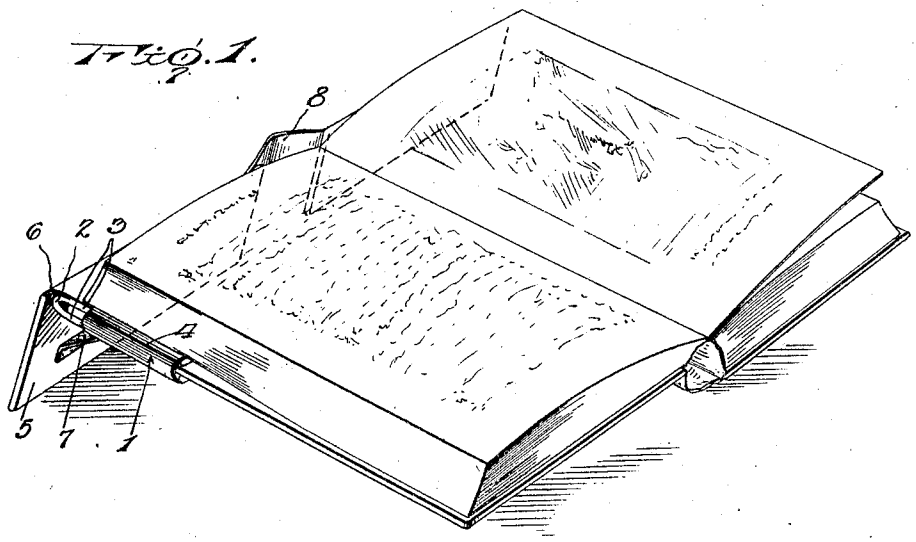
Dec. 11, 1923. 1,476,838

A. H. PRATT

BOOKREST

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Fig. 1.



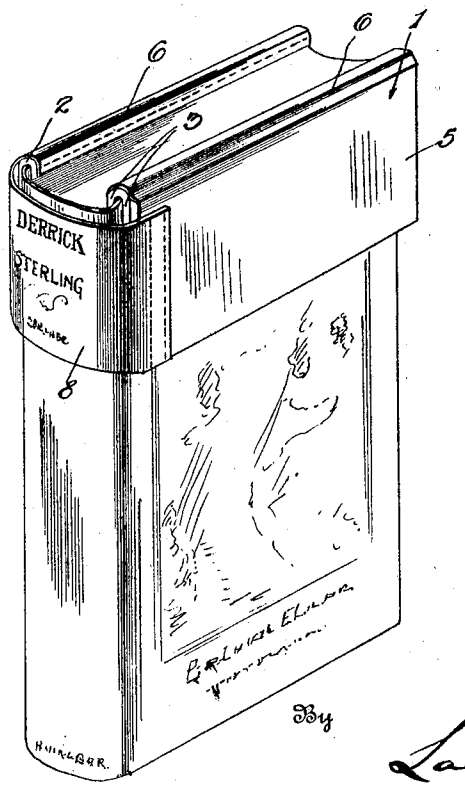


Fig. 2.

Inventor

A. H. Pratt.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

Dec. 11, 1923. 1,476,838

A. H. PRATT

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Fig. 3.

