

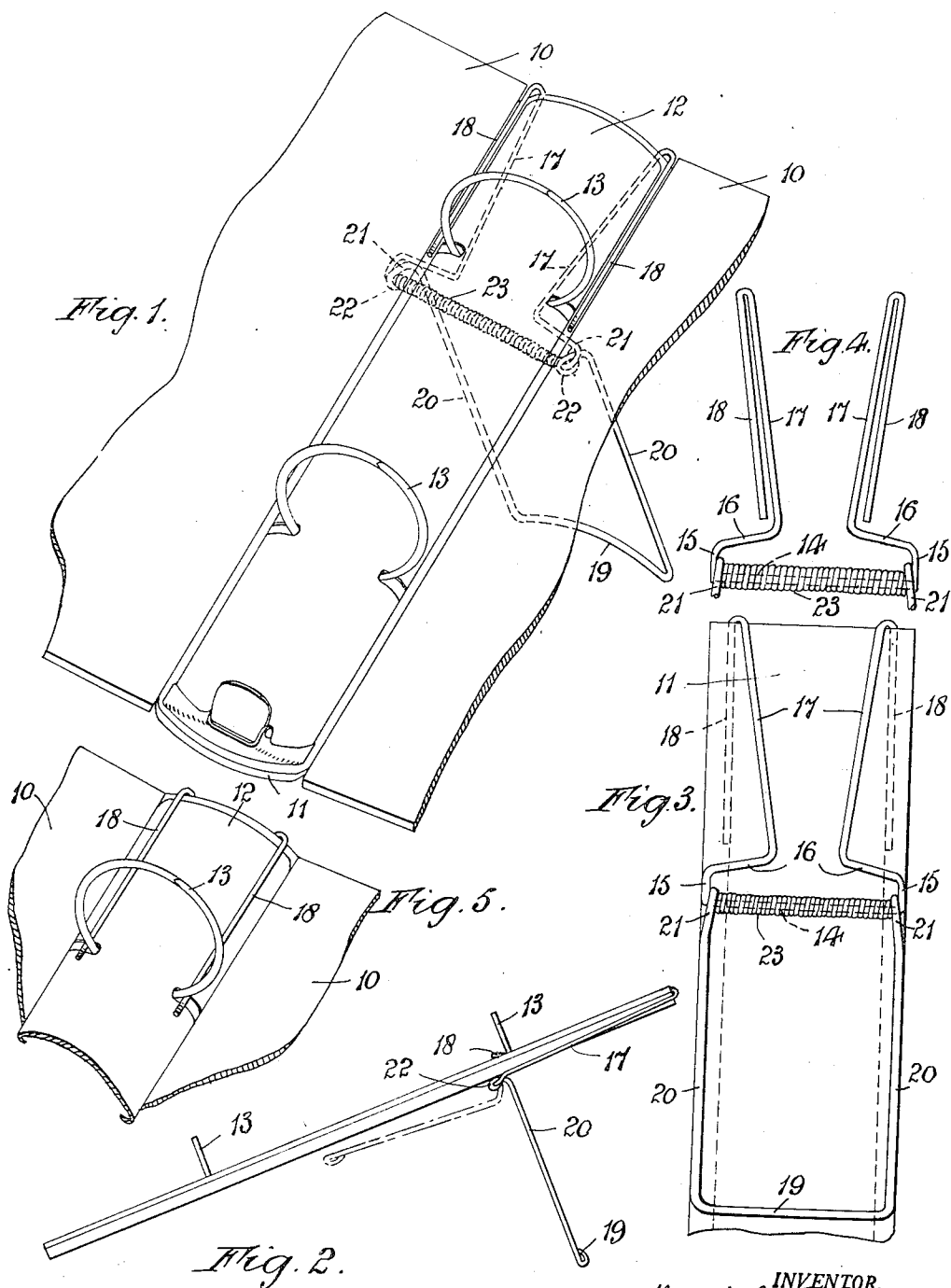
Jan. 22, 1957

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2,778,153

BOOK SUPPORT

Filed June 29, 1955



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2,778,153

BOOK SUPPORT

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Application June 29, 1955, Serial No. 518,875

3 Claims. (Cl. 45—57)

This invention relates to an easel or book support for facilitating the supporting of bound books (more particularly of the loose-leaf type) in an open display or reading position, and contemplates the provision of a simple and easily constructed device comprising an upper portion characterized by a pair of clips of hairpin form, the free legs of which clips may be passed within the back portion of the book from which the boards extend so that they will be positioned adjacent the juncture between said back portion and said boards; and a swingable lower portion or support hingedly connected to the lower part of said upper portion in such manner that said support may be moved into a "closed" position, more or less flush with the back of the book, and to an "opened" position wherein it acts to support the book in an inclined position for reading.

More particularly the said invention contemplates a wire structure wherein an upper element has a horizontal bar from the ends of which a pair of inverted hairpin-like clips are extended upwardly for engagement with the back of a loose-leaf book (whereby the free legs of said clips when in engagement with the back of the book impinge against opposite lateral portions of the loose-leaf mechanism structure carried within said book), and a lower U-shaped element the upper ends of the legs thereof being pivoted at the ends of said bar and provided with stop means limiting the angle or extent to which said lower element may be swung, relative to the upper element, for the purposes referred to.

