

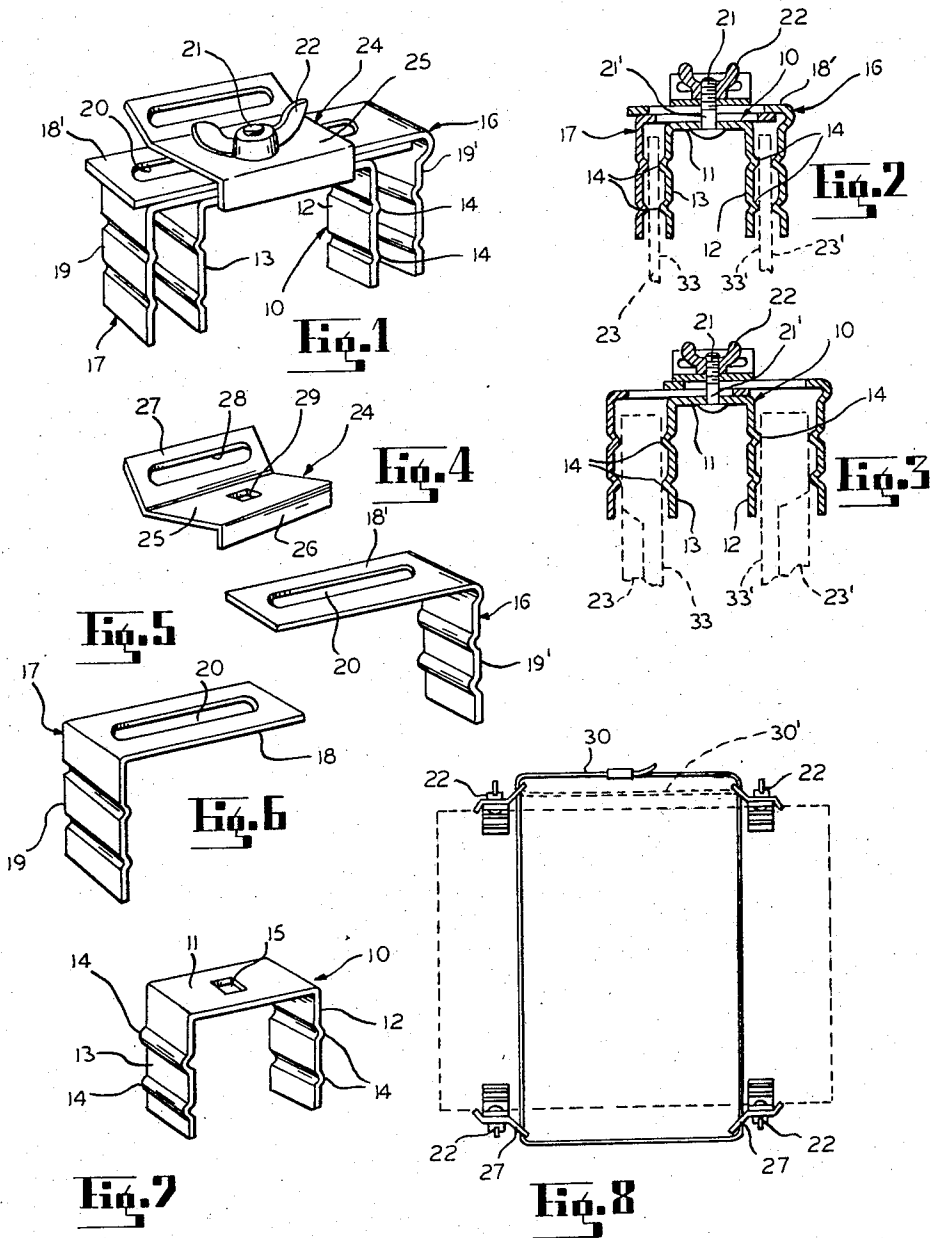
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CLAMP SUPPORT FOR CARRYING ARTIST'S CANVASES

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CLAMP SUPPORT FOR CARRYING ARTIST'S CANVASES

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5 Claims. (Cl. 224—45)

My invention relates to spacing clamps and more particularly to a clamp for supporting a freshly painted picture in spaced relation with another picture or with a protecting board or the like.