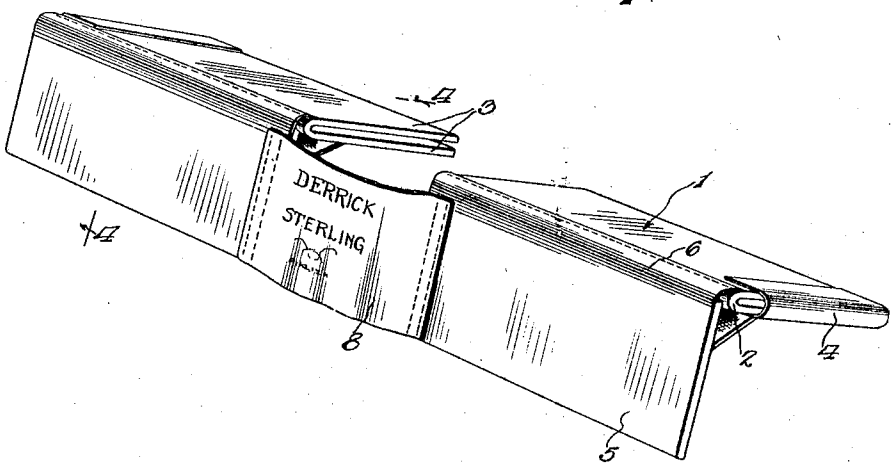
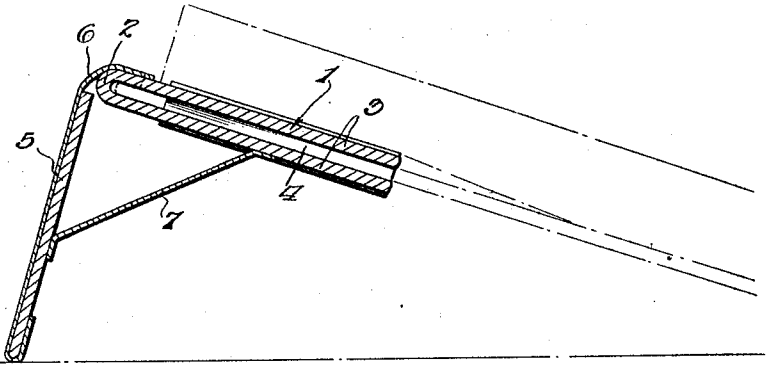


Fig. 4.



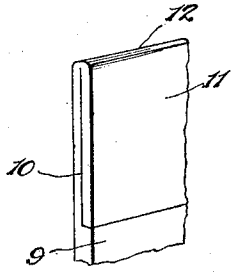


Fig. 5.

Inventor

A. H. Pratt.

By Lacey & Lacey. Attorneys

Patented Dec. 11, 1923. 1,476,838

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALLEN H. PRATT, OF PHILOMATH, OREGON.

BOOKREST.

Application filed January 27, 1923. Serial No. 615,255.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEN H. PRATT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philomath, in the county of Benton and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bookrests, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in book rests and has as one of its primary objects to provide a book rest either attachable to or constituting a permanent part of a book and adapted to support the book, when open, in a suitably inclined position to best serve the convenience of the reader.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a book rest so constructed that it will assume a collapsed condition when the book to which it is applied is closed and will be caused to automatically assume an active or supporting condition when the book is opened.

Another object of the invention is to provide a book rest possessing the characteristics above outlined and simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture so that one of the rests may be supplied by publishers with the books published by them without materially increasing the cost of the book, or may under similar advantageous conditions, embody the principles of the inventions directly in the construction of a book cover.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the book rest embodying the invention applied to a book, the view illustrating the manner in which the book is to be supported by the said rest;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the device applied to a book, the book being closed;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the device in open condition and detached from the book;

Figure 4 is a detail vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 3 looking in the direction indicated by the arrows;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a modification of the invention.

The device embodying the invention comprises a pair of attaching members which are indicated in general by the numeral 1 and each of which is formed from a blank of straw board or other suitable inexpensive and relatively stiff material, the blank being folded upon itself between opposite longitudinal edges, as indicated by the numeral 2, so as to provide spaced leaves 3 which are designed to receive between them one respective cover board of the book back to which the device is applied, the said attaching members 1 being fitted onto the upper portions of the said cover boards of the book back and frictionally retained in place thereon. The attaching members 1 are therefore removable from the book back although if found desirable or expedient they might be united thereto by adhesive or otherwise. In the drawings, the attaching members 1 are illustrated as embracing only the upper portions of the cover boards of the book back or binding but it will be understood that the said members may substantially completely enclose or cover the said boards. The spaced leaves 3 of each attaching member 1 are preferably connected at their outer or relatively remote end edges by a web or binding 4 so as to prevent their relative separation, and this binding may be united to the leaves in any manner found suitable or desirable, or under some other conditions it might be omitted altogether.

