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COLLAPSIBLE READING STAND

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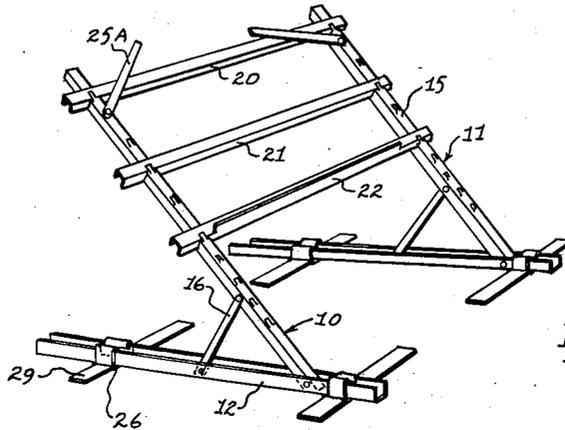


Fig. 1

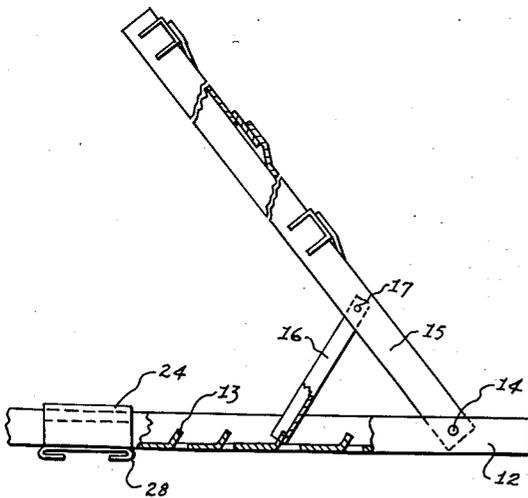


Fig. 2

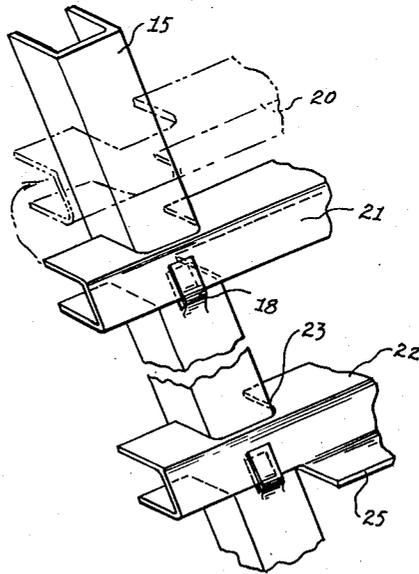


Fig. 3

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COLLAPSIBLE READING STAND

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4 Claims. (Cl. 45—80)

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This invention relates to article supports or holders and more particularly to a collapsible device for supporting books, magazines or sheets of paper in a convenient position for the reading thereof so that it is not necessary that the book or other reading material be held by the reader, though it is to be noted that in some of the claims the invention is not limited to the specific purpose of the support or holder.

It is among the objects of the present invention to provide a collapsible reading stand which may be readily and easily set up on the arms of a chair or on a bed in front of and over the legs of the user and which stand is easily adjusted to support a book or other reading material in the desired position and does not interfere with the free leg or body movement of the user or require that the user hold the reading stand in any particular position.

Another object of the invention is to provide in a device of the character described, improved interlocking means for securing the separable parts of the device together and in assembled relation.

Another object of the invention is to provide a reading stand of the character described which may be folded or collapsed so as to occupy relatively small space for convenience of storage, shipping, packing, or carrying.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a collapsible reading stand which is comparatively light in weight, and of simple and inexpensive construction, yet strong, durable, and reliable in operation.

These and other objects and advantageous features of the invention not at this time more particularly pointed out will become more apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a collapsible reading stand embodying the invention,

Figure 2 is a fragmentary end elevational view with parts broken away and in section of the device illustrated in Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail illustrating the joint between the separable parts of the collapsible stand.

With reference to the accompanying drawing, there is illustrated a collapsible reading stand made in accordance with the teachings of the present invention including a pair of spaced frame members 10 and 11, each including a channel-

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shaped base member 12, arranged with the channel opening upward. Spaced along the bottom wall of the channel member 12 are a plurality of upwardly projecting tangs 13 suitably cut out of the base of the member 12, the purpose of which will be pointed out hereinafter. Hinged to the forward end of each of the base members 12 as at 14 is an upwardly extended channel-shaped supporting member 15 arranged with the channel facing downwardly. The width of the member 15 is less than the width of the channel of the member 12 so that the latter may receive the member 15 therewithin when the device is in collapsed position. A link 16, pivoted to the supporting member 15 as at 17 extends between the supporting member 15 and the base member 12 and the free end of the link 16 engages the tangs 13 to effect angular adjustment of the supporting member 15 with respect to the base 12. The face of the member 15 is provided with a plurality of spaced prongs 18. These prongs 18 are formed by making a three-sided cut in the face of the member 15 and displacing outwardly the cut out portion to form an open slot between the member 15 and the prong 18. The free end of the prong is arranged to extend in a direction opposed to the pivot end of the member 15.

