

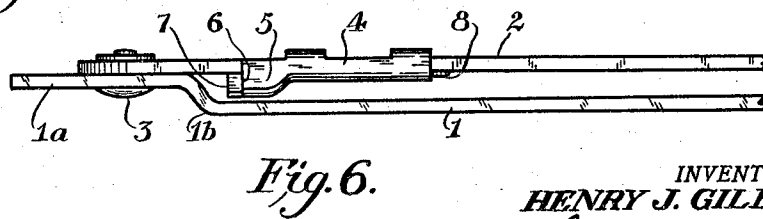
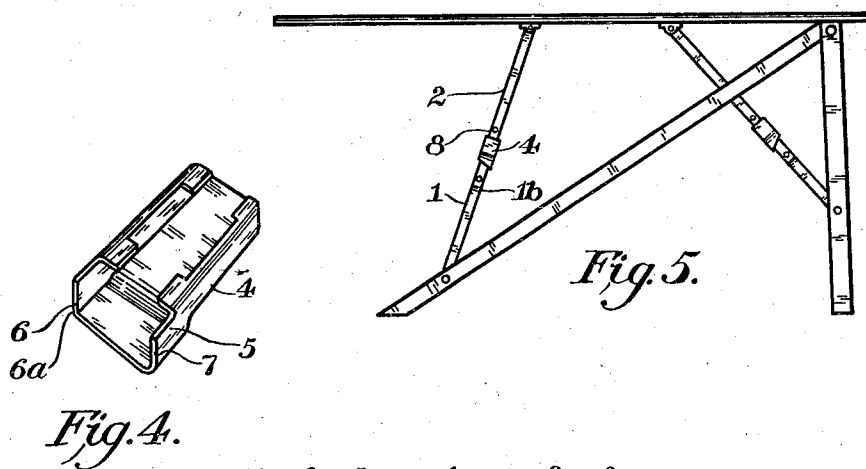
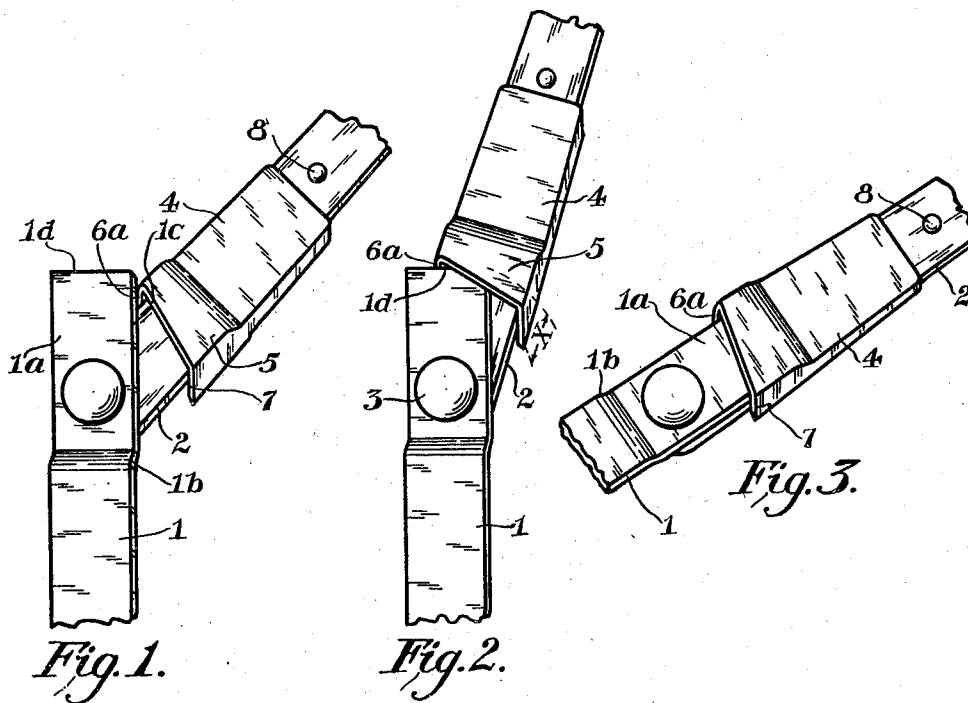
Dec. 16, 1930.

