J. STONE.

LAP BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 1, 1911.

1,106,901.

Patented Aug. 11, 1914.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

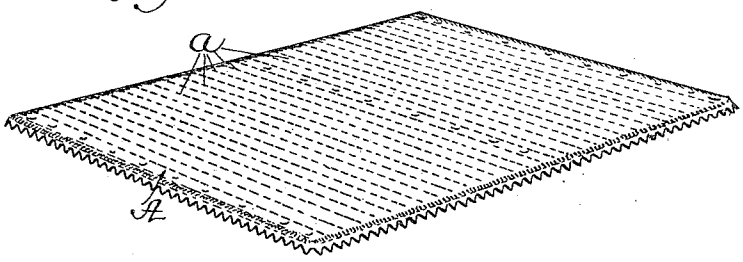


FIG. 2.

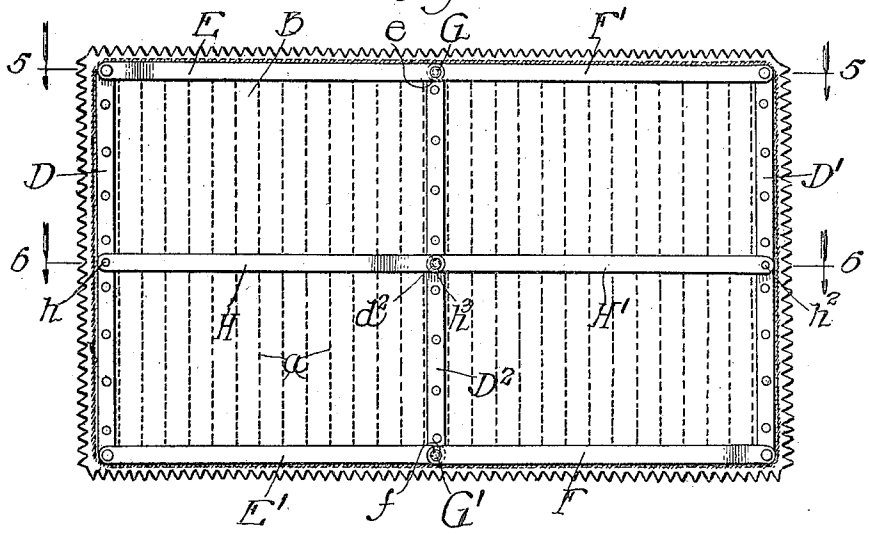
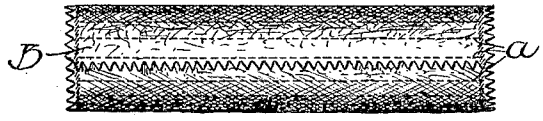


FIG. 3.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

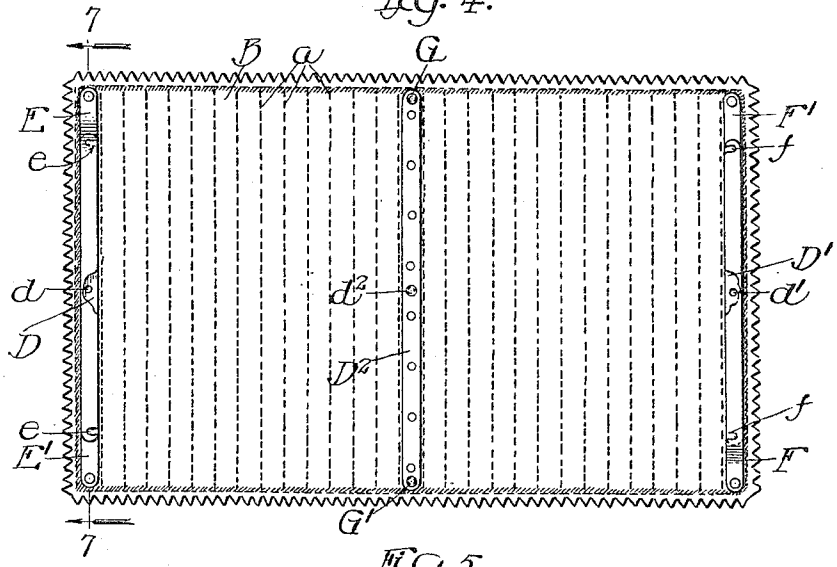


Fig. 5.

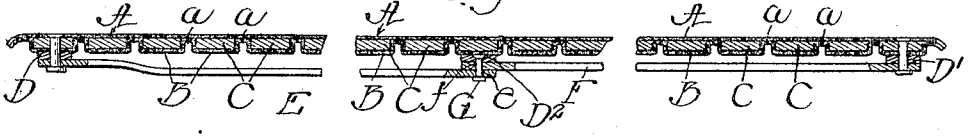


Fig. 6.

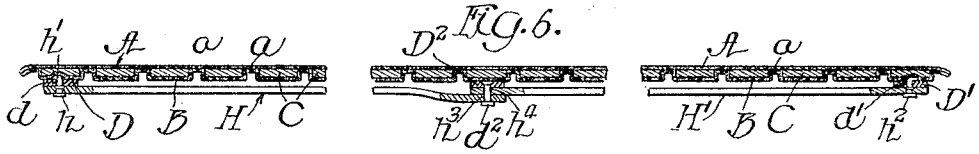


Fig. 7.

