Dec. 18, 1956 J. B. MURGIA 2,774,177

COLLAPSIBLE ADJUSTABLE COMBINED BOOKREST

Filed Dec. 30, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

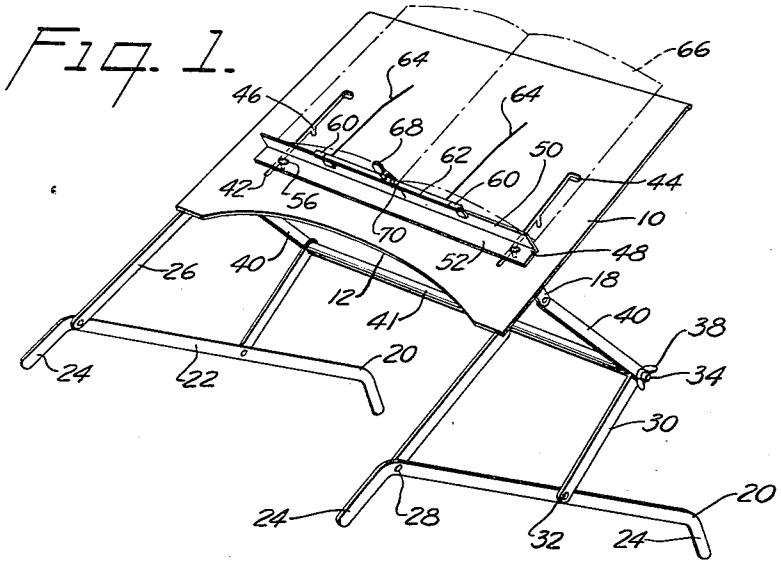
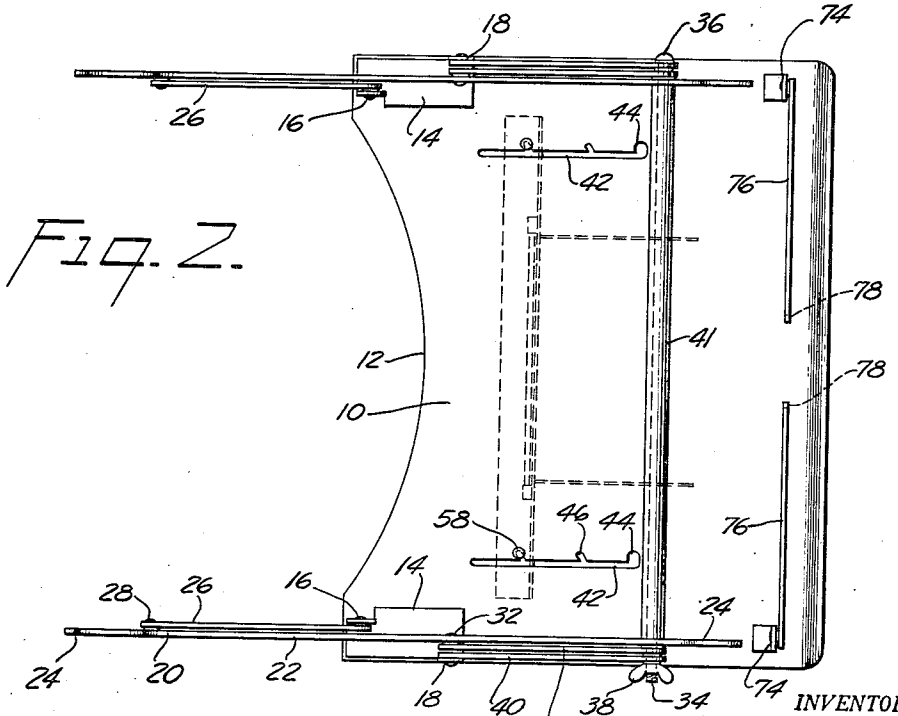


Fig. 2.



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Filed Dec. 30, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

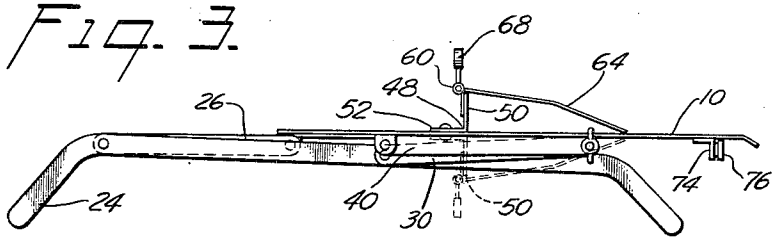


Fig. 4.

