March 17, 1959 V. E. MARK 2,878,087

CONCEALABLE SUPPORT FOR MACHINES

Filed March 11, 1957 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

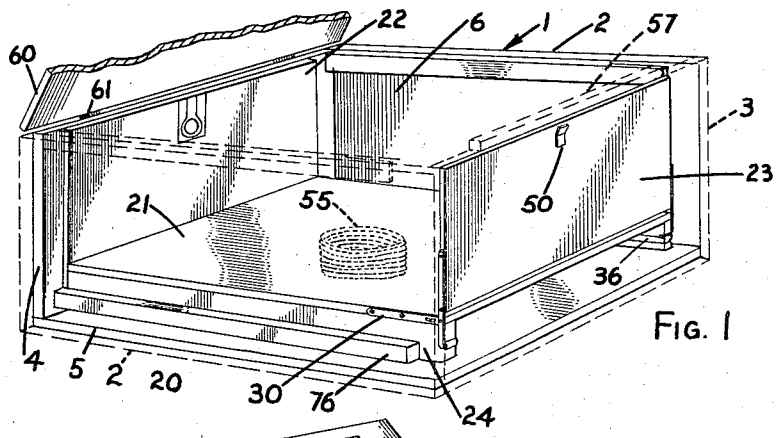


FIG. 1

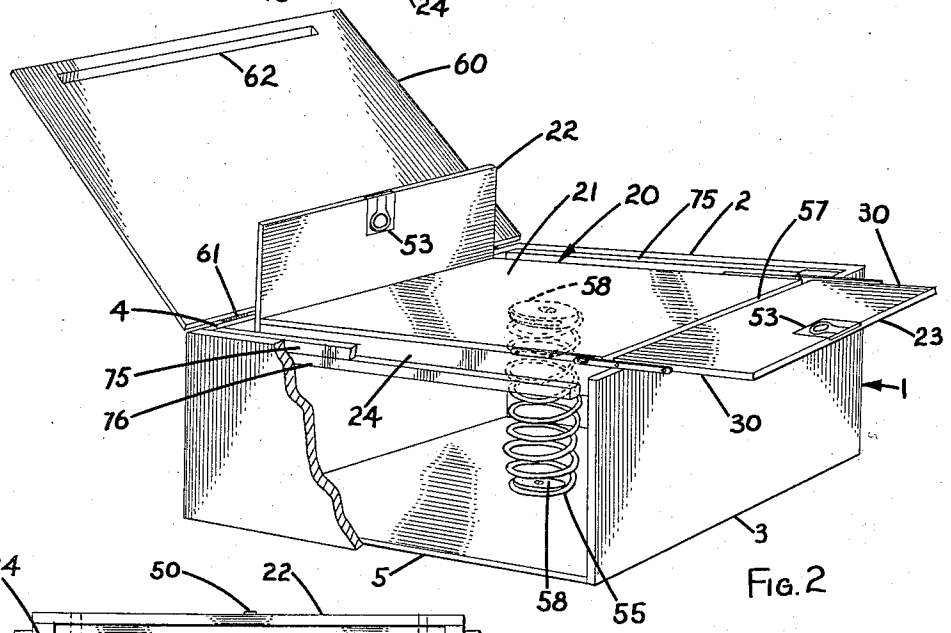


FIG. 2

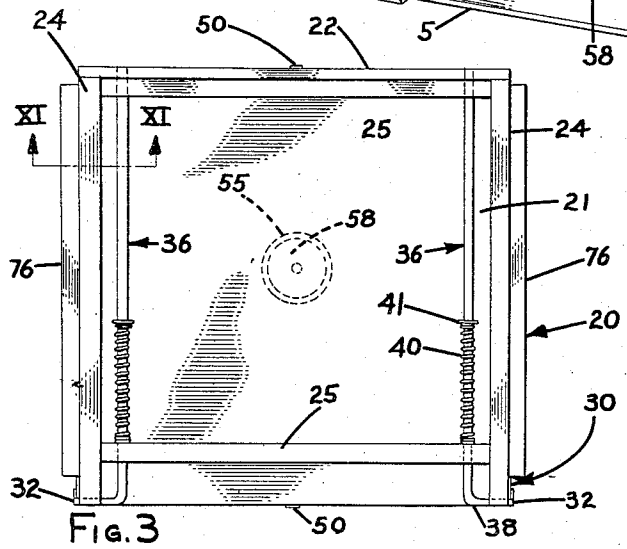


FIG. 3

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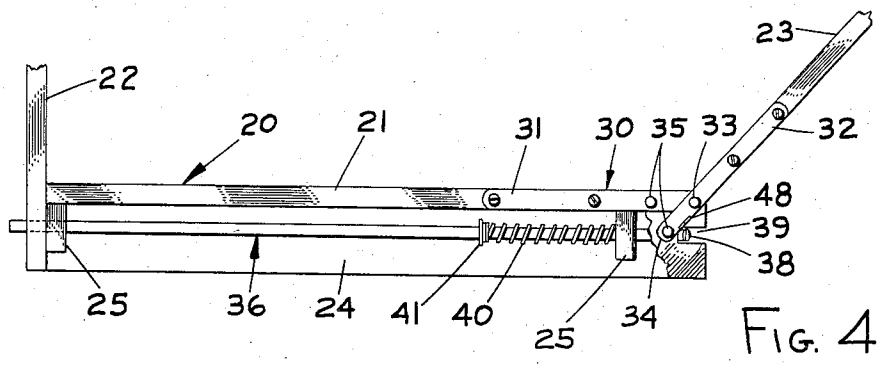


