Aug. 10, 1954 A. K. MIRIGIAN 2,685,757

PORTABLE DESK

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Fig. 2.

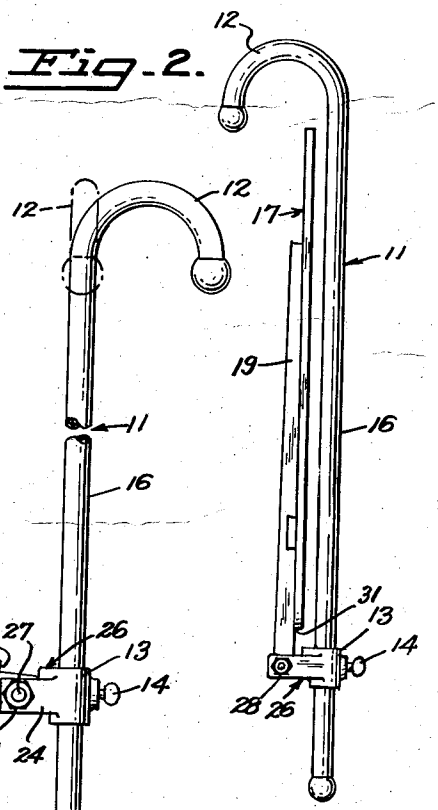


Fig. 1.

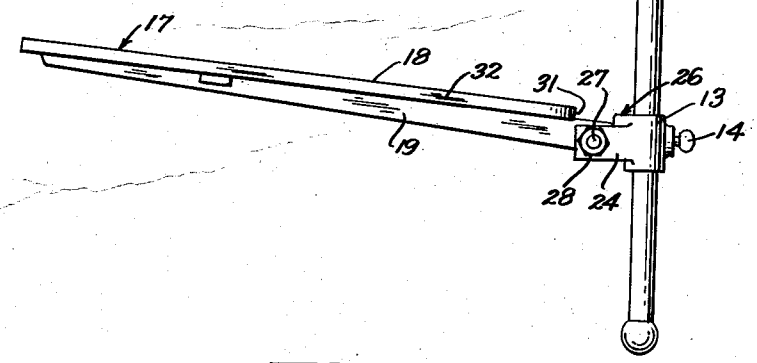


Fig. 3.

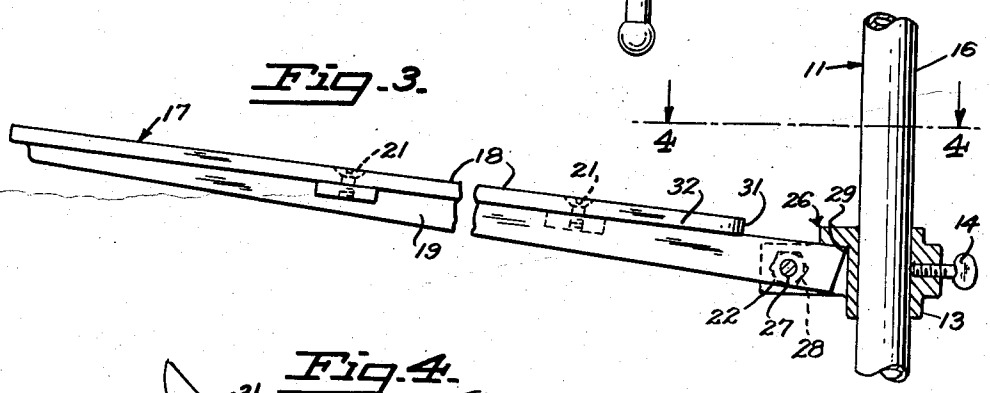
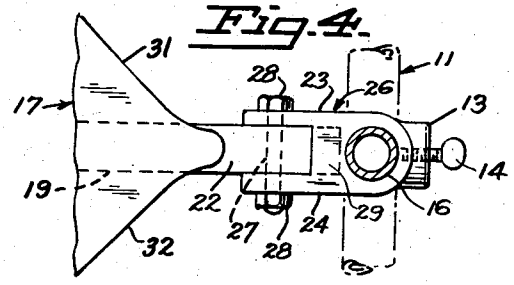


Fig. 4.



