

Nov. 4, 1969

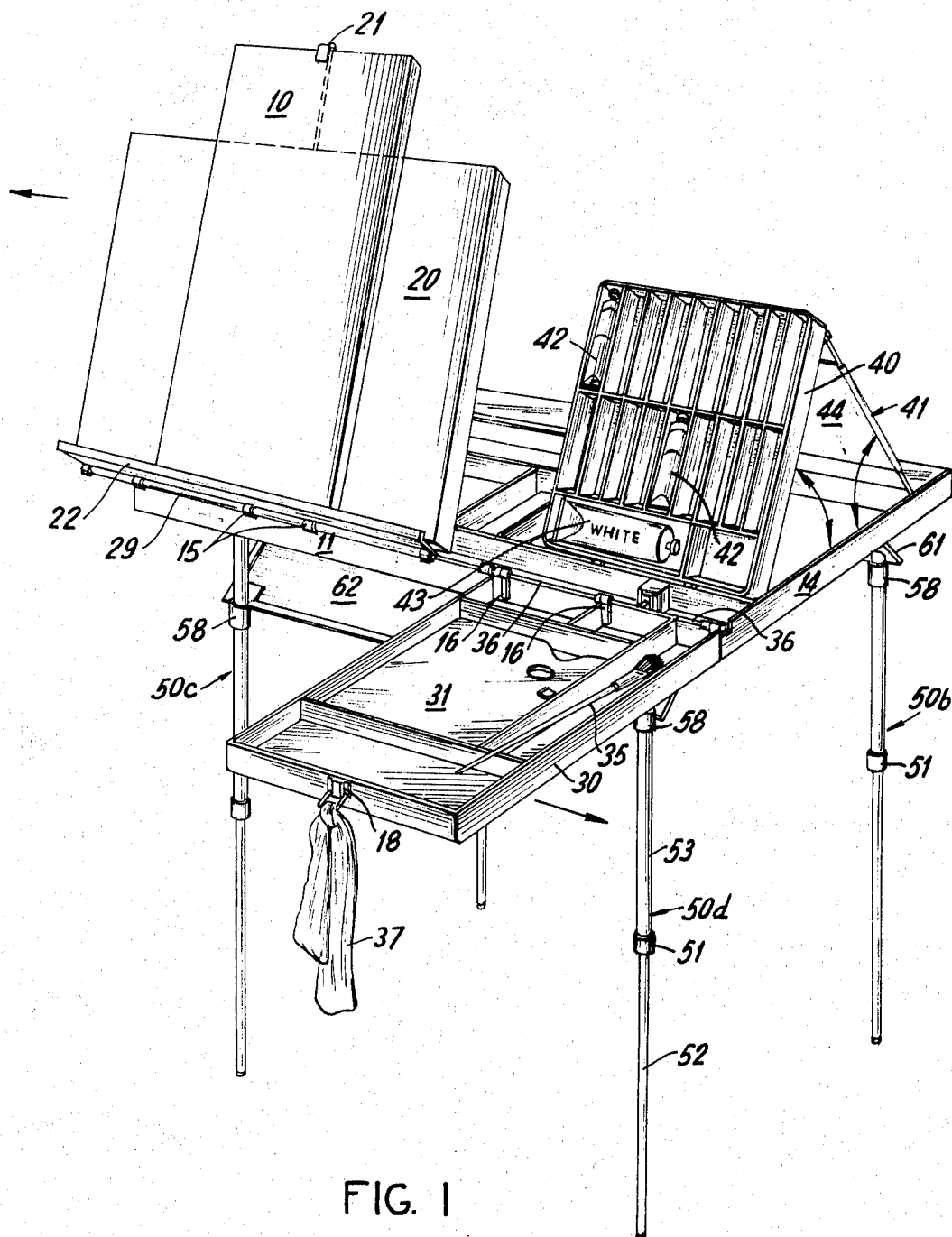
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3,476,456

