

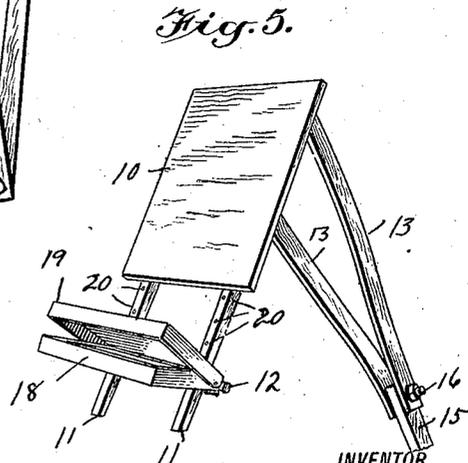
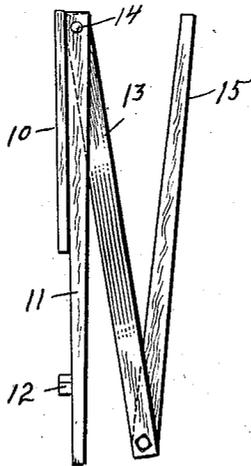
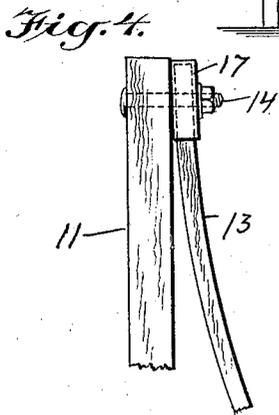
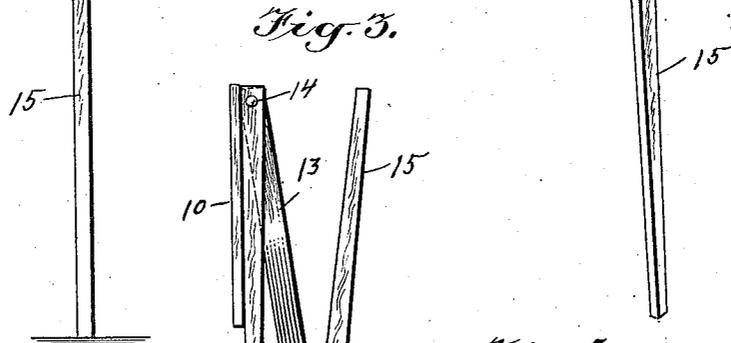
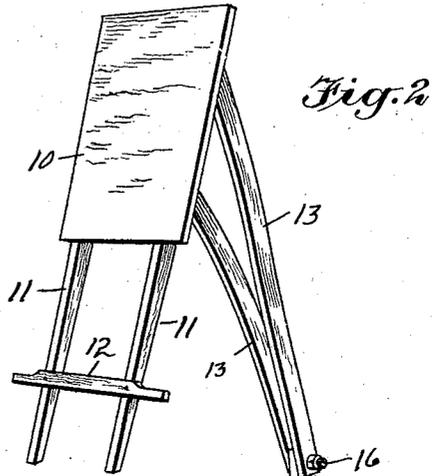
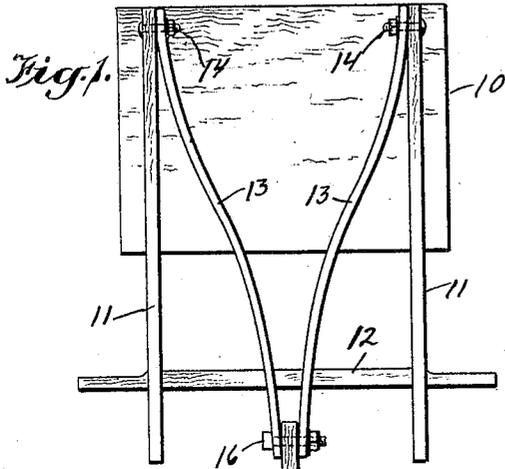
Dec. 4, 1923.

1,476,545

F. REAUGH

LAP EASEL

Filed Feb. 3, 1920



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK REAUGH, OF OAK CLIFF, TEXAS.

LAP EASEL.

