April 16, 1968 R. V. JOHNSON 3,378,322

ARTIST'S KIT AND EASEL SUPPORT

Filed Nov. 14, 1966

FIG. 1

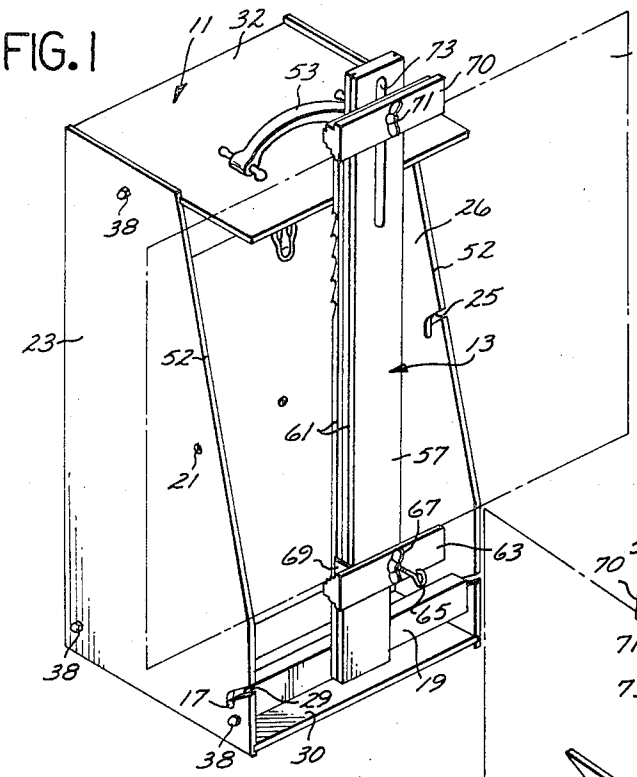


FIG. 2

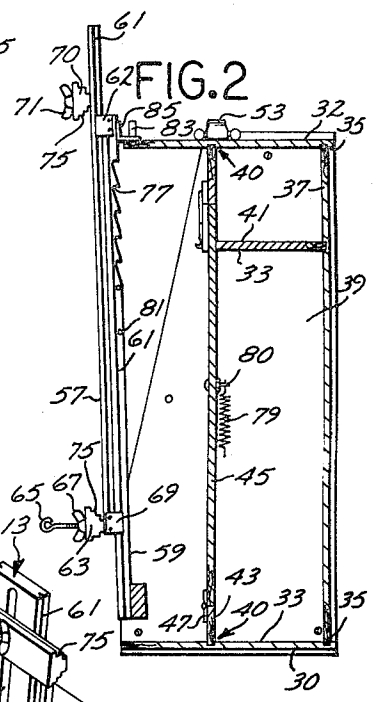


FIG. 4

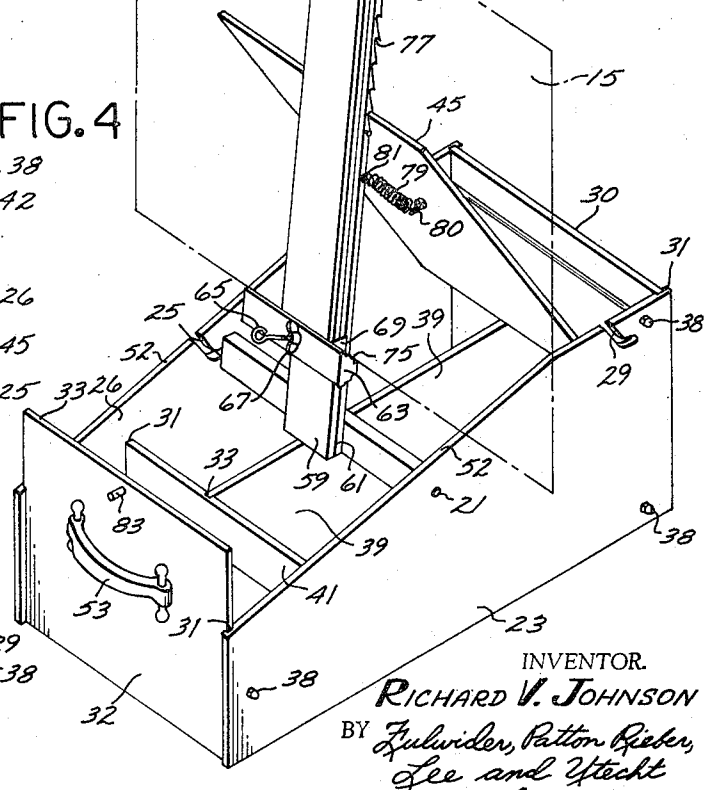
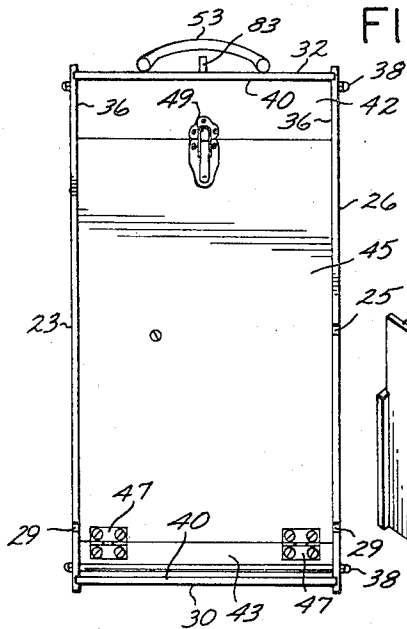