ARTIST'S EASEL AND CARRYING CASE

Filed Feb. 16, 1968

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



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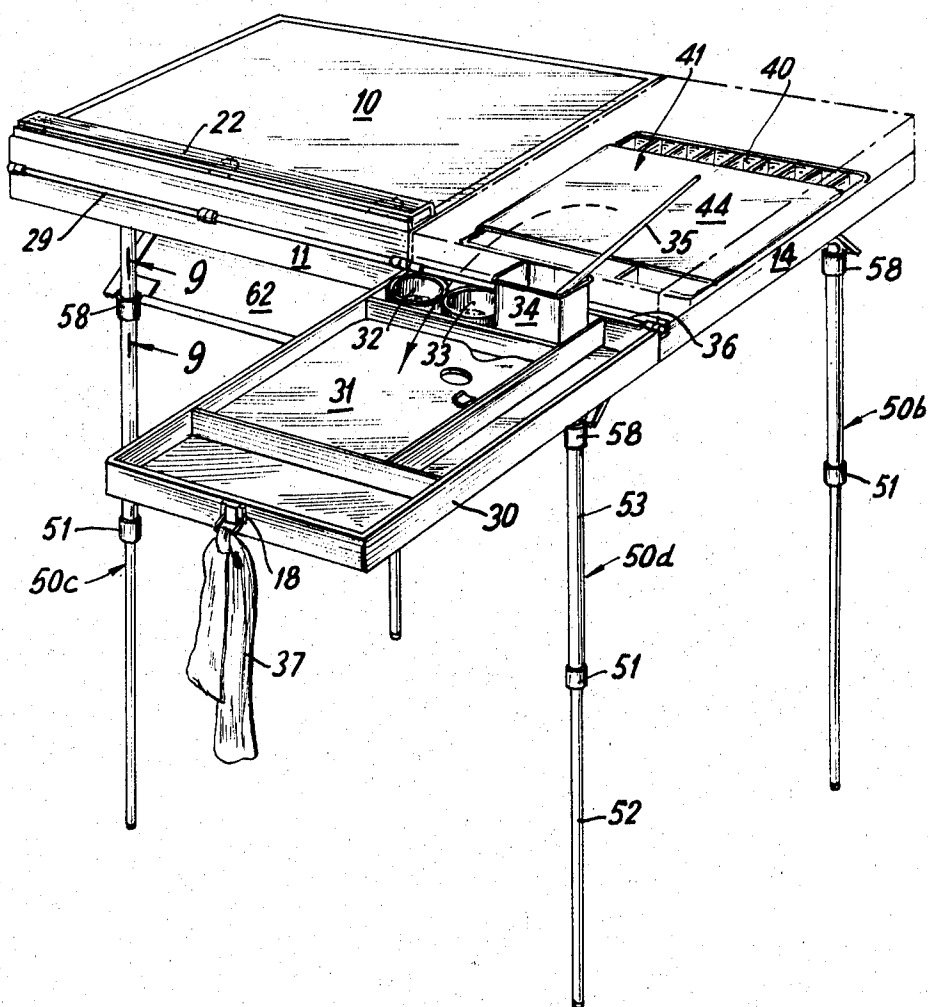


