the slots.

The corded hems of the other section of fabric 17 are then mounted in the same manner in the slotted ends 8 and 1, and from what has been said it will be understood that now the two fabric

sections 17 are mounted on the frame in the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The device is now ready for use as a support, and when unfolded to its widest extent the stop members 13 will prevent its collapse, and in this position the fabric sections 17 are stretched taut to serve as a support in the manner explained at the beginning of this specification. Either of the fabric sections may be uppermost at this time with equally good results.

The device may be folded flat when not in use by swinging the side members 3, 4, 9, and 10 on the pivots 6 and 12 to bring together the end members 2 and 7 and the end members 1 and 8, respectively. It will be understood that the fabric sections may be detached from the frame by simply reversing the process of securing them thereto as above described. While I have illustrated and described the fabric sections 17 as having corded hems, the cords 19 are not essential and may be omitted if the hems 18 are of such thickness that they will not slip through the slots 14.

I claim:

1. A foldable supporting device comprising rectangular frame members pivotally secured one within another and adjustable with respect to each other, the end portions of said frame members being provided with slots and the side portions thereof being provided with openings in communication with said slots, fabric sections secured to said frame members and extending through said slots so that said fabric sections are taut when said frame members are adjusted to operative position, and a pair of stop elements to retain said frame members in operative position, one of said stop members being positioned on the inner surface of the outer one of said rectangular frames and the other of said stop members being positioned on the outer surface of the inner one of said rectangular frames.

2. A foldable supporting device comprising rectangular frame members pivotally secured one within another and adjustable with respect to each other, the end portions of said frame members being provided with slots and the side portions thereof being provided with openings in communication with said slots, fabric sections secured to said frame members and extending through said slots so that said fabric sections are taut when said frame members are adjusted to operative position, one end of each fabric section being secured to an end portion of the outer rectangular frame member and the opposite end of said fabric section being secured to an end portion of the inner rectangular frame member, the end portions of said fabric being thicker than the diameter of said slots, and a pair of stop elements to retain said frame members in operative position, one of said stop members being positioned on the inner surface of the outer one of said rectangular frames and the other of said stop members being positioned on the outer surface of the inner one of said rectangular frames.

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