FIG. 4

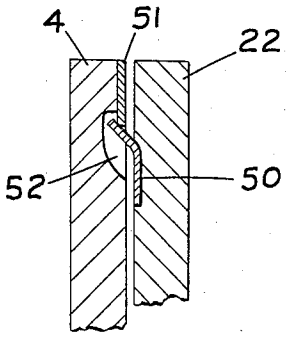


FIG. 6

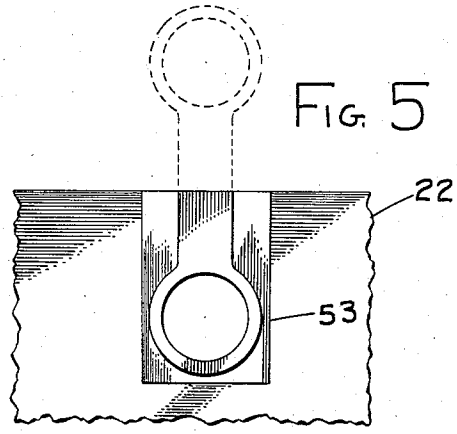


FIG. 5

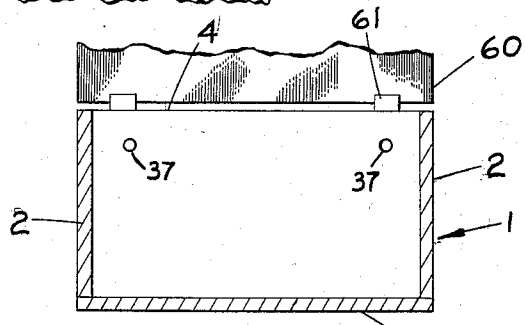


FIG. 8

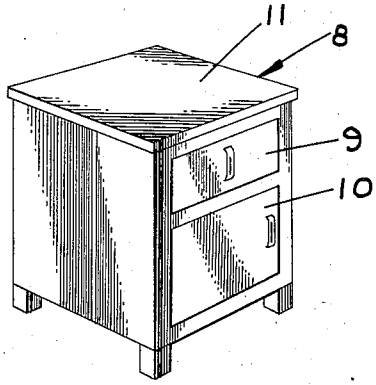


FIG. 7

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CONCEALABLE SUPPORT FOR MACHINES

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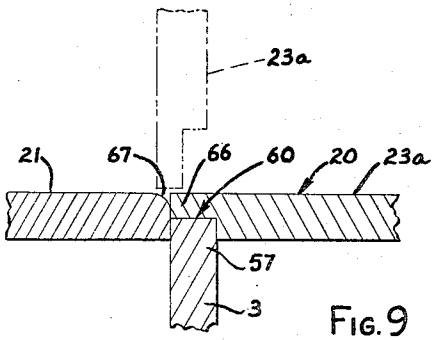