FIG. 2

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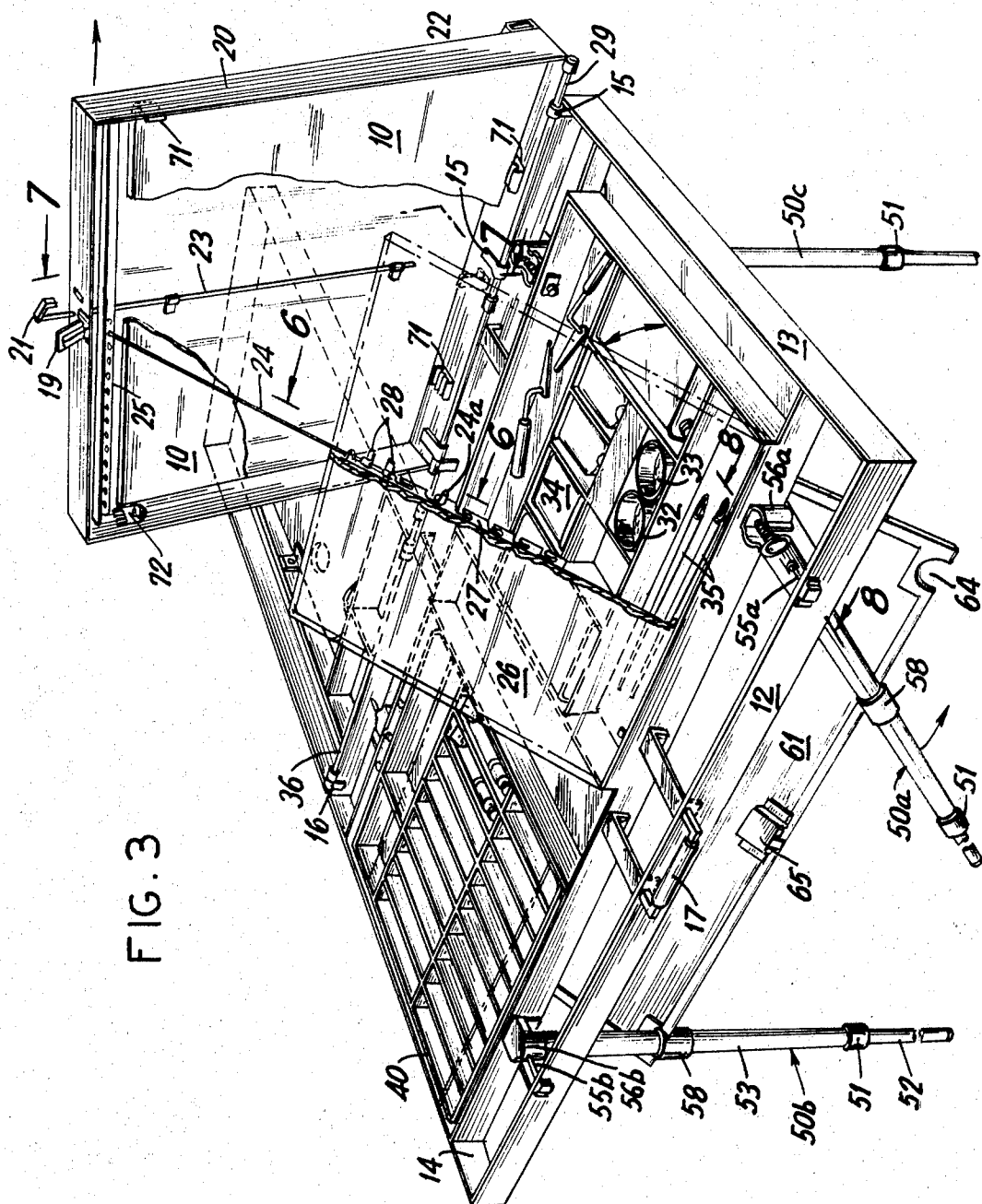
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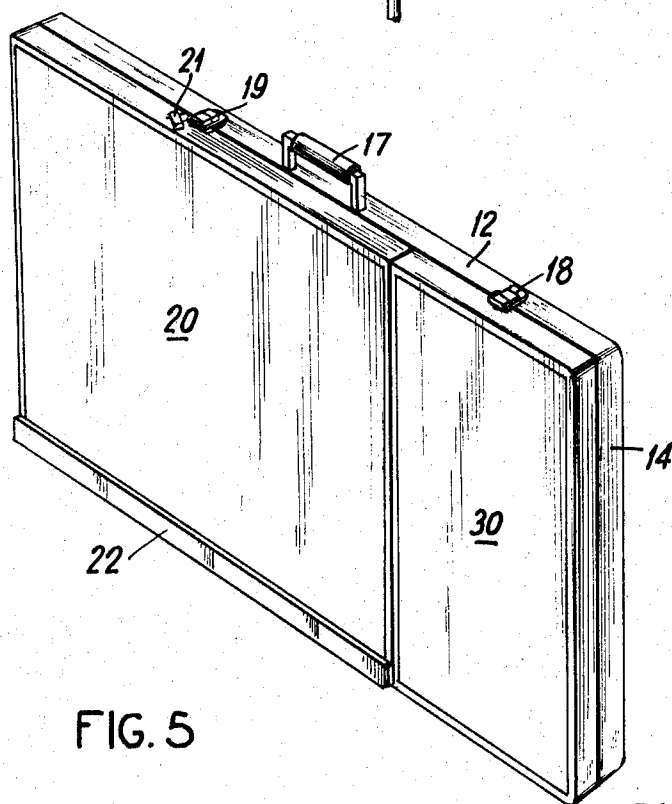
