

May 15, 1956

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2,745,618

ARTIST'S EASEL

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

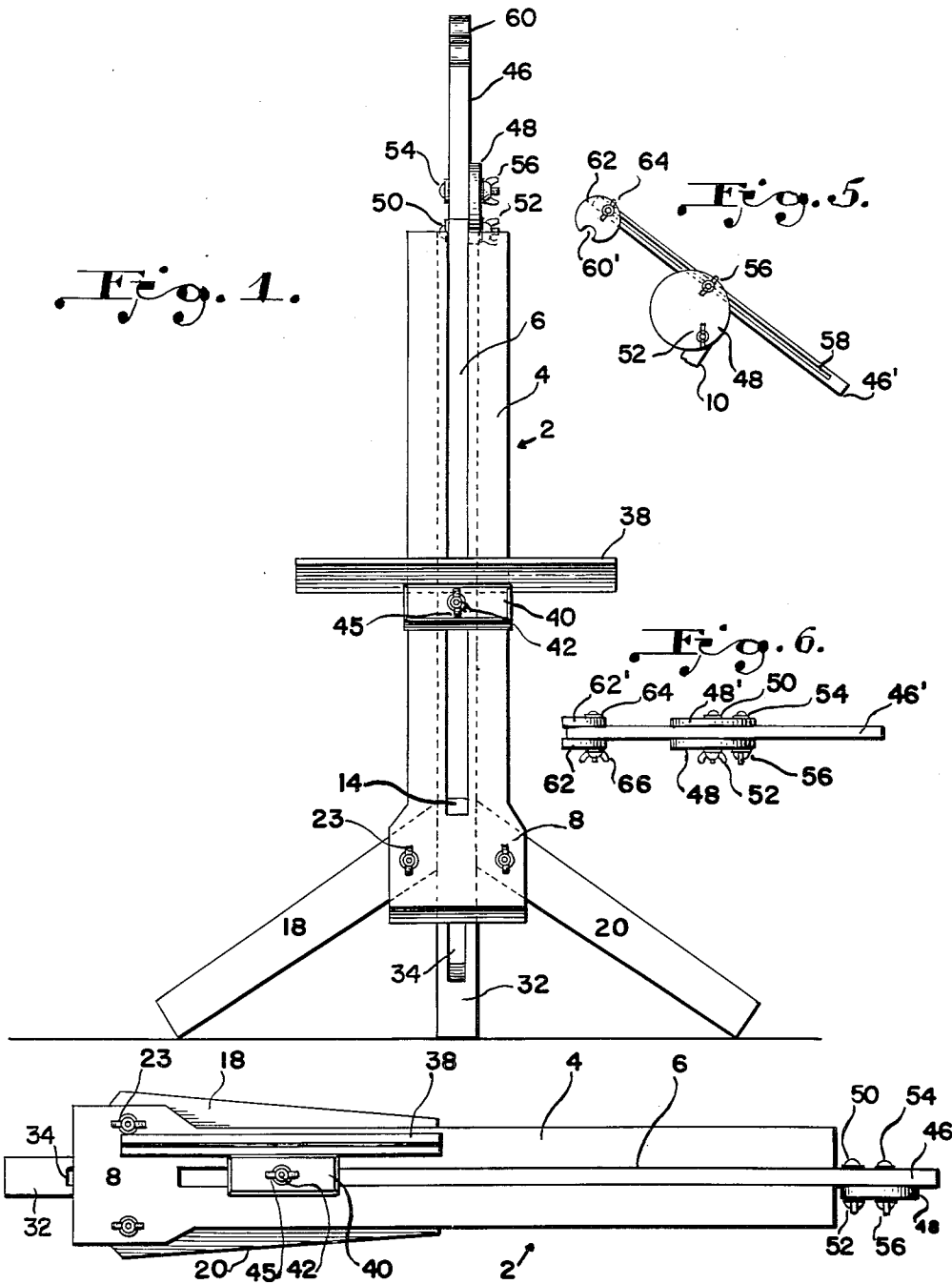


Fig. 3.