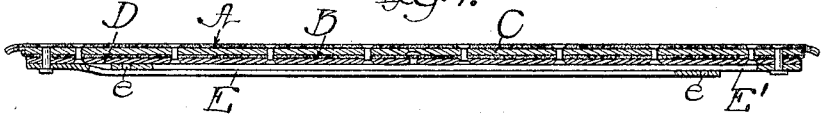


Fig. 8.

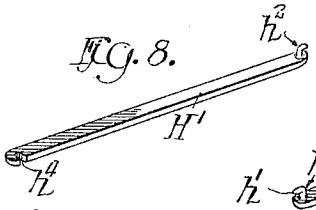
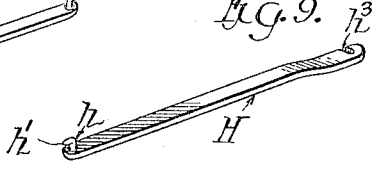


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES STONE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

LAP-BOARD.

1,106,901. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 11, 1914.

Application filed February 1, 1911. Serial No. 605,860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES STONE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lap-Boards; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a lap-board designed more especially for the use of card-players on railway trains and which is adapted to be rolled into a small compass, so that it may be conveniently placed in a suit-case or satchel for transportation and at the same time may be held flat and rigid while in use.

A lap-board embodying my invention consists generally of two layers of cloth or other flexible material united to each other at intervals by parallel lines of stitching, or otherwise, to form a series of pockets, stiffening strips inserted in said pockets, and forming with the flexible layers a series of stiffened sections, together with rigid extension bars connected with the end-sections of the board and adapted to extend transversely of the intermediate sections, in such manner as to hold the sections in the same plane with each other and the board as a whole in a flat and extended condition.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter described and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a lap-board embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same as seen from beneath. Fig. 3 is a view of the board when rolled up for transportation. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the board from beneath showing the extension bars when folded preparatory to rolling up of the board. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section taken upon line 5—5 of Fig. 2. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section taken upon line 6—6 of Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is a longitudinal section taken upon line 7—7 of Fig. 4. Figs. 8 and 9 are perspective views of the two extension-bars shown in Fig. 6.

As shown in said drawings, the body of the lap-board consists of two layers, A and B, of flexible material, such as cloth, leather or oil-cloth, joined to each other at intervals, by means of transversely extending parallel lines of stitching *a*, to form a plurality of transversely extending, parallel pockets in which are inserted stiffening strips C, C. Said stiffening strips may be of any suitable material, but for lightness of weight they preferably consist of fiber-board or vulcanized fiber. The two layers of fabric, with the stiffening strips between them, thus arranged and connected, constitute in effect a series of flexibly connected, transversely extending parallel, stiffened sections adapted to permit the board to be rolled up endwise into a small compass. The pockets are preferably so formed, as shown in the sectional views, Figs. 5 and 6, that the top flexible layer A will be flat or level when the board is extended and in use, this construction affording a smooth top surface which makes the lap-board more available for the use of card-players. In this construction, for obvious reasons, the board will be rolled with the top layer A inwardly.

As a desirable feature of construction, I have shown the flexible layers A and B as extending at their margins outside of the lines of stitching which extend around the margins of the board, and also as provided with serrated or notched, flexible edges, in order that the board may be more easily rolled up.

Devices are provided for holding the several sections in the same plane with each other and keeping the board extended when in use, as follows: Secured to the under surface of the end stiffening strips or sections are metal strips D D^1. Said strips are preferably secured to the end sections by rivets extending through both parts, as shown in the drawings. To one of the intermediate sections, preferably midway between the ends of the board, is similarly secured a third metal strip D^2. To the ends of the strip D are pivotally connected two extension bars E E^1. The pivots connecting these parts are so arranged as to enable said bars to be folded inwardly, parallel with the strip D and in parallel and overlapping relation to each other. One of said bars, E, is bent or offset near its pivoted end, as shown in Fig. 7, to give room for the entrance of the other bar, E^1, beneath the same when the parts are in a folded position. The metal strip D^1 at the opposite end of the board is

provided with like bars F F^1 pivoted thereto in the same manner as described in connection with the bars E E^1.

