Sept. 16, 1952 W. G. CLAYTON 2,610,558

WORK HOLDER ATTACHMENT FOR EASELS

Filed Aug. 15, 1949

Fig. 5

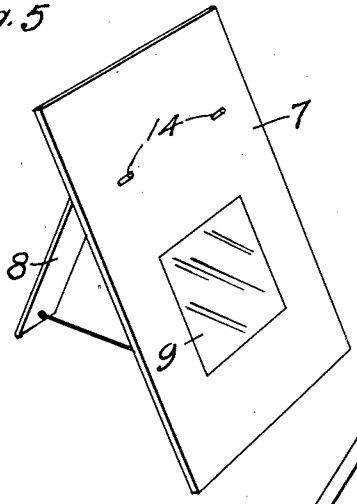


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

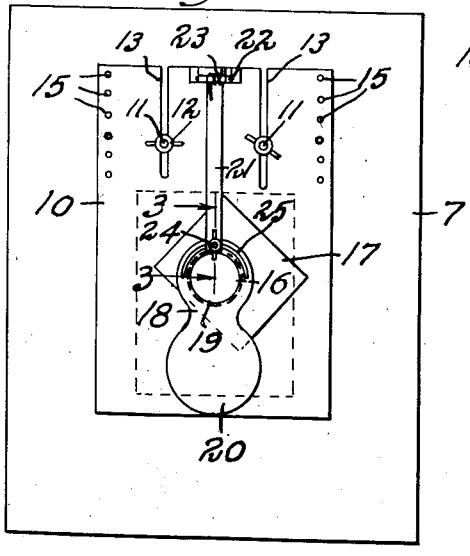


Fig. 3

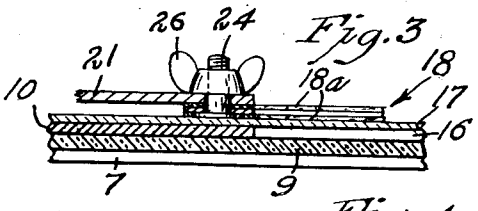
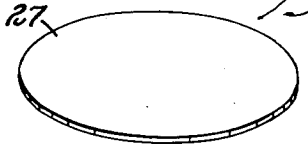


Fig. 4



INVENTOR.
William G. Clayton
BY
John E. Stetson
ATTORNEY

Patented Sept. 16, 1952

2,610,558

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,610,558

WORK HOLDER ATTACHMENT FOR EASELS

William G. Clayton, La Crosse, Wis.

Application August 15, 1949, Serial No. 110,425

4 Claims. (Cl. 95—102)

1

This invention relates to a device for facilitating the retouching of photographic negatives and prints and particularly to a device for adjustably holding such work while protecting it from damage during the retouching, the device being readily attachable to easels including those having a transparent portion or window through which a negative may be illuminated from the back during the retouching.

It is an object of my invention to provide an improved device of the class described comprising a shield formed with an aperture through which the retouching may be performed and means for resiliently retaining the shield in contact with the work on the easel, the shield constituting a support or rest for the hand and wrist of the operator engaged in the retouching and permitting ready adjustment of the position of the work as the retouching progresses, while protecting the work from damage such as the soiling resulting from contact with the operator's hands or surface scratches caused by movement of the work in contact with the easel surface.

The invention also includes certain novel features of construction whereby the attachment and the several members thereof are made adjustable to best suit the convenience and preference of any particular operator whereby retouching work of high quality is facilitated.

Referring to the accompanying drawing which illustrates my invention by way of example and not for the purpose of limitation:

Figure 1 is a central vertical section showing a preferred embodiment of my invention in place on an easel of common type;

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view showing the device on the easel and in an operative position in relation to a negative to be retouched;

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a transparent filler disk for the plate aperture, and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing an easel of common type provided with an alternate form of attaching means for the holder.

In the drawing, the numeral 7 indicates a photographer's easel having a suitable leg 8 and and window 9 through which the work may be illuminated from the back. This window comprises a pane of glass set flush with the front surface of the easel to afford a working surface during retouching of negatives and other work.

My attachment for such easels comprises a thin, flat plate 10 adapted to overlie the window 9 and adjacent working surface of the easel and formed to be attached to the easel in various positions to suit the convenience and preference of any particular artist. One suitable form of attaching means for the plate 10 comprises a pair

2

of bolts 11 which project from the front of the easel and are fitted with wing nuts 12 adapted to engage the front of the plate 10 at the sides of parallel, vertically elongated slots 13 formed in the plate. These slots extend to the upper edge of the plate so that the latter may be passed between the wing nuts and easel face to attach the device to the easel. The wing nuts are merely tightened to hold the plate 10 in any desired position on the easel. An alternate form of attaching device comprises a pair of pins 14 (Fig. 5) projecting from the front of the easel to engage the plate 10 when inserted in a pair of perforations 15 formed in the plate 10, these perforations being arranged in vertical rows to afford the desired range of adjustment.

A circular aperture 16 is formed centrally in the plate 10 and a negative 17 to be retouched may be placed on the plate 10 with the areas to be retouched over or in registry with the aperture 16 so that such area may be properly illuminated from the back of the easel through the window 9 and aperture 16. As an alternative to placing the negative upon the plate 10, the latter may be made shorter and the negative may be placed directly in contact with the working surface of the easel in overlapping relation to the window 9.

To hold the negative in any desired position on the plate 10 or easel surface, I provide a shield, indicated generally by the numeral 18, which is spring biased to engage the front face of the negative and to press it against the plate 10 or easel surface. The shield 18 is formed with an aperture 19 which is normally disposed in registry with the aperture 16 and through which the retouching work may be performed on a negative held between the shield and easel. Projecting at one side of the aperture 19 is a hand rest portion 20 of the shield upon which the hand of the operator is placed while the fingers of the hand are employed in the retouching work.