Application filed February 3, 1920. Serial No. 355,949.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK REAUGH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oak Cliff, in the county of Dallas and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lap Easels, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an improved lap easel adapted to be supported primarily in or over the lap of a person in sitting posture, the top or upper part of the easel being supported or braced from the ground.

My improved construction in its preferred form is adapted for outdoor or indoor use in sketching, drawing or painting and is light, compact and strong. The three leg support insures the requisite steadiness and the back leg is not only adjustable to permit the supporting of the drawing board at the desired angle, but is foldable to facilitate convenient carrying or storage and is so designed and fastened that it will stay in adjusted position. The easel may be held firmly in position by knee pressure leaving both hands free and the knee pressure in holding the easel may also hold the handle or staff of an umbrella or sunshade. The joints of the back leg are under spring tension which may be adjusted and the back leg, when in folded position, permits of the convenient supporting of the easel on a table or in any other position with the lower ends of the legs in approximately the same horizontal plane. The entire construction is easily and cheaply built and cannot very easily get out of order.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating one embodiment of my invention,

Figure 1 is a back view showing the back leg extended;

Figure 2 is a side perspective;

Figure 3 is a side elevation showing the back leg in partially folded position;

Figure 4 is a detail, similar to a portion of Figure 1 but on a larger scale showing a slight modification; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view similar to a portion of Figure 2, but showing a box for materials hinged to the lap rest bar.

In the specific form shown I employ a drawing board 10 which may be of any suitable light rigid material, such as, white pine or other soft wood with the grain extending lengthwise of the board. Rigidly secured to the rear surface thereof are two front legs

11—11 approximately parallel and spaced apart at their lower ends to a distance conveniently permitting the knees of a person in sitting posture to extend therebetween. These legs serve not only as a part of the support for the drawing board but also strengthen and re-enforce the latter as they extend transversely of the grain of the board 10. Rigidly secured to the front legs 11—11 is a lap rest bar 12, which is disposed substantially at right angles to the legs 11—11 and at a suitable distance above the lower ends of the latter so that the bar may rest across the knees without the lower ends of the legs 11—11 engaging with the surface upon which the person is seated. The opposite ends of the lap rest bar 12 extend out beyond the leg 11—11 a short distance, as, for instance three (3) or four (4) inches so that the user may place his knees beneath the extremities of the bar 12 and upon opposite sides of the legs 11—11 instead of between said legs, if desired. The user, by gently pressing the knee inwardly or outwardly as the case may be, may firmly hold the front legs of the easel and the tilting of the board in its own plane is effectively prevented by the bar 12 resting across the knees. If desired the user may hold the handle or staff of an umbrella or sunshade between one knee and the adjacent easel leg 11 and thus support the umbrella or sunshade leaving both hands free.

Secured to the upper portion of the rear side of the device is a single back leg. This is shown as including upper and lower sections, the upper section comprising two strips or bars 13—13 of light strong resilient material such, for instance, as thin strips of ash or oak. These are bolted or pivoted to the upper ends of the front legs 11—11 by suitable means such, for instance, as bolts 14—14. The lower section of the back leg is in the form of a bar 15 having one end secured to and between the lower ends of the leg sections 13—13 by means of a bolt 16. As the leg section 15 may lie substantially parallel to but between and spaced from the front legs 11—11, it will be evident that the members 13—13 are disposed in diagonal positions and form, with the lower leg section 15, substantially a letter Y. As the upper ends of the sections 13—13 may be bolted so as to lie approximately parallel to the front legs 11 and the lower ends bolted so

as to lie approximately parallel to the leg section 15. These members 13—13 are forced to take reverse curves of slightly S form and are put under tension by the tightening of the bolts. If desired the portions of the members 13—13 may have metal re-enforcing caps or ferrules enclosing them so as to prevent splitting and to prevent the nuts or bolt heads from cutting into the wood. In Figure 4 I have shown a ferrule or cap 17. If desired a box for paints, brushes, pencils or other materials or tools may be conveniently hinged to the lap rest bar 12 and be folded up to lie approximately in the same plane with the drawing board when not in use. In Figure 5 I have shown such a material box 18 secured to the lap rest bar 12 and having a hinged cover 19. If it is desired to support a larger drawing board or any special frame or other device on the easel the legs 11—11 may be provided with a series of holes 20 into which pegs, brackets or other supporting members may be inserted.