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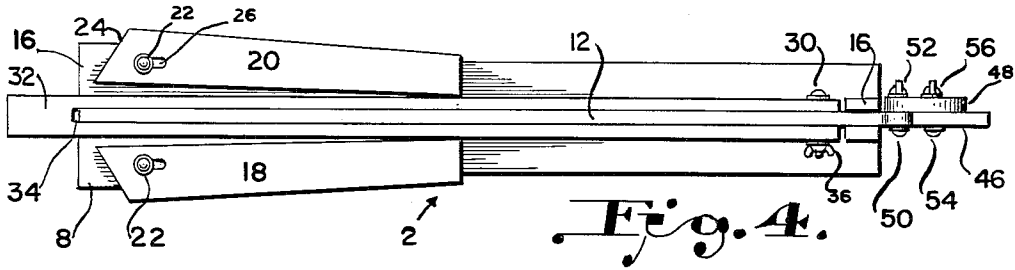
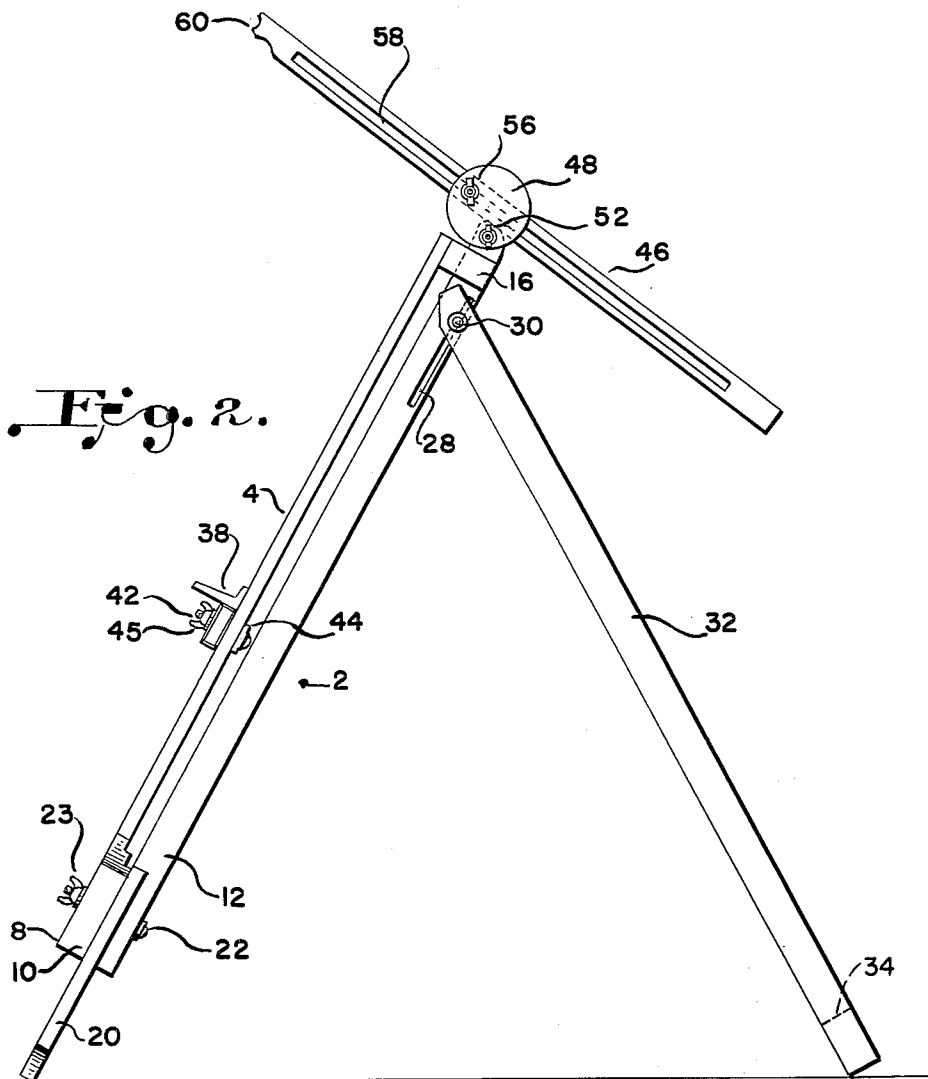
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ARTIST'S EASEL

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6 Claims. (Cl. 248—197)

This invention relates to supports and, more particularly, to an artist's easel.

The object of the invention is to provide an artist's easel capable of supporting canvas, placards and the like (hereafter referred to as work) of virtually any size, configuration and weight within a wide range of needs. It is intended, first, to provide for the firm support of the work on the easel at various desired heights and angles, so that there need be no fear of dislodgement. Another object is to provide for firm and sure stance of the easel on a floor or on irregular footing so that it may be used with equal facility in a studio or on outdoor location.