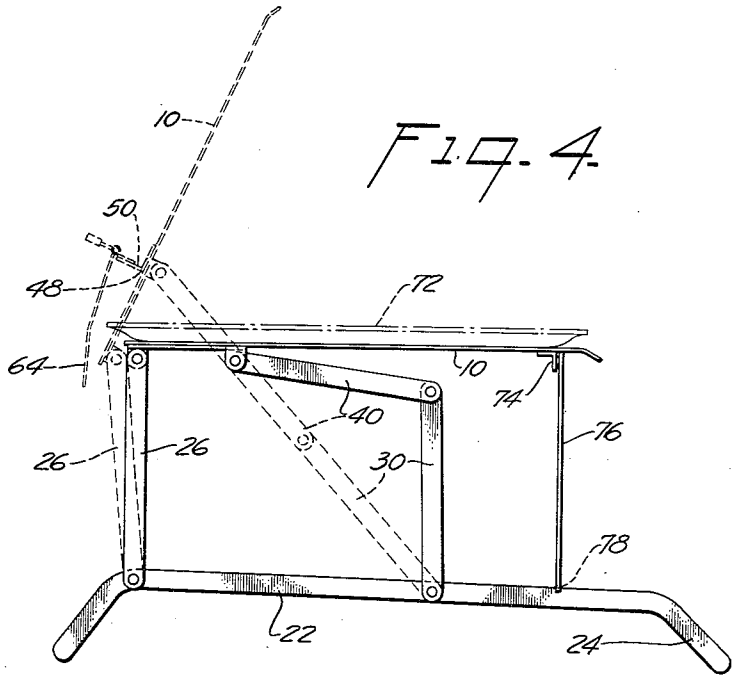
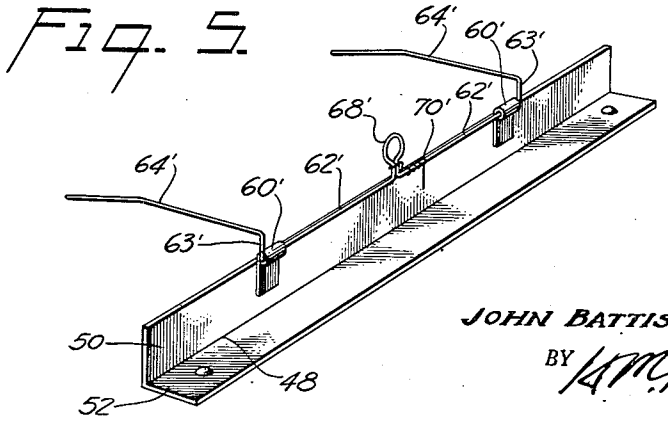


Fig. 5.



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COLLAPSIBLE ADJUSTABLE COMBINED BOOKREST

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Application December 30, 1953, Serial No. 401,278

2 Claims. (Cl. 45—60)

This invention relates to supports, book rests, tray supports and the like and more particularly to collapsible supports, erectable and suitably adjustable for various supporting purposes though it is noted that in some of the claims the invention is not limited to book rests or tray supports nor even to collapsible supports.

Objects of the invention are to provide an improved support of this kind which is collapsible to occupy little space and is erectable to provide a firm level support for a tray, as for instance a breakfast tray in bed, and is also adjustable to various angles suitable for a book support or to a near vertical position suitable for an artist's easel.

Other objects of the invention are to provide an improved book holding ledge for supports of this kind which is adjustable for various sizes of books and carries improved leaf holding fingers and is also reversible to adapt it to hold a picture on the support when used as an easel.

Another object is to provide improved clamping means to clamp the support in adjusted position.

Additional objects of the invention are to effect simplicity and efficiency in such adjustable collapsible supports and to provide an extremely simple support of this kind which is easy to collapse and adjust and clamp in adjusted position, is strong, durable, and reliable in use and economical to manufacture, store and ship.

Still other objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds; and while herein details of the invention are described in the specification and some of the claims, the invention as described in the broader claims is not limited to these, and many and various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as claimed in the broader claims.

The inventive features for the accomplishment of these and other objects are shown herein in connection with an improved collapsible adjustable book rest, tray support and easel which briefly stated, includes a thin flat substantially rectangular somewhat elongated book and tray rest and easel member disposed over supporting structure such as base bars disposed under the end margins of the member by means of normally substantially parallel front and rear struts pivoted to the front and intermediate portions of said structure under said margins, the front struts being pivoted to the adjacent front corners of the member and links pivoted at one end to said member to the rear of the front strut and at the other to the rear strut. Means are provided for adjustably clamping the links and rear struts together in position to hold the member in different angular positions and horizontally. Legs are pivoted to the lower face of the member and normally disposable close under the member and adapted to rest vertically on said structure, when the member is horizontal to hold a tray thereon.