Still further objects or advantages additional or subsidiary to the aforesaid objects, or resulting from the construction or operation of the invention as it may be carried into effect, will become apparent as the said invention is hereinafter further disclosed.

In carrying the said invention into effect, I may adopt the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, by way of example, having reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved easel as applied to the cover of a loose-leaf book;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same;

Figure 3 is a rear view of the back of the book showing the device applied thereto in the "closed" position of the easel;

Figure 4 is a view illustrating the position of the clips of the device in their normal unsprung position before being applied to the book; and

Figure 5 is a similar view to the upper portion of Figure 1 showing an alternative position which the legs of the clips may occupy in their engagement with the loose-leaf mechanism of the book.

Similar characters of reference indicate similar parts of the several figures of the drawing.

A loose-leaf book cover is shown having the usual boards 10 connected to a back 11, and 12 indicates the metallic casing of a ring-binder mechanism having the typical rings 13; all of which may vary as to structure in different makes of such binders.

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It is desirable in many cases that such a book, especially when provided with a great many leaves, be supported in a reading angle as on a table for a comfortable viewing and, for this purpose, I have provided the simple operating but very effective device such as is illustrated.

This device comprises an upper element for engagement with the back of the book or binder and a lower element swingably attached to the upper element for supporting the book or binder in its inclined reading position.

In the device, as illustrated, the upper element includes a cross bar 14, the ends of which are bent upwardly and inwardly toward each other as at 15 and 16 and then again upwardly and downwardly in hairpin form as at 17 and 18.

These hairpin-like clips are of a springy nature so that they may be readily forced over into engagement with the upper portion of the back of the book or binder and whereby the free legs 15 of the said clips may be spread from their converging relation to an extent causing them to engage the lateral portions of the mechanism casing 12 as shown in Figure 1, or, if desired, the upper ring 13 of the mechanism as in Figure 5. It will be observed, however, that in an ordinary bound book wherein such mechanism does not exist, the hairpin-like clips may simply close upon the thickness of the back of the book, in resilient engagement therewith, for the maintenance of the described upper element of the device in position thereon.

The lower element referred to may be made of wire bent to a U formation, as shown, with the horizontal cross member 19 thereof bent to conform with the curvature of the back of the book and the legs 20 offset at their upper ends, as at 21, and engaged with the cross bar 14 of the upper element at 22. I prefer to provide the cross bar 14 of the upper element with suitable spacing means, such as a coil spring 23, to maintain the upper ends of the said legs 20 spread into frictional impingement with the parts 15 of the said upper element for the purpose of resisting undue free swinging of the lower element thereon.

The offset portions 21 of the legs 20 are so arranged as to operate as stops, for abutment with the parts 16 of the upper element, in order to limit the extent to which the lower element may be swung and thereby enable it to form a firm support for the book or binder in its reading position when in use, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Also, as illustrated particularly in Figures 3 and 4, the offset ends 21 of the legs 20 are bent toward one another whereby they operate as cams against the inner surfaces of the portions 15 of the upper element and compress the spring 23 when the lower element is swung outwardly to its supporting position. This deters inadvertent collapsing of the lower supporting element when in actual use.

As the lower element may be swung into a position more or less flush with the back of the book in the "closed" position of the easel, it need not be removed therefrom when the book is not in use and the device will not interfere with the ready carrying of the book, as in a brief case, so the device may remain permanently with such a book or binder at all times, if desired.

What I claim is:

1. In a book support, an upper structure comprising a horizontal bar from the ends of which extend a pair of inverted hairpin-like clips for engagement with the back portion of the book, the open ends of said clips converging toward one another, a lower structure in the form of a U-shaped element the upper ends of the legs of which are pivotally connected at the ends of said horizontal bar, and stop means carried by the lower structure engageable with the upper structure for limiting the swinging extent

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of said lower structure on said upper structure whereby said lower structure may, when the device is in position on a book, be swung inwardly substantially flush with the back of the book or outwardly to operate as a support for the book.

2. In a book support, an upper structure comprising a horizontal bar from the ends of which extend a pair of inverted hairpin-like clips for engagement with the back portion of the book, the open ends of said clips converging toward one another, a lower structure in the form of a U-shaped element the upper ends of the legs of which are pivotally connected at the ends of said horizontal bar, stop means carried by the lower structure engageable with the upper structure for limiting the swinging extent of said lower structure on said upper structure whereby said lower structure may, when the device is in position on a book, be swung inwardly substantially flush with the back of the book or outwardly to operate as a support for the book, and resilient means on said bar spreading said legs into frictional impingement with said upper structure.

3. In a book support, an upper structure comprising a horizontal bar from the ends of which extend a pair of inverted hairpin-like clips for engagement with the back portion of the book, a lower structure in the form of a U-shaped element the upper ends of the legs of which

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are pivotally connected at the ends of said horizontal bar, said upper ends being converged toward one another to provide camming impingement with the legs of the upper structure, stop means carried by the lower structure engageable with the upper structure for limiting the swinging extent of said lower structure on said upper structure whereby said lower structure may, when the device is in position on a book, be swung inwardly substantially flush with the back of the book or outwardly to operate as a support for the book, and resilient means on said bar spreading said legs into frictional impingement with said upper structure, said resilient means being compressible under the camming action of the ends of said legs against said upper structure.

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