A further object of the invention is to provide an artist's easel of relatively stiff, rugged construction capable of heavy and long service, but nevertheless being collapsible into a compact firm bundle so that it may be manually carried about from place to place, or easily stowed in an automobile. In furthering these objectives it is intended that the stability of the easel, when set up for work, be not deterred by the collapsibility of the components, it being necessary that the vital supporting elements be deliberately manipulated from their normal working positions before the easel can be collapsed. Thus, an artist painting a wind-swept scene, for instance, need not be haunted by an underlying feeling of insecurity for his work.

Still again it is proposed to provide a foldable easel having components that will stay folded until deliberately set up for work. Artists oftentimes carry equipment about until inspired by a majestic landscape, a quaint doorway, or a scene of sentimental reminiscence. Since vexation from a prematurely spreading easel stifles the inspiration aborning, it is now proposed to provide an easel having parts adjustable between two fundamental positions, i. e., working and folded, and to provide for the positive maintenance of the parts in adjusted position.

Yet again, an object is to provide an easel capable of economic mass production so that its purchase lies within the realm of possibilities for the impecunious. By providing comparatively elemental shape for the parts, mostly of wood, most of them can be fabricated by straight-away sawing, drilling and fastening operations, and many of the smaller elements can be fashioned from odd pieces left from other manufacture. These and other objects will be apparent from the following specification and drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the easel in working position;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the easel as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the front of the easel in folded reclining position;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the rear of the easel in folded reclining position;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of an alternate form of work-top holder; and,

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the modification shown in Fig. 5.

Referring now to the drawings, in which like reference numerals denote similar elements, the easel indicated generally at 2 includes a front face piece 4 having an open-top slot 6 extending lengthwise from near its lower end, the latter being widened by hips 8 and rearwardly thickened, as at 10. Spaced rearwardly of slot 6 is a backbone strip 12 supported at its lower end to face piece 4 by a tongue 14 secured in the bottom of slot 6 and near its upper end by stand off pieces 16 projecting rearwardly from the upper end of face piece 4.

Retractable front legs 18 and 20 are secured to the back of thickened hips 8 by pivot bolts 22 and maintained in adjusted position by tightening wing nuts 23, it being noteworthy that the normally upper ends of legs 18 are beveled at 24, to fit against backbone strip 12 to provide additional firmness in the connection. Pivot bolts 22 pass through slots 26 near the normally upper ends of legs 18 and 20 so that, upon loosening of wing nuts 23 legs 18 and 20 may be retracted from the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by reversely pivoting so that they lie against the back of face piece 4 as shown best in Fig. 4.

Near the upper end of backbone strip 12 is a lengthwise slot 28 in which slides a pivot bolt 30, the latter pivotally supporting the upper end of a rear prop leg 32. A slot 34 running lengthwise in rear prop leg 32 permits the latter to pivot forwardly to nest over backbone strip 12 from the extended position of Fig. 2 to the retracted position of Fig. 4. It will be apparent that the angular disposition of the assembly and the specific placement of the lower end of rear prop leg 32 may be adjusted by loosening wing nut 36 on pivot bolt 30.

The lower work support is constituted by a shelf 38 affixed on a slide 40 and adjustably maintained by a bolt, washer and wing nut assembly 42, 44 and 45, respectively, so that shelf may be vertically adjusted along the length of face piece 4 and pivotally retracted by turning so that it lies lengthwise the face piece as shown in Fig. 3.

An upper work support rod 46 is adjustably and retractably maintained on a disc 48 clamped to the upper end of backbone strip 12 by an offset pivot bolt and wing nut assembly 50, 52, and another pivot bolt and wing nut assembly 54, 56 offset in disc 48 and passing through a slot 58 in rod 46, it being apparent in Fig. 2 that rod 46 may be adjusted forwardly and rearwardly or tipped to any desired angle, and that it may also be retracted to the position shown best in Fig. 3 in which it nests in slot 6. Arcuate notches 60 on the forward end of rod 46 are provided to fit over the upper edge of the work.

The modification illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 is similar in all respects to that previously described but for the upper work support rod 46', which is clamped between two discs 48, 48' and at the forward end of which the work is engaged by a pair of discs 62, 62' adjustably clamped by pivot bolt and wing nut 64 and 66.