H. J. GILBERT

1,785,342

FOLDING JOINT FOR BRACES AND THE LIKE

Filed Sept. 20, 1928



INVENTOR
HENRY J. GILBERT
BY *George B. Wilcox*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HENRY J. GILBERT, OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO SAGINAW MANUFACTURING CO., OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, A CORPORATION OF MICHIGAN

FOLDING JOINT FOR BRACES AND THE LIKE

Application filed September 20, 1928. Serial No. 307,208.

This invention relates to an improved collapsible brace for the legs of folding ironing tables and the like. It comprises a pair of links pivotally connected in overlapping relation and adapted for pivotal connection at their outer ends to the parts to be braced.

The objects of the invention are to provide an improved form of catch that can be made easily and cheaply, yet will be strong and durable as well as positive in its latching operation.

A further object is to provide a catch adapted to be used in conjunction with a bar having an overlapping end which is of the same cross sectional shape throughout its length and therefore does not have to be provided with catch-engaging teeth or notches in its end or edges.

With the foregoing and certain other objects in view, which will appear later in the specification, my invention comprises the devices described and claimed and the equivalents thereof.

In the drawings Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are front views of a brace embodying my improvement in respectively open, partly closed and latched positions.

Fig. 4 is a perspective rear view of the catch.

Fig. 5 is a side view of a brace applied to an ironing table.

Fig. 6 is an edge view of the brace folded.

As is clearly shown in the drawings, a folding brace embodying my claimed invention consists in the usual bars 1 and 2 pivotally joined as at 3, the end 1a of one bar projecting beyond the pivot in overlapping relation with the other bar 2 when in extended position. The bar 1 is formed with a lateral offset 1b near the pivot 3 and upon the other bar a sleeve-like catch 4 is mounted so as to be slidable lengthwise.

That end of the sleeve-like catch 4 which is nearest the pivot 3 is formed with an offset front wall 5 so as to define a pocket adapted to receive and restrain the projecting end 1a of the bar 1 in its extended position. The pocket has side walls 6, 7, which prevent sideways movement of the bars 1 and 2 about their pivot 3 when the catch is in locking position.

One side wall 6 of the pocket is shorter than the other and the extreme edge 6a of this shorter wall is adapted to slide along a side edge 1c and thence across an end edge 1d of the overlapping portion 1a of the first-mentioned bar 1 during the extending movement of the brace, thereby positioning the sleeve 4 to drop into its latched relation with the projection 1a of bar 1.

The longer wall 7 of the two side walls of the pocket constitutes a stop for sidewise alinement and restraining the bars 1 and 2 when extended.

An abutment member or projection 8 is provided on the second bar 2 so as to permit the latch to slide back far enough to let the shorter wall 6 of the pocket pass freely along the edges 1c, 1d of the overlying end portion 1a of bar 1, yet keeping the longer side wall 7 of the pocket positioned in the lateral path of travel of the overlapping end 1a, as indicated at X in Fig. 2, thereby utilizing the longer side wall 7 to serve as a stop for the overlapping end 1a.

In operation if the braces are in the position shown in Fig. 1, straightening them causes the edge 6a of the catch 4 to slide up along the edge 1c of the projection 1a of bar 1 and thence along its top edge 1d. The bar there brings up against wall 7 of catch 4 and the latter thereupon drops into place and interlocks as shown in Fig. 3.

Thus it is seen that the edge 6a of the shorter side wall automatically retracts and latches the catch when the braces are straightened, while the companion wall 7 serves as a limit-stop to prevent the parts from moving past the straight line represented by their extended positions.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a folding brace including two pivotally joined bars one having an end of uniform cross sectional shape throughout its length in overlapping relation with the other bar, a slidable catch on the other bar having a pocket shaped to receive said end and defined by an offset front wall and two side walls of different lengths, the shorter being

disposed so as to slidingly traverse a side edge and an end edge of the overlapping end portion of said first mentioned bar during the extending movement of the brace, the longer wall of said pocket constituting a side-wise alinement stop for said bars, an abutment member located on the other bar and adapted to keep the longer side wall of the catch positioned within the lateral path of travel of said overlapping end.

2. In a folding brace including two pivotally joined bars one having an end portion of uniform cross sectional shape throughout its length in overlapping relation with the other bar, a slidable catch on the other bar having two side walls of different lengths, the shorter adapted to slide first upon the side edge and then upon the end edge of the overlapping end portion of said first mentioned bar during the sidewise movement of the said end portion, the longer wall of said catch constituting a sidewise alinement stop for said bars.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

HENRY J. GILBERT.