FIG. 9

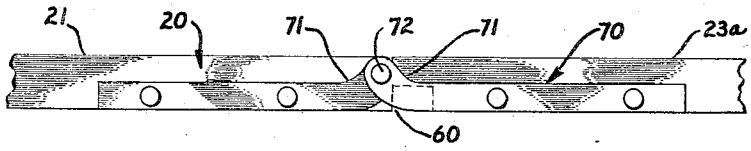


FIG. 10

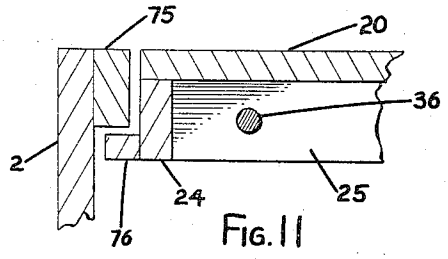


FIG. 11

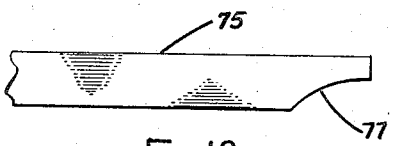


FIG. 12

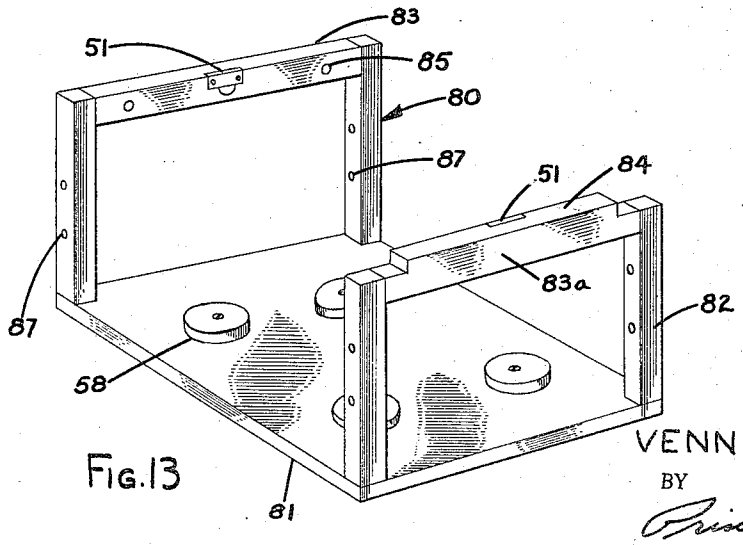


FIG. 13

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CONCEALABLE SUPPORT FOR MACHINES

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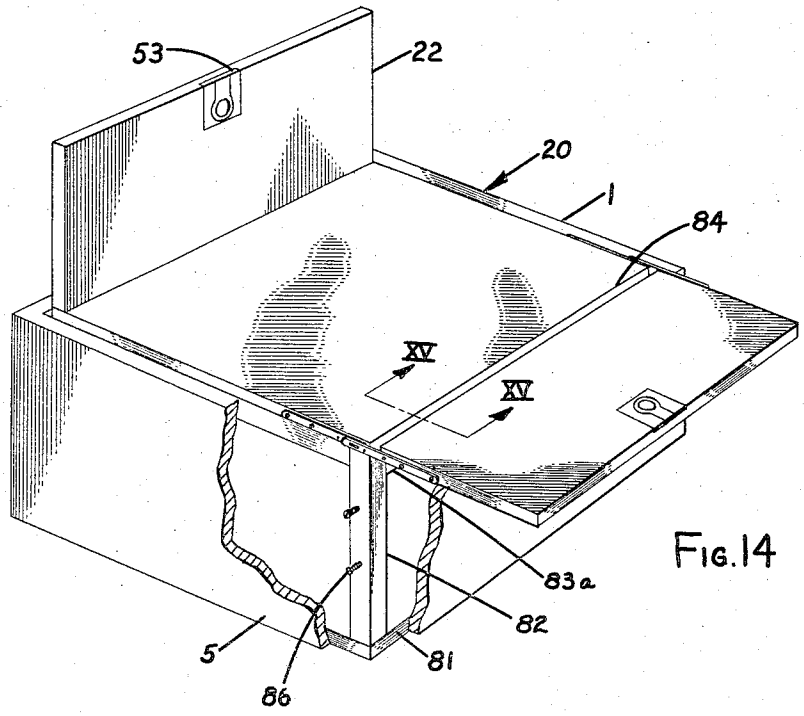


FIG. 14

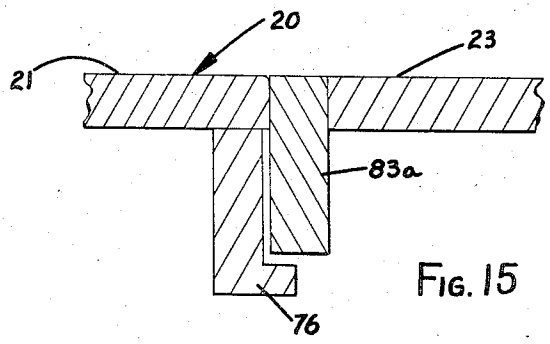


FIG. 15

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2,878,087

CONCEALABLE SUPPORT FOR MACHINES

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Application March 11, 1957, Serial No. 645,239

13 Claims. (Cl. 312—21)

This invention relates to furniture and more particularly to a combination support and concealed storage means for a typewriter or other equipment.