In operation, the easel is normally set up as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. If, because of rough or sloping ground, for instance, it is necessary to obtain abnormal footing, front legs 18 or 20, or rear prop leg 32 may be adjusted until the assembly is disposed at the desired level and angle. Next the height of the work is determined by adjustment of shelf 38 along front face piece 4. Then, according to the height of the work and the desired angular disposition of it, rod 46 is adjusted so that the work is firmly clamped between its notched forward end and shelf 38. In the Fig. 5 and 6 modification, rod 46' and discs 62, 62' are correspondingly adjusted, and a firm grip on the upper edge of the work may be obtained by slight relative rotation of discs 62, 62'. When the work is finished, the assembly is retracted to the condition shown in Figs. 3 and 4. It should be noted that in the retracted condition many of the components may be interlocked so that affirmative action is required for their extension. Par-

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ticularly, rod 46 nests within slot 6 and beneath pivoted shelf 38; rear prop leg 32 nests over backbone strip 12 and blockingly engages the then inner sides retracted lower legs 18 and 20, so that even if the wing nuts are loosened, the parts will not swing out in disarray.

The invention is not limited to the specific elements detailed above, but is intended to cover all substitutions, modifications, and equivalents within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. An easel comprising, in combination; an elongate front support adapted for normally upright disposition and including a front strip having a longitudinal slot therein, and a rear strip rigidly affixed to the rear of the front strip; a pair of relatively short legs; means pivotally connecting said short legs on the lower end of the front strip so as to swing between a downwardly and outwardly extended position and a retracted position in which said legs lie generally parallel to the front strip; a rear prop leg having a longitudinal slot therein, said slot being adapted to accommodate the greater part of the rear strip; means pivotally connecting the upper end of said prop leg to the upper portion of said rear strip whereby said prop leg may be swung from a downwardly and rearwardly extended position to a retracted position nesting over said rear strip with said rear strip fitting in said slot; a lower article support comprising a shelf; means adjustably supporting said shelf on said front strip; an upper article support comprising a rod adapted to engage in the slot on the front strip; means supporting said rod on the upper end of said rear strip in alignment with the slot in the front strip, said last-named means supporting said rod for angular and lengthwise adjustment of the rod whereby said rod may be swung from a normal working position in which one end extends forwardly of said front support to a retracted position in which it nests in the slot in the front strip; and article engaging means on the forward end of said rod for cooperation with the lower article support.

2. The combination claimed in claim 1, the means pivotally connecting the short legs to the front strip comprising a pair of bolts extending through said front strip on respectively opposite sides of said slot, said short legs each having a slot through which said bolts respectively engage, said slots being adjacent inner ends of said short legs, said inner ends being adapted and arranged to abut said rear strip when said short legs are extended, said slots permitting said short legs to slide away from abutting relationship with said strip so that said short legs may pivot about said bolts to retracted position.

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3. The combination claimed in claim 1, said shelf having a back surface engaging the front strip, the means adjustably supporting said shelf on said front strip comprising a pivot bolt having a shank extending through slot and shelf, said bolt having a head engaging behind said front strip; and a nut engaging said shelf for clamping the same against said front strip whereby to hold said shelf with the length thereof transverse to the front strip; said shelf pivoting on said bolt so as to retract lengthwise of the front strip.

4. The combination claimed in claim 1, said rod having a lengthwise slot therethrough; the means supporting said rod comprising a disc; a first pivot means supporting said disc on the upper end of said rear strip; a second pivot means on said disc engaging through said rod slot; said first pivot means including clamping means for releasably holding said disc against said rear strip; said second pivot means including clamping means for releasably holding said rod against said disc.

5. The combination claimed in claim 1, said rod having a lengthwise slot therethrough; said means supporting said rod on the upper end of said rear strip comprising a pair of spaced discs disposed on opposite sides of said upper portion of the rear strip, said slotted rod engaging between said discs; a first pivot bolt clampingly engaging said discs on the upper end of said rear strip; and a second pivot bolt spaced from the first, said second pivot bolt extending through said rod slot and clampingly engaging said rod between said discs.

6. The combination claimed in claim 1, said article engaging means comprising a pair of spaced discs; and a pivot bolt extending through said rod and clampingly engaging said discs on opposite sides of said rod; said discs each having a notch in the periphery thereof for engaging over an article, whereby said discs may be slightly rotated relative to one another to bind against the article engaged in said notches.

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