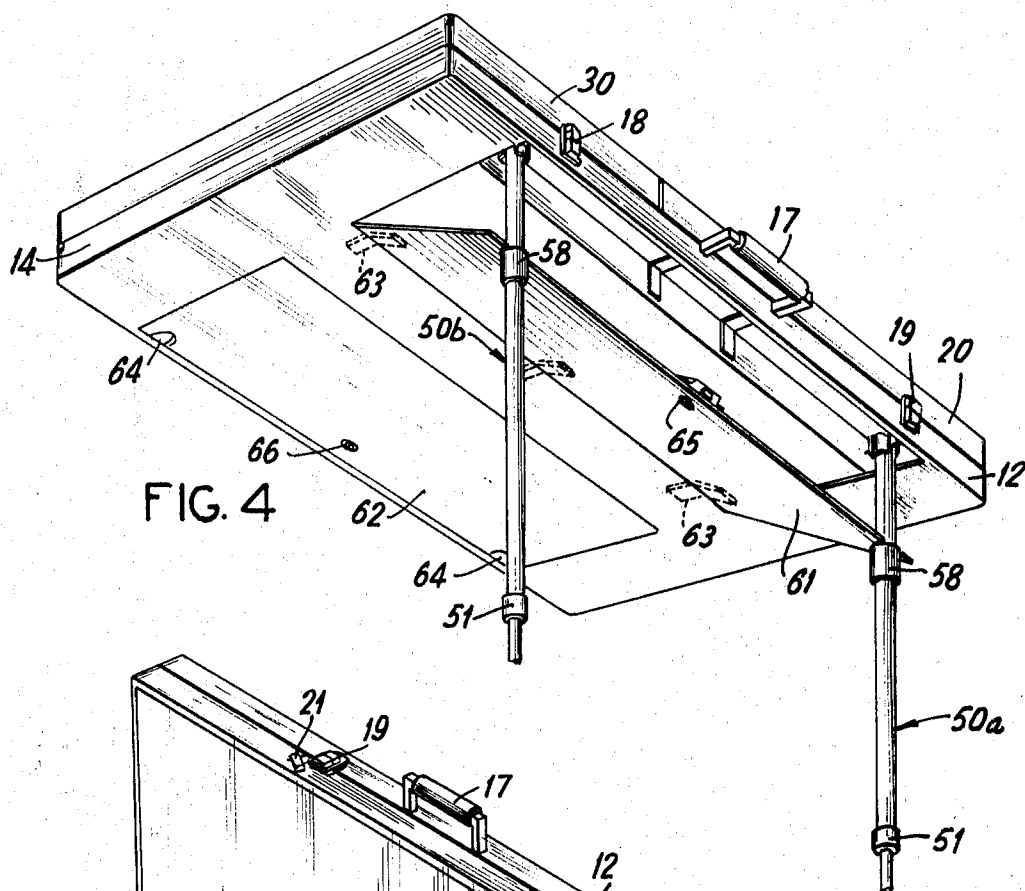
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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