While this invention may be used in an office or other business establishment, it is specifically intended to provide a neat, convenient and compact typewriter support for home use. It provides a combination table to support the machine while in use and concealed storage for it when not in use. It has the additional advantage of providing both of these facilities without requiring the machine to be removed from the unit.

This invention permits various types of furniture to be used as a combination stand and storage facility. For example, it may be incorporated in a desk, an end table, a night stand, a telephone stand or cabinets of any nature. The nature of the invention is such that the dual purpose of the furniture is entirely camouflaged.

This invention has the further advantages of simplicity and economy in manufacture. Its ease of operation adapts it to home use.

This invention provides a firm support for the machine which will withstand the vibration incident to the use of office equipment. Yet it requires minimum effort on the operator's part to raise and lower the equipment. Its simplicity assures freedom from mechanical difficulty and durability in operation.

This invention solves the problem of using such equipment as typewriters in the home. Heretofore, the only facilities adapted for home use were stands providing, at best, exposed storage. The only other available storage facilities were either cupboards or drawers. These require the machine to be moved from its place of storage to its place of use at the beginning and end of each use. This invention solves these problems. This invention provides a support for the machine which is locked to the body of the piece of furniture into which it is incorporated. Thus, the entire structure of the furniture operates as a single entity to stabilize the platform. This creates a support having markedly improved stability.

These and other advantages of this invention will be immediately recognized by those skilled in the design and manufacture of furniture upon reading the following specification and the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of this invention showing the front and one side panel in phantom and the work platform in storage position.

Fig. 2 is an isometric view of this invention showing the side panel in phantom and the work platform in raised position.

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the work platform.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation view of the work platform with the front leaf partially raised.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view of a typical handle for the work platform.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the hold-down catches for the platform.

Fig. 7 is an isometric view of a piece of furniture incorporating this invention.

Fig. 8 is a sectional elevation view showing the inside surface of the back panel of the housing.

Fig. 9 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of a modified joint between main and front leaf portions of the platform.

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the hinge employed with the structure illustrated in Fig. 9.

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary sectional elevation view taken along the plane XI—XI of Fig. 11.

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary elevation view of the front end of one of the stop bars.

Fig. 13 is an oblique view of a framework for mounting the platform in a storage chamber.

Fig. 14 is a partially broken, oblique view of the framework illustrated in Fig. 13 mounted in a storage chamber with the platform in raised, operating position.

Fig. 15 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional elevation view taken along the plane XV—XV of Fig. 14.

In executing the objects and purposes of this invention there has been provided a housing having a central well or storage chamber. A work platform is seated in this storage chamber and is vertically movable from a storage position to a raised or work position. The rear of the platform consists of a rigid vertical leaf. The front of the platform has a leaf which may be pivoted from a horizontal to a vertical positon. In storage, the front leaf is folded normal to the main portion of the platform and the entire platform is telescoped into the storage chamber. In raised position, the platform is at the top of the housing and the front leaf is pivoted over and clamps the front panel of the housing. As a front leaf is piovted to open position, it automatically releases a pair of spring loaded rods which engage the back panel of the housing, locking the rear of the platform in raised position.

In the following description, the invention is described as one for a typewriter. This is only for convenience and is not to be considered as a limitation of the use of this invention to typewriters. It may be used with any type of machine of such compact structure that it may be concealed within the storage chamber. For example, it may be used for such equipment as a kitchen mixer or other small home appliances.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the numeral **1** indicates a housing having sides **2**, a front **3** and a back **4**. The lower end is closed by a bottom **5** forming a storage chamber **6** open only at the top. The size of the storage chamber corresponds closely to that of the central portion of the hereinafter described platform. Its depth is such that the platform, when folded, can be telescoped entirely into it.

The housing **1** may be a separate unit within itself or it may be an integral part of a larger piece of furniture such as a desk, end table, cabinet, corner table, night stand, or cupboard. This is illustrated by the night stand **8** (Fig. 7) in which the storage compartment is concealed behind the dummy drawer front **9** while the lower portion of the night stand behind the door **10** retains its traditional structure and function. Access to the storage compartment is obtained by raising the hinged top **11**. The integration of this invention into various pieces of furniture does not change it but rather serves the purpose of blending it into its surroundings and of concealing its true purpose.

However, to facilitate and simplify the understanding and description of this invention, it is illustrated as a separate unit. It should, however, be considered that the housing described in the following specification and illustrated in the several figures may constitute an integral part of a larger piece of furniture.

Associated with the housing 1 is a platform 20 consisting of a central portion 21, a backboard 22 and a front leaf 23. Secured to the bottom of and extending along the sides of the central portion 21 are a pair of parallel legs 24. Extending between the legs are a pair of guide blocks 25 (Fig. 3), one adjacent each of the front and back of the platform's central portion 21.

