Feb. 28, 1950 E. W. SHAW 2,499,078

FOLDING IRONING BOARD

Filed June 28, 1946

Fig. 1.

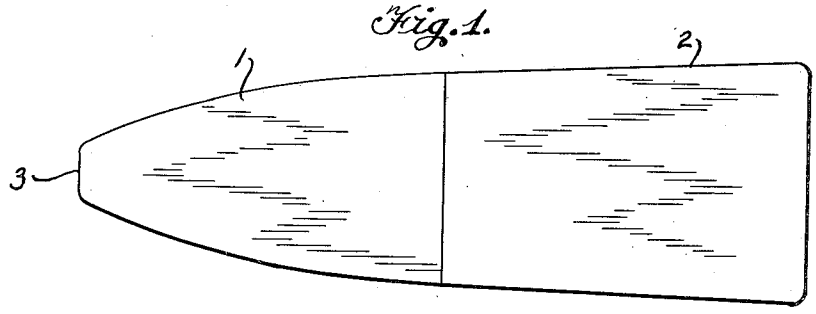


Fig. 3.

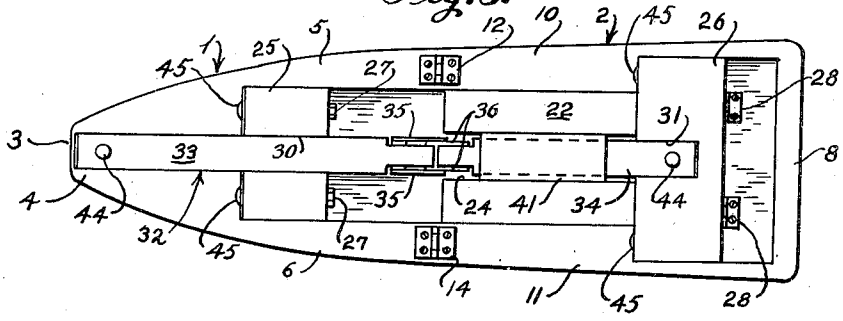


Fig. 4.

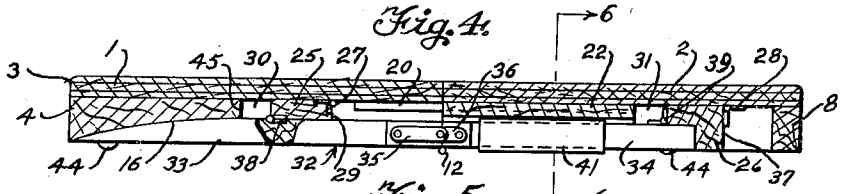


Fig. 5.

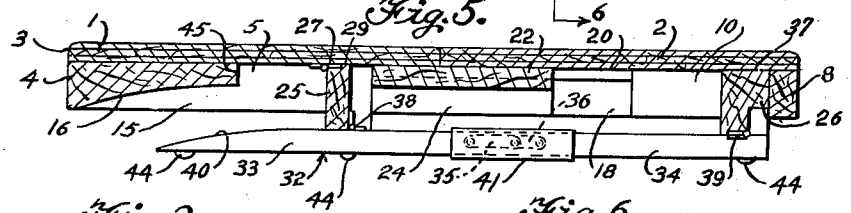


Fig. 2.

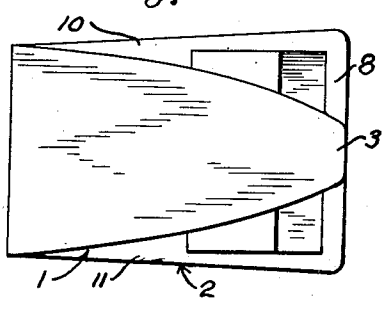
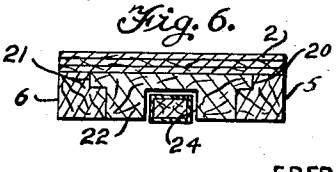


Fig. 6.