In the art of painting pictures it is imperative to protect the newly applied painted surface whether it be oil, or water color, from contact with any article to mar or smudge the surface thereof. This is especially true when the artist paints the surface of the work while outdoors, or when it becomes necessary to transport or convey the finished or semi-finished work to some other location.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive and efficient device which may be easily applied to drawings or paintings, whether made on board or canvas of varied thicknesses, for spacing the paintings one from the other to protect the freshly applied surfaces.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the character described which is easily adjustable to accommodate either solid board mountings, or academy board or canvas stretched over conventional frames.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a clamping means having projecting contact areas, to insure minimum contact with the freshly applied surfaces.

A further object is to provide a novel and improved form of attachment device for the clamps readily adapted for carrying the paintings with the aid of a strap or the like.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of my prior application bearing Serial No. 573,260, filed March 22, 1956, now abandoned.

Other and further objects of my invention will become more apparent as the description proceeds when taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the assembled unit constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a section view of the assembled unit illustrating the manner in which it may be applied to two paintings on academy boards or the like, to protect the painted surfaces, preferably disposed inwardly in opposite relation to each other;

Figure 3 is a view similar to that of Figure 2, but in which the outer clamping member has been extended to accommodate a pair of paintings on framed canvases;

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view of a metal handle member especially adapted for use with the clamping device;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the outer clamp members;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the opposite outer clamp member;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the inner clamp member; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view illustrating two alternative ways in which the clamping device may be used to support one or more paintings in connection with the carrying strap.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding

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parts throughout the several views, and referring now to the same, 10 indicates an inside inner base or clamp member, herein shown being made from flat strip material such as metal or the like. It is formed in a U shape, including a cross member 11 and downwardly bent legs or surface members 12 and 13. These surface members have a plurality of outwardly extending projections, herein consisting of ribs 14 substantially parallel with the cross member 11, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. These projections may be varied in shape and arrangement to afford gripping contact with the paintings at limited areas.

The cross member 11 has a central aperture 15, preferably squared as shown, to accommodate the square shank 21' of a conventional threaded carriage bolt 21, herein shown as having a flat, or semi-radial head at its bottom end.

Two outer clamp members 16 and 17 are each constructed of flat strip material, such as metal or the like, bent into generally L shape with a flat longitudinal portion 18 and 18' and integral downwardly bent end portions 19, 19'. Each longitudinal portion 18 and 18' has an elongated slot 20 disposed therealong. The slots are of such width as to accommodate the square shank 21' of the carriage bolt 21 when it extends through the square aperture 15 of the inner member 10.

In the preferred form shown, the flat longitudinal portion 18 of the uppermost outer clamp member 16 is made slightly longer than the corresponding longitudinal portion 18' of the lower clamp member 17 so as to permit the two outer clamp members 16 and 17 to be extended or retracted to the same degree relative to the inner clamp member 10.

The reason for this difference in lengths will be manifest from inspection of Figure 2, wherein it will be seen that collapsing movement of the longitudinal portion 18 of the lower clamp member 17 is limited by engagement with the inner surface of the upper clamp member 16 when said clamp members are brought into closest proximity with each other.

A handle member 24, shown in detail in Figure 4, is also constructed of flat strip material such as metal or the like, bent into an intermediate flat portion 25 of substantially the same length as the width of the clamp members 16 and 17. The intermediate flat portion 25 has a downwardly extending flange 26 along one edge, and an upwardly and outwardly inclined portion 27 along its opposite edge. The inclined portion 27 has a longitudinal slot 28 formed therein parallel with the plate portion 25, but shorter than the outside span of the legs 12 and 13 of the lower cross member 11, for reception of a carrying strap or the like, as will presently be described.

The flat plate portion 25 of handle member 24 also has a central aperture 29, preferably squared, as shown, to accommodate the square shank 21' of the carriage bolt 21.

As shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, it will be noted that the bolt 21 is inserted through the aperture 15 of the inner member 10 and extends through the longitudinal slots 20 in the outer clamp members 16 and 17 placed one above the other. It also extends through the aperture 29 in the handle portion 24, which handle portion is disposed crosswise along the upper face of the longitudinal portion 18 of the clamp member 16. This retains the three clamp members and the handle member against rotation relative to each other. The upper end of the bolt 21 is threaded and a conventional wing nut 22 is employed to retain the component parts together which comprise the assembled device, but permitting individual adjustment of the clamp members 16 and 17 to various distances relative to the inner member 10.