With the parts in the position shown in Figure 2 the easel may be conveniently supported and held rigid in the lap of the user and held at the desired inclination by the back leg, the lower end of which may rest on the ground. The upper and lower sections of the back leg may be bent at any desired angle in respect to each other to give the drawing board the desired inclination. The tension on the members 13—13 will hold the parts in the adjusted position. If it is desired to support the easel on a table, the lower leg section 15 may be swung through approximately 180° and lie between the upper sections 13—13 and the lower ends of the latter serve as the lower end of the back leg. The back leg may be folded to and through the position shown in Figure 3 so that these parts will lie against the rear surface of the drawing board between the front legs 11—11. The tension on the parts will hold them in folded position during ordinary handling or carrying.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A lap easel including a drawing board, a pair of front legs rigidly secured thereto and extending in a plane parallel to the plane of said board, a lap rest bar connecting said legs above the lower ends of the latter, and having its end portions extending out beyond said legs, said bar being adapted to rest on the knees of the user with the lower ends of said legs against the sides of the knees.

2. A lap easel having a pair of substantially parallel front legs and a back leg of substantially Y form, the branch portions of the Y being of approximately the same

length as the said front legs and the stem of the Y being foldable into position between said branches.

3. A lap easel having a pair of substantially parallel front legs and a back leg of substantially Y form, the branch portions of the Y being of approximately the same length as the said front legs and the stem of the Y being foldable into position between said branches, and said branches being under spring tension to retain the parts in adjusted position.

4. A lap easel having a pair of substantially parallel front legs and a back leg of substantially Y form, the upper ends of the branches of the Y being clamped to and substantially parallel with the upper ends of the front legs and the lower ends of the said branches being clamped to and substantially parallel with the stem of the Y whereby reverse curves and tension are given to said branches.

5. A lap easel including a drawing board, a lap rest bar disposed in substantially the same plane and spaced below the lower edge of the board, a pair of front legs rigidly secured to said bar and supporting said board and extending to a short distance below the bar and adapted to be held against the sides of the knees of a person in sitting position with said bar on the knees, and a rear leg of materially greater length than said front legs, the upper end of said rear leg being secured at the upper edge of the board and the lower end adapted to engage with the ground.

6. A lap easel having a frame including a bar adapted to rest in the lap of a person in sitting position, a pair of front legs rigidly secured to said bar and having portions extending to a short distance below the bar and adapted to be held against the sides of the knees, and a rear leg having its upper end pivotally connected to the upper ends of both of said front legs and having its lower end adapted to rest on the ground.

7. A lap easel including a rigid front frame adapted to support the work and be itself supported on the knees of a person in sitting position, and a Y-shaped rear leg attached to the upper corners of said front frame and including a plurality of pivotally connected sections, the lower section being movable to a position between the two upper sections, or to a position extending downwardly therefrom, and means for applying adjustable spring tension at the pivotal connections of said sections.

8. A lap easel having a frame adapted to support the work and including substantially vertical and substantially horizontal portions for engagement with the knees of the sketcher in sitting position, a back leg formed of two foldably connected sections, and means for applying spring tension to

hold the two sections in adjusted position in respect to each other.

9. A lap easel comprising a front frame including spaced front legs adapted to be gripped by the sides of the knees, means for holding the work being done, means carried by the front legs for resting on the knees, an adjustable and foldable rear leg of greater length than said front legs and means for regulating the tension on the joints of said rear leg.

10. In a lap easel, a frame adapted to support the work and having a horizontal part, two upright members having their lower ends extending below said horizontal

part and spaced to engage with the sides of the knees of the user, and a substantially Y-shaped back leg formed of three pivotally connected sections, the upper ends of the two upper sections being spaced apart and separately bolted to the upper ends of said upright members, and the lower section having its upper end bolted between the lower ends of the two upper sections, the bolts serving as means to regulate the tension of the parts at the pivotal connections.

Signed at Oak Cliff, in the county of Dallas and State of Texas, this 30th day of January, A. D. 1920.

FRANK REAUGH.