A ledge is adjustably disposed on said member on which the lower edge of an open book on the member may rest when the member is upwardly rearwardly inclined.

A rod pivotally mounted on said ledge carries a pair of fingers adapted to rest on leaves of a book on the member to be held thereby.

In the accompanying drawing showing, by way of example, two of many possible embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the collapsible support used as a book rest;

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the support collapsed;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the collapsed support;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the support erected showing in solid lines the support used as a tray support, and in dotted lines its use as an easel; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the ledge showing a modified form of leaf holder comprising a one-piece wire having leaf holding fingers thereon.

My improved adjustable collapsible support for books and other articles and for use as a tray support or for easel comprises a substantially rectangular somewhat elongated thin book and tray rest plate member **10** having an inwardly curved waist receiving front edge **12**. Front corner plates **14** (Fig. 2) welded or soldered or otherwise secured to the lower face of the front corners of the rest member **10** are provided with downturned front-corner perforated ears **16** parallel to and slightly inset from the end edges of the rest and with intermediate ears **18** disposed a short distance to the rear of the front ears, parallel to the end edges of the rest and nearer the edges than are said front ears.

A pair of spaced parallel base bars **20** are disposed substantially under the end margins of the rest member **10**, each bar having a slightly rearwardly downwardly inclined main portion **22** slightly longer than the rest member is wide and having downturning ends serving as feet **24** for the bars. A front strut **26** about half as long as the main portion is pivoted by means of a rivet **28** at one end to the inner face of the front end of each main portion and at the other end frictionally pivotally riveted to the adjacent corner ear **16** and is adapted to pivotally move to a position along the side of the main portion as in Figs. 3 and 4, or to an upright position (Fig. 4) or to intermediate position as in Fig. 1.

A rear or intermediate strut **30** is pivoted at one end by means of a rivet **32** to the outer side face of each main portion **22** slightly to the rear of the mid part thereof and is disposable substantially upright (Fig. 4) or substantially against the rear part of the main portion (Fig. 3) or at intermediate positions (Fig. 1) parallel or approximately parallel to the adjacent front strut **26**. A clamping pivot bolt **34** is passed through the other or free ends of the rear struts and has a head **36** at one end, and threads with thumb or wing nut **38** thereon at the other end. A link **40** is pivoted at each end on said bolt **34** against the outer face of each rear strut and at the other end frictionally pivotally riveted to the inner face of the adjacent intermediate ear **18**, whereby said rest member is movable to approximately vertical and horizontal and inclined raised positions relative to said base bars **20**, as shown in dotted and solid lines in Fig. 4 and in solid lines in Fig. 1, or to collapsed position adjacent to the base bars as in Fig. 3.

A stiff metal tube **41** on said bolt **34** is engageable with said rear struts, whereby said thumb nut may be turned on the bolt to clamp the rear struts to the links to cooperate with the unavoidable inherent friction of the rivets **28**, **32** and the rivets in the ears **16** and **18** to hold the links, struts and rest member in any of said positions of the rest member.

Said rest member **10** is provided near and parallel to the end edges of the member **10**, with a pair of parallel slots **42** (Figs. 1 and 2) provided with rear or upper end large notches **44** and with intermediate notches **46** slanting in the same direction frontwardly or downwardly away from the slots, the large and slanting notches or both slots extending toward the same end edge of the rest member. An angle bar **48** (Figs. 1 and 4) comprising a ledge **50** disposed substantially perpen-

dicular to the rest member, and a base **52** disposed flat against the rest member is provided with a pair of rivets **56** projecting from its inner face and disposable in said slots and notches and provided with heads **58** (Fig. 2) too large to pass through the slots and slanting notches and small enough to pass through the large notches **44**, whereby the rivets may be passed into the slots and held in any corresponding pair of slanting notches **46** to adjustably hold the ledge in position to hold, for instance, a book **66**. The rivet heads **48** may be moved to and passed through the larger notches to remove the ledge from or onto the rest member.

A pair of alined bearings **60** mounted on the outer edge of the ledge **50** frontward or below the extended plane of the active face of the ledge receive a rod **62** partially rotatable in said bearings and carrying a pair of approximately radial fingers **64** mounted on said rod near the ends thereof and adapted simultaneously to rest on the leaves of a book **66** to be held open thereby. A handle **68** fast on the rod extends frontward of the rod; and a coiled spring **70** coiled around said rod with one end pressing on the lower face of the ledge and the other end anchored on said handle, serves to cause the fingers to press on the rest member, or against leaves of an open book thereon, to hold the book open and the leaves in proper position for reading.

