

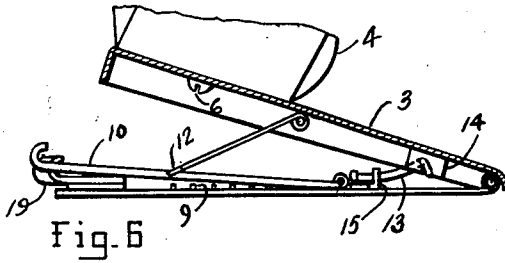
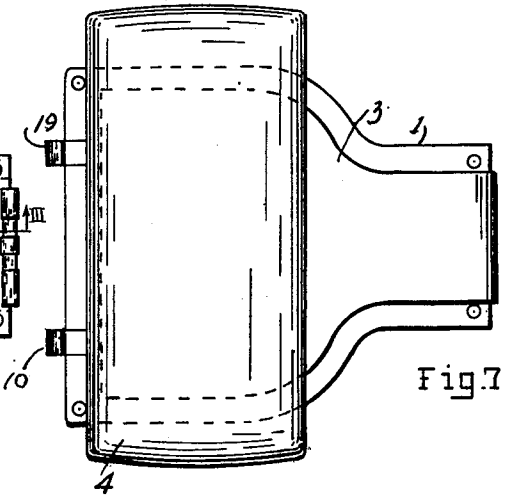
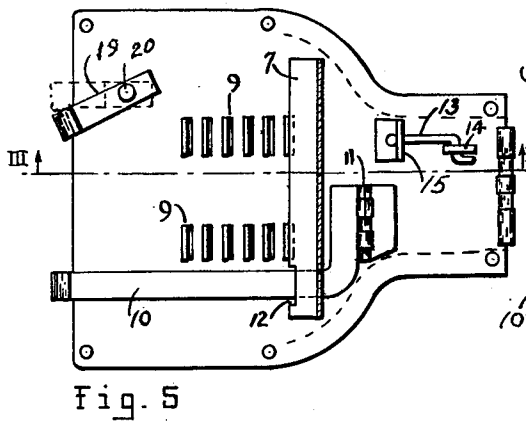
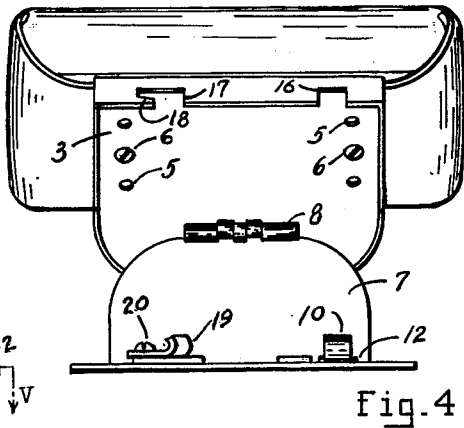
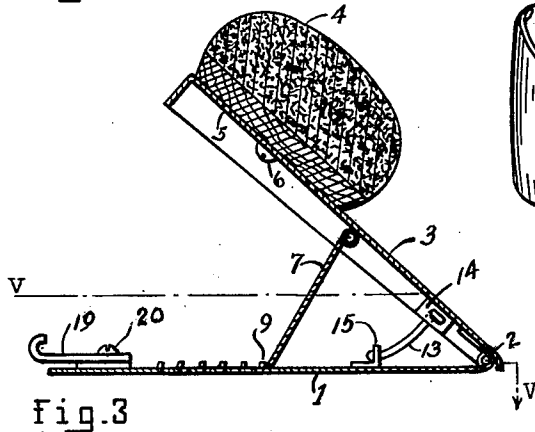
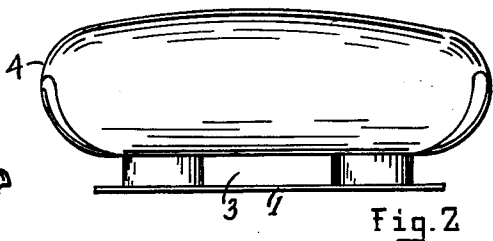
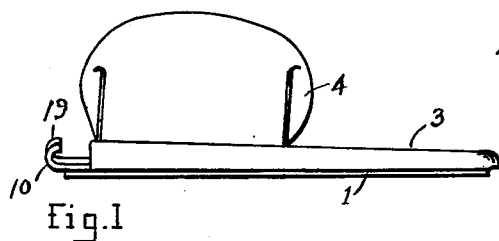
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2,614,271

HEADREST FOR CREEPERS

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HEADREST FOR CREEPERS

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Substituted for abandoned application Serial No. 72,389, January 24, 1949. This application March 19, 1951, Serial No. 216,371

1 Claim. (Cl. 5—327)

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This application is a continuation of my previous application Serial No. 72,389, filed January 24, 1949.

This invention relates to creepers for automobile mechanics and it has for its primary object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient headrest unit to be sold as an article of manufacture capable of being readily and quickly attached to a creeper of any of the usual commercial forms in current use.

In modern automobile design, the tendency is to keep the center of gravity of a car very low, and a very limited amount of space beneath the vehicle is allowed for the removal and replacement of parts. A great deal of the ordinary repair work on automobiles requires that a mechanic must lie on his back under the car and it is the common practice to use a low-wheeled bed or creeper for his support while working.

