Feb. 2, 1965 J. R. MONSOUR 3,168,363

ARTIST'S KIT

Filed May 24, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

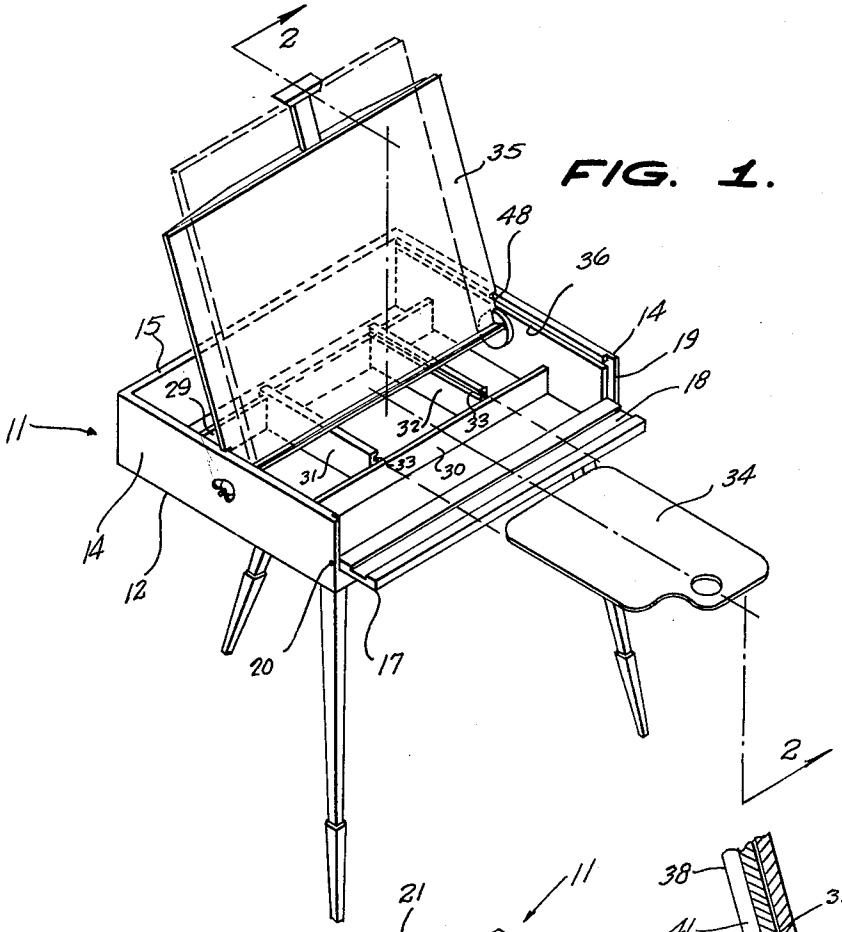


FIG. 1.

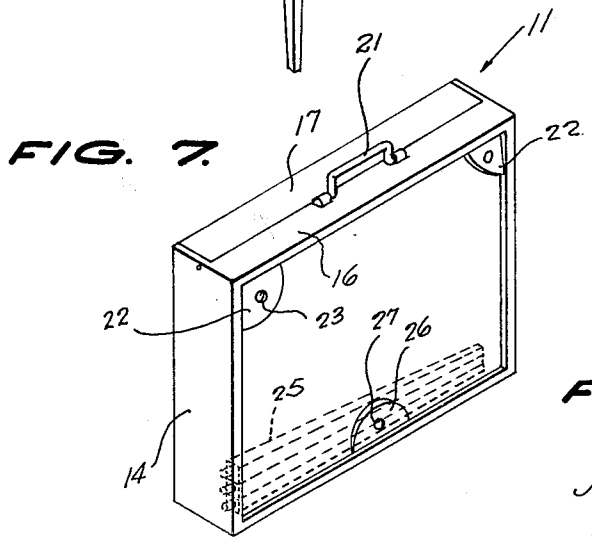


FIG. 7.

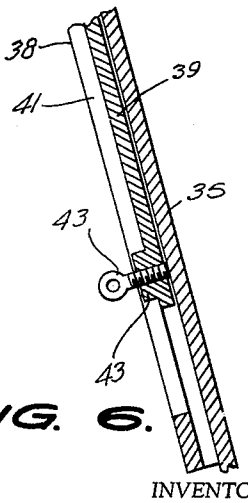


FIG. 6.

