July 29, 1941. G. C. LYNCH 2,250,808

COLLAPSIBLE BOOKHOLDER

Filed July 17, 1939

Fig. 1.

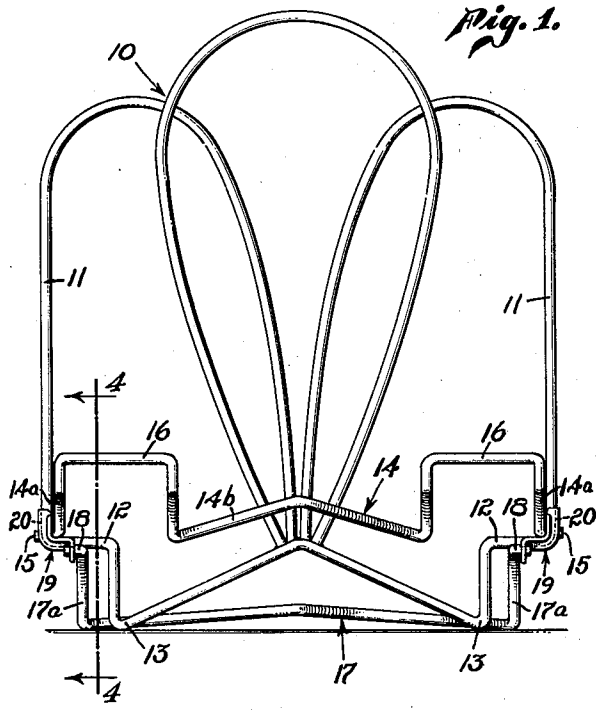


Fig. 2.

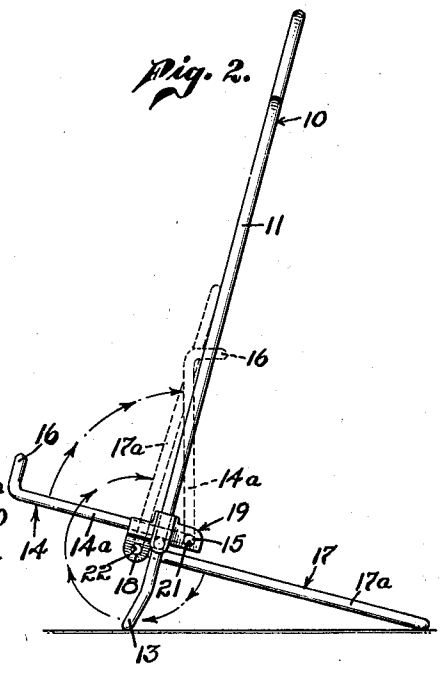


Fig. 3.

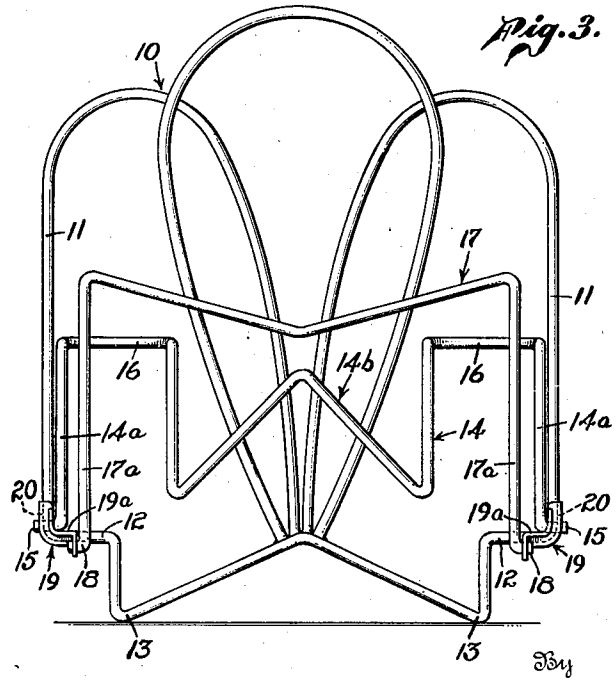
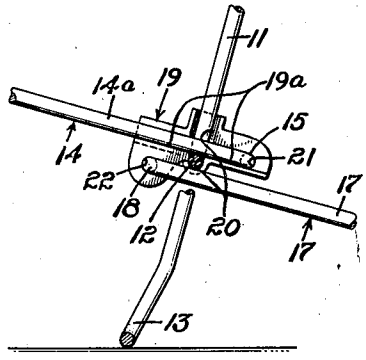


Fig. 4.



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2,250,808

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,250,808

COLLAPSIBLE BOOKHOLDER

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Application July 17, 1939, Serial No. 284,831

6 Claims. (Cl. 45—57)

This invention relates to a collapsible book holder or reading rack.

It is an object of the invention to provide a collapsible book holder which can be readily collapsed.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a book holder which folds into a minimum compass for shipment.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a collapsible book holder which upon being set up maintains its condition without the use of catches, latches, or similar unreliable devices.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a collapsible book holder which is stable when supporting a book or other article.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a collapsible book holder which, for purposes of economy in manufacture, has a minimum number of parts and which entails in its manufacture a minimum of forming and assembling operations.

This invention possesses many other advantages and has other objects which may be made more easily apparent from a consideration of one embodiment of the invention. For this purpose there is shown a form in the drawing accompanying and forming part of the present specification. This form will now be described in detail, illustrating the general principles of the invention; but it is to be understood that this detailed description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, since the scope of the invention is best defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a collapsible book holder in a position for use.

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof, additionally showing, in dotted outlines, the collapsed position of the movable parts.

