March 29, 1932. C. Z. STANLEY 1,851,600

LAP BOARD

Filed April 11, 1930

Fig. 1

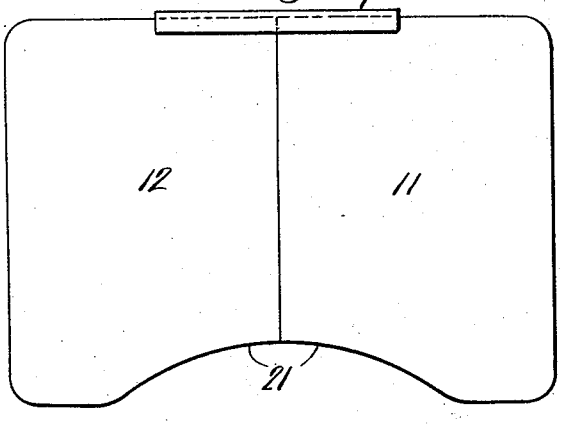


Fig. 3

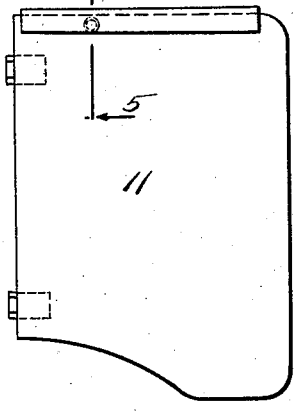


Fig. 2

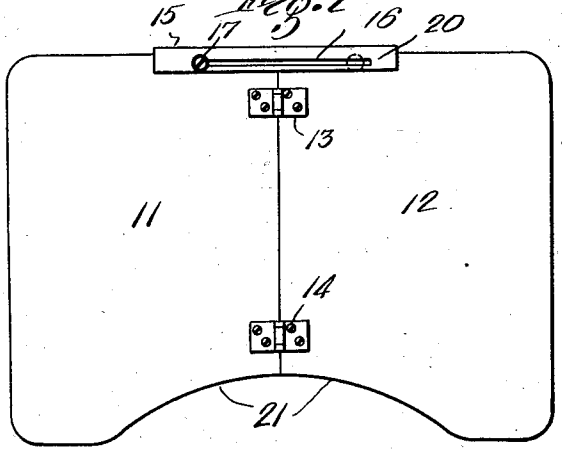


Fig. 5

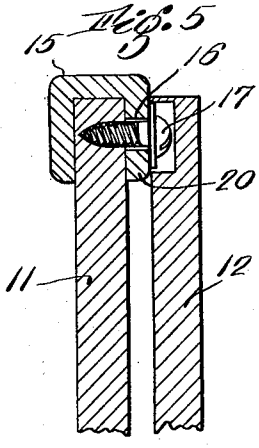
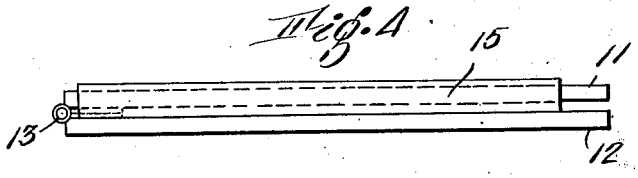


Fig. 4



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Patented Mar. 29, 1932 1,851,600

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CAROLINE Z. STANLEY, OF BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

LAP BOARD

Application filed April 11, 1930. Serial No. 443,395.

This invention relates to folding lap boards suitable to hold reading matter, writing materials, dishes or the like. My invention aims to provide a lap board capable of being folded compactly for carrying or packing, and easily opened and fixed in its flat or extended state. My invention contemplates the use of a movable slide for locking hinged panels of the lap board together and retaining the lap board in a flat state, and the improved construction according to my invention secures the slide to one of the panels so that it is always in place ready for use, is in no danger of becoming disengaged during use or carrying of the lap board, and yet is easily movable from its locking to its unlocking position and vice versa.