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ARTIST'S EASEL AND CARRYING CASE

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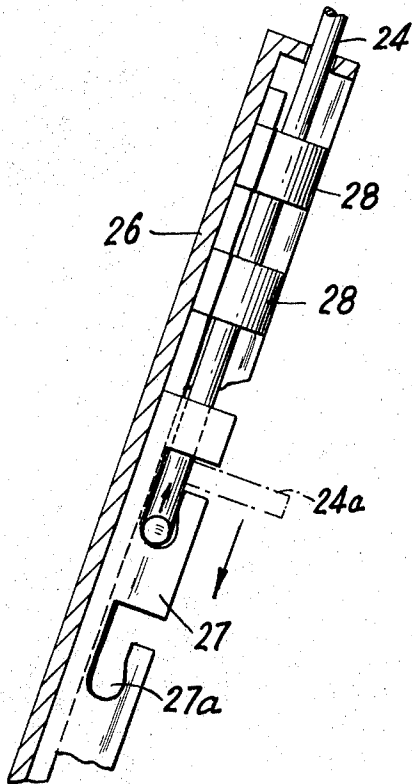


FIG. 6

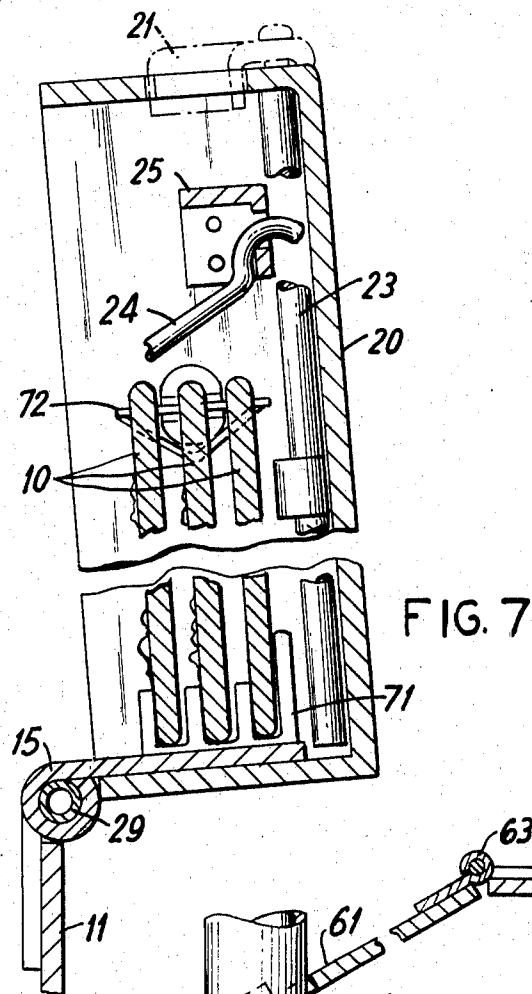


FIG. 7

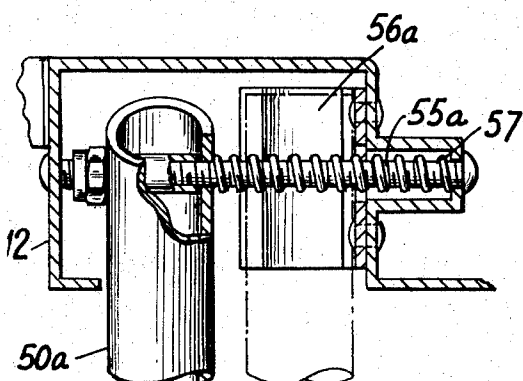


FIG. 8

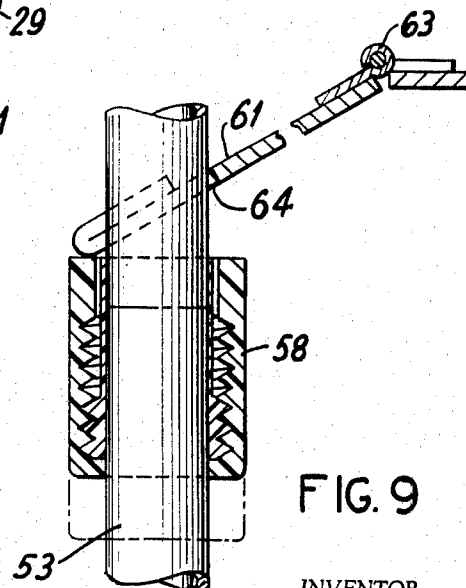


FIG. 9

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3,476,456 ARTIST'S EASEL AND CARRYING CASE

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10 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A carrying case resembling slim luggage is adapted to contain artist's supplies and materials. A portion of the case lid becomes an adjustable easel and another portion swings to a horizontal position to become a work and tool tray. Adjustable legs issue from the bottom of the case and are braced by portions of the case bottom which conceal the legs when folded. Provision is made for transporting art worksurfaces within the case. A compartmented tray for colors erects beside the adjustable easel.

SPECIFICATION

The present invention relates to a carrying case for artist's equipment which converts to an easel and work table. Provision is made for the orderly and secure placement of the artist's tools and equipment including paints, brushes, liquids, palette, pencils, cloths and other sundries. Reserve canvas boards are securely stored and those having wet paint are protected against damaging contact. When set up, paint and liquid holders are deployed in convenient position adjacent an adjustable easel. Disappearing legs can be longitudinally adjusted to achieve a level and secure work table on uneven terrain, and to accommodate the artist when seated or standing. The various sections of the case interfit to provide a single slim box having the appearance of fine luggage. In carrying configuration, the case presents no outward appearance of its function or contents. Since sufficient quantities of everything needed fit within one case, it is well suited for extended trips into the field, as well as providing art students with all necessary equipment in a single unit.

In the drawings,

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view from the front of the case of the present invention in erected configuration with a canvas on the easel portion and the tool tray portion in working position;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view from the front showing the case partially erected;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view from the rear showing the manner in which the easel portion is supported and the manner in which the point tray is positioned for travel;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view from below showing one pair of telescopic legs extended;

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of the case in carrying configuration;

FIGURE 6 is a detail view in section along lines 6-6 of FIGURE 3 showing the adjustment means for the easel portion;

FIGURE 7 is a detail view in section along lines 7-7 of FIGURE 3 showing the manner in which canvas boards are carried within the lid of the case, as well as the easel prop engagement with the easel portion and the canvas holding mast in collapsed form;

FIGURE 8 is a detail view, partially in section along the lines 8-8 of FIGURE 3 showing the attachment of the folding telescopic legs; and