FIG. 3



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ARTIST'S KIT AND EASEL SUPPORT

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An artists's kit including an easel which can be detachably mounted on a box either in a painting position or in a carrying position. The box includes a cover underlying the easel in its carrying position, and pivotable to an inclined position for engagement of its free end with the upper extremity of the easel to prop the easel in its painting position.

The present invention relates to an artist's kit, and particularly to a portable kit having a detachable easel. The usual artist's kit includes a collapsible easel and a box for carrying the collapsed easel. The canvas mounted on the easel must be removed in order to store the easel in the box, thereby adding to the number of items which the artists must carry whenever he wishes to change his work situs.

The main object of this invention is to provide an artist's kit which includes a box incorporating a stand for securely supporting an easel in an operative or painting position, and wherein the easel is demountable from the box, with the canvas or drawing board attached thereto, and remountable on the box in a storage position for transport with the box.

Another object of this invention is to provide an easel stand that is quickly pivotable from an open, supporting position to a closed position in which it forms a cover for the kit box to safeguard the artist's supplies stored in the box.

A further object of the invention is to provide an artist's kit having a box for holding artists' supplies and which includes side walls having inclined upper edges for supporting a drawing board and canvas in a slightly inclined position for watercolor work.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description, reference being made to the accompanying drawing, wherein a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the kit, the easel being shown in its carrying position, with the cover or stand pivoted shut;

FIG. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the kit;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the kit, with the easel demounted; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the kit with the easel shown erected.

Referring to the drawings, the artist's kit of the present invention includes a rectangular box **11** for mounting an elongated easel **13** which supports a canvas **15**. The lower extremity of the easel **13** includes a lateral member or base **19** whose opposite ends carry pegs **17** engageable, respectively, with a hole **21** provided in the midportion of one side **23** of the box **11**, and with an oppositely located slot **25** provided in the opposite box side **26**. When the pegs **17** are located in the hole **21** and slot **25**, the easel **13** is in its erected, operative position for use in oil paintings as illustrated in FIG. 4.

In FIG. 1, the easel **13** is shown removed from its erected position and placed in its carrying position. In this latter position the easel is supported by location of the pegs **17** in a pair of auxiliary notches **29**, provided

in the box sides **23** and **26** adjacent the rear end **30** of the box **11**.

The box **11** is of the knock-down type. For this reason sides **23** and **26** include elongated vertical slots **31** to accept the front and rear ends **32** and **30**, respectively, and the partition **41**. The partition **41** and back end **30** likewise include vertical slots **33** for accepting the ends of the partition **39**. In addition, the sides **23** and **26** and the ends **30** and **32** include horizontal slots **35** for accepting ends and edges of the box bottom **37**. The sides **23** and **26** also include short horizontal slots **36** for accepting the ends of the slats **42** and **43**. The front and rear ends **30** and **32** include horizontal slots **40** for accepting respective sides of the slats **42** and **43**.

The sides **23** and **26** are maintained in position against the ends **30** and **32**, bottom **37**, partition **41**, and slats **42** and **43** by bolts **38** that extend across the box **11** and through the sides **23** and **26**.

The longitudinal and transverse partitions **39** and **41**, form compartments for storage of various artists' paraphernalia.

The cover mount or slat **43** is secured across the rear end of the carton **11** and pivotally mounts a cover **45** by means of hinges **47**. The cover **45** overlies the compartments defined by the partitions **39** and **41**, and also serves as a brace or stand for the easel **13** in its erected, operative position. A latch **49** is provided on the free end of the cover **45** for latching the cover to the slat **42**.

The sides **23** and **26** project above the cover **45** and terminate in inclined upper edges **52** for supporting a drawing board for water coloring work. In this position the slight degree of inclination tends to prevent undesirable running of the water colors.

A handle **53** is provided on the end **32** of the box **11** for carrying the kit.

The easel **13** includes telescoping upper and lower members **57** and **59**, respectively, which include grooves **61** on their obverse edges. The upper extremity of the lower member **59** includes a pair of clips **62** which are each characterized by a flange.

The pair of flanges constitute confronting runners that slidably engage the grooves **61** of the upper member **57** to guide and locate the member **57** during its extension and retraction relative to the lower member **59**.