From the above description it will be manifest that as

the parts 10, 16 and 17 are assembled as shown they may be slidably adjusted in a manner to accommodate paintings or boards which are shown as 23 and 23' in Figures 2 and 3. The paintings may be of any thickness and may be of varying thicknesses at their edges. The parts 16 and 17 are slideably adjustable to create a frictional contact of the inner faces of the clamping portions 19 with the outer faces of portions 12 and 13 of the inner member 10. The wing nut 22 may be screwed down to clamp all the parts 10, 16 and 17 in a rigid assembled position, thereby supporting the paintings 23 and 23' in a manner to have their painted surfaces 33 and 33' oppositely disposed and spaced apart from one another, to avoid contact with any object that may smudge the freshly applied paint, or the like.

When only one painting, such as 23 is used, the companion part 23' may consist of a plain protecting board of similar size.

The projections 14 on the outer faces of the members 12 and 13, as shown in Figures 2 and 3 will provide minimum contact with the painted surfaces.

It will be understood that in practice it is preferable to mount four clamp members on each pair of paintings or the like, two of such clamp members being mounted on the upper edges and the other two being mounted on the lower edges of said paintings, as indicated in Figure 8. When the clamps are disposed in the manner shown in this Figure, the handle members 24 are preferably disposed so that the upwardly inclined portions 27 of each opposed pair of clamps along the top of the paintings are inclined inwardly towards each other, thus providing means for connecting a strap 30 so that it is relatively tight. The portions of the strap which pass downwardly between the two paintings will be maintained under sufficient tension so that they will not touch the inner surfaces of the paintings, particularly when such painted surfaces may be wet or otherwise subject to damage.

An alternative method of carrying the paintings with the aid of a strap is also indicated in Figure 8, wherein the strap 30 may be looped only through the uppermost pair of inwardly extending portions 27 of handle members 24, and the return reach of the strap 30 may be passed directly between the two handle members, as indicated by dotted lines 30' in this Figure. This alternative method of carrying paintings may in some instances be preferred because of the greater ease and rapidity in which the strap can be mounted, but many not otherwise be as satisfactory for holding all four of the clamps together, as is the case when the strap 30 is arranged in its full line position as shown in the same figure.

Although I have shown and described certain embodiments of my invention, it will be understood that I do not wish to be limited to the exact construction shown and described, but that various changes and modifications

may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A spacing clamp of the character described, comprising an inner U-shaped base member having a pair of spaced opposed outwardly facing contact faces, and a centrally disposed, upwardly projecting threaded bolt, two clamping members, each consisting of a generally L-shaped piece of strip material including a longitudinal portion with an elongated slot therealong, and a downwardly bent clamping portion, said clamping members being telescopically and removably assembled one over the other and the inner base member for relative sliding movement, with the threaded bolt passing through the slots in said clamping members, and the clamping portions of said clamping members having faces opposed to the contact faces of said base member at opposite sides of the latter so as to present adjustably positionable pairs of clamping faces in spaced relation to said bolt, and a nut on said bolt for holding said clamping members in a preselected adjusted position relative to said base member.

2. The structure of claim 1, wherein a plate having a central aperture, an upwardly extending slotted flange along one end and a downwardly extending flange along its other end, is fitted transversely over the uppermost clamping member with its central aperture adapted to register with the slots in said clamping members when its downwardly extending flanges fits in non-rotative relation over the adjacent edge of the adjacent clamping member, and the securing bolt for the assembly also passes through the central aperture in said plate so that the latter forms a handle for the assembly, adapted to receive a carrying strap.

3. The structure of claim 1, wherein the outer contact faces of said base member and the inner contact faces of said telescopic clamping members each have a plurality of contacting projections thereon.

4. The structure of claim 1, wherein the base member has a centrally disposed squared aperture, and the bolt has a squared shank which fits in non-rotative engagement in said squared aperture of said base member.

5. The structure of claim 4, wherein the squared shank of the bolt also extends in non-rotative fitting engagement in the longitudinal slots of the clamping members.

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