FIGURE 9 is a detail view, partially in section along lines 9-9 of FIGURE 2 showing the leg support and locking devices.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIGURES 1 and 2, the case of the present invention is shown fully erected with an art work surface such as stretched canvas or a canvas board 10 in position on the easel surface 20 which surface forms one portion of the case lid when closed. A hook or clip 21 adjustably secures the canvas board to the easel. A hinged flange 22 forms a ledge for the canvas to rest upon. The other portion of the case lid swings to a horizontal position to form a tool tray 30 having compartments for holding the palette 31, oil cups 32 and 33, brush can 34, brushes 35 and other items. A compartmented tray 40 for holding tubes of paint is positioned at a convenient angle for access by means of a prop member 41. Telescopic, folding legs 50 are adjustable in length by means of locking collets 51 which lock the telescopic leg sections 52 and 53 at a desired length. The bottom surface of the case includes hinged panels 61 and 62 which serve as braces for the erected legs. When collapsed and packed for transport or storage, the case assumes the appearance of a piece of slim luggage as can be seen in FIGURE 5. The abilities of these cases to lock with all necessary materials inside and to be stacked in a minimum of space makes them well suited to school use where the classroom must be used for purposes in addition to art classes.

THE ADJUSTABLE EASEL

A portion 20 of the lid of the case is hinged to the front side wall 11 of the case to form a flat, broad and stable supporting surface for canvas, boards, paper or other art worksurfaces. This easel portion 20 is shown in closed configuration in FIGURE 2 and in erected position in FIGURE 1. A hinged channel 22 folds out from the plane of the surface 20 to form a ledge for the bottom edge of the art worksurface. A hook or clip 21 is carried by a telescopically collapsible mast 23 to secure the art worksurface to the easel.

The manner in which the easel 20 is supported at a desired angle is shown in FIGURE 3. A prop rod 24 engages one of a plurality of holes in a member 25 which is a part of the framework for the easel portion 20. Prop rod 24 is carried by means on the inside surface of an inner cover 26 shown partly broken away in FIGURE 3. The inner cover 26 also serves to confine the various tools and containers in their proper compartments during transport of the case. Cover 26 is hinged to the framework of the case at a position opposite the side wall 11 to which the easel surface 20 is hinged. Prop rod 24 is selectively extendible from the inner cover 26 by a slotted rack device 27 shown in detail in FIGURE 6. Slots 27a receive the bent end 24a of prop rod 24. The prop rod is carried in brackets or gudgeons 28 which render it capable of sliding longitudinally of a rack member 27 to permit adjustment of its extension. When the desired extension is reached, the bent end 24a is rotated to engage an adjacent slot 27a thereby arresting the prop rod at the desired position. The other end of the prop rod is fitted into one of the holes in member 25. The extension of the prop rod determines the angle at which the easel 20 is secured. The angle of the surface is thereby adjustable over a wide range to suit the artist.

The easel portion 20 is hinged to the side wall 11 of the case by means of a long hinge rod 36 and concentric tube 29. Hinge gudgeons 15 secure the easel portion 20 to the tube 29. This hinging arrangement allows portion 20 to slide along the hinge rod 36 longitudinally of the case as is indicated by an arrow in FIGURE 1. The easel portion can be moved outwardly to accommodate a larger canvas or to provide the artist with more room to work. Member 25 is provided with a plurality of prop rod engaging holes visible in FIGURE 3 so that the prop

rod can engage the easel, the latter when it is in any desired longitudinal position.

Beneath the inner cover 26, the case is provided with compartments to receive various artist's materials and tools. FIGURE 3 shows a typical assortment of spatulas, containers, brushes, and cups stored in secure and orderly fashion. When folded down for transport, the inner cover 26 confines these materials in their compartments.

THE TOOL AND PALETTE TRAY

The tool and palette tray 30 forms another portion of the lid when the case is closed. When opened, as is shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, this portion swings out to a horizontal position and is compartmented to hold the palette 31, brushes 35, and liquid containers convenient to the artist. Tool tray 30 is hinged to front side wall 11 of the case in a manner similar to that of easel portion 20 such that it may also slide longitudinally to accommodate the space requirements of the artist, as is indicated by an arrow in FIGURE 1. This is accomplished by a hinge rod 36 and hinge gudgeons 16 which allow the tray to rotate and allow the rod 36 to slide longitudinally in a manner similar to the easel portion 20.