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PORTABLE DESK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 45—59)

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The invention, in general, relates to writing equipment and more particularly relates to a convertible and portable desk unit affording requisite writing means usually unavailable or inadequate in many fields of endeavor.

Some attention heretofore has been given to the provision of writing facilities for periodic or temporary uses, such as by hospital patients for an occasional letter or by car-hops who are required constantly to travel from place to place recording desired data. These prior means, in the one instance, usually consist of a collapsible table or tray which is set up upon the patient's bed and, in the other instance, consists of a board and clip combination which is carried about in the hand. The present invention is directed to an improved portable desk which can be readily set up and suspended on the body of the user thereby affording much needed support for the writing operation and which also affords a writing means which can be utilized by a hospital patient, whether confined to a bed or not as well as by those employed in commercial pursuits and industrial plants such as by time checkers, car checkers, statistical workers and the like.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a portable desk which is convertible for ready and convenient use either by a right hand or a left hand writer.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide an improved portable desk of the indicated nature which is adjustable for fitting the body of persons of different heights whereby a person's normal writing position is afforded in all cases.

A still further object of my present invention is to provide an improved portable desk which is collapsible to a compact unit for convenient shipping or storing and which includes but a minimum of operable parts so that it can be set up and collapsed with simplicity, dispatch and ease.

Other objects of the invention, together with some of the advantageous features thereof will appear from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that I am not to be limited to the precise embodiment shown, nor to the precise arrangement of the various parts thereof, as my invention, as defined in the appended claim, can be embodied in a plurality and variety of forms.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the invention, this view showing

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in dotted lines a converted position of the supporting hook.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the invention illustrating the table portion thereof in collapsed condition.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary and broken side elevational view of the preferred embodiment of the invention, this view illustrating in enlarged detail and in cross section parts enabling collapse of the table portion and adjustably fixing the height of the support thereof.

Fig. 4 is a view taken on the section line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In its preferred form, the portable desk of my present improvement preferably comprises a vertically adjustable and rotatably mounted rod, and a rigid table having a writing surface thereon pivotally secured to said rod.

As particularly illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3 of the annexed drawings, I provide a table supporting rod 11 which is preferably fabricated of lightweight metal tubing, such as an aluminum tube or the like, and which integrally carries a hook 12 for engaging upon the shoulder of a user. The rod 11 is supported for rotation about a vertical axis by means of a collar clamp 13 which is pierced by a set-screw 14 for tightening the rod 11 to the clamp in any selected one of a plurality of rotatable positions relative to the clamp. The collar clamp 13 also affords vertical adjustment of the rod 11 so that a portion 16 of the rod above the clamp 13 can be lengthened or shortened to accommodate persons of different body heights. That is to say, to shorten the portion 16 of the rod to accommodate a short person with a hook 12 of the rod engageable snugly upon the shoulder of the short person, it is only necessary to loosen the set screw 14 and to move the entire rod 11 downwardly relative to collar 13 and thereafter tighten the set screw 14 to clamp the rod in such lowered position. On the other hand to enable proper positioning of the desk upon a tall person the set screw 14 is again loosened and the rod 11 raised as an entirety thereby lengthening portion 16 of the rod and enabling the hook 12 thereof snugly to engage the shoulder of such tall person, and thereafter tighten the set screw 14 again to fix the rod in such lengthened condition.

In accordance with my present invention, the improved portable desk includes a planar writing surface which is afforded by a block 17 preferably formed to a rectangular configuration and fabricated of relatively hard wood, although other suitable material such as metal, slate or a plastic substance can be used for fabricating the block

if desired. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of the annexed drawings, the block 17 presents a planar upper surface 18 for a scribing board and the entire block conveniently is so mounted as to assume an inclination to the horizontal when in operative position for writing. In Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, I have illustrated relatively simple yet effective means for accomplishing the foregoing ends as well as for effecting the collapse of the block 17 so that the desk may be readily and conveniently stored in a limited space as well as to facilitate transportation thereof, as shown in Fig. 2. With particular reference to Figs. 3 and 4, it will be observed that I secure a bar 19 by means of a series of counter-sunk screws 21 to the underside of the block 17 and preferably dispose such bar diagonally across the block from corner to corner, see Fig. 4. Bar 19 preferably is of rectangular cross-section so that its upper surface fits snugly against the under side of the block when screws 21 are tightened in position.

