Feb. 11, 1958 A. CESARONI, JR 2,822,847

COMBINED BRIEF CASE AND PORTABLE LECTERN

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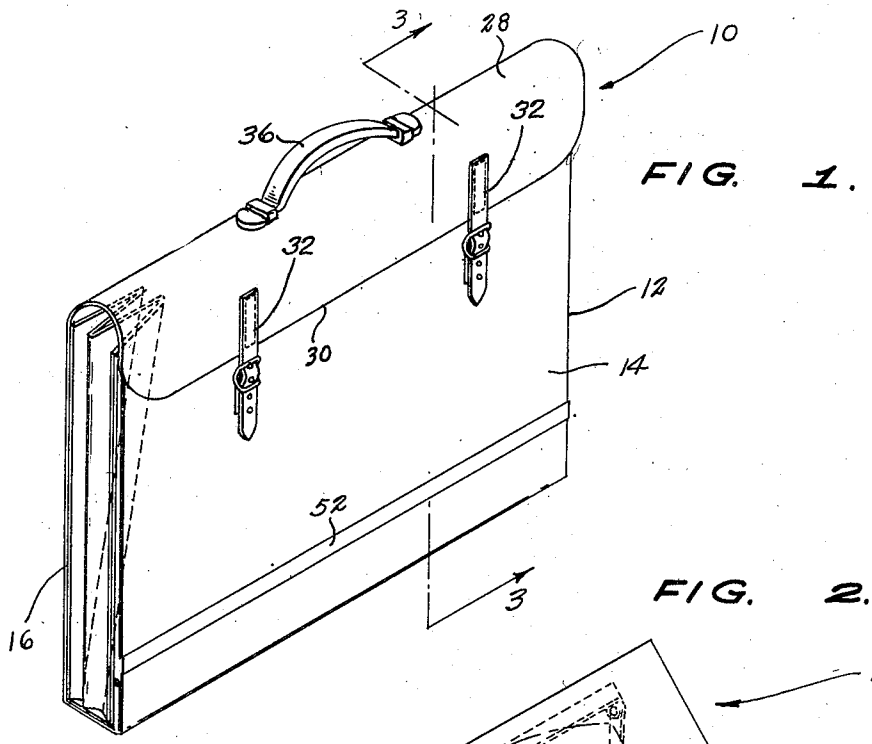
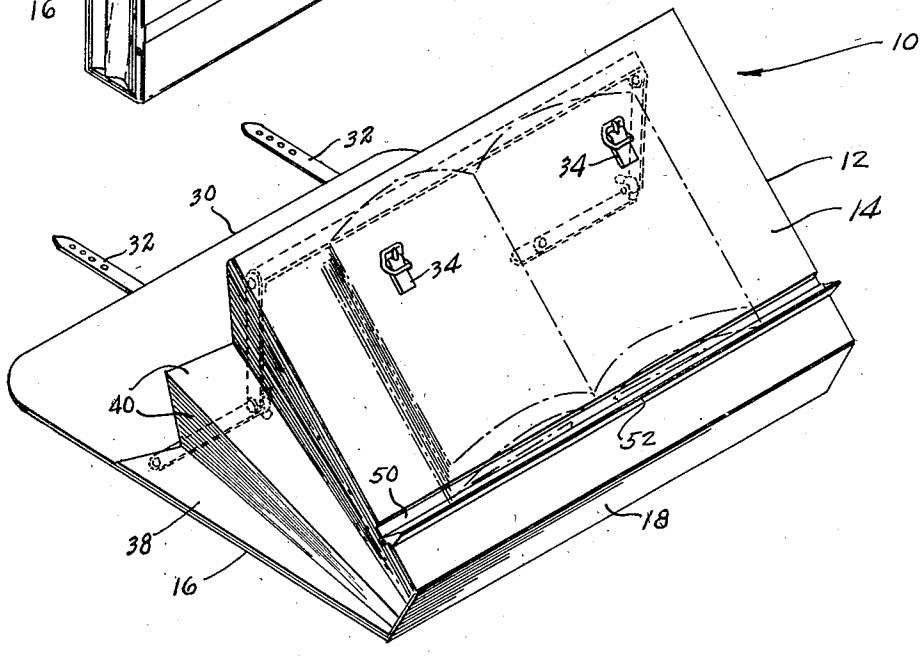


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3.