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FOLDING IRONING BOARD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 38—117)

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This invention relates to a folding ironing board, and more particularly to an ironing board of the type referred to, which in folded condition occupies a minimum of space and which is capable of use in several positions to suit a variety of different conditions.

The chief object of the invention is the provision of a folding ironing board capable of occupying a space so small that the same may be easily packed and carried in ordinary luggage or in other places where heretofore such an article would have been too bulky and heavy for convenient transportation.

A further object of the invention is to provide an ironing board of the type referred to, which can be used on table tops or in similar locations, and whose height when used on such a support can be conveniently adjusted.

A still further object is to provide a folding ironing board structure of light weight and strong construction, capable of withstanding the hard usage to which such a device is likely to be put.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention are accomplished by the provision of an ironing board, which is hinged in the middle so that in folded condition it will occupy only half its normal length, and having a supporting structure also hinged at the middle which may be folded completely within the recessed bottom of the board or may be extended to support the same in an elevated position.

The invention will best be understood from the following description of the same constituting a specification thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the ironing board unfolded for use;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the same in folded condition;

Figure 3 is a bottom view of the same in unfolded condition;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the ironig board, unfolded for use, but with the supporting structure folded within the recess in the bottom of the board;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view similar to that of Figure 4, but with the supporting structure unfolded to support the board in elevated position, and

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 4.

Referring more specifically to the drawings the ironing board comprises a top formed in two sections 1 and 2 preferably of plywood or similar

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light, strong material, arranged in endwise abutting relation at the middle of the board.

The section 1 of the top may be tapered slightly toward its free end 3 in the conventional manner of an ironing board, and is secured to a frame structure comprising the portion 4 located at the free end 3 and the side portions 5 and 6 extending to the middle of the board.

The section 2 is likewise secured to a frame structure comprising an end portion 8 and the side portions 10 and 11.

The side portions 5 and 10 of the frame structure are joined at the middle of the board by a hinge 12, and the side portions 6 and 11 are likewise joined by a hinge 14, so that the sections 1 and 2 may be folded together as illustrated in Figure 2.

The portions 4, 5 and 6 of the frame structure are cut away beneath the section 1 to form a recess 15, which in the region of the tapered end 3 of the board has an upwardly concave surface 16 for a purpose later to be pointed out.

The portions 8, 10 and 11 of the frame structure are also cut away beneath the section 2 to form a recess 18. The recesses 15 and 18 may best be seen in Figure 5, and together these recesses form a continuous cavity in the bottom of the board in which a foldable support structure is receivable.

The side portions 5 and 10 and likewise the side portions 6 and 11 are formed with grooves 20 and 21 for the accommodation of a slidable member 22. The grooves 20 and 21 extend on both sides of the middle of the board, so that, when the sections 1 and 2 are unfolded, the member 22 can be moved to a position beneath the middle of the board, as seen in Figure 5, and will maintain the sections in their unfolded condition. By moving the member 22 to the position shown in Figure 4, it will be seen that the sections 1 and 2 can be folded together as seen in Figure 2.

The member 22 is of a thickness to fit inside the cavity formed by recesses 15 and 18, and of a width to fit slidably between the side portions of the frame structure. The cross-sectional shape of the member 22 can best be seen in Figure 6. The member 22 is also provided with a longitudinal slot 24 in its bottom for a purpose later to be made apparent.

Foldable stub legs 25 and 26 are secured to the sections 1 and 2 respectively by hinges 27 and 28. The ends of the legs 25 and 26 are provided with slots 30 and 31 respectively, into which a stretcher 32 is received. The stretcher 32 is in two sections 33 and 34 hinged together by links 35 and 36 ar-

ranged on each side of the strip. The section 33 is received in slot 30 of leg 25 and is secured to the leg by a hinge 38. Section 34 of stretcher 32 is likewise received in slot 31 of leg 26 and is secured to the leg by a hinge 39.