THE PAINT TRAY

Paint tray 40 is shown erected in FIGURE 1 and folded down for transport in FIGURES 2 and 3. The tray is compartmented to hold tubes 42 of artist's colors including a large compartment for a large tube 43 of more frequently used material. The tray 40 is hinged to the framework of the case on the same side as is the easel portion so that the erected paint tray faces the artist. The tray 40 is held in erected position by means of a hinged support prop 41. For carrying, the tray 40 folds into the case and the support 41 folds down over the tray 40. The support 41 includes a panel 44 which covers the paint tray to confine the tubes of paint in their proper compartments during storage or transport. The support prop 41 is lockable in this position to insure retention of the paint tubes in their compartments.

CANVAS STORAGE

Canvas or paper boards, stretched canvas frames, or other artwork surfaces can be stored within the easel portion 20. The boards are kept parallel and separated by channeled retaining members 71 positioned about the interior edge wall of the easel portion 20 as can be seen in FIGURE 3 and detail FIGURE 7. The channels of members 71 are spaced sufficiently to allow clearance between the painted boards 10 to prevent damage. A member 72 is provided with fingers which define channels similar to those of member 71 is hingedly affixed to the easel portion 20 so that it can be moved out of supporting engagement with the boards 10 to allow removal of a board from the stored position. Member 72 constitutes a releasable latch for the stored boards. It is shown in the released condition in FIGURE 3. To secure the stored boards, member 72 is swung to the horizontal engaging position illustrated in FIGURE 7. Inner cover 26 prevents stored tools and materials from contact with the stored boards.

THE LEG STRUCTURE

FIGURE 4 shows the bottom of the case with two of the four legs erected and the other two legs housed within the case. The legs 50a-50d comprise sections 52 and 53 of telescoping tubing with a knurled locking collet 51 for locking the sections at a desired length. As is best shown in FIGURE 3, the upper extremity of each leg is provided with a pivot bar 55 about which the leg hinges to fold into space provided within the case for leg storage. When positioned vertically, the leg extremities engage clip members 56 which hold the legs vertical. When folded into the case, the legs lie side by side in parallel relationship. In order to permit the legs to lie within the same plane when

erected, and to permit the legs to lie beside each other when folded for storage, leg 50a is provided with means which allow it to slide laterally along its pivot bar 55a. FIGURE 8 is a detail view of these means. A tension spring 57 coaxial with pivot bar 55a urges the leg toward the clip 56a in FIGURE 8 to cause the upper extremity of the leg to bear against the outer edge of clip 56a. When vertically aligned with the opening of clip 56a, leg 50a is pulled into clip 56a by spring 57 thereby moving leg 50a over into the plane of leg 50b. Clip 56a holds leg 50a vertical. Leg 50b does not slide along its pivot bar 55b, because this leg swings in the proper plane. Clip 56b is oriented at right angles with respect to clip 56a. Clip 56b directly receives leg 50b as it is moved to the vertical position. When folded, leg 50b lies inside leg 50a. A similar arrangement of clips and slides is provided for legs 50c and 50d to allow for their parallel storage and aligned erection.

Where the slimness of the closed case is of less importance, the legs can be arranged to overlie each other such that one leg of each pair first folds into the case and the other then folds to a position directly below the first. Such arrangement does not require lateral sliding since both legs of each pair swing in the same plane. The upper ends of the legs snap into clips identical to each other. Where the case is of adequate length, the legs can be made in one section of a length suitable to place the case at the desired height.

When erected to vertical position, the legs are braced by panel members 61 and 62 which form a cover for the legs in their stored condition. FIGURE 4 shows panel 62 closed and panel 61 in bracing position for legs 50a and 50b. The edge of the panels remote from the hinge 63 is provided with semicircular cutouts 64 into which the upper sections 53 of the legs fit when vertical. FIGURE 3 shows leg 50b so fitted and leg 50a moving toward such fit. The bracing cover panels 61 and 62 are rigidly secured to the erected legs by means of a threaded collar 58, shown in detail in FIGURE 9, which engages external threads on upper leg section 53. After positioning the erected leg in the semicircular cutout 64, collar 58 is rotated to screw it upwardly against the panel 61 thereby forcing the panel against the leg to provide a rigid brace. Each of the legs is provided with such collars. The erected leg structure is extremely rigid, yet light in weight and simple in construction.

ERECTION AND ADJUSTMENT

The case in its closed configuration is shown in FIGURE 5. A handle 17 allows it to be carried. Latches 18 and 19 keep the easel 20 and the tool tray portion 30 securely closed. The latches may be provided with locks.