Figure 3 is a front elevation of the device in collapsed condition; and,

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, the bookholder comprises an upright back supporting member 10, of any convenient construction, shown in this embodiment as a bent and welded wire construction, generally flat in aspect, with side members 11 bent inwardly at some distance from the lower edge, as at 12, and provided with feet 13 preferably formed of the wire composing the side members.

Pivotally supported upon the upright back supporting member 10, in a manner hereinafter described, is a shelf 14, whose construction is a generally plane figure, as clearly shown in Figures 2 and 3, its side members 14a having outwardly extending portions 15. The front of said shelf is provided with portions 16 bent out of the plane so as to form means to restrain the lower end of a book or other article when the shelf is in the position shown in Figure 2.

Also pivoted to the back supporting member 10 is a base member 17, generally U-shaped in configuration, its side members 17a having outwardly extending portions 18.

Suitably fastened, as by welding, to the side members 11 of the upright back supporting member 10 are brackets 19 of a construction shown clearly in Figures 3 and 4. Each of these brackets 19 is shown as being in the form of a metal stamping having an angular depression 20 formed therein to receive a portion of a side member 11 and an inwardly extending portion 12 of the back supporting member 10. Said brackets are provided with apertures 21 and 22 for receiving the portions 15 and 18, respectively. It should be noted that the apertures are in portions of the brackets not in the same plane, and that one is above the other on the height of the back supporting member 10, as shown in Figure 4. Furthermore, the apertures 21 and 22 of each bracket are on opposite sides of a side member 11, and above and below a horizontal portion 12 of the back supporting member.

With this construction set forth, the operation of the device should be apparent. In Figure 3 the device is shown in folded position, and attention is directed to the fact that the back support 10, shelf 14, and base member 17 nest together, due to the offset relation of the apertures in the brackets 19, and that the shelf portions 16 can enter into spaces provided between the sides 11 and the center construction of the back supporting member.

To open the device for use, it is only necessary to swing the base member 17 approximately 270 degrees about its pivots, it being prevented from turning farther by the engagement of its sides 17a with the under sides of the horizontal portions 12 of the back support. At the same time, the shelf member 14 is lowered about its pivots, and is prevented from lowering beyond an approximately horizontal position by the engagement of its side members 14a with the horizontal portions 12, or the upper surfaces 19a on the bracket 19. The V-shaped construction 14b in the shelf, best shown in Figure 3, is such as to provide an added support for a book or other article, and insures against slippage of a book or

the like through the space between the shelf front and the back support, while at the same time permitting clearance between the shelf and the other parts during folding or opening of the device.

It should be noted that the construction shown allows of ready assembly during manufacture, for, once the brackets are fastened to the back supporting members, the base and shelf can be readily slipped into place by springing their sides together, and releasing them in the apertures in the brackets.

I claim:

1. A collapsible book rest comprising an upright supporting member, a base member secured to said supporting member, and a shelf secured to said supporting member, said base member and said shelf member being separately hinged to said upright member on opposite sides thereof for pivoting movement to a position substantially adjacent each other and the supporting member, and said upright member being provided with a horizontal portion engaging portions of the shelf and base member when in operative position, whereby upon opening the device the shelf member and the base member lie on the opposite sides of the upright member and are restrained from further movement by the upright member.

2. A collapsible bookholder comprising an upright supporting member having a horizontal portion, a shelf member hinged to the upright supporting member on one side of the horizontal portion, a base member hinged to the upright member on the other side of the horizontal portion, said horizontal portion preventing movement of both the base member and the shelf member beyond a certain point as the bookholder is opened for use, said base member and said shelf member being arranged for pivoting movement to a position substantially adjacent each other and the supporting member.

3. In a collapsible bookholder, an upright supporting member, a U-shaped shelf member, and a U-shaped base member, said U-shaped members being of such a size that one can nest within the other, and means pivoting each of said U-shaped members to said upright member in nesting relation to each other and the upright supporting member, and means on said upright member engaging each of said U-shaped members upon pivotal movement of each of said U-shaped members to positions at an angle to said upright member on opposite sides thereof.

4. A collapsible bookholder comprising an upright supporting member including two upright side members, a shelf member, and a base member, said base member and shelf member being generally U-shaped, and means pivoting said base member and said shelf member to the upright supporting member within the space defined by the said upright side members and one within the other, whereby upon folding movement said upright member and said U-shaped members nest substantially with each other, and stop means on said upright member engaging each of said U-shaped members upon pivoting of said members each to a position at an angle to the upright member and on opposite sides thereof.

5. In a collapsible bookholder, an upright supporting member comprising two upright side members and an upright central member, means supporting said member in an upright position, a shelf member generally U-shaped but with portions bent out of the plane of the U, means pivoting the shelf member to the upright member approximately in the plane thereof, the shelf member being within the space defined by the side members of the upright member, whereby the shelf member can pivot to a position approximately coplanar with the upright member, the bent portions of the shelf member entering the spaces between the central upright member and the side upright members, and stop means on said upright supporting member engaging said shelf member when said shelf member is at an angle to said upright member.

6. In a collapsible bookholder, an upright supporting member comprising two upright side members and an upright central member, means supporting said member in an upright position, a shelf member pivoted to the upright supporting member to one side of the plane thereof comprising two leg members extending through the plane of the upright members and a connecting member on the ends of the leg members, said connecting member having portions extending towards the axis of the pivot opposite the space between the upright side and central supporting members, and a portion extending away from the axis of the pivot, opposite the central member, and stop means on said upright member engaging said shelf member upon pivotal movement of said shelf member to an angle to said upright member.

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