



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD RAQUET, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

## PICTURE-FRAME SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 438,257, dated October 14, 1890.

Application filed November 12, 1888. Serial No. 290,513. (No model.)

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LEONARD RAQUET, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Picture-Frame Supports; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to prevent picture-frames, for the display of photographs or other pictures, from being easily overturned, and to provide a simpler, cheaper, and more reliable support for the frame than heretofore; and the invention consists in the improved support and holding device for picture-frames, and in the combinations and arrangements of parts thereof, substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embodied in the clauses of the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several figures, Figure 1 is a view of the rear of a picture-frame embodying my improvements with the support and holder closed up against the back. Fig. 2 is a plan view of a modified form of a support-holder. Fig. 3 is a view of another form of holder secured to the rear of a frame and closed up. Fig. 4 is a side view of Fig. 2 with its support or holder open or extended. Fig. 5 is a similar view of Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a detail view showing the upper holder-support of Fig. 1 detached; and Fig. 7 is a section on line *x*, Fig. 6.

In said drawings, *a* indicates the back or rear of a picture-frame, and may be made of pasteboard or wood and secured to the front part of the frame, or may be integral therewith.

*b* is a support to the frame, made of wire or any desirable material and bent into various angles and curves, and having their upper ends *b'* turned outward horizontally, so as to pivotally rest and turn in eyes *c* in the ends of support-holder *d*, Figs. 1, 6, and

7. This support-holder is made, preferably, of wire and bent in the form shown in Fig. 6, so that the eyes in the ends shall project far enough through the back of the frame to allow the easy insertion of the straight ends of the support *b*, as shown in Fig. 1.

*e* is a wire brace or stiffener, bent as shown in Fig. 1, having straight sides *e'*, and its top portion curved inward and downward so as to form a straight recess or depression *e<sup>2</sup>*, and the ends are turned at right angles to the sides, as at *e<sup>3</sup>*, so as to allow of their being slipped or sprung into a hollow holding-tube *f*, secured to the back of the picture-frame in any desirable manner. This brace *e* is arranged to lie against the back and under the wire support when the device is closed up, as will be manifest.

The bottom extending portions of the support *b* are made straight and in a line with the bottom of the frame, as shown at *b<sup>2</sup>*, so as to form a firm rest upon a table or whatever the frame rests upon. This support is also formed with shoulders *b<sup>3</sup>*, Fig. 1, on which the projections *e<sup>4</sup>* of the brace *e* can rest when the holding device is open. The upper portion of the support *b* is bent outward at an angle so as to rest against the rear of the frame, as shown at *b<sup>4</sup>*, Fig. 4, and when the device is opened and the brace brought down in position on the shoulders *b<sup>3</sup>* this part *b<sup>4</sup>* acts as a spring to keep all the parts in position and prevent them from coming together when the picture-frame is moved or suddenly struck, as usually happens when the holding devices now in use are employed.

In place of the holders *d* and *f* a metal plate *h*, Fig. 2, may be employed, the upper portion being formed with projections *h'* bent over so as to form a tubular holder for the ends of the wire support, and the ends of these projections passing through the rear portion of the frame and turned over so as to clinch the plate to the frame, as shown at *h<sup>2</sup>*, Fig. 4. The bottom of the plate is also turned over, so as to form a tubular holder *h<sup>3</sup>* for the brace and clinched in a manner similar to the upper portion.

In Fig. 3 a modified form of the supporting device is shown. The holder *m* is made of a metal plate, with upper and lower tubular

holders  $m'$  and  $m^2$ , and clinched to the rear portion of the frame, as shown at  $m^3$ , Fig. 5.

In the upper tubular part  $m'$  rests the two ends of a wire support  $n$ , with upwardly-extending portions  $n' n'$ , and thence extending downward and inward, so as to form inwardly-projecting rests or shoulders  $n^2 n^2$ , and thence outward and downward, so as to form suitable feet or rests for the support. The extending portions  $n' n'$  are bent outward, so as to rest against the rear of the picture-frame when the supporting device is opened, as shown at  $n^2$ , Fig. 5, and thus act as a spring to keep the parts in position.

The two ends of the wire brace  $o$  are inserted in the tubular portion  $m^2$  of the plate  $m$  and the wire then extends upward and outward to nearly the distance desired to extend the support, when it is again bent inward on nearly a straight line, as shown at  $o' o'$ , Fig. 3, so as to rest upon the shoulders  $n^2 n^2$  of the support and inside of the same when the support is extended and the brace turned down to hold the parts in position. The upper part of the brace  $o$  is bent outward or downward, as shown at  $o^2$ , so as to hook or catch to the outside of the support.

I do not limit myself to the application of my improvement to picture-frames, as the same device can be applied to ladders or other articles requiring an independent support.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The improved locking-support herein described, consisting of a spring-support pivoted in eyes secured to a frame or other article requiring an independent support, provided with outwardly-extending shoulders, and a brace pivoted to said frame or article and provided with projections, as shown, to rest upon and engage with the shoulders on the support, said projections being connected together, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a locking-support, the combination, with the back of a frame, of a support  $b$ , provided with shoulders  $b^3$ , horizontal feet  $b^2$ , spring projections  $b^4$ , support-holder  $d$ , provided with eyes  $c$ , adapted to receive the ends of the support  $b$ , and brace  $e$ , pivoted to said back, provided with projections  $e^4$  and recess  $e^2$ , adapted to engage with the shoulders  $b$  on said support, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day of October, 1888.

LEONARD RAQUET.

Witnesses:

OLIVER DRAKE,  
E. L. SHERMAN.