The bars E E^1 F and F^1 are made of a length not greater than the width of the board and approximately one-half of the length thereof so that when placed in position at right angles to the metal strips D D^1 they will overlap each other at their meeting ends and also overlap the intermediate metal strip D^2 and when placed in position parallel to the said metal strips D D^1 they will overlap each other and will lie entirely within the width of the board. Devices are provided by which the ends of the bars E and F^1 at one side of the board, and the bars E^1 and F at the opposite side of the board, may be rigidly joined or interlocked with each other in a manner to stretch the board endwise and keep it flat. As a convenient construction, the said bars are also adapted to have interlocking engagement with the ends of the strip D^2. Devices for these purposes, as shown in the drawings, consist of headed studs G G^1, secured in the opposite ends of the metal strip D^2 and extending downwardly therefrom, and transverse slots *e*, *f* in the bars (Figs. 2 and 4) adapted to receive the shanks of said studs. The position of the parts when the lap-board is flat or extended is shown in Fig. 2, the bars E E^1 and F F^1 at this time being at right angles to the strips D D^1 and extending transversely of the flexibly connected sections of the board, while the meeting ends of the bars have interlocking connection with each other and also preferably with the intermediate strip D^2 in a manner to keep the body of the board in an extended position, and hold it flat. When it is desired to roll up the board, said bars E E^1, F F^1 are folded against or upon the strips D D^1, and owing to their length being not greater than the width of the board the said bars will overlap each other and lie entirely within the width of the board, so that the ends thereof will not project beyond the sides of the same, as shown in Fig. 4, and, all the parts then being parallel to each other, the board may be rolled up into a compact nearly cylindrical roll with all of the said bars wholly concealed within the compact roll, as seen in Fig. 3. The arrangement of the flexibly joined sections transversely of the board and in connection with distending members made of a length not greater than that of said sections and pivoted in pairs to the end sections of the board, as described, makes it possible to roll the lap-board up endwise, with the bars concealed therein, and thus form a compact roll of a length which will fit easily within an ordinary suit case or satchel.

In case it be desired to provide extension bars in addition to those at the side margins of the board, the construction shown in the drawings may be employed, as follows: H H^1 (Figs. 2, 6, 8 and 9) are two bars, each of which is adapted for detachable connection with one of the strips D D^1. Said bars are also adapted for interlocking connection at their meeting ends. As illustrated the bar H is provided with a stud *h*, having at its end a lateral projection h^1, and said stud *h* is adapted to engage a hole or socket *d* in the metal strip D. Similarly, the bar H^1 is provided with a like hooked stud h^2 adapted for engagement with a hole d^1 in the strip D^1. In this instance, the intermediate strip D^2 is provided centrally between its ends with a fixed stud d^2, and the meeting ends of the bars H H^1 are provided with transverse slots h^3 h^4 adapted to receive the shank of the stud d^2 when the parts are in their interlocked positions. The bars H and H^1 are thus adapted for detachable connection with the studs D and D^1, while at the same time serving as additional stiffening members to hold the board flat and distended. It will of course be understood that the intermediate bars H H^1 will be entirely detached from the board preparatory to the rolling up of the same, and may be easily carried by inserting the same inside of the body of the board when the latter is rolled for transportation.

It will be understood that the accompanying drawings illustrate only one form of the lap-board embodying my invention and that in carrying out the invention various modifications may be made in the details of construction. I do not, therefore, desire to be limited to the particular features and details of construction shown in the drawings except so far as the same may be specifically set forth in the appended claims as parts of my invention.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A lap-board comprising an upper and a lower layer of flexible fabric, the upper layer being adapted to lie in a plane when the board is distended to provide a smooth, flat top surface therefor, and the lower layer being united to the upper layer along transversely extending parallel lines to form a series of parallel, transversely extending pockets; the part of the lower layer forming each pocket being wider than the corresponding part of the upper layer, stiffening strips inserted in said pockets and forming with the fabric a series of flexibly connected, longitudinally extending stiffened members, metal strips, located one at each end of the board, said metal strips being secured to the under sides of the end sections or stiffened members thereof, and two pairs of distending bars, one pair at each end of the board; the bars of each pair being pivotally connected each at one end with one end of the associated metal strip; said bars being no

greater in length than the width of the board and approximately one-half of the length of the same; the bars of each pair, when in non-operative position, overlapping each other and extending transversely of the board, and, when distended, extending lengthwise of the board with their free ends overlapping each other, and means for detachably connecting with each other the free ends of said bars, embracing studs on one of the intermediate sections or stiffened members.

2. A lap-board comprising an upper and a lower layer of flexible fabric, the upper layer being adapted to lie in a plane when the board is distended to provide a smooth, flat top surface therefor, and the lower layer being united to the upper layer along transversely extending parallel lines to form a series of parallel, transversely extending pockets; the part of the lower layer forming each pocket being wider than the corresponding part of the upper layer, stiffening strips inserted in said pockets and forming with the fabric a series of flexibly connected, longitudinally extending stiffened members, metal strips, located one at each end of the board, said metal strips being secured to the under sides of the end sections or stiffened members thereof, an intermediate metal strip secured to the under side of one of the intermediate sections or stiffened members of the board, and two pairs of distending bars, one pair at each end of the board; the bars of each pair being pivotally connected at one end with one end of the associated metal strip; said bars being no greater in length than the width of the board and approximately one-half of the length of the same; the bars of each pair, when in non-operative position, overlapping each other and extending transversely of the board, and, when distended, extending lengthwise of the board with their free ends overlapping each other; the ends of said intermediate bar and the free ends of the distending bars being provided with interlocking, detachable connecting devices.

In testimony, that I, claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 30th day of January A. D. 1911.

JAMES STONE.

Witnesses:
GEORGE R. WILKINS,
T. H. ALFREDS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."