Fig. 5 shows a modified form of leaf holder for holding sheets on the rest member and for holding a book open on the rest member. Said modified form of leaf holder comprises a single piece of wire bent to form two straight alined rod portions **62'** disposed substantially end-to-end and partially rotatable in a pair of alined bearings **60'** mounted on the outer edge of the ledge **50** frontward or below the extended plane of the active face of the ledge, the outer ends of said portions being bent frontwardly a short distance as at **63'** and then upwardly and rearwardly to form approximately radial fingers **64'** adapted simultaneously to rest on the leaves of a book to be held open thereby. The wire at the inner ends of said rod portions is bent frontwardly and formed into a handle **68'**. A coiled spring **70'** coiled around one of said rod portions **62'** and having one end pressing on the lower face of the ledge **50** and the other end wrapped around and anchored on said handle **68'** serves to cause the fingers **64'** to press on the book rest member or against sheets of paper on the rest member or leaves of an open book on the rest.

My collapsible support is also very suitable for use as an artist's easel to hold a canvas or picture for painting or viewing, for which use the rest member **10** may be disposed at the angle shown by the dotted line of Fig. 4. When used for this purpose the position of the angle bar **48** may be reversed as shown by the dotted lines of Fig. 4 to dispose the fingers **64** downward to prevent them from interfering with the painting or marring the wet paint.

As shown by the dotted line of Fig. 3, the angle bar **48** may be removed from the upper face of the rest member **10** and mounted on the lower face of the rest member for compactness, for storage or shipping, when the support is collapsed.

My improved collapsible support is also useful for holding a tray **72** in position, for instance, for a person eating a meal in bed. Ears **74** (Fig. 2) mounted on the lower face of the rear corners of the rest member parallel to the rear edge of the latter have legs **76** frictionally pivotally riveted thereto and normally disposable against the lower face of the rear margin of the rest member **10** and provided with notches **78** in the free ends adapted to receive the rear part of said main portions **22** of the base bar when the book rest is horizontal and said legs are substantially vertical as in the solid line of Fig. 4, thereby to hold the rest member **10** in horizontal position to serve as a tray holder.

The rest member **10** may be made of metal, wood, fiber board, plastic or other suitable material, and the other parts of the support may be made of suitable metal or material.

I claim as my invention:

1. A collapsible support comprising a thin substantially rectangular somewhat elongated member; a pair of spaced parallel base bars disposed under the end margins of the member; a front strut frictionally pivotally riveted at one end to the front end portion of each bar and at the other end to the adjacent front corner of the member; a rear strut frictionally pivotally riveted at one end to each bar slightly to the rear of the mid part thereof; a clamping pivot bolt passed through the other end of each rear strut and having a head at one end and threads with thumb nut thereon at the other end; a link pivoted at one end on said bolt and at the other end to said member a short distance to the rear of the pivot point on the member of the front strut; whereby said book rest is movable to approximately vertical and horizontal and intermediate positions relative to said base bars; a tube on said bolt engaging with rear struts; and legs frictionally pivotally riveted on the lower face of the member and normally disposable under the rear edge of the member and provided with notches in the free end adapted to receive the bar when the member is horizontal and said legs are substantially vertical.

2. A collapsible support comprising a thin flat substantially rectangular somewhat elongated book rest member having at each front corner a downturned front corner ear, and a downturned intermediate ear just to the rear of the front corner ear; a pair of spaced parallel base bars disposed substantially under the end margins of the rest member; said bar having a slightly rearwardly downwardly inclined main portion slightly longer than the book rest is wide having downturning ends serving as feet for the bars and support; a front strut about half as long as the main portion frictionally pivotally riveted at one end to the inner face of the front end of each main portion and at the other end to each front corner ear of said member and adapted to pivotally move to a position along the side of the main portion or to an upright position or to intermediate positions; a rear struct frictionally pivotally riveted at one end to the outer side face of said main portion slightly to the rear of the mid part thereof and disposable upright or against the rear part of the main portion or at intermediate positions; a clamping pivot bolt passed through the other end of each rear strut and having a head at one end and threads with thumb nut thereon at the other end; a link pivoted at one end on said bolt against the inner face of the rear strut and at the other end frictionally pivotally riveted to the intermediate ear on the lower face of the rest member to the rear of the front corner part; whereby said book rest is movable to approximately vertical and horizontal and intermediate positions relative to said base bars; and a stiff metal tube on said bolt engageable with said rear struts, whereby said thumb nut may be turned to clamp the rear struts to the links in any position of the book rest.

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