The backboard is rigidly secured to the rear of the central portion 21 and extends upwardly from it. Its height is such that when the platform is in its storage position the top of this board is flush with or just below the top of the housing 1.

The front leaf 23 is secured to the central portion 21 by hinges 30 (Fig. 4). The hinges 30 are mounted along the side margins of the platform and each consists of a pair of bars 31 and 32. The bars 31 are mounted to the central portion 21 and the bars 32 to the front leaf 23. The bars are pivotally secured by the pin 33 adjacent the end of bar 31 and spaced from the end of bar 32. Thus, when bar 32 rotates about the pin 33 it has a free end 34 which swings oppositely to the front leaf 23. When the bars are aligned they are detachably locked together by the detent 35.

Slidably mounted through the guide blocks 25 are a pair of rods 36 (Figs. 3 and 4). The rods 36 are parallel and each is located adjacent one of the legs 24. The rods 36 project beyond the rear of the platform to engage pockets 37 in the back 4 of the housing 1 (Fig. 8).

The front ends of the rods are hooked over to form actuator arms 38. The actuator arms 38 are somewhat flattened, although this is not essential to the operation of the invention. The actuator arms 38 seat in slots 39 (Fig. 4) in the end of the legs 24 and extend outwardly sufficiently to make contact with the free ends 34 of the bars 32. Each of the rods 36 is biased toward the rear by a spring 40 seated at one end against the front guide block 25 and at the other end against a washer 41. The washers 41 are rigidly secured to the rods 36.

Secured to the under surface of the front leaf 23 and the back surface of the backboard 22 are latches 50. These cooperate with keeper plates 51 (Fig. 6) on the front 3 and back 4 of the housing respectively. These act as hold-down means for the platform 20 when in storage. A suitable pocket 52 is provided behind each keeper plate 51 to provide access for the latch 50.

To facilitate manipulation of the platform, handles or grips 53 (Figs. 1, 2 and 5) are provided on the top and front faces of the front leaf 23 and the backboard 22 respectively. Preferably, these are of the flush type in which the handle folds into the mounting plate when not in use.

The platform 20 is biased upwardly by any suitable means such as the coil spring 55. The strength of the spring should be such that it will almost lift the combined weights of the platform 20 and of the average office instrument such as a typewriter. To prevent the ends of the springs 55 from moving laterally, they are preferably stabilized by a disc shaped block 58 at each end. The blocks 58 are secured to the adjacent structure. The spring seats closely about the block.

Stability of the platform, as it is being manipulated can be increased by using a plurality of the springs 55 such as one at each corner of the platform. In this case, each spring will be weaker and their combined strengths will approximate that of the single spring 55, illustrated.

Since the spring 55 is designed to balance the weight of the platform when loaded, the spring will force the platform entirely out of the storage chamber when the platform is empty. To prevent this and also to provide a guide for the operator in positioning the platform, stops are provided (Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 11). These consist of a stop bar 75 mounted along the top edge of each of the sides 2 and a stop shoe 76 mounted on and projecting outwardly from each of the legs 24. The stop shoes 76 extend and engage under the stop bars 75. To eliminate possible interference with the forward ends of the rods 36 the lower front edge of the stop bars is scalloped at 77 (Fig. 12). Also the stop shoes 76 are terminated rearwardly of the slots 39.

The platform's front leaf 23 is spaced from its central portion 21 a distance equal to the thickness of the front wall 3 of the housing. The front wall 3 has an upstanding ridge 57 projecting above the top of the housing 1 a distance equal to the thickness of the platform 20. The length of this ridge is such that it just fits between the hinges 30. Thus, when the platform is open and locked in operating position, the ridge 57 fills the opening between the central and leaf portions of the platform and is flush with the platform's top surface. The top of the housing 1 is closed by a cover 60 secured to the housing by hinges 61. The cover 60 has a blind slot 62 paralleling its front edge to receive the ridge 57. Thus, when the cover 60 is closed, the ridge 57 is entirely concealed.

Modifications

Figs. 9 and 10 illustrate a modification of the joint between the center and front leaf portions of the platform. Instead of extending the ridge 57 entirely through the platform 20, the lower face of the front leaf 23*a* is provided with a blind slot 65 extending partially through the leaf and of a width to snugly receive ridge 57. The slot 65 is concealed from above by a lap 66 on the front leaf. The slot 65 is so designed that the platform, when open, grips the inner and outer face of the front wall. To eliminate interference between the platform portions, as the front leaf 23*a* is pivoted, the center portion 21 is radiused at 67. This radiusing is made as small as practical to maintain the top surface of the platform as smooth as possible.