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ARTIST'S KIT

Filed May 24, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

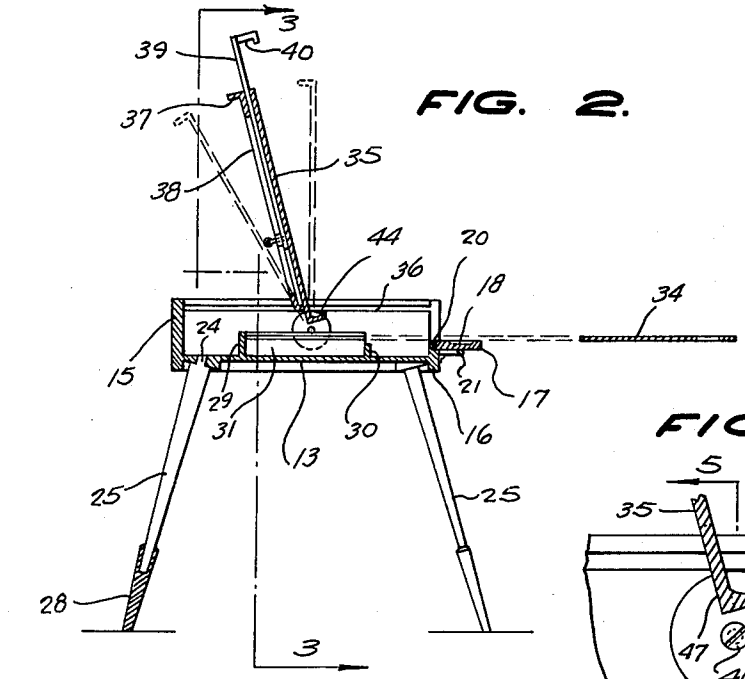


FIG. 2.

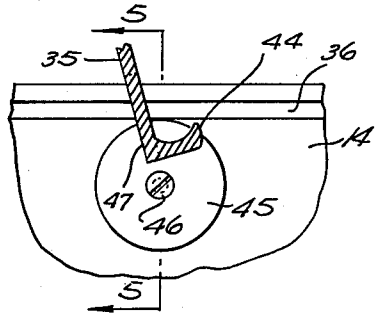


FIG. 4.

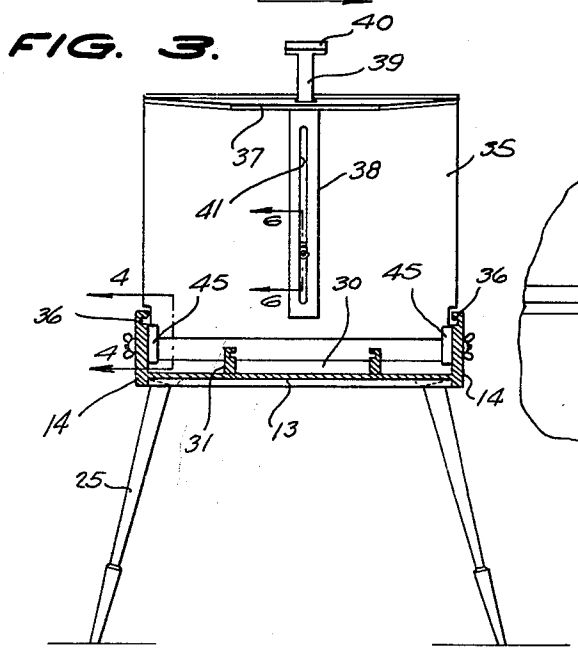


FIG. 3.

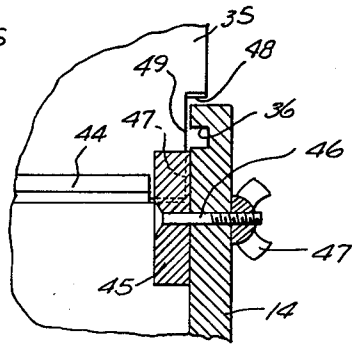


FIG. 5.

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ARTIST'S KIT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 312—231)

This invention relates to equipment for artists, and more particularly to a portable cabinet device for art equipment which may be set up at times to serve as an easel.

A main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved artist's cabinet which is adapted to be employed to store and transport artist's materials and which is arranged so that it may be easily and rapidly set up as an easel, if so desired, the device being of simple construction, being of relatively inexpensive materials, and being compact in size.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved artist's cabinet which is convertible into an easel, the cabinet being relatively light in weight, being of durable construction, being arranged so that it can be set up as an easel without requiring the use of any tools, and having a wide range of adjustability.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an improved artist's kit according to the present invention, shown set up for use as an easel, and showing the palette member thereof separated from the kit.

FIGURE 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged cross sectional detail view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 6—6 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 7 is a perspective view showing the artist's kit of FIGURES 1 to 6 in its folded condition prepared for transportation or storage.