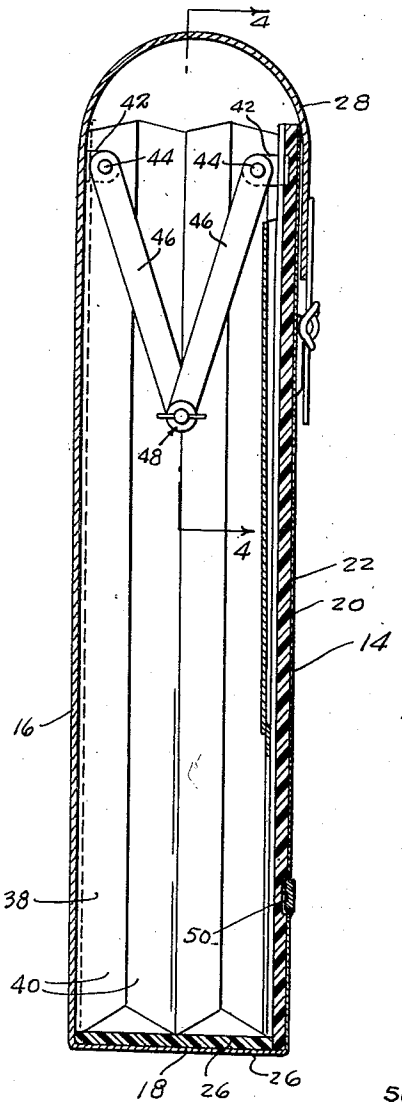


FIG. 4.

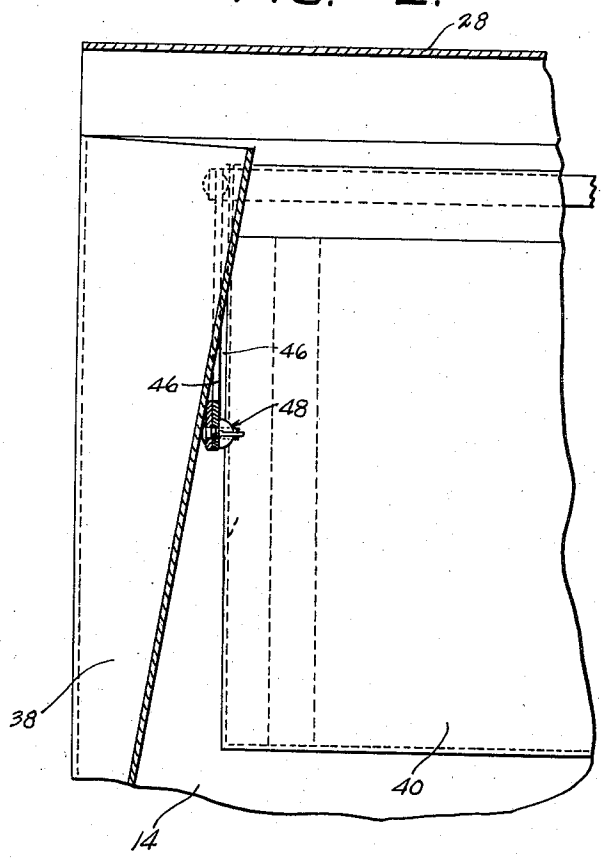
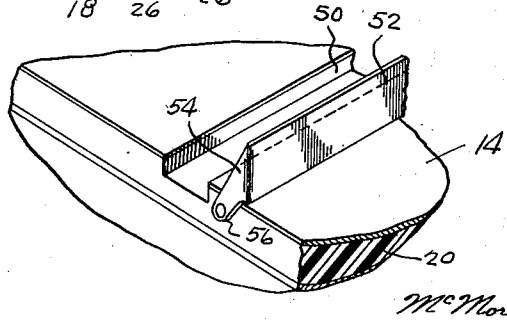


FIG. 5.



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COMBINED BRIEF CASE AND PORTABLE LECTERN

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2 Claims. (Cl. 150—1.6)

This invention relates generally to carrying cases and is more particularly concerned with an improved brief case including means whereby said brief case may be readily converted into a portable lectern.

Students when utilizing a library, professors during lectures, for example, and travelling lecturers are often faced with the inconvenience of not having proper facilities for disposing their books, notes, etc. in a properly oriented position for the purpose of reading the same while lecturing, studying, etc. Additionally, when a student sits at a library table and stares at a book which is disposed in substantially horizontal relationship thereon, the words generally become distorted after a while and accordingly this may be detrimental to the student's eye sight as well as tending to deter the student from studying.

A primary object of invention in conformance with that set forth is to provide a combined brief case and portable lectern wherein the brief case may be utilized for transporting books, lecture notes, etc. and may be subsequently disposed in a position to provide a lectern wherein the books, notes, etc. are disposed in a substantially properly oriented position relative to the person viewing the same.

Another object of invention in conformance with that set forth is to provide in a combined brief case and portable lectern of the character involved means whereby the opposed front and rear panels of a brief case may be disposed in diverging angular relationship, being retained in such relationship wherein the back panel of the brief case will provide a support base for a lectern, the front panel of the brief case incorporating transverse support means extendible laterally from the outer surface thereof for having disposed thereon the lower edge of a book or the like when the book is disposed in juxtaposition on the outer surface of the brief case.

And yet a still further object of invention in conformance with that set forth is to provide a combined brief case and portable lectern of the character involved which is readily and economically manufactured, easily used, and highly satisfactory, efficient, practical and acceptable for the purpose intended.

These together with other objects and advantages which will subsequently become apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the novel combined brief case and portable lectern, the same being shown in a condition of use as a brief case;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the novel brief case showing the same in a condition of use as a portable lectern;

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical section taken substantially on the plane of line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken substantially on the plane of line 4—4 of Figure 3; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of a portion of Figure 2, showing a detail of the support plate utilized for supporting the lower edge of a book, lecture notes or the like thereon when the brief case is utilized as the portable lectern.