Mounted on the supporting member 15 and extending therebetween to form the surface upon which the reading material is to be disposed are a plurality of cross members 20, 21, and 22. These members are preferably channel-shaped with the side walls thereof slotted as at 23 adjacent to each end to fit over or receive the supporting member 15. The base of the channel-shaped members 20, 21, and 22 are slidably received beneath the prongs 18, thus forming an inter-fitting locked joint between the cross members and the supporting members. The lowermost cross member 22 is provided with an outwardly extended flange 25 which serves to receive and to support the lower edges of the reading material disposed on the stand. Referring to Figure 1, the cross members may be mounted in any desired arrangement and the number increased or decreased to suit the requirements of the reading material being supported as well as the user of the device. Spring clips 25A pivoted to the members 15 may be shifted into position to hold the reading material on the stand.

Positioned adjacent each end of the channel members 12 are independently adjustable cross arm assemblies 26 which are so arranged and adjusted as to support the collapsible reading stand on the arms of chairs or the like which

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vary greatly in size and dimensions. This cross arm assembly 26 comprises two clip members 27 slidably positioned on the outer side of the walls of the channel member 12 with portions reversely bent around the top of said walls. The bottom edges of the clip members 27 are fixably joined by cross member 28 which is positioned adjacent to the bottom face of channel member 12. Cross member 28 has the edge portions thereof curved downwardly and inwardly to slidably receive therebetween support bar 29. To compensate for variations in the length of the supporting arms of a chair, the cross arm assembly 26 may be moved along the channel members 12 whereas adjustment of the bar 29 of the assembly adapts the device to varying distances between the arms.

The reading stand of the present invention may be readily collapsed by pulling forwardly channel members 15 so as to release link members 18 from the tangs 13 formed in the base of channel members 12 and then seating channel members 15 within the walls of channel members 12. If further disassembly is desired, cross bar members 20, 21, 22 may be readily removed by lifting upwardly and outwardly from the prongs 18. The various elements of the device when entirely collapsed may be assembled into a relatively small compact package.

Although the foregoing device has been described somewhat in detail it is to be understood that various rearrangements and modifications of parts may be resorted to without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention as herein claimed.

I claim:

1. A collapsible reading stand comprising a pair of spaced frame members each including a channel-shaped base member and a channel-shaped upright member pivotally connected together, means extending between said base and upright members serving to maintain said members in a plurality of angulated positions, a plurality of spaced lugs struck out from the face of said upright members, the free end of said lugs being arranged to extend in a direction opposite to the pivotal point of said frame members and a plurality of channel-shaped cross bars extending between the upright members of said frame members to form a supporting surface for reading material, said channel-shaped cross members having the sides thereof slotted so that the base thereof may be received between the face of the upright member and said lugs, said upright member adapted to be telescopically received within said base member when the stand is in collapsed position.

2. A collapsible reading stand comprising a pair of spaced frame members each including a channel-shaped base member and a channel-shaped upright member pivotally connected together, means extending between said base and upright members serving to maintain said upright members in a plurality of angulated positions with respect to the base members, channel-shaped cross bars extending between said frame members forming a supporting surface for reading material, said channel-shaped cross bars having the sides thereof slotted adjacent each end so that the base portion thereof engages the base

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of the upright members beneath lugs struck out from the face of the upright members thereby serving to lock the cross members in position relative to the upright member, the free end of said lugs being arranged to extend in a direction opposite to the pivotal point of said frame members whereby the cross bars are first positioned in interfitting relation with the upright members then moved toward the lug and therebeneath, said upright member adapted to be telescopically received within said base member when the stand is in collapsed position.

3. A collapsible reading stand comprising a pair of spaced frame members each including a channel-shaped base member and a channel-shaped upright member pivotally connected together, means extending between said base and upright members serving to maintain said upright members in a plurality of angulated positions with respect to the base members, a plurality of channel-shaped cross bars extending between said frame members forming a supporting surface for reading material, said channel-shaped cross bars having the side walls thereof suitably slotted adjacent each end to receive the upright members and means for securing the base of said cross bars to the base of said upright members, said means including a plurality of lugs struck out from the face of the upright members and having the free ends thereof extending upwardly whereby the cross bars are first positioned over the upright members and then moved into position beneath the lugs, said upright member adapted to be telescopically received within said base member when the stand is in collapsed position, and adjustable supporting means carried by the base member of each frame member.

4. A collapsible reading stand comprising a pair of spaced frame members each including a channel-shaped base member and a channel-shaped upright member pivotally connected together, means extending between said base and upright members serving to maintain said members in a plurality of angulated positions, a plurality of spaced lugs struck out from the base of said upright member having the free ends thereof extending upwardly and a plurality of channel-shaped cross bars extending between said frame members forming a supporting surface for reading material, said cross members having the sides thereof slotted to receive said upright members, and arranged to have the base of the upright members moved into position beneath said lugs whereby the upright and cross members are secured in relative position, said upright member adapted to be telescopically received within said base member when the stand is in collapsed position, and adjustable supporting means carried by the base member of each frame member.

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