Referring to the drawing, the improved artist's kit is designated generally at 11, and comprises a rectangular main tray-like receptacle 12 having a bottom wall 13, parallel upstanding sidewalls 14, 14 and an upstanding rear wall 15. The receptacle has a short upstanding lower front wall portion 16 and a hinged additional front wall portion 17 of substantial width, the portion 17 being formed on its inside surface with a longitudinally extending groove or recess 18 shaped to receive brushes, paint tubes, and similar artist's material when the wall portion 17 is in its forwardly extending horizontal position, shown in FIGURE 2. As shown in FIGURE 1, the inside front edge portions of the sidewalls 14, 14 are recessed, as shown at 19, to define rightangled receiving corners to receive the opposite ends of the hinged wall member 17, so that said members can be folded flush with the lower front wall portion 16, for example, as shown in FIGURE 7. The hinged member 17 is pivotally connected to the ends of the sidewalls 14, 14 by hinge pins 20 which are located adjacent the inside surface plane of the lower front wall portion 16 so that when the hinged wall member 17 is in its forwardly extending horizontal position, shown in FIGURE 2, it will be supported on the top edge of the stationary lower front wall portion 16.

Secured to the intermediate portion of the fixed lower front wall element 16 is a generally U-shaped carrying handle 21 which is located adjacent to and which extends parallel to the longitudinal upper edge of the fixed lower wall portion 16, as viewed in FIGURE 2, so that the handle 21 is located immediately beneath the hinged shelf member 17 when said shelf member is in its horizontal, forwardly projecting position shown in FIGURE 2.

Secured to the forward corner portions of the bottom wall 13 are a pair of leg brackets 22, 22 formed with apertures 23 adapted to receive the top pins 24 of respective supporting legs 25, 25, in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2. A similar bracket 26 is secured to the intermediate portion of the rear margin of the bottom of wall 13, said bracket 26 being formed with an aperture 27 adapted to receive the upstanding pin 24 on the top end of a similar leg 25. The leg-contacting surfaces of the brackets 22, 22 and 26, and the apertures 23 and 27 are so oriented that the legs will be engaged with the brackets so as to diverge downwardly in the manner clearly illustrated in FIGURES 1, 2 and 3.

The legs 25 are provided with detachable bottom extension portions 28 which may be removed if it is desired to shorten the legs so as to support the member 12 at a lower elevation than that illustrated in FIGURES 1, 2 and 3.

Secured in the tray-like receptacle 12 are a pair of spaced upstanding longitudinal partition walls 29 and 30, and secured transversely between the upstanding partition members 29 and 30 are the parallel opposing rib members 31, 32 which extend upwardly above the top edges of the members 29 and 30 and which are formed with opposing channels or grooves 33, 33 adapted to slidably receive the opposite edge portions of a palette board 34.

The palette board 34 is thus engageable with the channels or grooves 33, 33 to support the board in a retracted position within the tray-like receptacle 12 when the palette board is not in use, but may be readily withdrawn from the receptacle for use, when required. As shown in FIGURE 1, the channels 33, 33 are located above the plane of the top edge of the forward partition wall member 30 so as to provide free access thereto for inserting the edges of the palette board 34 into the channels.

Designated at 35 is a rigid, generally rectangular cover member whose side edges are slidably engageable in respective guide grooves 36, 36 formed at the upper margins of the inside surfaces of the sidewalls 14, 14, the cover 35 being of sufficient area to completely overlie the top of the tray-like receptacle 12 when its side edges are fully engaged in the grooves 36, 36.

The cover member 35 is formed at its top edge, as viewed in FIGURE 2, with a rearwardly extending flange 37, and the member 35 is integrally formed with a sleeve portion 38 extending perpendicular to the flange 37 and slidably receiving a bar member 39 which extends through the flange 37 and which is provided at its top end, as viewed in FIGURES 2 and 3 with a forwardly extending hooked flange 40. The sleeve 38 is formed with a longitudinal slot 41 through which extends a lug 42 formed integrally on the lower end portion of the rod 39, and which threadedly receives a screw eye 43, as shown in FIGURE 6. The screw member 43 is employed as a set screw to lock the bar 39 in an adjusted position in the sleeve 38, so as to correspondingly lock the hook-shaped flange 40 in engagement with the top edge of the frame of a canvas, or other article supported on the easel board 34. The board 34 is provided at its lower edge, as viewed in FIGURE 2, with a forwardly extending ledge 44 serving to support the bottom edge of a canvas frame or other article on the board 34.

When the cover board 35 is received in the guide grooves 36, 36, the bar member 39 is completely retracted. Sufficient clearance is provided to allow the hinged wall portion 17 to be closed against the hooked flange member 40 of the retracted bar member 39. As

will be readily understood, when the cover board 35 is in its covering position, the flange 37 is directed downwardly and inwardly into the receptacle 12, and the sleeve 38 is on the underside of the cover board.

Designated at 45, 45 are respective circular blocks which are pivotally secured at their centers to opposing inside portions of the sidewalls 14, 14, for example, by means of fastening screws 46, as shown in FIGURE 5. The screws 46 extend through the centers of the blocks 45 and through the sidewalls 14 and are provided on their outer portions with wing nuts 47 which may be tightened to lock the circular blocks 45 in desired positions of angular adjustment. The blocks 45 are formed with radial grooves 47. The corner portions of the cover board 35 are formed with rectangular notches 48 defining edge portions 49 extending parallel to the side edges of the cover board which are slidably receivable in the radial grooves 47 of the circular blocks 45.