In addition to the attaching members 1, the device comprises supporting easel members 5 each preferably consisting of a rectangular leaf of straw board or other relatively stiff material which is connected at one longitudinal edge, by a web 6 of flexible material, to the respective attaching member 1, the web 6 extending over the fold 2 at the juncture of the leaves 3 of the attaching member, and the said leaf 5 being foldable to collapsed condition against the leaf 3 which is outermost in the applied position of the device and when the book is closed, and, on the other hand, being movable about the web 6 as a hinge, to assume an active or supporting position substantially in a plane at right angles to the plane of the respective attaching member 1. Movement of the supporting easel members 5 to the supporting position referred to and illustrated is limited by any suitable means such, for example, as a web 7 which is secured along one longitudinal edge to the inner side of the leaf comprising the easel member and, along the other longitudinal edge, to the outer face of the outermost leaf 3 of the respective attaching member 1, the web 7 being of relatively

thin flexible material, as, for example, cloth, so that its presence will not interfere with collapsing of the supporting member 5.

The relatively adjacent ends of the leaves comprising the supporting easel members 5 are preferably connected by a backing web which is indicated by the numeral 8 and which may be of cloth, leather, or any other flexible or semi-flexible material and which may either be left plain or have printed thereon the title of the book to which the device is to be applied, or any other matter which it is desired to present to view.

In the use of the device, the attaching members 1 are fitted onto the cover boards of the book to be supported and with the backing web 8 extending across the upper portion of the back of the book. When the book is closed the backing web 8 will be drawn more or less tautly across its back, and the supporting easel members 5 will be caused to assume the collapsed position resting snugly beside the outer leaves of the attaching members 1. Upon opening the book the backing web 8 will be slackened and the leaves comprising the supporting easel members 5 will be permitted to automatically swing away from the respective attaching members 1 and thus assume such a position that when the book is laid upon the surface of a table, it will be supported at a desired angle of inclination. In closing the book the backing web 8 will be again brought under tension to influence automatic collapse of the supporting easel members 5 to position against the attaching members 1.

If desired the principles of the invention may find embodiment directly in the back or cover of a book, as illustrated for example in Figure 5, in which figure the cover board is indicated by the numeral 9 and is recessed in its outer face, as at 10, to normally accommodate, in a flush manner, a rest section 11 hingedly connected at its upper edge to the upper edge of the board 9 by a web portion 12, it being understood that the members 11 will in such modification be associated with a connecting back web corresponding to the web 8 and serving the same purpose as said web 8. The modification shown in the said Figure 5 will also be adopted where the rest device is formed separate from the book and where the attaching members are to be so formed as to substantially completely cover the cover boards of the binding.

It will be understood, of course, that in any event the component parts of the device may be proportioned to suit different sizes of books and in accordance with other conditions to be met with and that any materials suitable for the purpose may be employed in the manufacture of the said component parts; also that the said parts may be, to a greater or less extent, integrally connected or formed separably and suitably united.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A book support comprising attaching means for assemblage with the cover boards of the book back, supporting members swingingly movable with relation to the said attaching means, and means extending between and connecting the said members and designed to be slackened upon opening of the book to swing the supporting members to active position and to be rendered taut upon closing of the book to swing the said supporting members to collapsed position against the said back.

2. A book support attachable to the back of a book and comprising attaching members designed to be fitted to the cover boards of the said back, supporting members swingingly connected with the attaching members whereby to be capable of assuming a collapsed position resting against the attaching members and close to the cover boards of the book back and to assume a position extending at an angle to said cover boards to support the book, and a relatively flexible member extending between and connecting the said supporting members and designed to be rendered taut upon closing of the book through being stretched across the web of the back of the book and thereby constituting means for automatically collapsing the supporting members upon closing of the book and automatically moving said members to supporting position upon opening of the book.

3. A book support attachable to the back of a book and comprising attaching members designed to be fitted to the cover boards of the said back, supporting members swingingly connected with the attaching members whereby to be capable of assuming a collapsed position resting against the attaching members and close to the cover boards of the book back and to assume a position extending at an angle to said cover boards to support the book, and a relatively flexible member extending between and connecting the said supporting members and designed to be rendered taut upon closing of the book through being stretched across the web of the back of the book and thereby constituting means for automatically collapsing the supporting members upon closing of the book and automatically moving said members to supporting position upon opening of the book, and means limiting the swinging movement of the supporting members to active position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALLEN H. PRATT. [L. S.]