Ordinarily, there is greasy dirt on the bottom of a car and to avoid having his face directly under his hands where dirt will fall when he uses a tool, the mechanic lies at a little distance, with his head lifted at an angle to his body. To maintain such a position, where the neck muscles have to support the weight of the head for a long period of time, becomes very tiring and various forms of headrests have been used.

A hinged back rest to provide a change of body position has little value because the space available for working is limited and a fixed support for the head does not suit all of the different heights to which the mechanic must bring his eyes to see into the spaces between the many projecting parts.

With these facts in mind, I have devised an adjustable headrest that is compact, practical, strong, and durable, to be installed in a few minutes as an accessory on almost any roller bed or creeper of the types now in use so that the older device need not be discarded in providing for greater comfort while working.

A further object of the invention is to provide for ready adjustment of the pad of the headrest to suit a user's build and to shape supports to avoid interference with a user's shoulders.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a release lever for the gravity-actuated brace to permit adjustment of the height of the headrest while the user lies on the creeper.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be seen in the description of a preferred construction chosen for purposes of illustration in the accompanying drawing, in which Figure 1 is a side elevation of a headrest in its lowermost

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and locked position; Fig. 2 is an end elevation as seen from the right in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line III—III of Fig. 5, with parts in elevation, showing the headrest fully lifted on the base member; Fig. 4 is an end elevation as seen from the left in Fig. 3; Fig. 5 is a plan view of the base member with parts in section on the line V—V of Fig. 3; Fig. 6 is a side elevation showing the ratchet release lever in lifted position; and Fig. 7 is a plan view of the rest with the pad in lowered position.

The device is shown as made of sheet metal, though it will be understood that any other suitable material may be used.

A base plate 1 has hinged thereto at 2 a flanged top member 3 upon which is adjustably secured a padded head rest 4. The top member has at each side a row of perforations 5 through which screws 6 may be passed to secure the rest 4 at a desired distance from the hinge 2 to suit the neck of the user.

A brace 7, hinged at one end at 8 on the under surface of the member 3, has its other end free to engage any pair of aligned lugs 9 punched up from the base 1 to form a ratchet by which the member 3 may be adjusted at any of various angles to lift and to hold the headrest 4 at the height the user finds most convenient for the work being done.

A release lever 10 hinged to the base at 11 lies at one side of one of the rows of ratchet lugs and beneath the free edge of the brace 7, with its outer end projecting beyond the end of the base remote from the hinge 2 for easy engagement by the finger of the user. The lower edge of the brace is shown as having a notch 12 to receive the lever 10 so that the lever will not interfere with the normal engagement of the brace with the lugs 9. When the mechanic wishes to lower the headrest from its lifted position, as in Fig. 3, he raises the outer end of the lever 10 to engage the lower edge of the brace and to lift this lower edge above the tops of any of the lugs with which it may be in engagement. The brace is then free to slide along the top of the lower, allowing the member 3 to be lowered to the position shown in Fig. 1, or to any desired position of adjustment.

It has been found desirable to limit the upward swing of the member 3 on its pivot 2, and for this purpose, a detent member is provided, consisting of a curved rod 13 pivoted at one end in a lug 14 on the member 3 and slidable through a perforation in a lug 15 on the member 1, the free end of the rod being bent to one side to en-

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gage the lug 15 when the member 3 is lifted sufficiently to let the lower edge of the brace 7 swing into position to engage the innermost pair of lugs 9.

The end flange of the member 3 remote from the hinge 2 has a notch 16 formed in its edge to receive the lever 10 and a notch 17 provided with a lateral projection 18 for engagement with a latch consisting of a short lever 19 pivoted at 20 on the base 1.

When the member 3 is in its lowermost position with the edge of the flange resting on the base plate, the latch lever 19 can be swung sidewise on its pivot across the sloping top of the projection 16 to clamp the members 1 and 3 tightly together, with the brace, the ratchet, and the detent completely enclosed within the flange surrounding the sides and end of the member 3. The creeper may then be lifted and carried in any position with the headrest remaining securely in place.

It will be noted that the device is to be used solely as a rest for the head and that the adjustment of the padded rest on its supporting plate can readily be made to cause the distance from the pad to the hinge to be such as to suit the neck of the user, while the base is made so narrow near the hinged end that the shoulders of the user will not rest on the metal.

The latch can be released and the desired angular adjustment of the member 3 can be made by the mechanic while he lies on his back, reaching backward with one or both hands to move the levers 10 and 19 and to raise or lower the pad to the proper point for the work at hand.

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The structure will, of course, be understood as purely illustrative and subject to any changes and modifications within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

An article of manufacture comprising a base member adapted for attachment to the upper surface of a creeper, a top member hinged at one end to the base member and having a flange along its edges on the surface confronting the base, a latch adapted to secure the free end of the top member to the base when they are adjacent to each other, a plurality of ratchet lugs on the base, a brace member having one end hinged to the top member and having its opposite end adapted to engage any selected ratchet lug on the base, and a lever pivoted at one end to the base member and lying beneath a portion of the free edge of the brace member for engagement therewith when the lever is lifted to release it from any lug with which it may be in contact.

ROBERT HARVEY NEIL.

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