As shown in FIGURE 5, the notches 48 provide clearance for the top edges of the sidewalls 14, sufficient clearance being provided to allow the cover board 35 to be adjusted angularly over a wide range. The blocks 45 are locked in the selected positions of angular adjustment by tightening the wing nuts 47.

When the kit is in its closed position, preparatory for transportation and storage, as shown in FIGURE 7, all the parts thereof are contained inside, including the legs 25. When the kit is to be set up for use, it is first arranged horizontally, the cover 35 is removed, after opening the hinged front wall member 17 to its horizontal position, as shown in FIGURE 2, and the legs 25 are engaged in the brackets 22, 22 and 26, whereby the receptacle 12 is supported in an elevated position. The cover board 35 may then be engaged in the radially grooved blocks 45 and adjusted to the desired angle. The wing nuts 47 are then tightened to lock the blocks 45 in the positions of desired angular adjustment. The bar 39 may then be released to elevate it to a position to clampingly engage the top edge of a canvas frame or other article to be held on the easel. The palette board 34 may be withdrawn so that it can be held by the artist in the usual manner while he is at work.

As previously mentioned, all of the various articles required by the artist may be contained inside the kit when it is not in use, for example, brushes, paint tubes, or the like.

While a specific embodiment of an improved artist's kit has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An artist's kit comprising a main tray-like receptacle having parallel upstanding side walls, an upstanding rear wall, and a hinged front wall, means to support said front wall in a forwardly projecting horizontal position, said front wall having a recessed inside surface shaped to receive brushes and similar artist's materials, the upper inside marginal portions of said side walls being formed with guide grooves, a rigid cover member slidably engageable in said guide grooves, a pair of supporting blocks, each formed with a groove, and means to pivotally secure said blocks in opposing relationship to each other to the inside surfaces of said side walls, said cover member being formed with notches at opposite ends of one margin thereof to define substantially parallel edge portions receivable in the grooves in the blocks with the top portions of said notches engaged on the top edges of said side walls, to at times support said cover member in an upstanding position between said side walls, whereby to define an easel.

2. An artist's kit comprising a main tray-like receptacle having parallel upstanding side walls, an upstanding rear wall and a hinged front wall, means to support said front wall in a forwardly projecting horizontal position, said front wall having a recessed inside surface shaped to receive brushes and similar artist's materials, the upper inside marginal portions of said side walls being formed with guide grooves, a rigid cover member slidably engageable in said guide grooves, a pair of radially grooved supporting discs, and means to pivotally secure said discs in opposing relation to the inside surfaces of said side walls, said cover member having rectangular notches at its corner portions at opposite ends of one margin thereof to define parallel edge portions engageable in the radial grooves of the discs, to support said cover member in an upstanding position between said side walls, whereby to define an easel.

3. An artist's kit comprising a main tray-like receptacle having parallel upstanding side walls, an upstanding rear wall and a hinged front wall, means to support said front wall in a forwardly projecting horizontal position, said front wall having a recessed inside surface shaped to receive brushes and similar artist's materials, the upper inside marginal portions of said side walls being formed with guide grooves, a rigid cover member slidably engageable in said guide grooves, a pair of radially grooved supporting discs, means to pivotally secure said discs in opposing relation to the inside surfaces of said side walls, said cover member having rectangular notches at its corner portions at opposite ends of one margin thereof to define parallel edge portions engageable in the radial grooves of the discs, to support said cover member in an upstanding position between said side walls, whereby to define an easel, at least three supporting legs, and means to detachably secure said supporting legs to spaced points on the bottom of said tray-like receptacle.

4. An artist's kit comprising a main tray-like receptacle having parallel upstanding side walls, an upstanding rear wall and a hinged front wall, means to support said front wall in a forwardly projecting horizontal position, said front wall having a recessed inside surface shaped to receive brushes and similar artist's materials, the upper inside marginal portions of said side walls being formed with guide grooves, a rigid cover member slidably engageable in said guide grooves, a pair of radially grooved supporting discs, means to pivotally secure said discs in opposing relation to the inside surfaces of said side walls, said cover member having rectangular notches at its corner portions at opposite ends of one margin thereof to define parallel edge portions engageable in the radial grooves of the discs, to support said cover member in an upstanding position between said side walls, whereby to define an easel, at least three supporting legs, means to detachably secure said supporting legs to spaced points on the bottom of said tray-like receptacle, a pair of parallel opposing channeled upstanding rib members secured in said tray-like receptacle parallel to said side walls, and a palette board slidably engaged in the channeled rib members.

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