To maintain the radius 67 as small as possible, it is preferable to employ a somewhat different hinge construction. The hinges 70 (Fig. 10) each have a pair of bars terminating in upturned arms 71. These arms overlap and are joined by a pivot pin 72. The upper ends of the arms 71 are flush with the top of the platform 20 and the pivot pin 72 is located adjacent the platform's top surface. Thus, as the leaf 23*a* is pivoted upwardly, it requires less radius on the platform's main portion 21 to effect proper operation clearance.

Figs. 13, 14 and 15 illustrate an arrangement by which the platform and its necessary operating structure may be fabricated as a self contained unit ready for installation in a piece of furniture. In this case the platform is mounted in a skeleton framework 80 having a base 81 and four corner posts 82. The tops of the posts 82 along the back and front are connected by bars 83 and 83*a* respectively. The front bar 83*a* has a ridge 84 identical to the ridge 57 (Fig. 1) and designed for the same purpose. The rear bar 83 has a pair of holes 85 to receive the ends of the rods 36 and substituting for the pockets 37 (Fig. 8). The base 81 is equipped with discs 58 for seating the ends of the springs 55.

The framework 80 is of such size that it may be installed within the storage chamber of the housing 1 (Fig. 14). When installed the tops of the posts 82 and the rear bar 83 are flush with the top of the housing. The ridge 84 projects above the housing the thickness of the platform. The framework 80 is secured to the housing 1 by any suitable means such as screws 86 mounted in the holes 87.

The platform 20*a* is mounted in the framework 80. It is identical to the platform 20 except for the relocation of the stop shoes 76 which are placed at the front and rear instead of at the sides. The shoes 76 then engage the lower margins of the bars 83 and 83*a*. The platform is held down by the same latch arrangement as is employed

with the construction illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. For this purpose keeper plates **51** are mounted on the inside of each of the bars **83** and **83***a*.

In raised and open position the platform is seated about the ridge **84** with its lower surface flush with the top of the housing **1**. It is supported by the front bar **83***a* and by engagement of the rods **36** in the holes **85** of the bar **83**.

The construction illustrated in Figs. 13, 14 and 15 makes it possible to fabricate the platform and its associated operating structure as an integrated unit of various standardized sizes. These units may then be incorporated in a piece of furniture, a kitchen cabinet or a cupboard by constructing them with a storage chamber of the correct dimensions. The operation of the platform is identical to that of the platforms illustrated in Figs. 1 through 4.

Operation

To initiate the description of the operation of this invention, it is assumed that the platform is in storage, as illustrated in Fig. 1. In this position, the entire platform is telescoped into the storage chamber **6** and is positively held in stored position by the engagement of the latches **50** under the keeper plates **51**. The spring **55** biases the platform upwardly and, thus, maintains full, positive engagement of these members. In this position, the legs **24** are spaced a short distance above the bottom **5** of the storage chamber **6**.

To raise the platform, the operator grasps the handles **53** and depresses the platform sufficiently to disengage the latches **50** from the keeper plates **51**. The front leaf **23** is then pivoted inwardly sufficiently to clear the keeper plate **51** and the whole platform is shifted forwardly sufficiently to similarly release the latch **50** on the back panel **22**. The plaftorm is then allowed to rise. The strength of the spring **55** preferably is such that it raises the platform, even when loaded with an instrument such as a typewriter, the operator merely providing slight assistance during the last portion of the platform's upward travel. The operator's primary function is to guide the platform as it rises.

The platform is raised until it is slightly above the top of the ridge **57** of the front panel **3** of the housing. The front leaf **23** is then pivoted down until it is almost aligned with the main portion **21** of the platform. The platform is then lowered until it seats over the ridge **57** with the top of the ridge **57** flush with the top of the platform. As this is done, the front leaf **23** is moved downwardly until it is aligned with the main portion **21**. In so doing, the ridge **27** becomes tightly clamped between the main portion **21** and the front leaf **23**, thus locking the platform firmly to the housing.

The downward pivoting of the leaf **23** causes the free ends **34** of the hinges **30** (Fig. 4) to pivot rearwardly and upwardly. This releases the rods **36** and under the bias of the springs **49** they move rearwardly. As the platform is adjusted in its final position, these rods enter the pockets **37** in the back **4** of the housing, thus supporting the platform.