A support block **63** is secured to the lower end of the upper member **57** by an eye bolt **65**, which is screwed through the upper member **57** and into abutment with the adjacent face of the lower member **59**. A wing nut **67** is screwed onto the eye bolts **65** to tighten the support block **63** in position.

A pair of clips **69** similar to the clips **62** are attached to the lower end of the upper member **57** and the flanges thereof engage the grooves **61** of the lower member **59**. Thus the upper member **57** is supported slidably from the lower member **59** and can be secured in a selected position of elevation by tightening the bolt **65** abuttingly against the adjacent surface of the lower member **59**.

An upper support block **70** is carried by a bolt **71** which is slidably disposed through a vertically elongated groove **73** provided in the upper extremity of the upper member **57**. Movement of the support block **70** relative to the lower support block **63** provides adjustment for accommodating different height canvasses **15** between them. Both blocks **63** and **70** include steps **75** for accepting various thicknesses of canvas **15**.

The back face of the lower member **59** includes transverse, ratchet-type notches **77** which receive the forward edge of the cover **45** when the cover is pivoted upwardly, to act as a brace or stand for the easel **13**.

A tension spring **79** is attached at one end by a nut and bolt assembly **80** to the cover **45** and the other end is attachable to a screw **81** extending from the side of easel

13. Thus, when the spring 79 is fastened to the easel 13, the cover is maintained in secure engagement with the selected notch 77, and the peg 17 in the slot 25 is urged tightly against the closed end of the notch, thus providing a sturdy support for the easel 13.

The slots 29 for supporting the easel 13 in its carrying position, as shown in FIG. 1, curve inwardly and downwardly. The pegs 17 are maintained in the innermost ends of the slots 29 during carriage of the easel in the position shown in FIG. 1. More particularly, the box 11 includes a bolt 83 extending upwardly from the front end 32, and the easel 13 includes a screw eye 85 having an opening for accepting the bolt to latch the upper end of the easel 13 to the box 11. Thus, when it is desired to mount the easel in its carrying position, the pegs 17 are merely slipped into the slots 29 and the screw eye 85 simultaneously slipped over the bolt 83. If desired, a nut could be screwed onto the end of the bolt 83 to retain the easel in position. The easel 13 and supported canvas 15 will then ride securely on the upper face of the box 11. Since the closed ends of the slots 29 extend downwardly and the bolt 83 extends vertically when the kit is in the portage position the easel 13 is restrained against horizontal movement relative to the box 11.

It will be clear that it is desirable to support the easel 13 in carrying position with the pegs 17 in the slots 29 and the screw eye 85 engaged with the bolt 83 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. It will also be clear, however, that the screw eye 85 could be eliminated and that the easel 13 could be satisfactorily supported from the slots 29. This could be accomplished by merely moving the handle 53 to the end 30 and forming the slots 29 angled inwardly and toward the end 32. The box 11 would then be carried with the end 30 up and the telescoping members 57 and 59 would depend from the base 19.

From the foregoing, it will be clear that the kit of this invention provides a convenient and inexpensive means for supporting an easel in either an inclined position or a substantially upright position for painting; and in a carrying position for transportation. Also the box itself can support a drawing board in either a slightly inclined position or in a perfectly flat position for water color painting.

The box 11 is preferably made of material sufficiently heavy to provide a stable base for supporting the canvas 15 in painting position during windy conditions. In the painting position the canvas is held at a desirable level and inclination best suited for painting without fatigue.

The complete kit and mounted canvas can be carried in one hand, leaving the other hand free to carry a chair, umbrella or the like.

While the form of embodiment herein shown and described constitutes a preferred form, it is to be understood that other forms may be adopted falling within the scope of the claims that follow.

I claim:

1. An artist's kit comprising:
an elongated easel;
a box having a cover pivotably mounted at one extremity for movement between an open position affording access to the contents of said box and a closed position closing said box, said box including first mounting means detachably cooperative with the lower extremity of said easel to mount said easel in a substantially upright painting position, the extremity of said cover opposite said one extremity thereof being engageable upon said easel in said open position of said cover to prop said easel in said painting position, said box further including second mounting means detachably cooperative with at least one extremity of said easel to mount said easel in a carrying position wherein said easel is located exteriorly of said box in overlying relation to said cover in said closed position thereof.

2. An artist's kit as set forth in claim 1 and including:
means biasing said extremity of said cover opposite said one extremity into engagement with said easel in said painting position.

3. An artist's kits as set forth in claim 1 and including a first latching element on the upper extremity of said easel;
and wherein said box includes a second latching element cooperatively engageable with said first latching element to secure said upper extremity of said easel to said box in said carrying position.

4. An artist's kit as defined in claim 1 wherein:
said box includes a pair of walls on opposite sides of said cover having upper edges located outwardly of said cover in said closed position thereof, said upper edges being inclined relative to the lower edges of said pair of walls whereby said upper edges are adapted to support a water coloring board in an inclined position when said lower edges are oriented in a substantially horizontal plane.

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