Other objects and advantageous features of construction will be apparent from this explanation of a specific lap board made according to my invention and shown by way of example in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a lap board in its flat or extended state;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same lap board;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the lap board folded for carrying or shipping;

Fig. 4 is an end elevation of the folded lap board of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the improved lap board shown therein comprises essentially the two panels 11 and 12, which may be of wood or any suitable material, cut away on an arc at 21, hinged together at their adjacent side edges, for instance by means of hinges 13 and 14, and provided with the locking slide 15 adapted to hold the two panels in an extended position as in Figs. 1 and 2. Referring to Fig. 5, the locking slide 15 preferably is of channel shape, embraces the end edge of one panel, for instance panel 11, and is movable along the end of the board to embrace also the end edge of the other panel 12, thereby to lock the two panels in the position of Figs. 1 and 2.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 5, the lower flange 20 of the slide is provided with a slot 16, preferably extending throughout the major part of its length. A pin, herein shown as a wood screw 17, is fastened directly in the bottom face of panel 11 and by extending into slot 16 permanently connects slide 16 to panel 11, so that the slide never becomes disengaged from the board, but is always retained in position for ready use. By moving the slide 16 longitudinally to the right in Fig. 1 until it is entirely disengaged from panel 12, the board may be folded into the position shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, and in the reverse order the board may be opened to the position of 1 and 2 by unfolding it and moving the slide to the central position shown therein, wherein the slide engages the end edges of both of the panels. Preferably the slide is movable along the end edges of the panels with an easy sliding fit, the provision of the connection between the slide and one of the panels rendering it unnecessary to have the slide fit tightly or with a spring action, for preventing its disengagement. The length of the slide is preferably not greater than the width of one of the panels so that upon folding of the panels, for instance, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the slide does not project beyond the side edges of the folded board.

In case hinges of the type shown in Figs. 2 and 4 are employed which upon folding of the board space the two panels a slight distance apart, the thickness of the lower flange 20 of the slide is preferably not greater than the folded thickness of the hinges, so that the two panels when folded as in Fig. 4 will lie substantially parallel.

The provision of a channel in the slide is advantageous in that it permits the slide to lock the panels by embracing their edge portions which need be no thicker than the main portions of the panels. Thus when the board is folded, the two panels are separated only by the thickness of one flange of the channeled slide, and the folded board is rendered very compact.

I claim:

1. A folding lap board having, when extended, a substantially straight rear edge and a concave forward edge, said board comprising two substantially like panels abutting

along a line extending from front to rear, hinges secured to the under sides of the panels and permanently uniting them, and means for holding the panels in extended relation in use comprising a non-resilient channel-shaped slide having an easy sliding fit over the rear straight edge of the board, said slide being of a length slightly shorter than the width of one of the panels and having an elongated slot in its bottom flange, said bottom flange being of a thickness substantially equal to the folded thickness of the hinges, a screw extending through said slot in the bottom flange of the slide and into one of the panels for permanently securing the slide to said panel, while permitting its free longitudinal movement into overlapping relation to the edge of the other panel.

2. A folding lap board having, when extended, a substantially straight rear edge and a concave forward edge, said board comprising two substantially like panels abutting along a line extending from front to rear, hinges secured to the under sides of the panels and permanently uniting them, and means for holding the panels in extended relation in use comprising a non-resilient channel-shaped slide having an easy sliding fit over the rear straight edge of the board, said slide being of a length slightly shorter than the width of one of the panels and having an elongated slot in its bottom flange, said bottom flange being of a thickness substantially equal to the folded thickness of the hinges, a screw extending through said slot in the bottom flange of the slide and into one of the panels for permanently securing the slide to said panel, while permitting its free longitudinal movement into overlapping relation to the edge of the other panel, said latter panel having a recess in its under side of the reception of said screw head when the slider is retracted and the panels are folded.

Signed by me at Boston, Massachusetts, this ninth day of April, 1930.

CAROLINE Z. STANLEY.