As is best seen in FIGURE 4, the leg covers on the bottom of the case are opened by releasing latches 65 and 66 and the legs are swung down to their vertical positions where clips 56 engage the upper extremities to hold the legs vertical. The sliding mechanism which aligns the legs of each pair in the same plane functions by virtue of spring 57 which urges the slidable leg of each pair into its clip 56. As each leg swings toward the vertical, it comes into alignment with the semicircular cutouts 64 in the outer edge of the cover panels 61 and 62. The threaded collars 58 are then screwed upwardly to secure the leg against the panel edge to provide a secure brace for the leg. The legs are telescopically extended to the desired length by releasing the collet 51 which locks the telescoping leg sections 52 and 53 together. When extended as desired, the collet 51 is tightened to lock the sections. The individual adjustability of leg length permits the case to be leveled.

The easel portion 20 may be erected next by releasing its latch 19 and raising it to the desired angle. The easel portion is moved laterally outward to a desired position by sliding its hinge tube 29 along the hinge rod 36 and gudgeons 15. A canvas board or other art work surface

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is removed from its storage place within the easel portion by releasing the retaining member 72. The canvas retaining ledge 22 is unfolded from easel portion 20 and the board placed on the easel. The board is secured to the easel by engaging its top edge with clip 21 on the extensible mast 23. The easel prop rod 24 is withdrawn from the inner cover 26 to an extent dictated by the desired easel angle and the prop rod end 24a fitted into the appropriate slot 27a in rack member 27 on the inner cover. The upper end of the prop rod 24 is secured in one of the holes in member 25.

The work tray 30 is set up by simply releasing latch 18 and swinging the tray portion through 180° such that it extends horizontally outward from the case. Work tray 30 can be moved laterally by sliding its hinge rod 36 to a desired position. Paint tray support prop 41 is lifted and paint tray 40 is erected. The prop 41 fits behind the paint tray to support it at an angle. Oil cups 32 and 33, brush can 34, brushes 35 and other tools are removed from storage in the part of the case below the easel portion and placed in appropriate compartments in the work tray. A wipe cloth 37 may be looped through the bail of latch 18.

The operations of folding up and packing the case for carry or storage are the reverse of the above.

What is claimed is:

1. An artist's easel and carrying case comprising a rectangular case having side and end walls disposed normal to a bottom wall, a lid divided along a line parallel to the end walls into two portions each hingedly connected to the front side wall of the case, the first of said lid portions being adapted to form an easel and having means to hold an artwork surface on its exterior, an adjustably extensible prop rod for supporting said easel at a desired angle, the second of said lid portions being adapted to swing about a hinge to a horizontal position in the plane of the case and projecting from said wall.

2. The case of claim 1 wherein the first lid portion is provided with means on its interior to hold artwork surfaces in separated parallel relationship for storing the artwork surfaces within the case.

3. The case of claim 2 wherein that portion of the case covered by the first lid portion is provided with compartments for carrying materials and supplies and is provided with an inner cover adapted to overlie said compartments to confine the materials and supplies carried therein.

4. The case of claim 3 wherein the inner cover is hinged to the case at a position opposite the front side wall and wherein the easel prop rod is extensible from said inner cover.

5. The case of claim 1 wherein the hinged connection of the first lid portion with the case permits longitudinal movement of that lid portion with respect to the case.

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6. The case of claim 5 wherein the hinged connection of the second lid portion with the case permits longitudinal movement of that lid portion with respect to the case.

7. The case of claim 3 wherein that portion of the case below the second lid portion is provided with a compartmented tray for holding paint tubes, said tray being hinged to the case at a position proximate the front side wall, and a prop member for holding said tray erected at an angle when the second lid portion is in the horizontal projecting position such that the erected paint tray occupies a position alongside the easel surface.

8. The case of claim 1 including a plurality of legs within said case, and pivot means for swinging said legs to generally vertical positions.

9. An artist's easel and carrying case comprising a rectangular case having side and end walls disposed normal to a bottom wall, a lid for closing the case, said lid being divided along a line parallel to the end walls into two portions each hingedly connected to the front side wall of the case, the first of said lid portions being adapted to form an easel and having means to hold an artwork surface on its exterior, the second of said lid portions being adapted to swing about a hinge to a horizontal position in the plane of the case and projecting from said front wall to a position aside the artist, an adjustably extensible prop rod for supporting said easel at a desired angle, a plurality of legs horizontally disposed parallel to the walls and within the interior of said case, pivot means connecting one of the ends of each leg to the case at spaced points for swinging said legs to positions generally vertical, and portions of said bottom wall being in the form of hinged covers for said legs when in the horizontal position.

10. The case of claim 9 wherein the hinged cover portions of said bottom wall are adapted to engage with the legs when in the vertical position to form bracing members for the legs.

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