The reinforcing bar 19 is extended beyond the limit of block 17 at a corner thereof as illustrated in Fig. 4, and such bar extension 22 is fitted between the opposed legs 23 and 24 of a bifurcated extension 26 of collar clamp 13. To afford a pivotal mounting of block 17 upon rod 11, a pivot pin 27 having threaded extremities thereon for receiving nuts 28, is inserted through the bar extension 22 as well as the legs 23 and 24 of clamp extension 26, and nuts 28 are applied to the terminals of the pivot pin and tightened to secure the bar 19 to the collar clamp 13 in pivotal relation. In addition, the collar clamp 13 is so constructed as to provide an abutment 29 thereon for limiting the pivotal swing of the block 17 away from its collapsed position, see Fig. 2, and thus to cause the lowering of the block 17 to the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, or at an inclination to the horizontal, which facilitates the writing operation.

The disposition of the reinforcing bar 19 diagonally across the block 17 from corner to corner, as well as the rotatable mounting of the rod 11 through the medium of collar clamp 13, and the provision of shoulder hook 12 on rod 11, renders the desk convertible for use either by a left hand or a right hand writer. The conversion is effected by a shifting of the block 17 so as to cause either one edge or an adjacent edge to engage the body of the user. As shown by the full lines in Fig. 1, the desk is set up or arranged for use by a right hand writer with the edge 31 of the block 17 engaging the body of the user approximately at the waist-line and with the hook 12 of rod 11 in position to be suspended from the left shoulder of the user, the hook 12 projecting rearwardly with respect to the block and at a right angle to the axis of the rod 11. For use by a left hand writer, it is only necessary to shift the block 17 so as to bring block edge 32 adjacent to the body of the user which shifts the supporting rod 11 to the right side of the body instead of at the left, as before. The rod 11 is then rotated through

90° in a clock-wise direction as indicated by the dotted line showing of hook 12 in Fig. 1, after first loosening set-screw 14 and then fixing the block in such shifted position by tightening the set-screw 14 again. On such shifting of block 17 and rotation of rod 11, the hook 12 is disposed rearwardly with respect to the block and at a right angle to the axis of the rod 11, see dotted line showing of Fig. 1, so as to be suspendable from the right shoulder of the user, instead of from the left shoulder as before. Thus, the desk can as readily be set up for writing by a left hand person as well as by a right hand person.

It is to be understood that the appended claim is to be accorded a range of equivalents commensurate in scope with the advance made over the prior art.

I claim:

A convertible portable desk capable of being suspended from the left as well as from the right shoulder of the body of a user, said desk consisting of a block having a planar upper surface, a reinforcing bar secured to the underside of said block diagonally thereof from corner to corner, a bar extension on said reinforcing bar projecting linearly therewith and beyond the block at one corner thereof; said bar and bar extension presenting two adjacent edges of said block for engaging with the body of the user upon suspension of said block on the person's shoulder, a suspension rod, a hook on said rod, and a pivotal rotational, and vertically adjustable mounting means for said rod on said block; said means consisting of a unitary collar clamp including a pair of spaced plates extending at right angles from the body of said clamp; said plates receiving said bar extension therebetween, screws connecting said bar extension between said plates with the body of said collar clamp in vertical position; said collar clamp having a bore extending vertically therethrough for passing said rod and permitting relative rotation between said clamp and said rod, a set-screw piercing said clamp and engaging said rod for adjusting the height of said rod in relation to said block; rotation of said rod in one direction affording placement of said hook on the right shoulder of the user of the desk with one edge of said block adjacent to said bar extension engaging the abdomen of the user, and rotation of said rod in the opposite direction affording the placement of said rod hook on the left shoulder of the user with the other adjacent edge of said block adjacent to said bar extension engaging the abdomen of the user.

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