Referring to the drawing in detail, indicated generally at **10** is a brief case including a body member **12** formed with opposed front and rear panel sections **14** and **16**, respectively, integral at their lower edges with a transverse bottom **18**. The brief case may be constructed of any suitable material, however, as shown in the exemplary embodiment the front panel **14** incorporates a substantially rigid plate **20** of plastic, aluminum, etc. covered by a suitable covering material **22** such as leather, plastic etc. The bottom incorporates a substantially rigid plate **24** covered by a suitably secured material **26**. The rear panel **16** is substantially longer than the front panel **14** and continues in a suitably conformed cover or flap **28**. The flap **28** has extending beyond the terminal edge **30** thereof a pair of spaced flexible straps **32** suitably apertured and engageable with buckle assemblies **34** secured on the outer surface of the panel section **14**. The flap has extending upwardly in suitably secured relationship a longitudinally extending handle **36**. Extending transversely between opposite ends of the panel sections **14** and **16** and the bottom **18** are "accordion" pleated side panels **38** individual panel sections **40** of which diverge from the bottom **18** and taper from the upper edges of the front and rear panels **14** and **16** to the bottom, accordingly permitting the front and rear panels **14** and **16** to be disposed in diverging angular relationship as clearly seen in Figure 2, for example.

If desired, the front panel **14** may have suitably secured on the inner surface thereof an auxiliary panel **42**, see Figure 4, for holding therein a pad of paper, pencils, etc.

Suitably secured on an inner surface portion of the front panel **14** adjacent the upper edge thereof and in opposed relationship on the inner surface of the rear panel **16** is one leg of an L-shaped support bracket element **42**, see Figure 3, for example, having a transverse pivot pin **44** extending therethrough, said pivot pin **44** defining a transverse axis of rotation substantially parallel to the general plane of the front and rear panels and pivotally supporting thereon opposite ends of elongated strap members **46**. The other ends of the strap members **46** are transversely apertured and overlie each other having extending therethrough a suitable lock nut-and-bolt assembly **48** which may be utilized to retain a predetermined angular relationship between the elongated straps **46**, and accordingly retaining a predetermined adjusted angularity between the front and rear panel sections as seen in Figure 2 when the brief case is utilized as a portable lectern.

The front panel section **14** has extending transversely in the outer surface thereof an elongated slot or recess **50** which will receive therein an elongated support plate **52** when the brief case is utilized for carrying articles as seen in Figure 1, for example, said support plate **52** being disposed in laterally extending relationship relative to the outer surface of the panel **14** for receiving thereon the lower edge of a book, lecture notes, etc. when the brief case is utilized as a lectern as seen in Figure 2. Opposite ends of the support plate **52** incorporate angularly bent support ear portions **54**, see Figure 5, transversely apertured and receiving therethrough a suitable pivot pin element **56** which extends into the side edge of the panel **20** of the front panel section **14**.

Thus there has been disclosed a novel combined brief case and portable lectern which incorporates all the

desirable features of each of the devices, wherein the means utilized for providing a portable lectern in no way interferes with the facility of use of the device as a brief case.

The foregoing is considered to be illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A brief case including front and rear panels and a transverse bottom, expansible side panels closing the ends of the brief case permitting the front and rear panels to be disposed in diverging angular relationship from the bottom of the brief case, collapsible brace means extending between opposed portions of the front and rear panels for maintaining the panels in their diverging angular relationship when the brief case is open and used as a portable lectern, and displaceable support means secured on the front panel in laterally extendible relationship from the outer surface thereof for receiving and supporting the lower edge of a book or the like when the back panel is used as a support base in juxtaposed relation on a horizontal support surface, said displaceable support means comprising an elongated plate element pivotally connected to the outer surface of the front panel below the upper edge thereof, said front panel including a transverse elongated recess portion conforming to the shape of the plate element for receiving the same therein when the device is utilized as a brief case.

2. A brief case including front and rear panels and a transverse bottom, expansible side panels closing the ends of the brief case permitting the front and rear panels to be disposed in diverging angular relationship from the bottom of the brief case, collapsible brace means extending between opposed portions of the front and rear panels for maintaining the panels in their diverging angular relationship when the brief case is open and use as a portable lectern, and displaceable support means secured on the front panel in laterally extendible relationship from the outer surface thereof for receiving and supporting the lower edge of a hook or the like when the back panel is used as a support base in juxtaposed relation on a horizontal support surface, said displaceable support means comprising an elongated plate element pivotally connected to the outer surface of the front panel below the upper edge thereof, said front panel including a transverse elongated recess portion conforming to the shape of the plate element for receiving the same therein when the device is utilized as a brief case, said collapsible brace means comprising a foldable brace including a pair of elongated straps pivoted at opposite ends on opposed inner surface portions of the front and back panels on an axis of rotation parallel to the general plane of said panels, the other ends of said straps being pivoted to each other on an axis of rotation parallel to the previously mentioned axes of rotation.

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