The platform, in its raised position, is positively and firmly held since it is locked at the rear by the engagement of the rods **36** with the pockets **37** against both vertical and lateral movement. The front end of the platform is also positively locked since it is seated over and clamped to the ridge **57** on the housing. Further, the ridge **57** is of such length that it is snugly received between the hinges **30**. This cooperates with the clamping action to prevent any lateral movement of the platform when open. The hinges **30** are provided with positive stops **48** which prevent the front leaf **30** from pivoting downwardly beyond a position of alignment with the main portion **21**. Further, the tight clamping action between the front leaf **23** and the ridge **57** also helps to stabilize the front leaf **23**.

To return the platform to storage, the front leaf is raised slightly and the whole platform lifted just enough to permit the front leaf to be pivoted upwardly to a position normal to the main portion **21** of the platform. The free ends **34** of the hinges **30** automatically engage the ends of the rods **36** and retract the rods, releasing the rear of the platform. The platform is then lowered by pushing it downwardly against the spring **55** until it stops against the bottom **5** of the housing. It is then shifted rearwardly sufficiently to effect engagement between the rear latch **50** and its keeper plate and the front leaf **23** is pivoted forwardly sufficiently to accomplish the same effect on the front end. The platform is then allowed to rise until these latches are locked. The spacing between the top of the platform **20** and the top of the housing, when the platform is in storage, is such that conventional office equipment such as a typewriter seated on the platform is contained entirely within the storage chamber **6** and the cover **60** may be closed. This entirely conceals both the platform and the instrument.

The clamping of the platform **23** about the ridge **57** will, in time, cause some damage to the finish on the faces of the ridge **57**. However, this is immaterial since the marred portion is invisible both when the platform is open and when the platform is in storage. In the latter case, the ridge **57** is concealed within the slot **62**.

In the modified construction illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10, the operation is the same as described above except that the top of the reduced ridge **57** is entirely concealed by the platform when open. Because of the upward and outward relocation of the pivot **72**, the leaf **23***a* has a somewhat tighter clamping effect against the ridge if the major portion of the weight is applied to the end portion or leaf **23**. It will be recognized that this type of construction may be used with the framework **80** if the weight of the ridge **84** is reduced.

The opening of the leaf **23** provides a typewriter stand with leg room for the operator. When the leaf **23** is open, the instrument, such as a typewriter, seated on the stand may be pulled forward so that it is readily accessible to the operator with the leaf permitting it to be pulled forward sufficiently that the operator may work conveniently and with adequate leg room even though the unit of furniture does not normally provide this facility, such as would be the case with the night stand illustrated in Fig. 7. Further, the leaf **23** is so firmly supported by this construction that the operation of the typewriter or other instrument will not cause annoying vibration.

This invention provides an inexpensive construction for a stand for instruments such as a typewriter. Further, it simultaneously provides both storage and an operating stand for the instrument, eliminating the necessity of lifting the instrument in order to remove it from storage or to return it to storage.

The simplicity of the various components used in this invention adapts it to inexpensive manufacture. Despite this, the invention simultaneously provides both complete storage and positive support for the typewriter when in operation. It provides a complete and satisfactory solution to the storage and use of typewriters and similar office equipment in the home. It also provides a unit which may be adapted to incorporation in various types of furniture either especially designed as an equipment stand or camouflaged as furniture normally designed for an entirely different purpose.

Because the platform, in operating position, is positively supported at its rear and is locked to the supporting structure at the front, it is particularly stable, free from sway and resistant to vibration. The platform is stabilized by the entire structure and base of the unit of furniture into which it is incorporated. Thus, it may be substantially light construction without sacrifice of stability. This facilitates its manipulation and materially reduces its cost.

While I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention together with several modifications, it will be recognized that other modifications may be made. Such of these modifications as incorporate the principles of this invention are to be considered as included in the hereinafter appended claims unless these claims by their language expressly state otherwise.

I claim:

1. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a frame having a base and end standards; a platform seated in said frame for vertical movement therein; means at one end of said platform for clamping said platform to one of said standards of said frame; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods oppositely from said clamping means; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter the other of said standards of said frame; elements on said clamping means and engaging said rods for retracting said rods from said other standard when said clamping means is disengaged from said one standard.

2. A combination work and storage unit, comprising: a frame having a base and end standards; a platform having a main portion and a leaf mounted thereto for pivotal movement from a position aligned with said main portion to one above and substantially normal thereto; with said leaf in said latter position; said platform being telescopically receivable into said frame; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods away from said leaf; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter one of said standards remote from said leaf; means on said leaf engaging said rods and adapted to retract said rods from said one standard when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; said platform having an opening in the lower face thereof for receiving the other standard of said frame.

3. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform seated in said chamber for vertical movement therein; means at one end of said platform for clamping said platform to one of the walls of said housing; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods oppositely from said clamping means; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter a second wall of said housing; elements on said clamping means and engaging said rods for retracting said rods from said second wall when said clamping means is disengaged from said first wall.

4. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf mounted thereto for pivotal movement from a position aligned with said main portion to one above and substantially normal thereto; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods away from said leaf; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter a first wall of said housing remote from said leaf; means on said leaf engaging said rods and adapted to retract said rods from said wall when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; said platform having an opening in the lower face thereof for receiving a second wall of said housing.

5. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf mounted thereto for pivotal movement from a position aligned with said main portion to one above and substantially normal thereto; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods away from said leaf; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter a first wall of said housing remote from said leaf; means on said leaf engaging said rods and adapted to retract said rods from said wall when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; said platform at the joint between said main and leaf portions thereof having an opening in its lower face for receiving a second wall of said housing; said main and leaf portions clamping said second wall therebetween when said portions are aligned.

6. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extending upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; said platform having an opening between said main portion and said leaf for receiving one wall of said housing; a rod slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting beyond said platform oppositely from said leaf; means on said leaf engaging said rod for retracting said rod when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; resilient means biasing said rod away from said leaf; one wall of said housing having an opening therein for receiving an end of said rod when said platform is in raised position.

7. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extending upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; said platform having an opening between said main portion and said leaf for receiving one wall of said housing; a pair of rods slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting beyond said platform oppositely from said leaf one parallel to and adjacent each side of said main portion; projecting means on each of said hinges engaging said rods when said leaf is pivoted upwardly for retracting said rods; resilient means biasing each of said rods away from said leaf; one wall of said housing having openings therein for receiving the ends of said rods when said platform is in raised position.

8. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to the front of said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extending upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; said platform having an opening between said main portion and said leaf for receiving the front wall of said housing; a pair of rods slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting rearwardly beyond said platform, each of said rods being parallel to and adjacent a side of said platform; the portion of each of said hinges secured to said leaf having a free end projecting toward said main portion beyond the pivot point of said hinges for engaging said rods when said leaf is pivoted upwardly for retracting said rods; resilient means biasing each of said rods rearwardly; the rear wall of said housing having openings therein for receiving the ends of said rods when said platform is in raised position.

9. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extending upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; said platform having an opening between said main portion and said leaf for receiving one wall of said housing; a rod slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting beyond said platform oppositely from said leaf; said hinge means

having a free end extending away from said leaf; an arm on the end of said rod engaging said free end of said hinge means; said free end being adapted to retract said rod when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; resilient means biasing said rod away from said leaf; one wall of said housing having an opening therein for receiving an end of said rod when said platform is in raised position.

10. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to the front of said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extendng upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; a pair of rods slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting rearwardly beyond said platform; means on said leaf engaging said rods for retracting said rods when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; resilient means biasing each of said rods rearwardly; the rear wall of said housing having openings therein for receiving the ends of said rods when said platform is in raised position; means for locking said platform to the front wall of said housing.

11. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a platform having a main portion and a leaf; hinges pivotally securing said leaf to the front of said main portion; said leaf in raised position being aligned with said main portion and in storage position being substantially normal thereto and extending upwardly therefrom; said platform in storage position being telescopically received into said storage chamber; said platform having an opening between said main portion and said leaf for receiving the front wall of said housing; said front wall being clamped between said main portion and said leaf when said platform is in raised position; a pair of rods slidably mounted to and beneath said main portion and projecting rearwardly beyond said platform; means on said leaf engaging said rods for retracting said rods when said leaf is pivoted upwardly; resilient means biasing each of said rods rearwardly; the rear wall of said housing having openings therein for receiving the ends of said rods when said platform is in raised position.

12. In a piece of furniture having walls defining a storage chamber open at the top; a platform seated in said chamber for vertical movement therein; means at one end of said platform for clamping said platform to one of said walls; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods oppositely from said clamping means; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter a second of said walls; elements on said clamping means and engaging said rods for retracting said rods from said second wall when said clamping means is disengaged from said first wall.

13. A combination work and storage unit comprising: a housing having a storage chamber open at its upper end; a framework having a base and end standards seated within said storage chamber; a platform seated in said framework for vertical movement therein; one of said standards being substantially flush with the top of said housing and the other thereof projecting above said housing; means at one end of said platform for clamping said platform to one of said standards of said framework; rods slidably mounted to and beneath said platform and resilient means biasing said rods oppositely from said clamping means; each of said rods having a free end adapted to enter the other of said standards of said framework; elements on said clamping means and engaging said rods for retracting said rods from said other standard when said clamping means is disengaged from said one standard.

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