The shield 18 is carried by the lower end of an arm 21, the upper end of which is connected by a hinge 22 to the upper edge portion of the plate 10 so that the arm, together with the shield, may be oscillated to and from the face of the easel. A spring 23 is operatively connected to the upper end portion of the arm 21 to bias it toward the plate 10 and easel, this spring being designed to apply the desired gripping pressure through the shield to the negative 17. As indicated in broken lines in Fig. 1, the shield and arm 21 may be oscillated outward from the front of the plate to permit the negative to be inserted or removed from its retouching position between the shield and plate 10 or between the shield and easel in case the plate is not extended between the shield and easel surface.

As best shown in Figs. 2 and 3, a clamp is provided for connecting the lower end portion of the

arm 21 to the shield 18 and to permit adjustment of the angular position of the shield and hand rest 20 relative to the arm 21. This clamp comprises a bolt 24 having its head countersunk in the shield 18 and projecting from the front of the shield through an arcuate slot 25 in the shield. This arcuate slot is concentric with the aperture 19 and a wing nut 26 is threaded on the bolt 24 to clamp the arm 21 in frictional engagement with the shield in any desired position of adjustment. Thus the shield and hand rest 20 may be secured in any desired angular position relative to the arm 21 within a range of approximately 180 degrees. This makes it easy to adjust the angular position of the hand rest to suit the convenience and preference of any artist or operator. Thus the hand rest 20 may be clamped in the vertical position shown in Fig. 2 or any angular position to the right or left within the range of adjustment permitted by the slot 25.

To protect the negatives or other work against damage, the front and back faces of the shield 18 and hand rest 20 are provided with a covering of soft, absorbent material, e. g. felt, such covering being indicated by the numeral 18*a* in Fig. 3. The covering may be adhered to the surfaces of the shield by a suitable adhesive.

Some artists prefer to retouch with the negative or other work slightly spaced from the backing afforded by the window 9. To accommodate such artists, the work is placed over the aperture 16 so that the spacing of the work from its backing is determined by the thickness of the plate 10. For other artists who prefer a solid backing for the negatives, I provide a transparent filler disk 27 (Fig. 4) which fits accurately in the aperture 16 and has uniform thickness equal to that of the plate 10 so that the portion of the negative on which the retouching is being performed may be supported on the disk 27 confined in the aperture 16 while the work is performed through the aperture 19.

In operation, the plate 10 is mounted at the desired elevation on the easel 7, being attached thereto by the use of either the pins 14 (Fig. 5) and perforations 15 or the bolt 11 engaging the plate 10 adjacent to the parallel slots 13. The angular position of the shield 18 and hand rest 20 is adjusted by means of the bolt 24 to suit the particular operator and then negative 17 to be retouched is placed between the shield 18 and plate 10, or between the shield and easel surface, and is resiliently held in the desired position by the shield. Retouching is then performed through the aperture 19 with the hand of the operator resting on the portion 20 of the shield so that the negative is protected against perspiration from the hand of the operator or other soiling. As the work progresses the negative is rotated or moved about on its supporting surface with a minimum of effort and in the most convenient position for the operator.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. For an easel having a translucent area, a flat opaque plate adapted to overlie the front face of the easel and to cover said translucent area of the easel, means for attaching said plate to the easel, said plate having a front face for supporting the work during retouching and being formed with an aperture overlying the translucent area of the easel through which the work may be illuminated, a translucent filler removably fitting in said aperture, a shield disposed to overlie said front face of the plate for holding the work thereon, said shield having a portion for contact with the work which is substantially smaller in area than the work to be retouched and having an aperture through which retouching may be performed on work held between said shield and plate, the aperture in said shield being normally disposed in registry with the aperture in said plate, a major portion of said shield projecting at one side of the aperture in the shield and having an area adapted to afford a rest for the hand and wrist of the operator during the retouching and means movably connecting the shield to the plate.

2. For an easel, a plate adapted to overlie the front face of the easel, adjustable means for attaching said plate in selected positions on the easel, an arm hingedly connected to said plate, a shield carried by said arm and movable therewith to and from the work supporting surface of the easel for holding a negative to be retouched thereon, said shield having an aperture through which retouching may be performed on a negative held between said shield and easel surface and a major portion of said shield projecting at a side of said aperture and having an area adapted to afford a rest for the hand and wrist of the operator engaged in the retouching through said aperture.

3. For an easel, a plate adapted to overlie the front face of the easel, means for attaching said plate in selected positions on the easel, an arm hingedly connected to said plate at one end, a shield carried by the opposite end of said arm and movable therewith to and from the work supporting surface of the easel for holding a negative to be retouched thereon, said shield being formed with an aperture through which retouching may be performed on a negative held by said shield on the easel, a major portion of said shield projecting at a side of said aperture and having an area adapted to afford a rest for the hand and wrist of the operator during the retouching operation, and clamping means connecting said shield to said arm and permitting angular adjustment of said rest portion of the shield relative to said arm.

4. For an easel having a translucent area, a flat opaque plate adapted to overlie the front face of the easel and to cover said translucent area of the easel, means for attaching said plate to the easel, said plate having a front face for supporting the work during retouching and being formed with an aperture overlying the translucent area of the easel through which the work may be illuminated, a shield disposed to overlie said front face of the plate and to hold the work thereon, said shield having an aperture through which retouching may be performed on work held between said shield and plate, a portion of said shield projecting at one side of said aperture and having an area adapted to afford a rest for the hand and wrist of the operator and means movably connecting said shield to said plate.

WILLIAM G. CLAYTON.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
603,765	Harding	May 10, 1898
1,296,432	Russell	Mar. 4, 1919
1,587,599	Melikian	June 8, 1926