The stretcher 32 is of a thickness to fit within the cavity in the bottom of the board when in folded position therein, as seen in Figure 4, and the section 33 of the stretcher has a curved upper surface 40 for engagement with the upwardly concaved surface 16 of the frame portion 4.

A slidable metal member 41 of square tubular shape is provided on the stretcher 32, which is moved over the joint formed by the links 35 and 36 between the sections 33 and 34 to maintain the same in unfolded condition, as illustrated in Figure 5. When the member 41 is moved to the position seen in Figure 4, the sections 33 and 34 may be moved into the cavity in the bottom of the board, in which position the joint between the sections 33 and 34 and the joint between sections 1 and 2 of the board will be aligned, and the board may be folded as seen in Figure 2.

Rubber headed tacks 44 or similar resilient pads may be secured to the stretcher 32 and to the legs 25 and 26, in the locations seen in Figures 3, 4 and 5. The pads or tacks on the legs 25 and 26 are received in notches 45 in the frame structure when the legs are in folded position, as best illustrated in Figure 3.

The leg 25 in its unfolded position, seen in Figure 5, has its upper end 29 in abutment with the section 1, and the leg 26 in its unfolded position has its upper end 37 in abutment with the section 2, thus forming together with the stretcher 32, a firm and stable supporting structure for the ironing board.

The above described ironing board structure can be put in condition for use by unfolding the same from the condition seen in Figure 2 to that illustrated in Figure 1 and moving the member 22 into position beneath the joint between sections 1 and 2. The board can then be placed directly upon a table top or some other supporting surface of suitable height.

When it is desired to raise the board above the table top or other support, the stretcher 32 is pulled down moving the legs 25 and 26 about the hinges 27 and 28. The member 41 is moved to a position covering the links 35 and 36 and the supporting structure thus formed, which is clearly shown in Figure 5 is rested upon the table top.

To fold the board for storing or transporting the same, the legs 25 and 26 are moved into the cavity in the bottom of the board, carrying with them the stretcher 32 which will then lie flush with the bottom of the board, the member 22 of the board and the member 41 of the stretcher are then moved into the positions indicated in Figure 4, in which condition the board is ready to be folded into the compact condition seen in Figure 2.

It will thus be apparent that the invention provides a folding ironing board of compact design, rugged construction and light weight which is particularly suitable for packing in any available space to be carried about, and which is

capable of being used wherever a convenient supporting surface is to be found.

Having thus clearly shown and described the invention, what is claimed and desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A folding table-top ironing board, comprising a board including a flat under surface, a pair of stub legs including flat upper ends, hinge means hingedly connecting said flat upper ends of said legs to said under surface of said board for swinging movement in the same direction from a folded position with said flat upper ends at right angles to said under surface to an erect position with said flat upper ends abutting said flat under surface, said legs each having a bottom edge formed with a slot therein, said slots each including a floor, said slots being aligned, a stretcher, hinge means hingedly connecting said stretcher to said legs, in the region of said slots whereby said stretcher is seated in said slots in vertically-spaced relation to said under surface of said board when said legs are in said erect position.

2. A folding table-top ironing board, comprising a board including a flat under surface, a pair of stub legs including flat upper ends, hinge means hingedly connecting said flat upper ends of said legs to said under surface of said board for swinging movement in the same direction from a folded position with said flat upper ends at right angles to said under surface to an erect position with said flat upper ends abutting said flat under surface, said legs each having a bottom edge formed with a slot therein, said slots each including a floor, said slots being aligned, a stretcher, hinge means hingedly connecting said stretcher to said legs in the region of said slots whereby said stretcher is seated in said slots in vertically-spaced relation to said under surface of said board when said legs are in said erect position, said board and stretcher each comprising a pair of sections, hinge means hingedly connecting said board sections together intermediate said legs, hinge means hingedly connecting said stretcher sections together intermediate said legs, both of said last-named hinge means being aligned for folding movement in the same direction when said legs are in said folded position, and both of said last-named hinge means being offset when said legs are in said erect position.

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